

**iXBRL – Frequently Asked Questions Version 1.3****Published October 2016**

Changes from the previous version (1.2) published in August 2015, are listed below followed by FAQ's

**Amendments to current FAQ's**

1.	General iXBRL FAQs	<b>Why must I submit financial statements in iXBRL format? *</b>
2.	Detailed Profit and Loss FAQs	<b>Why does Revenue require a Detailed Trading and Profit &amp; Loss Account (DPL) in the iXBRL file *</b>
3.	Filing FAQs	<b>Is it permissible to submit abridged Financial Statements iXBRL format *</b>
4.	Filing FAQs	<b>What should I do if I need to adjust my ROS accounting period and /or my financial statements cover more than a single ROS accounting period</b>
5.	Timelines FAQs	<b>Must I file Financial Statements at the same time as my Form CT1 [or Form 11]</b>
6.	Obligations and Exemptions FAQs	<b>Are all entities obliged to submit Financial Statements in iXBRL format *</b>
7.	Obligations and Exemptions FAQs	<b>Do audit exempt companies have to file Financial Statements in iXBRL format *</b>
8.	Obligations and Exemptions FAQs	<b>Are companies that are not resident but are trading through a Branch or Agency required to submit Financial Statements in iXBRL format *</b>
9.	Obligations and Exemptions FAQs	<b>Are Companies in liquidation required to prepare and file Financial Statements in iXBRL format for the pre-liquidation period</b>
10.	Obligations and Exemptions FAQs	<b>Do inactive companies have to file statements in iXBRL format *</b>

\* Indicates that the updating of the FAQ relates to the updating of legislative references and does not indicate a change to practice for iXBRL filers.

## **Amendment 1**

### ***Current Wording***

#### **Why must I submit financial statements in iXBRL format?**

Section 133 of the Finance Act 2012 amended S.884 Taxes Consolidation Act to extend the definition of a return to encompass financial statements required to be prepared under the Companies Act. This, coupled with the existing e-filing legislation, establishes a statutory basis for the mandatory submission of iXBRL financial statements as part of the tax return.

### ***Replace with***

#### **Why must I submit financial statements in iXBRL format?**

Section 884 Taxes Consolidation Act extends the definition of a return to encompass financial statements. This, coupled with the existing e-filing legislation, establishes a statutory basis for the mandatory submission of iXBRL financial statements as part of the tax return.

## **Amendment 2**

### ***Current Wording***

#### **Why does Revenue require a Detailed Trading and Profit & Loss Account (DPL) in the iXBRL file?**

Where the financial statements of a business are submitted in iXBRL format the accounts section of the Corporation Tax return is not mandatory for completion. However, the format of the Profit & Loss Account, as required by the Companies Act, does not provide the level of detail required in the prescribed form CT1. This is why the DPL is required in the iXBRL file.

In the case of businesses that are not bound by the Companies Act, but are obliged to file the financial statements in iXBRL, they are also required to include the DPL in the iXBRL file. The DPL should be set out in such a manner so that, at minimum, it meets the requirements of the CT1.

Generally, the DPL will contain greater detail than the limited extract of accounts section of the form CT1. It is expected that businesses will have this greater level of detail in order to compute the net profit/loss figure in the financial statements. Even if the business is not required to produce financial statements, it is expected that this level of detail will be available in order to complete the corporation tax return. In keeping with Revenue's requirement for full tagging of the financial statements, all of the line items in the DPL should be tagged.

The iXBRL taxonomies accepted by Revenue contain a substantial number of tags for a wide array of possible DPL income and expenditure items.

***Replace with***

**Why does Revenue require a Detailed Trading and Profit & Loss Account (DPL) in the iXBRL file?**

Where the financial statements of a business are submitted in iXBRL format the accounts section of the Corporation Tax return is not mandatory for completion. However, the format of the Profit & Loss Account, as required by the Companies Act, does not provide the level of detail required in the prescribed form CT1. This is why the DPL is required in the iXBRL file.

In the case of businesses that are not bound by the Companies Act, but are obliged to file the financial statements in iXBRL, they are also required to include the DPL in the iXBRL file.

Generally, the DPL will contain greater detail than the limited extract of accounts section of the form CT1. It is expected that businesses will have this greater level of detail in order to compute the net profit/loss figure in the financial statements. Even if the business is not required to produce financial statements, it is expected that this level of detail will be available in order to complete the corporation tax return. In keeping with Revenue's requirement for full tagging of the financial statements, all of the line items in the DPL should be tagged.

The iXBRL taxonomies accepted by Revenue contain a substantial number of tags for a wide array of possible DPL income and expenditure items.

**Amendment 3**

***Current Wording***

**Is it permissible to submit abridged Financial Statements iXBRL format?**

No. Abridged accounts will not constitute a valid submission. Section 133 of the Finance Act, 2012 amended Section 884 of the Taxes Consolidation Act (TCA) to extend the definition of a return to encompass Financial Statements, which are prepared or made out in accordance with the Companies Act 1963.

***Replace with***

**Is it permissible to submit abridged Financial Statements iXBRL format?**

No. Abridged accounts, which companies may prepare under company law, will not constitute a valid submission. Section 884 of the Taxes Consolidation Act (TCA) extends the definition of a return to encompass Financial Statements.

#### **Amendment 4**

##### ***Current Wording***

#### **What should I do if I need to adjust my ROS accounting period and /or my financial statements cover more than a single ROS accounting period?**

Similar to CT1s, iXBRL financial statements must be submitted in respect of ROS accounting periods. In the course of the submission process, ROS checks that the iXBRL financial statements cover the selected ROS period. This check ensures that the accounts start date is not later than the start date of the ROS period to which they are being attached and that the accounts end date is not earlier than the end date of the ROS period (subject to slight variances to take cognisance of weekends etc.)

Where financial statements being filed are for a period in excess of 12 months (for example, where an accounting period is being changed, resulting in an 18 month accounting period) then the iXBRL return, reflecting financial statements for that long period, should be filed against the second CT filing period (the short period) only. It will not now be necessary to file the same iXBRL return against the two CT periods where there is a change in the accounting period. The filer will need to notify the Revenue District (preferably send confidential details through Revenues [myenquiries](#) facility) of the long accounting period and request that the iXBRL financial statements for the first/long period are noted as not required in accordance with [eBrief No. 78/2015](#).

**Note:** Where a ROS accounting period is adjusted after filing iXBRL financial statements, the iXBRL filings previously submitted in respect of such period(s) will no longer be valid and consequently iXBRL financial statements must be re-submitted for the adjusted period(s).

##### ***Replace with***

#### **What should I do if I need to adjust my ROS accounting period and /or my financial statements cover more than a single ROS accounting period?**

Similar to CT1s, iXBRL financial statements must be submitted in respect of ROS accounting periods. In the course of the submission process, ROS checks that the iXBRL financial statements cover the selected ROS period. This check ensures that the accounts start date is not later than the start date of the ROS period to which they are being attached and that the accounts end date is not earlier than the end date of the ROS period (subject to slight variances to take cognisance of weekends etc.)

Revenue expects filers to submit iXBRL returns in respect of the period for which the financial statements have been prepared. However, in practice, there will be circumstances where more than one Form CT1 is filed in respect of that financial period. Where this arises Revenue will accept that the iXBRL return will be filed together with the latest Form CT1 due for the financial period.

The filer will need to notify the Revenue District (preferably send confidential details through Revenue's [myenquiries](#) facility) where there are multiple Forms CT1 being filed in respect of an accounting period so that the requirement to file iXBRL can be switched off for the earlier accounting periods.

**Note:** Where a ROS accounting period is adjusted after filing iXBRL financial statements, the iXBRL filings previously submitted in respect of such period(s) will no longer be valid and consequently iXBRL financial statements must be re-submitted for the adjusted period(s).

## **Amendment 5**

### ***Current Wording***

#### **Must I file Financial Statements at the same time as my Form CT1 [or Form 11]?**

Currently financial statements may be uploaded before, at the same time or after the filing of a Form CT1 [or Form 11]. The specified CT return filing date is normally the 21st day of the month or the 23rd day of the month where the CT return is filed [and the required payment is made] electronically on ROS. An additional 21 days after the return filing date [i.e. 21st day or 23rd day as appropriate] is applied to the filing of iXBRL financial statements.

### ***Replace with***

#### **Must I file Financial Statements at the same time as my Form CT1 [or Form 11]?**

Currently financial statements may be uploaded before, at the same time or after the filing of a Form CT1 [or Form 11]. The specified CT return filing date is normally the 21st day of the month or the 23rd day of the month where the CT return is filed [and the required payment is made] electronically on ROS. For returns in respect of accounting periods ending on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 or later, an additional **3 months** from the due date of the Form CT1 [i.e. 21st day or 23rd day as appropriate] is applied to the filing of iXBRL financial statements. The **21 day** concession continues to apply to iXBRL Returns submitted where the accounting period ends on the 30 November 2015 or earlier.

## **Amendment 6**

### ***Current Wording***

#### **Are all entities obliged to submit Financial Statements in iXBRL format?**

Section 133 of the Finance Act, 2012 amended Section 884 of the Taxes Consolidation Act (TCA) to extend the definition of a return to encompass Financial Statements, which are prepared or made out in accordance with the Companies Act 1963. Therefore, all companies required under the Companies Act 1963 to prepare Financial Statements must return these to Revenue for the relevant Accounting Period.

This, coupled with the existing e-filing legislation, establishes a statutory basis for the mandatory submission of iXBRL financial statements as part of the tax return. However, Revenue will progressively mandate the submission of financial statements in iXBRL for Corporate Taxpayers beginning with cases dealt with in the Large Case Division (LCD) filing Corporation Tax Returns on or after 1 October 2013. In the meantime there will be an optional filing phase for Corporation Taxpayers from the time the system goes live on the 23rd November 2012.

While there is no statutory obligation for sole traders to prepare Financial Statements on the basis of a recognised accounting standard, Revenue acknowledge that many Income Tax payers do so for practical reasons. To facilitate these taxpayers, from 1 January 2013, Revenue will accept the filing of Financial Statements in iXBRL format via ROS.

### ***Replace with***

#### **Are all entities obliged to submit Financial Statements in iXBRL format?**

Section 884 of the Taxes Consolidation Act (TCA) extend the definition of a return to encompass Financial Statements. Therefore, all companies are required to prepare Financial Statements must return these to Revenue for the relevant Accounting Period. This, coupled with the existing e-filing legislation, establishes a statutory basis for the mandatory submission of iXBRL financial statements as part of the tax return.

However, Revenue is progressively mandating the submission of financial statements in iXBRL for Corporate Taxpayers on a phased basis. Currently these include Revenue's Large Cases Division customers and customers mandated to file under Phase 2 of the iXBRL Project.

While there is no statutory obligation for sole traders to prepare Financial Statements on the basis of a recognised accounting standard, Revenue acknowledge that many Income Tax payers do so for practical reasons. To facilitate these taxpayers, from 1 January 2013, Revenue will accept the filing of Financial Statements in iXBRL format via ROS.

## **Amendment 7**

### ***Current Wording***

#### **Do audit exempt companies have to file Financial Statements in iXBRL format?**

All companies that are required under the Companies Act 1963 to prepare accounts must submit their Financial Statements in iXBRL format to Revenue.

### ***Replace with***

#### **Do audit exempt companies have to file Financial Statements in iXBRL format?**

All companies that are required under the Companies Act 2014 (previously Companies Act 1963) to prepare accounts must submit their Financial Statements in iXBRL format to Revenue.

However, Revenue is progressively mandating the submission of financial statements in iXBRL for Corporate Taxpayers on a phased basis. Currently these include Revenue's Large Cases Division customers and customers mandated to file under Phase 2 of the iXBRL Project.

## **Amendment 8**

### ***Current Wording***

#### **Are companies that are not resident but are trading through a Branch or Agency required to submit Financial Statements in iXBRL format?**

Yes. S.884(2B) of the Taxes Consolidation Act (TCA,) as inserted by S.95(c) of the Finance Act, 2013, extended the definition of a return in respect of a company trading through a Branch or Agency to encompass accounts, containing sufficient information to enable the chargeable profits of that branch or agency to be determined. Section 76 TCA requires such financial statements to conform to GAAP or IFRS. In practice Revenue will require an iXBRL Profit and Loss account and a balance sheet to the extent that one is prepared in respect of the branch or agency. In determining if the branch meets the deferral/exemption criteria from Phase 2 of mandatory iXBRL filing, it is sufficient to look at the numbers for the branch itself rather than the company.

### ***Replace with***

#### **Are companies that are not resident but are trading through a Branch or Agency required to submit Financial Statements in iXBRL format?**

Yes. S.884 of the Taxes Consolidation Act (TCA), extends the definition of a return in respect of a company trading through a Branch or Agency to produce accounts containing sufficient information to enable the chargeable profits of that branch or agency to be determined. Section 76 TCA requires such

financial statements to conform to GAAP or IFRS. In practice Revenue will require an iXBRL Profit and Loss account and a balance sheet to the extent that one is prepared in respect of the branch or agency. In determining if the branch meets the deferral/exemption criteria from Phase 2 of mandatory iXBRL filing, it is sufficient to look at the numbers for the branch itself rather than the company.

## **Amendment 9**

### ***Current Wording***

#### **Are Companies in liquidation required to prepare and file Financial Statements in iXBRL format for the pre-liquidation period?**

For companies in liquidation, where there are no net assets for distribution, Revenue will accept that an iXBRL return need not be filed and the accounts extract on the Form CT1 should be fully completed instead. However, Revenue retains the right to request that an iXBRL return is filed in specific cases. Specific requests for filing the iXBRL return are more likely to be made where the company is not compliant in respect of Form CT1 obligations up to the date of liquidation.

### ***Replace with***

#### **Are Companies in liquidation required to prepare and file Financial Statements in iXBRL format for the pre-liquidation period?**

##### **Companies in Liquidation (Not a voluntary liquidation)**

For companies in liquidation, where there are no net assets for distribution, Revenue will accept that an iXBRL return need not be filed and the accounts extract on the Form CT1 should be fully completed instead. However, Revenue retains the right to request that an iXBRL return is filed in specific cases. Specific requests for filing the iXBRL return are more likely to be made where the company is not compliant in respect of Form CT1 obligations up to the date of liquidation.

##### **Voluntary Liquidations**

For companies in voluntary liquidation, where the net assets for distribution do not exceed €25,000, and provided that all obligations under company law and all tax related requirements have been fulfilled up to the date of liquidation, applications may be made to the Revenue District case manager on a case by case basis for waiving the iXBRL filing obligation. Where the application is accepted, the case manager will switch off the obligation to file iXBRL on Revenue's system.



## **Amendment 10**

### ***Current Wording***

#### **Do inactive companies have to file statements in iXBRL format?**

At present all companies that are registered in Ireland have an obligation under the Companies Act 1963 to prepare and make out accounts. Companies that are inactive may approach their tax district to seek permission not to file returns for the relevant periods of dormancy. Revenue are willing to exempt a company from the obligation to file statements in iXBRL format.

For account periods ending in 2014 or later, companies will be able to select an option on the iXBRL page on the Form CT1 as follows:

*'The company is inactive and there is no income or expenses on the Profit and Loss account and there is a balance sheet movement of less than €500.'*

Where this option is selected on the Form CT1, it will not be necessary to contact the local Revenue Office or tax district.

### ***Replace with***

#### **Do inactive companies have to file statements in iXBRL format?**

At present all companies that are registered in Ireland have an obligation under the Companies Act 2014 (previously Companies Act 1963) to prepare and make out accounts. Companies that are inactive may approach their tax district to seek permission not to file returns for the relevant periods of dormancy. Revenue are willing to exempt a company from the obligation to file statements in iXBRL format.

For account periods ending in 2014 or later, companies will be able to select an option on the iXBRL page on the Form CT1 as follows:

*'The company is inactive and there is no income or expenses on the Profit and Loss account and there is a balance sheet movement of less than €500.'*

Where this option is selected on the Form CT1, it will not be necessary to contact the local Revenue Office or tax district.