Recognition criteria for assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are the following: it is probable that any future economic benefit associated with the item will flow to or from the enterprise and the item has a cost or value that can be measured reliably. In many cases, cost or value must be estimated; the use of reasonable estimates is an essential part of the preparation of financial statements. When a reasonable estimate cannot be made, the item is not recognized in the balance sheet or income statement. Financial statements employ a number of different degrees and in varying combination, including: historical cost, current cost, realizable value and present value. International Accounting Standards generally require that items should be measured at historical cost but this cost basis is usually combined with other measurement bases.