



2015 standard distribution statement: guidance notes for fund managers

Standard distribution statement for use by managed funds to report tax information to investors.

14 May 2015

Introduction

The 2015 standard distribution statement (SDS) is the format recommended by the ATO, the Financial Services Council (FSC) and the Australian Custodial Services Association (ACSA) for disclosure by managed funds of tax information to resident individuals for completion of the 2015 tax returns, relevant schedules and other requirements.

The 2015 SDS that appears below shows amounts as examples that we will refer to in the guidance notes that follow it.

Abbreviations

AIIR	annual investment income report
CFC	controlled foreign company
CGT	capital gains tax
FSC	Financial Services Council
ITAA 1936	<i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1936</i>

ITAA 1997	<i>Income Tax Assessment Act 1997</i>
SDS	standard distribution statement
TAP	taxable Australian property
TFN	tax file number

Purpose

These notes are designed to help those preparing fund manager distribution statements understand the basis that the 2015 SDS format has been determined on, and the rationale behind the various items disclosed on the SDS.

Basis of standard distribution statement



Basic structure



Standard distribution statement



Guidance notes



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Basis of standard distribution statement

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The standard format does not purport to deal with all possible scenarios that a fund manager may encounter. Where the funds' circumstances are outside those shown in the standard format, additional information or requirements need to be considered. For example, indexed capital gains may need to be included.

Fund managers may delete lines that are not relevant to their particular circumstances. For example, if there is no foreign income, the lines for foreign income may be deleted. Also, if there are no capital gains or tax-deferred payments, part B may be deleted, but we recommend that the fund manager includes a note advising that part B is not shown as it is not applicable.

The format is based on the standard information needs of a resident individual unit holder in a unit trust operated by the funds management industry. The circumstances are relevant to those unit holders who hold units on capital account and where distributions labelled as 'non-assessable amounts' are not capital gains or ordinary income of the unit holder. The unit holder is assumed to be a resident for the whole of the year of income.

The SDS also aligns with information provided on the Annual investment income report (AIIR) that is used to pre-fill information to the tax return of resident individuals. Attachment 2 to the Guidance notes shows the AIIR reference number in those fields on the SDS that map to the AIIR.

Fund managers should apply relevant provisions of the income tax law in preparing the taxation information in the SDS, in particular Division 6 of Part III of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* (ITAA 1936).

Trustees should carefully consider the specific facts and circumstances (including any specific legislative regime) applying to the trust, especially in determining the nature of distribution components, such as the characterisation of gains on assets advised to unit holders.

The 2015 SDS is current as at 29 April 2015 and we issue it at this time to allow fund managers to implement the necessary system changes before 30 June 2015 for 2015 income year reporting. If subsequent changes are necessary we will discuss these with industry bodies.

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Basic structure

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The basic structure consists of three parts.

Part A of the 2015 SDS explains where amounts are shown on the *Tax return for individuals (supplementary section) 2015* (NAT 2679).

Part B explains the components of a distribution that investors may need to know to work out their net capital gain or capital loss and specifically provides the capital gains tax (CGT) concession amount. It also includes tax-deferred amounts required to adjust the cost base and reduced cost base of their units.

For investors with straightforward circumstances the information in parts A and B focusing on specific entries at items **13**, **18** and **20** should be sufficient to complete their tax return.

Part C allows a reconciliation of the net cash amount distributed to the unit holder and provides information relevant to adjustments to the cost base and reduced cost base. It includes all non-assessable amounts: CGT concession, tax-exempted, tax-free and tax-deferred amounts.

The Australian income section of Part C has an alternative presentation that is shown in Attachment 1. It is provided for those funds whose systems are unable to use the preferred presentation in 2015. The preferred presentation has the franked distribution equal to the sum of the franked amount of the dividend plus the franking credit.

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2015 tax return information for the year ended 30 June 2015

Part A: Summary of 2015 tax return (supplementary section) items

The labels at items on the tax return are the white letters inside coloured boxes on the *Tax return for individuals (supplementary section) 2015* (NAT 2679). If you choose to use a tax agent to prepare your income tax return, advise them to rely on the information in **this** statement rather than information that may be displayed in the tax agent's pre-filling service.

Tax return (supplementary section)	Amount	Tax return label
Share of non-primary production income	65	13U
Franked distributions from trusts	100	13C
Other deductions relating to non-primary production distributions	4	13Y
Share of franking credit from franked dividends	30.00	13Q
Share of credit for tax file number amounts withheld from interest, dividends and unit trust distributions	10.00	13R
Total current year capital gains	225	18H
Net capital gain	155	18A
Assessable foreign source income	220	20E
Other net foreign source income	220	20M
Foreign income tax offset*	38	200

*If your total foreign income tax offset from all sources for the year is \$1,000 or less, then you can claim this amount in full. Otherwise, you

will need to refer to the publication *Guide to foreign income tax offset rules* (NAT 72923) to work out your entitlement.

Part B: CGT information - additional information for item 18

Capital gains: discounted method	140	(grossed up amount)
Capital gains: other method	85	
Total current year capital gains	225	
CGT concession amount	70	
Tax-deferred amounts	30	

Part C: Components of distribution

	Cash distribution	Tax paid or tax offsets	Taxable amount
Australian income		Franking credits	
Dividends: unfranked amount	60		60
Interest	20		20
Other income	15		15
Less other allowable trust deductions	-30		-30
Non-primary production	65		65

income (A)			
Dividends: Franked amount (Franked distributions) (X)	70	30.00	100
Capital gains*		Foreign income tax offset**	
Discounted capital gain	65	5.00	70
CGT concession amount	70		0
Capital gains: other method	83	2.00	85
Distributed capital gains (B)	218	7.00	(Total 225)
Net capital gain			155
Foreign income			
Assessable foreign source income	189	31.00	220
Cash distribution (C)	189	38.00	
Cash distribution sub-total (add A, X, B and C)	542		
Other non-assessable amounts			
Tax-exempted amounts	25		
Tax-free amounts	15		

Tax-deferred amounts	30		
Gross cash distribution	612		
Other amounts deducted from trust distribution			
TFN amounts withheld	-10		
Other expenses	-4		
Net cash distribution	598		

* For non-residents: While the SDS does not address all the needs of a non-resident investor, the capital gains amount that you are liable for Australian tax on is that relating to taxable Australian property (TAP). [xx.xx]#% of the [Discount capital gain/Capital gains – other method]# amount is the TAP amount. Generally, for a managed investment fund the TAP amount will be the same as the taxable Australian real property (TARP) amount. Additionally, a non-resident will not be liable for Australian income tax on capital gains from TAP if managed investment trust withholding tax is payable on the capital gains.

** The tax offset is available to non-residents only in circumstances where the foreign income distributed to the non-resident is included in their assessable income in Australia.

The fund manager must determine the bracketed items - % and the type of capital gain. The brackets, this note and the # do not form part of the statement.

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Some funds provide a consolidated statement for investors. We neither approve nor disapprove of this practice. However, we request that, where a fund provides a consolidated statement, the fund also provide a separate SDS for each fund that aligns with what is reported in the AIR. That is, where there are three AIRs for three unit trusts then there will be three SDS in addition to the consolidated statement.

Part A: Summary of items on the tax return for individuals (supplementary section) 2015 (NAT 2679) >

Part B: CGT information >

Part C: Components of a distribution >

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Part A: Summary of items on the tax return for individuals (supplementary section) 2015 (NAT 2679)

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1	The references in part A are to the <i>Tax return for individuals (supplementary section) 2015 (NAT 2679)</i> . Additional labels that may need to be included are:		
	Tax return (supplementary)	Amount	Tax return

	section)	label	
	Share of primary production income	13L	
	Other deductions relating to distributions	13X	
	Share of credit for tax withheld where Australian business number not quoted	13P	
	Share of credit for tax paid by trustee	13S	
	Share of credit for amounts withheld from foreign resident withholding	13A	
	Share of National rental affordability scheme tax offset	13B	
	CFC income	19K	
	Net foreign rent	20R	
	Australian franking credits from a New Zealand franking company	20F	
2	<p>U item 13: Share of non-primary production income C item 13: Franked distributions from trusts The components of these items are set out in Part C. At these items unit holders include their share of Australian sourced non-primary production income and franked distributions (including their share of franking credits) included in the net income of the trust calculated under section 95 of the ITAA 1936. Unit holder's shares of the net income of the trust that are attributable to net capital gains and foreign income are not shown here. Include an unfranked dividend paid out of conduit foreign income in Dividends: unfranked amount that forms part of</p>		

	the non-primary production income.
3	<p>Y item 13: Other deductions relating to non-primary production distributions</p> <p>At this item unit holders show the total of deductible expenses they incurred during 2014–15 in relation to the distributions.</p> <p>Deductions allowable to the trustees that are taken into account in the net income calculation under section 95 of the ITAA 1936 are not shown at this item. Ordinarily, deductible expenses would be netted off against the relevant class of income of the trust estate (see Note 12).</p>
4	<p>Q item 13: Share of franking credit from franked dividends</p> <p>At this item unit holders show their share of franking credits from franked distributions. Include cents.</p>
5	<p>R item 13: Share of credit for TFN amounts withheld from interest, dividends and unit trust distributions</p> <p>At this item unit holders show their share of any credit for TFN amounts withheld from interest, dividends and unit trust distributions paid or payable, in accordance with sections 12-140 and 12-145 of Schedule 1 to the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1953</i>. Include cents.</p>
6	<p>S item 13: Share of credit for tax paid by trustee</p> <p>Part A of the SDS does not provide for situations where a managed fund trustee will be assessed under section 98 of the ITAA 1936, for example, subsection 98(1) in respect of beneficiaries under a legal disability (includes beneficiaries under 18 years old). At this item unit holders show their share of any credit for tax paid or payable by the trustee. Include cents.</p>
7	<p>H item 18: Total current year capital gains</p> <p>A item 18: Net capital gain</p> <p>The components of these items are set out in Part B. Unit holders need to gross up their cash distribution by the amount of any tax paid on capital gains (for example, foreign tax on foreign net capital gains). It is important to note that an individual unit holder who has capital losses will not simply be able to transfer the net capital gain amount from part A to their tax return. Fund managers may wish to refer investors in these circumstances to the <i>Guide to capital gains tax 2015</i> (NAT 4151) or <i>Personal investors guide to capital gains tax 2015</i> (NAT 4152), or provide details in their own explanatory material.</p> <p>Some funds complete this with a note where the investor has sold units during the year. Regardless of whether the</p>

	<p>investor has sold units or not, the relevant share of net capital gain as a component of the net income should be clearly shown here. As well as this information on the SDS, funds may provide other information for the unit holder relevant to the sale of their units.</p>
8	<p>Item 19: Foreign entities Part A of the standard format assumes that there is no attributed foreign income of the trust such that the information requested at item 19 of the <i>Tax return for individuals (supplementary section) 2015</i> (NAT 2679) is not applicable to a managed fund investment. If this is not the case, trustees should provide this information to unit holders.</p>
9	<p>E item 20: Assessable foreign source income M item 20: Other net foreign source income These amounts will be the same unless the fund has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expenses that have to be applied against the assessable foreign income, or • net foreign rent (that is shown at R item 20).
10	<p>O item 20: Foreign income tax offset For many small investors the \$1,000 <i>de minimis</i> rule will apply and they will not need to do any calculations. The fund won't know if an investor can use the <i>de minimis</i> rule. If a fund has paid foreign income tax on income or capital gains to overseas tax authorities then it needs to provide the following additional information in case the investor has to calculate their foreign income tax offset entitlement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the foreign tax paid on capital gains included in the net capital gain, including details of the components of the net capital gain that the tax relates to • the foreign tax paid on non-assessable non-exempt income, namely attributed income under section 23AI of the ITAA 1936 and attributed foreign investment fund income under section 23AK of the ITAA 1936.

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Part B: CGT information

11	<p>Capital gains</p> <p>These items provide tax figures for the break up of H item 18 Total current year capital gains shown in part A. They are also necessary for unit holders with capital losses to offset and to complete the <i>Capital gains tax (CGT) schedule</i> (NAT 3423).</p> <p>We have assumed that the managed fund has no capital gains from collectables and the small business capital gains concessions are not applicable.</p> <p>Line 1: Capital gains, discounted method This amount is the 'grossed-up' discounted capital gain (that is, in our example, $\\$70 \times 2$). It would help unit holders understand instructions and guides if the words 'grossed-up amount' were placed next to this figure.</p> <p>Line 2: Capital gains, other method This figure is taken from the Taxable amount column of the capital gains section in part C.</p> <p>Line 3: Total current year capital gains This amount is shown in brackets in the Taxable amount column in part C.</p> <p>Line 4: CGT concession amount This figure is taken from the Cash distribution column in part C.</p> <p>Line 5: Tax-deferred This figure is taken from the Cash distribution column of the 'Other non-assessable amounts' section in Part C.</p>
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Part C: Components of a distribution

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12	<p>Australian income</p> <p>These details provide a break up of U item 13 Non-primary production income and C item 13 Franked distributions from trusts. The information is necessary for those investors who use the <i>Application for refund of franking credits for individuals 2015</i> (NAT 4098) and <i>Refund of</i></p>
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	<p><i>franking credits instructions and application for individuals 2015 (NAT 4105).</i></p> <p>Show the net income for each item. The net income is either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the gross income less expenses directly relevant to that income, or • the gross income less expenses directly relevant to that income and indirect expenses that are apportioned against all income components. Expenses indirectly incurred in respect of deriving the income (for example, trust operating expenses) can be shown here or separately at Less other allowable trust deductions. Indirect trust expenses should be apportioned fairly and reasonably against income components. The Less other allowable trust deductions item uses the same information as the Trust deductions not included elsewhere field in version 10.0.1 of the AIRR specification.
13	<p>Discounted capital gain</p> <p>If the trust's capital gain has been reduced by the 50% discount, show the part of the discounted capital gain that is included in the unit holder's share of net income. In our example, the \$5 amount shown in the Tax paid or tax offsets column is the foreign tax paid on the discounted capital gain that is included in the unit holder's share of net income.</p>
14	<p>CGT concession amount</p> <p>The CGT concession amount is identified as the amount referred to in subsection 104-71(4) of the ITAA 1997. Frozen indexation amounts paid to the unit holder should not be shown as CGT concession amounts on the distribution statement.</p> <p>This amount comprises the non-assessable CGT discount amount paid to the unit holder.</p>
15	<p>Capital gains: other method</p> <p>This item shows the part of the capital gain included in the unit holder's share of net income where the trustee has not applied the indexation or discount method. This item, that is required to allow an investor to make choices about the order that capital losses can be deducted in, forms part of the calculation of net capital gain, and is also relevant for unit holders preparing CGT schedules. In our example, the \$2 amount shown in the Tax paid or tax offsets column is the foreign tax paid.</p>
16	<p>Distributed capital gains</p> <p>This item represents the actual cash amount of capital</p>

	<p>gains distributed and includes the non-assessable CGT concession amount. It is the sum of the Cash distribution column for capital gains. This figure is not taken into account in working out the unit holder's net capital gain but it allows fund managers to reconcile the net cash distribution amount paid to the unit holder.</p> <p>The total Distributed capital gains (that is, the Cash distribution plus the Foreign income tax offset) equals the Total current year capital gains in part B.</p>
17	<p>Net capital gain</p> <p>This item is the sum of the Taxable amount column of capital gains and represents the net capital gain under the various methods included in the unit holder's share of net income. In our example, this is \$155, that is transferred directly to A item 18 on the <i>Tax return for individuals (supplementary section) 2015</i> (NAT 2679) as discussed in Part A.</p> <p>Where the individual unit holder has no current year capital losses or unapplied prior year net capital losses, this figure can be used directly to complete A item 18. If the unit holder has current year capital losses or unapplied prior year net capital losses to offset, they would need to refer to the <i>Guide to capital gains tax 2015</i> (NAT 4151) or <i>Personal investors guide to capital gains tax 2015</i> (NAT 4152).</p>
18	<p>Foreign income</p> <p>For the 2014-15 year funds may choose to consolidate the foreign income components into one line. Capital gains made by Australian residents from foreign sources are not assessable foreign income and should not be shown in this section of part C but in the capital gains section of part C.</p>
19	<p>Other non-assessable amounts</p> <p>The headings used are based on the terminology used in sections 104-70 and 104-71 of the ITAA 1997.</p> <p>'Tax-exempted amounts' are amounts referred to in subsection 104-71(1). Unit holders are not required to adjust either the cost base or reduced cost base of their units for these amounts.</p> <p>'Tax-free amounts' are amounts referred to in subsection 104-71(3). Unit holders are required to reduce the reduced cost base of their units by these amounts but not their cost base. These amounts now only include infrastructure borrowing amounts under section 159GZZZZE and exempt income arising from shares in a pooled development fund under sections 124ZM and 124ZN of the ITAA 1936.</p>

	<p>'Tax-deferred amounts' are amounts referred to in subsection 104-70(1) of the ITAA 1997. Unit holders are required to reduce both the cost base and reduced cost base of their units by these amounts. Building allowance amounts paid on or after 1 July 2001 are now treated as tax-deferred amounts.</p> <p>'CGT concession amounts' are shown in the capital gains section to allow reconciliation of capital gains.</p>
20	<p>Other amounts deducted from trust distribution TFN amounts withheld</p> <p>This item allows the cash amount to be reconciled in part C.</p> <p>Other expenses</p> <p>This item allows the cash amount to be reconciled in part C. This is used for expenses incurred by unit holders (for example, management fees) and not deductions allowable to the trustees that are taken into account in the net income calculation under section 95 of the ITAA 1936 and are discussed at paragraph 12 above.</p> <p>Only the deductible expenses component of this amount should feed through to part A, Y item 13.</p>
21	<p>'Please retain this statement for income tax purposes.'</p> <p>The use of this wording exempts the fund manager from the requirement to include the words 'Payment summary' on the SDS where TFN amounts have been withheld from the investment. Our position on this and other PAYG withholding payer issues was provided to the FSC on 21 December 2001.</p>

Footnotes

If Part A is varied then Part C may also need to be varied.

Attachment 1

For reporting purposes a fund needs to work out what should be reported as 'Franked distributions' even though initially a fund at the start of a chain of trusts will receive dividends and not franked distributions. The method shown in Part C of the SDS above is effective for reporting purposes and will assist the funds to work out what should be reported as 'Franked distributions'. Funds further down the chain can also use this method even if 'Franked distributions' are included in the reports they receive.

For example, the fund may have received a distribution report that shows the following:

Item	Amount
Dividend: franked amount	70
Dividend: unfranked amount	60
Franking credit	30
Franked distribution	120

The method shown in Part C of the SDS above will result in the Franked distribution being reported as \$100.

Alternatively, the following method may be used where funds have their systems set up to trace and report 'Franked distributions'. This will require more complicated reporting in Part C as below.

Part C: Components of distribution

	Cash distribution	Tax paid or tax offsets	Taxable amount
Australian income		Franking credits	
Dividends:			
Franked amount	70	30.00	100
Unfranked amount	60		60
Total dividend	130	30.00	160
Less Franked distribution (X)	90	30.00	120

Unfranked distribution*	40	0	40
Interest	20		20
Other income	15		15
Less other allowable trust deductions	-30		-30
Non-primary production income (A)	45		45

* We have coined the term 'unfranked distribution' to describe the amount of dividends received that are not a franked distribution. You can leave this term out of the SDS. There is a requirement to report this value in the AIIR and it is used in the calculation of non-primary production income. The term has been included in this example to align with the AIIR. This example shows that part of the unfranked amount is included in the franked distribution calculation. For further information refer to field 7.113 within the AIIR v10.0.1 specification.

Part A of the SDS will show Item 13 Label U as \$45 and Item 13 label C as \$120. The total of \$165 is the same total as these two components in Part A of the SDS (\$100 plus \$65).

Attachment 2

The relationship between the field on the SDS and the corresponding field on the AIIR is shown below. The number shown refers to the reference number in Version 10.0.1 of the AIIR specification. Some additional items have been inserted and notes removed.

Tax return (supplementary section)	Amount	Tax return label
Share of primary production income	7.106	13L
Other deductions relating to distributions	7.108	13X

Share of non-primary production income	7.77	13U
Franked distributions from trusts	7.114	13C
Other deductions relating to non-primary production distributions	7.78	13Y
Share of credit for tax withheld where Australian business number not quoted	7.107	13P
Share of franking credit from franked dividends	7.75	13Q
Share of credit for tax file number amounts withheld from interest, dividends and unit trust distributions	7.66 less 7.67	13R
Share of credit for tax paid by trustee	7.95	13S
Share of credit for amounts withheld from foreign resident withholding	7.94	13A
Share of National rental affordability scheme tax offset	7.105	13B
Total current year capital gains	7.84	18H
Net capital gain	7.83	18A
CFC income	7.111	19K
Assessable foreign source income	7.86	20E
Net foreign rent	7.112	20R
Other net foreign source income	7.87	20M
Australian franking credits from a New Zealand company	7.89	20F
Foreign income tax offset*	7.88	20O

Part B: CGT information - additional information for item 18

Capital gains: discounted method	7.79	(grossed up amount)
Capital gains: indexation method	7.80	
Capital gains: other method	7.81	
Total current year capital gains	7.84	
CGT concession amount	7.82	
Tax-deferred amounts	7.92	

Part C: Components of distribution

	Cash distribution	Tax paid or tax offsets	Taxable amount
Australian income		Franking credits	
Dividends: unfranked amount not declared to be conduit foreign income			7.72
Dividends: unfranked amount declared to be conduit foreign income			7.73
Unfranked distributions			7.113

Interest			7.71
Other income			7.76
Less other allowable trust deductions			7.93
Non-primary production income (A)			7.77
Dividends: Franked amount (Franked distributions) (X)	7.74	7.75	7.114
Capital gains*		Foreign income tax offset**	
Discounted capital gain			7.79
CGT concession amount			7.82
Capital gains: indexation method			7.80
Capital gains: other method			7.81
Distributed capital gains (B)			7.84
Net capital gain			7.83
Foreign income			
Assessable foreign source income			7.86

Cash distribution (C)		7.88	
Cash distribution sub-total (add A, X, B and C)			
Other non-assessable amounts			
Tax-exempted amounts	7.90		
Tax-free amounts	7.91		
Tax-deferred amounts	7.92		
Gross cash distribution			
Other amounts deducted from trust distribution			
TFN amounts withheld	7.66 less 7.67		
Other expenses	7.78		
Net cash distribution			

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