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The IAS 39 brings visibility in the use of derivative instruments for investors and other financial statements users. However, its implementation requires firms to incur additional investment in technical capacity building including acquisition of asset and liability management systems, systems of evaluation adapted to the types of financial instruments in use and proper training of staff to acquire the necessary skills to handle these systems. It also requires more informative disclosure in the financial statements. Furthermore the implementation of IAS 39 requires alerting top management to decide upon the financial information most relevant for decision-making. Despite added constraints and costs to firms, the implementation of IAS 39 brings in the financial statements (balance sheet and income statement) the disclosure of market and credit risks resulting from the use of derivative instruments, which previously were either not disclosed or were inappropriately disclosed as off balance sheet items. Therefore the implementation of IAS 39 not only protects firms from unwanted surprises such as the Barings Bank case, but also gives a better protection to investors by periodically disclosing these derivatives position to them. This standard is mandatory starting from January 2001 for all firms using International Accounting Standards. The corresponding standard in the USA for those firms using GAAP is FASB 133.

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