AAPC Exposure Draft - Technical Release: Conforming Amendments to Technical Releases for SFFAS 54, Leases

Questions for Respondents due April 1, 2019

Please select the type(s) of organization responding to this exposure draft. If you are not responding on behalf of an organization, please select "individual."

Accounting Firm				
Federal Entity (use	er)			
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Federal Entity (other)			If other, please specify:	
Association/Industry Organization				
Nonprofit organization/Foundation				
Other			If other, please specify:	
Individual				
Please provide	e your name.			
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Name:	Gordon T. Alston, Director of Financial Reporting and Policy,			
	Internal Controls, and Travel			
Please identify	y your organiza	ation, i	f applicable.	
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Organization:	Department of Commerce			
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Your responses	s should be sen	t to fas	ab@fasab.gov. If you	are unable to respond by
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Q1. In light of the recently issued Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standards (SFFAS) 54, Leases, this TR proposes to clarify existing TRs by providing conforming amendments (see paragraphs 3 -10). These conforming amendments acknowledge the SFFAS 54 amendments and further clarify the revised lease accounting standards by eliminating outdated references as a result of the new guidance. TR 10, Implementation Guidance on Asbestos Cleanup Costs Associated with Facilities and Installed Equipment, and TR 16, Implementation Guidance for Internal Use Software, are being amended because internal use software has specifically been scoped out of SFFAS 54, so the language in these TRs is not consistent with SFFAS 54.

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed amendments to TR 10 and TR 16? Please provide the rationale for your answer.

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Department of Commerce Response:

The Department agrees with the proposed amendments to TR 10 and TR 16. The Department believes it is appropriate to eliminate references to "operating" and "capital" leases, as the terms were eliminated with the issuance of SFFAS 54. The amendments eliminate the discrepancies between the standards and provide a consistent application of the proposed standards.

Q2. The TR 16 amendments clarify that reporting entities should capitalize the cost of internal use software, including software licenses, when such software meets the criteria for general property, plant, and equipment in accordance with SFFAS 10, *Accounting for Internal Use Software*, and the lease accounting concepts would not apply.

Do you agree or disagree with the proposed amendments to TR 16 to clarify the capitalization of internal use software cost? Please provide the rationale for your answer.

Department of Commerce Response:

The Department agrees with the proposed amendments to TR 16 to clarify the capitalization of internal use software cost. The Department believes it is appropriate for federal entities to follow SFFAS 10 with regard to accounting for internal use software, including software licenses.