

**Does Uniformity Engender Conformity? An Analysis Of  
International Accounting Standards Adoption by National Regulators**

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**ABSTRACT**

This study provides evidence on the changing content of International Accounting Standards (IAS) and the extent to which IAS content explains national accounting standards' conformity to the IAS. There is a shift in post-1988 IAS content consistent with the stated goals of the IASC Comparability Project. Post-1988 IAS contain a higher proportion of disclosure requirements and impose more uniformity. Both uniformity and disclosure measures are negatively related to the extent to which pre-1988 national accounting practices conform to IAS. There are interaction effects as well. Standards that prescribe more uniformity in disclosure are most strongly associated with *lower* conformity while lower uniformity in accounting principles provisions is most strongly associated with *higher* conformity. These findings are consistent with the notion that regulators respond negatively to the loss of flexibility and the reporting burden imposed by an IAS in choosing how closely to adopt the standard.

**Key Words:** International Accounting Standards, Standards Adoption, Conformity, Uniformity

**JEL Classification:** M4