



REGULATORY GUIDANCE on Property and Casualty Statutory Statements of Actuarial Opinion, Actuarial Opinion Summaries, and Actuarial Reports for the Year 2020

Prepared by the NAIC Actuarial Opinion (C) Working Group
of the Casualty Actuarial and Statistical (C) Task Force

The NAIC Actuarial Opinion (C) Working Group (Working Group) of the Casualty Actuarial and Statistical (C) Task Force believes that the Statement of Actuarial Opinion (Actuarial Opinion), Actuarial Opinion Summary (AOS), and Actuarial Report are valuable tools in serving the regulatory mission of protecting consumers. This Regulatory Guidance document supplements the NAIC *Annual Statement Instructions – Property/Casualty (Instructions)* in an effort to provide clarity and timely guidance to companies and Appointed Actuaries regarding regulatory expectations on the Actuarial Opinion, AOS, and Actuarial Report.

An Appointed Actuary has a responsibility to know and understand both the *Instructions* and the expectations of state insurance regulators. One expectation of regulators clearly presented in the *Instructions* is that the Actuarial Opinion, AOS, and supporting Actuarial Report and workpapers be consistent with relevant Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOPs).

There have been changes to the *Instructions* for 2018 and 2019. As a result of these changes, the *Instructions* now:

- Include a new definition for “Accident & Health (A&H) Long Duration Contracts” in order to draw a distinction between these contracts and the Property and Casualty (P&C) Long Duration Contracts whose unearned premium reserves are reported on Exhibit A, Items 7 and 8,
- Add a reference to SSAP No. 65 in the definition of P&C Long Duration Contracts,
- Include a new disclosure item on Exhibit B for net reserves associated with A&H Long Duration Contracts,
- State that the Actuarial Report should disclose all reserve amounts associated with A&H Long Duration Contracts, and
- State that the Actuarial Report and workpapers summarizing the asset adequacy testing of long-term care contracts must be in compliance with *Actuarial Guideline LI – The Application of Asset Adequacy Testing to Long-Term Care Insurance Reserves* (AG 51) of the *Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual*.
- Pursuant to efforts undertaken by the Task Force and the Executive (EX) Committee, the definition of “Qualified Actuary” is significantly revised and a new requirement called “qualification documentation” was added. These changes are described in this Regulatory Guidance document and additional guidance is offered to assist an Appointed Actuary in creating qualification documentation.



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I. General comments

A. Reconciliation between documents

If there are any differences between the values reported in the Actuarial Opinion, AOS, Actuarial Report, and Annual Statement, the Working Group expects Appointed Actuaries to include an explanation for these differences in the appropriate document (Actuarial Opinion, AOS, or Actuarial Report). The use of a robust peer review process by the Appointed Actuary should reduce reporting errors and non-reconciling items.

One situation in which a legitimate difference might arise is in the case of non-tabular discounting: The direct and assumed loss reserves on line 3 of the Actuarial Opinion's Exhibit A come from Schedule P, Part 1, which is gross of non-tabular discounting, while the Actuarial Report and AOS might present the direct and assumed loss reserves on a net of discounting basis.

B. Role of illustrative language in the Instructions

While the *Instructions* provide some illustrative language, the Working Group encourages Appointed Actuaries to use whatever language they believe is appropriate to clearly convey their opinion and the basis for that opinion. In forming their opinion, Appointed Actuaries should consider company-specific characteristics such as intercompany pooling arrangements; recent mergers or acquisitions; and significant changes in operations, product mix, or reinsurance arrangements.

C. Qualified Actuary definition

With the introduction of an additional educational track for property and casualty (P/C) actuaries, the NAIC needed to consider revisions to the definition of "Qualified Actuary." Upon receiving advice from a consultant on the NAIC's definition of a "Qualified Actuary," the NAIC began a project to re-define a Qualified Actuary using objective criteria. Upon nomination by the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS), Society of Actuaries (SOA), and the American Academy of Actuaries (Academy), many Appointed Actuaries and other subject matter experts volunteered to assist the NAIC. The NAIC's P/C Appointed Actuary Job Analysis Project resulted in documentation of knowledge statements, or what an Appointed Actuary may need to know and do. The NAIC's P/C Educational Standards and Assessment Project resulted in documentation of which elements in each knowledge statement should be included in basic education as a minimum standard, with the remaining elements achievable through experience or continuing education. Using the minimum educational standards, the NAIC and subject matter experts assessed the CAS and SOA syllabi and reading materials. The CAS and SOA have made or agreed to make specific changes to their syllabi and/or reading materials to meet the standards. The revised syllabi and reference materials are required to be in place by Jan. 1, 2021.

As a result of these NAIC projects, the definition of "Qualified Actuary" was crafted to include basic education requirements and professionalism requirements (e.g. application of U.S. Qualification Standards, Code of Conduct, and ABCD). The definition of Qualified Actuary replaces the requirement to be "a member in good standing of the Casualty Actuarial Society" with a requirement to obtain and maintain an "Accepted Actuarial Designation." An Accepted Actuarial Designation is one that was considered by the NAIC to meet the NAIC's minimum educational standards for an Appointed Actuary. See the *Instructions* for the list of Accepted Actuarial Designations. It is important to note that some designations are accepted as meeting the basic education standards only if certain specific exams and/or tracks are successfully completed (with exceptions noted in the exam substitutions table of the *Instructions*). The NAIC process requires a recurring assessment of the "Qualified Actuary" definition every 5-10 years.

The NAIC does not intend to retroactively change requirements for Appointed Actuaries. If an actuary previously met the 2018 qualified actuary definition but lacks the specific exams and/or tracks under the new definition, the *Instructions* provide a list of acceptable substitutions.

D. Qualification documentation

The 2019 *Instructions* require the Appointed Actuary to provide "qualification documentation" to the Board of Directors upon initial appointment and annually thereafter. The documentation provided to the Board must be available to the



regulator upon request and during a financial examination. Guidance on qualification documentation is in Section IV of this document.

E. Replacement of an Appointed Actuary

The *Instructions* require two letters when the Board replaces an Appointed Actuary: one addressed from the insurer to the domiciliary commissioner, and one addressed from the former Appointed Actuary to the insurer. The insurer must provide both of these letters to the domiciliary commissioner.

The detailed steps are as follows:

1. Within 5 business days, the insurer shall notify its domiciliary insurance department that the former Appointed Actuary has been replaced.
2. Within 10 business days of the notification in step 1, the insurer shall provide the domiciliary commissioner with a letter stating whether in the 24 months preceding the replacement, there were disagreements with the former Appointed Actuary. The *Instructions* describe the types of disagreements required to be reported in the letter.
3. Within the same 10 business days referred to in step 2, the insurer shall, in writing, request that its former Appointed Actuary provide a letter addressed to the insurer stating whether the former Appointed Actuary agrees with the statements contained in the insurer's letter referenced in step 2.
4. Within 10 business days of the request from the insurer described in step 3, the former Appointed Actuary shall provide a written response to the insurer.
5. The insurer shall provide the letter described in step 2 and the response from the former Appointed Actuary described in step 4 to the domiciliary commissioner.

Regarding the disagreements referenced in step 2 above, regulators understand that there may be disagreements between the Appointed Actuary and the insurer during the course of the Appointed Actuary's analysis that are resolved by the time the Appointed Actuary concludes the analysis. For instance, the Appointed Actuary's analysis may go through several iterations, and an insurer's comments on the Appointed Actuary's draft Actuarial Report may prompt the Appointed Actuary to make changes to the report. While regulators are interested in material disagreements regarding differences between the former Appointed Actuary's final estimates and the insurer's carried reserves, they do not expect notification on routine discussions that occur during the course of the Appointed Actuary's work.

F. Reporting to the Board of Directors

The Appointed Actuary is required to report to the insurer's Board every year, and the *Instructions* were amended in 2016 to require the Board's minutes to specify the manner in which the Appointed Actuary presented the required information. This may be done in a form of the Appointed Actuary's choosing, including, but not limited to, an executive summary or PowerPoint presentation. The Working Group strongly encourages the Appointed Actuary to present his or her analysis in person so that the risks and uncertainties that underlie the exposures and the significance of the Appointed Actuary's findings can be adequately conveyed and discussed. Regardless of how the Appointed Actuary presents his or her conclusions, the Actuarial Report must be made available to the Board.

Management is limited to reporting single values on lines 1 and 3 of the Liabilities, Surplus, and Other Funds page of the balance sheet. However, actuarial estimates are uncertain by nature, and point estimates do not convey the variability in the projections. Therefore, the Board should be made aware of the Appointed Actuary's opinion regarding the risk of material adverse deviation, the sources of risk, and what amount of adverse deviation the Appointed Actuary judges to be material.



G. Requirements for pooled companies

Effective with the 2014 *Instructions*, requirements for companies that participate in intercompany pools are as follows:

For all intercompany pooling members:

- Text of the Actuarial Opinion should include the following:
 - Description of the pool
 - Identification of the lead company
 - A listing of all companies in the pool, their state of domicile, and their respective pooling percentages
- Exhibits A and B should represent the company's share of the pool and should reconcile to the financial statement for that company

For intercompany pooling members with a 0% share of the pooled reserves:

- Text of the Actuarial Opinion should be similar to that of the lead company
- Exhibits A and B should reflect the 0% company's values
 - Response to Exhibit B, Item 5 (materiality standard) should be \$0
 - Response to Exhibit B, Item 6 (risk of material adverse deviation) should be "not applicable"
- Exhibits A and B of the lead company should be filed with the 0% company's Actuarial Opinion
- Information in the AOS should be that of the lead company

Note the distinction between pooling with a 100% lead company with no retrocession and ceding 100% via a quota share reinsurance agreement. The regulator must approve these affiliate agreements as either an intercompany pooling arrangement or a quota share reinsurance agreement. The proper financial reporting is dependent on the approved filings, regardless of how company management regards its operating platform.

For intercompany pooling members with a greater than 0% share of the pooled reserves, regulators encourage the Appointed Actuary to display values in the AOS on a pooled (or consolidated) basis in addition to the statutory entity basis. This can be accomplished by displaying two tables of information.

H. Explanation of adverse development

1. Comments on unusual Insurance Regulatory Information System (IRIS) ratios in the Actuarial Opinion

The Appointed Actuary is required to provide comments in the Actuarial Opinion on factors that led to unusual values for IRIS ratios 11, 12, or 13. The Working Group considers it insufficient to attribute unusual reserve development to "reserve strengthening" or "adverse development" and expects the Appointed Actuary to provide insight into the company-specific factors which caused the unusual value. Detailed documentation should be included in the Actuarial Report to support statements provided in the Actuarial Opinion.

2. Comments on persistent adverse development in the AOS

The Appointed Actuary is required to comment on persistent adverse development in the AOS. Comments can reflect common questions that regulators have, such as:

- Is development concentrated in one or two exposure segments, or is it broad across all segments?
- How does development in the carried reserve compare to the change in the Appointed Actuary's estimate?
- Is development related to specific and identifiable situations that are unique to the company?
- Does the development or the reasons for development differ depending on the individual calendar or accident years?



I. Revisions

When a material error in the Actuarial Opinion or AOS is discovered by the Appointed Actuary, the company, the regulator, or any other party, regulators expect to receive a revised Actuarial Opinion or AOS.

Regardless of the reason for the change or refiling, the company should submit the revised Actuarial Opinion in hard copy to its domiciliary state and electronically to the NAIC. The company should submit the revised AOS in hard copy to the domiciliary state but should not submit the document to the NAIC.

A revised Actuarial Opinion or AOS should clearly state that it is an amended document, contain or accompany an explanation for the revision, and include the date of revision.

II. Comments on Actuarial Opinion and Actuarial Report

A. Review date

The illustrative language for the Scope paragraph includes "... and reviewed information provided to me through XXX date." This is intended to capture the ASOP No. 36 requirement to disclose the date through which material information known to the Appointed Actuary is included in forming the reserve opinion (the review date), if it differs from the date the Actuarial Opinion is signed. When the Appointed Actuary is silent regarding the review date, this can indicate either that the review date is the same as the date the Actuarial Opinion is signed or that the Appointed Actuary overlooked this disclosure requirement. When the Appointed Actuary's review date is the same as the date the Actuarial Opinion is signed, regulators suggest the Appointed Actuary clarify this in the Actuarial Opinion by including a phrase such as "... and reviewed information provided to me through the date of this opinion."

B. Making use of another's work

If the Appointed Actuary makes use of the work of another not within the Appointed Actuary's control for a material portion of the reserves, the *Instructions* say that the Appointed Actuary must provide the following information in the Actuarial Opinion:

- The person's name;
- The person's affiliation;
- The person's credential(s), if the person is an actuary; and
- A description of the type of analysis performed, if the person is not an actuary.

Furthermore, Section 4.2.f of ASOP No. 36 says that the actuary should disclose whether he or she reviewed the other's underlying analysis and, if so, the extent of the review. Though this is not mentioned in the ASOP, the Working Group encourages the Appointed Actuary to consider discussing his or her conclusions from the review.

Section 3.7.2 of ASOP No. 36 describes items the actuary should consider when determining whether it is reasonable to make use of the work of another. One of these items is the amount of the reserves covered by the other's analyses or opinions in comparison to the total reserves subject to the actuary's opinion. The Working Group encourages the Appointed Actuary to disclose these items in the Actuarial Opinion by providing the dollar amount of the reserves covered by the other's analyses or opinions and the percentage of the total reserves subject to the Appointed Actuary's opinion that these other reserves represent.

C. Points A and B of the Opinion paragraph when opinion type is other than reasonable

Regulators encourage Appointed Actuaries to think about their responses to point A (meet the requirements of the insurance laws of the state) and point B (computed in accordance with accepted actuarial standards and principles) of the Opinion paragraph when they issue an Actuarial Opinion of a type other than "Reasonable."



D. Conclusions on a net versus a direct and assumed basis

Unless the Appointed Actuary states otherwise, regulators will assume that the Appointed Actuary's conclusion on the type of opinion rendered, provided in points C and D of the Opinion paragraph, applies to both the net and the direct and assumed reserves. If the Appointed Actuary reaches different conclusions on the net versus the direct and assumed reserves, the Appointed Actuary should include narrative comments to describe the differences and clearly convey a complete opinion. The response to Exhibit B, Item 4 should reflect the Appointed Actuary's opinion on the net reserves.

Similarly, the materiality standard in Exhibit B, Item 5 and the RMAD conclusion in Exhibit B, Item 6 should pertain to the net reserves. If the Appointed Actuary reaches a different conclusion on the risk of material adverse deviation in the net versus the direct and assumed reserves, the Appointed Actuary should include a Relevant Comments paragraph to address the differences. Regulators understand that a net versus a direct and assumed RMAD will have different meanings and, potentially, different materiality standards.

E. Unearned premium for P&C Long Duration Contracts

Exhibit A, Items 7 and 8 require disclosure of the unearned premium reserve for P&C Long Duration Contracts. The *Instructions* require the Appointed Actuary to include a point D in the Opinion paragraph regarding the reasonableness of the unearned premium reserve when these reserves are material.

The Working Group expects that the Appointed Actuary will include documentation in the Actuarial Report to support a conclusion on reasonableness whenever point D is included in the Actuarial Opinion. This documentation may include the three tests of SSAP No. 65 or other methods deemed appropriate by the Appointed Actuary to support his or her conclusion.

Regulators see many opinions where dollar amounts are included in Exhibit A, Items 7 and 8; some opinions include a Relevant Comments paragraph discussing these amounts and some do not. Regulators would prefer at a minimum that Appointed Actuaries include some discussion in Relevant Comments on these amounts including an explicit statement as to whether these amounts are material or immaterial.

F. Other premium reserve items

With regard to "Other Premium Reserve Items" in Exhibit A, Item 9, the Appointed Actuary should include an explanatory paragraph about these premium reserves in Relevant Comments and state whether the amounts are material or immaterial. If the amounts are material, and the Appointed Actuary states the amounts are reasonable in an Opinion paragraph, regulators would expect the actuarial documentation to support this conclusion in the Actuarial Report.

Typical items regulators see listed as "Other Premium Reserve Items" are Medical Professional Liability Death, Disability & Retirement (DD&R) unearned premium reserves (UPR) and Other Liability Claims DD&R UPR. Depending on the nature of these exposures, these items may be also listed on Exhibit B, Line 12.2 as claims made extended UPR.

G. The importance of Relevant Comments paragraphs

The Working Group considers the Relevant Comments paragraphs to be the most valuable information in the Actuarial Opinion. Relevant Comments help the regulator interpret the Actuarial Opinion and understand the Appointed Actuary's reasoning and judgment. In addition to the required Relevant Comments, the Appointed Actuary should consider providing information on other material items such as reinsurance with affiliates, mergers or acquisitions, other premium reserves, and catastrophe risk.

H. Risk of Material Adverse Deviation

The Relevant Comments paragraphs on the Risk of Material Adverse Deviation (RMAD) are particularly useful to regulators. The first two RMAD comments below respond to questions that Appointed Actuaries have posed to regulators. The second two stem from regulators' reviews of Actuarial Opinions.



1. No company-specific risk factors – The Appointed Actuary is asked to discuss company-specific risk factors regardless of the RMAD conclusion. If the Appointed Actuary does not believe that there are any company-specific risk factors, the Appointed Actuary should state that.
2. Mitigating factors – Regulators generally expect Appointed Actuaries to comment on significant company-specific risk factors that exist prior to the company’s application of controls or use of mitigation techniques. The company’s risk management behaviors may, however, affect the Appointed Actuary’s RMAD conclusion.
3. Consideration of carried reserves, materiality standard, and reserve range when making RMAD conclusion – When deciding whether RMAD exists, the Appointed Actuary should consider the materiality standard in relation to the range of reasonable estimates and the carried reserves. For example, RMAD should likely exist when the sum of the materiality standard plus the carried reserves is within the range of reasonable estimates. Regardless, the Appointed Actuary should support the conclusion of whether RMAD exists.
4. Materiality standards for intercompany pool members – With the exception of intercompany pooling members that retain a 0% share, each statutory entity is required to have a separate Actuarial Opinion with its own materiality standard. Where there are no unusual circumstances to consider, it may be acceptable to determine a standard for the entire pool and assign each member its proportionate share of the total. It is not appropriate to use the entire amount of the materiality threshold for the pool as the standard for each individual pool member.

I. Regulators’ use of the Actuarial Report

Regulators should be able to rely on the Actuarial Report as an alternative to developing their own independent estimates. A well-prepared and well-documented Actuarial Report that complies with ASOP No. 41 can provide a foundation for efficient reserve evaluation during a statutory financial examination. This expedites the examination process and may provide cost savings to the company.

1. Schedule P reconciliation

The Working Group acknowledges that myriad circumstances (such as mergers, acquisitions, changes in claim systems, and the use of underwriting year data in the analysis) may make it difficult for the Appointed Actuary to reconcile the analysis data to Schedule P. The Working Group encourages Appointed Actuaries to disclose reconciliation issues in the Actuarial Report. If the data cannot be reconciled, the Appointed Actuary should document the reasons.

The Working Group believes that:

- A summary reconciliation that combines all years and all lines is an insufficient demonstration of data integrity. A reconciliation should include enough detail to reflect the segmentation of exposures used in the reserve analysis, the accident years of loss activity and the methods used by the Appointed Actuary.
- The Appointed Actuary should map the data groupings used in the analysis to Schedule P lines of business and should provide detailed reconciliations of the data at the finest level of segmentation that is possible and practical. The Working Group recognizes that the Appointed Actuary chooses the data segmentation for the analysis and that there is often not a direct correspondence between analysis segments and Schedule P lines of business.
- The Appointed Actuary should reconcile all data material to the analysis, including claim counts and earned premium if appropriate.

The Working Group draws a distinction between two types of data checks:

- The Schedule P reconciliation performed by the Appointed Actuary. The purpose of this exercise is to show the user of the Actuarial Report that the data significant to the Appointed Actuary’s analysis ties to the data in Schedule P.
- Annual testing performed by independent CPAs to verify the completeness and accuracy of the data in Schedule P or the analysis data provided by the company to the Appointed Actuary.



One key difference is that independent CPAs generally apply auditing procedures to loss and loss adjustment expense activity that occurred in the current calendar year (for example, tests of payments on claims for all accident years that were paid during the current calendar year). Projection methodologies used by Appointed Actuaries, on the other hand, often use cumulative loss and loss adjustment expense data, which may render insufficient a testing of activity during the current calendar year alone.

Along similar lines, regulators encourage Appointed Actuaries to consider whether a reconciliation of incremental payments during the most recent calendar year for all accident/report years combined provides sufficient assurance of the integrity of the data used in the analysis, given that development factors are generally applied to cumulative paid losses by accident/report year.

2. Change in estimates

The Working Group expects the Appointed Actuary to discuss any significant change in the Appointed Actuary's total estimates from the prior Actuarial Report. However, an explanation should also be included for any significant fluctuations within accident years or segments. When preparing the change-in-estimates exhibits, the Appointed Actuary should choose a level of granularity that provides meaningful comparisons between the prior and current year's results.

3. Narrative

The narrative section of the Actuarial Report should clearly convey the significance of the Appointed Actuary's findings and conclusions, the uncertainty in the estimates, and any differences between the Appointed Actuary's estimates and the carried reserves.

4. Support for assumptions

Appointed Actuaries should support their assumptions. The use of phrases like "actuarial judgment," either in the narrative comments or in exhibit footnotes, is not sufficient. A descriptive rationale is needed.

The selection of expected loss ratios could often benefit from expanded documentation. When making their selection, Appointed Actuaries should consider incorporating rate changes, frequency and severity trends, and other adjustments needed to on-level the historical information. Historical loss ratio indications have little value if items such as rate actions, tort reform, schedule rating adjustments, or program revisions have materially affected premium adequacy.

5. Support for roll forward analyses

The Working Group recognizes that the majority of the analysis supporting an Actuarial Opinion may be done with data received prior to year-end and "rolled forward" to year-end. By reviewing the Actuarial Report, the regulator should be able to clearly identify why the Appointed Actuary made changes in the ultimate loss selections and how those changes were incorporated into the final estimates. A summary of final selections without supporting documentation is not sufficient.

J. Exhibits A and B

1. "Data capture format"

The term "data capture format" in Exhibits A and B of the *Instructions* refers to an electronic submission of the data in a format usable for computer queries. This process allows for the population of an NAIC database that contains qualitative information and financial data. Appointed Actuaries should assist the company in accurately completing the electronic submission.



2. Scope of Exhibit B, Item 12

Exhibit B, Item 12 requests information on extended loss and unearned premium reserves for all property/casualty lines of business, not just medical professional liability. The Schedule P Interrogatories referenced in the parenthetical only address reserves associated with yet-to-be-issued extended reporting endorsements offered in the case of death, disability, or retirement of an individual insured under a medical professional liability claims-made policy.

3. Exhibit B, Item 13

The Working Group added disclosure item Exhibit B, Item 13 in 2018. This item requests information on reserves associated with “A&H Long Duration Contracts,” defined in the *Instructions* as “A&H contracts in which the contract term is greater than or equal to 13 months and contract reserves are required.”

This disclosure item was added for several reasons:

- **A desire by regulators to gain a greater understanding of property and casualty insurers’ exposure to A&H Long Duration Contracts.**
 - This guidance does not specify how P&C insurers should report the liabilities associated with A&H Long Duration Contracts on the annual statement. Through work performed on financial examinations, regulators have found that P&C insurers may include the liabilities in various line items of the Liabilities, Surplus and Other Funds page. SSAP No. 54R provides accounting guidance for insurers.
 - Regardless of where the amounts are reported on the annual statement, the materiality of the amounts, and whether the insurer is subject to AG 51, the Appointed Actuary should disclose the amounts associated with A&H Long Duration Contracts on Exhibit B, Item 13. The Appointed Actuary should provide commentary in a Relevant Comments paragraph in accordance with paragraph 6.C of the *Instructions*. The Appointed Actuary should also disclose all reserve amounts associated with A&H Long Duration Contracts in the Actuarial Report.
- **The adoption of AG 51 in 2017.** On August 9, 2017, the NAIC’s Executive (EX) Committee and Plenary adopted AG 51 requiring stand-alone asset adequacy analysis of long-term care (LTC) business. The text of AG 51 is included in the March 2019 edition of the NAIC’s Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual. The effective date of AG 51 was December 31, 2017, and it applies to companies with over 10,000 in-force lives covered by LTC insurance contracts as of the valuation date. The *Instructions* state that the Actuarial Report and workpapers summarizing the asset adequacy testing of LTC business must be in compliance with AG 51 requirements.
- **Recent adverse reserve development in LTC business.** Regulators expect Appointed Actuaries to disclose company-specific risk factors in the Actuarial Opinion. Given the recent adverse experience for LTC business, Appointed Actuaries should consider whether exposure to A&H Long Duration Contracts poses a risk factor for the company.

The Appointed Actuary is not asked to opine on the reasonableness of the reserves associated with A&H Long Duration Contracts except to the extent that the reserves are included within the amounts reported on Exhibit A of the Actuarial Opinion. For this reason, the Working Group intentionally excluded Items 13.3 and 13.4 from this sentence in paragraph 4 of the *Instructions*: “The Appointed Actuary should state that the items in the SCOPE, on which he or she is expressing an opinion, reflect Disclosure items 8 through 13.2 in Exhibit B.” Exhibit B, Item 13.1 asks the Appointed Actuary to disclose the reserves for A&H Long Duration Contracts that the company carries on the Losses line of the Liabilities, Surplus and Other Funds page. The Appointed Actuary is not asked to opine on the reasonableness of the reserves disclosed on Exhibit B, Item 13.1 in isolation, but these reserves are a subset of the amount included on Exhibit A, Item 1, and Exhibit A lists amounts with respect to which the Appointed Actuary is expressing an opinion. The same is true for Exhibit B, Item 13.2, whose reserves are a subset of the amount included on Exhibit A, Item 2.

A&H Long Duration Contracts are distinct from P&C Long Duration Contracts. There were no changes to the opinion requirements in 2018 regarding P&C Long Duration Contracts, but the Working Group added a reference to SSAP



No. 65 in the definition of “P&C Long Duration Contracts” to clarify the difference between “A&H Long Duration Contracts” and “P&C Long Duration Contracts.” The newly-added mention of SSAP No. 65 in the *Instructions* is not intended to change the Appointed Actuary’s treatment of P&C Long Duration Contracts in the Actuarial Opinion or the underlying analysis, but insurers and Appointed Actuaries may refer to SSAP No. 65, paragraphs 21 through 33 for a description of the three tests, a description of the types of P&C contracts to which the tests apply, guidance on the minimum required reserves, and instructions on the Actuarial Opinion and Actuarial Report.

III. Comments on AOS

A. Confidentiality

The AOS is a confidential document and should be clearly labeled and identified prominently as such. The AOS is not submitted to the NAIC. The Working Group advises the Appointed Actuary to provide the AOS to company personnel separately from the Actuarial Opinion and to avoid attaching the related Actuarial Opinion to the AOS.

B. Different requirements by state

Not all states have enacted the NAIC Property and Casualty Actuarial Opinion Model Law (#745), which requires the AOS to be filed. Nevertheless, the Working Group recommends that the Appointed Actuary prepare the AOS regardless of the domiciliary state’s requirements, so that the AOS will be ready for submission should a foreign state – having the appropriate confidentiality safeguards – request it.

Most states provide the Annual Statement contact person with a checklist that addresses filing requirements. The Working Group advises the Appointed Actuary to work with the company to determine the requirements for its domiciliary state.

C. Format

The purpose of the AOS is to show a comparison between the company’s carried reserves and the Appointed Actuary’s estimates. Because the AOS is a synopsis of the conclusions drawn in the Actuarial Report, the content of the AOS should reflect the analysis performed by the Appointed Actuary. Therefore, all of the Appointed Actuary’s calculated estimates, including actuarial central estimates and ranges, are to be presented in the AOS consistent with estimates presented in the Actuarial Report.

The American Academy of Actuaries’ Committee on Property and Liability Financial Reporting provides illustrative examples in its annual practice note “Statements of Actuarial Opinion on Property and Casualty Loss Reserves” that show how the Appointed Actuary might choose to display the required information. These examples present the numerical data in an easy-to-read table format.

IV. Guidance on qualification documentation

The Instructions have been modified for 2019 to require the Appointed Actuary to document qualifications in what is called “qualification documentation.” The qualification documentation needs to be provided to the Board of Directors at initial appointment and annually thereafter.

The following provides guidance Appointed Actuaries may find useful in drafting qualification documentation. Appointed Actuaries should use professional judgment when preparing the documentation and need not use the sample wording or format provided below. As a general principle, Appointed Actuaries should provide enough detail within the documentation to demonstrate that they satisfy each component of the ‘Qualified Actuary’ definition. In crafting the qualification documentation it may be helpful to think about what is important for the Board of Directors to know about their Appointed Actuary’s qualifications, and to remember that documentation should be relevant to the subject of the Actuarial Opinion being issued.

A. Brief biographical information



- The Appointed Actuary may provide resume-type information.
- Information may include the following:
 - professional actuarial designation(s) and year(s) first attained
 - insurance or actuarial coursework or degrees;
 - actuarial employment history: company names, position title, years of employment, and relevant information regarding the type of work (e.g., reserving, ratemaking, ERM)

B. “Qualified Actuary” definition

The Appointed Actuary should provide a description of how the definition of “Qualified Actuary” in the Instructions is met or expected to be met (in the case of continuing education) for that year. The Appointed Actuary should provide information similar to the following. Items (i) through (iii) below correspond with items (i) through (iii) in the Qualified Actuary definition.

- (i) “I meet the basic education, experience and continuing education requirements of the Specific Qualification Standards for Statements of Actuarial Opinion, NAIC Property and Casualty Annual Statement, as set forth in the Qualification Standards for Actuaries Issuing Statements of Actuarial Opinion in the United States (U.S. Qualification Standards), promulgated by the American Academy of Actuaries (Academy). The following describes how I meet these requirements:

a. Basic education:”

[Option 1] “met through relevant examinations administered by the Casualty Actuarial Society;” or

[Option 2] “met through alternative basic education.” The Appointed Actuary should further review documentation necessary per section 3.1.2 of the U.S. Qualification Standards.

b. “Experience requirements: met through relevant experience as described below.”

- To describe the Appointed Actuary’s responsible experience relevant to the subject of the Actuarial Opinion, information may include specific actuarial experiences relevant to the company’s structure (e.g., insurer, reinsurer, RRG), lines of business, or special circumstances.
- Experiences may include education (through organized activities or readings) about specific types of company structures, lines of business, or special circumstances.

c. “Continuing education: met (or expected to be met) through a combination of [industry conferences; seminars (both in-person and webinar); online courses; committee work; self-study; etc.], on topics including _____ (provide a brief overview of the CE topics. For example, ‘trends in workers’ compensation’ or ‘standards of actuarial practice on reserving.’). A detailed log of my continuing education credit hours is available upon request.”

- Section 3.3 of the Specific Qualification Standards for Statements of Actuarial Opinion, NAIC Property and Casualty Annual Statement requires the Appointed Actuary to earn 15 hours of CE on topics mentioned in Section 3.1.1.2. The Appointed Actuary should consider providing expanded detail on the completion (or planned completion) of these hours in the CE documentation.

- (ii) “I have obtained and maintain an Accepted Actuarial Designation.” One of the following statements may be made, depending on the Appointed Actuary’s exam track:

- “I am a Fellow of the CAS (FCAS) and my basic education includes credit for Exam 6 – Regulation and Financial Reporting (United States).”



- “I am an Associate of the CAS (ACAS) and my basic education includes credit for Exam 6 – Regulation and Financial Reporting United States) and Exam 7 – Estimation of Policy Liabilities, Insurance Company Valuation, and Enterprise Risk Management.”
- “I am a Fellow of the SOA (FSA) and my basic education includes completion of the general insurance track, including the following optional exams: the United States’ version of the Financial and Regulatory Environment Exam and the Advanced Topics in General Insurance Exam.”

Alternatively, if the actuary was evaluated by the Academy's Casualty Practice Council and determined to be a Qualified Actuary, the Appointed Actuary may note such and identify any restrictions or limitations, including those for lines of business and business activities.

- (iii) “I am a member of [professional actuarial association] that requires adherence to the same Code of Professional Conduct promulgated by the Academy, requires adherence to the U.S. Qualification Standards, and participates in the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline when its members are practicing in the U.S.”

C. CE logging procedure

The Casualty Actuarial and Statistical (C) Task Force continues to work with the CAS and SOA to identify types of learning that P/C Appointed Actuaries are using to meet continuing education (CE) requirements for ‘Specific Qualification Standards’ today and whether more specificity should be added to the P/C Appointed Actuaries’ CE requirements to ensure CE is aligned with the educational needs for a P/C Appointed Actuary.

The Task Force has adopted a project plan that includes requirements for 1) categorization of CE in the Appointed Actuaries’ CE log and 2) CE log audits by the CAS/SOA of a percentage of Appointed Actuaries. For year-end 2020, Appointed Actuaries selected for review by the CAS or SOA must either use a specific logging format for their CE logs or add a column to one’s current log. Appointed actuaries are encouraged to categorize their CE throughout the year, since waiting until the audit (if selected) may compromise the accuracy of categorization. While audited Appointed Actuaries will submit their individual logs, the CAS and SOA will only share aggregated information with the NAIC. The CAS and SOA will distribute information on 2020 CE logging and submission instructions, CE categories, and categorization rules.

V. COVID-19

COVID-19 and subsequent economic events have had a significant impact on 2020 accident year insurance liabilities for some lines of business. Furthermore, the effects of COVID-19 could extend to other aspects of the company’s operations and the claims process. The Appointed Actuary should consider the direct impacts to loss and unearned premium reserves, claims patterns and loss trends, collectability of reinsurance and/or premiums, exposure, etc., as well as indirect impacts such as claims handling delays and procedural changes resulting from public health orders. It is important for the Appointed Actuary to understand the company’s treatment of any changes stemming from COVID-19, for example premium refunds or rate reductions, in the annual financial statement. The impact of such financial reporting on assumptions and methods used in the actuarial analysis should be discussed within the Actuarial Report.

If the impact on reserves is significant, the actuary should make relevant comments on COVID-19 impacts and discuss the corresponding actuarial assumptions in the Statement of Actuarial Opinion. Otherwise, Appointed Actuaries are still strongly encouraged to mention their review of COVID-19 effects on the company in the Statement of Actuarial Opinion, to demonstrate that it has not been overlooked or disregarded.

Actuaries may refer to the Statement of Actuarial Opinion Instructions, ASOPs, and Statutory Accounting Principles Working Group documents (particularly INT 20-08) for further instruction. The COVID-19 FAQ document, published

Adopted by the Actuarial Opinion (C) Working Group: October 30, 2020



by COPLFR and available on the American Academy of Actuaries website, can serve as an additional resource for practical consideration.

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