Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group

**Maintenance Agenda Submission Form**

**Form A**

## **Issue:** ***ASU 2014-17, Business Combinations – Pushdown Accounting, a Consensus of the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force***

**Check (applicable entity):**

 P/C Life Health

Modification of existing SSAP [x]  [x]  [x]

New Issue or SSAP [ ]  [ ]  [ ]

Interpretation [ ]  [ ]  [ ]

Description of Issue:

*ASU 2014-17, Business Combinations – Pushdown Accounting, a Consensus of the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force* (ASU 2014-17) was issued to provide guidance on whether and at what threshold an acquired entity that is a business or nonprofit activity can apply pushdown accounting in its separate financial statements. Prior to the issuance of this ASU, pushdown accounting was only required under U.S. GAAP for SEC registrants. Pursuant to the provisions in the ASU, acquirees now have the option to apply pushdown accounting. Pushdown accounting is a convention of accounting for the purchase of a subsidiary at the purchase cost rather than its historical basis. In effect, the acquiree’s assets and liabilities are written up (or down) to reflect the purchase price and, to the extent that the purchase price exceeds fair value, to recognize the excess as goodwill. In short, the total amount that is paid to purchase the subsidiary becomes the subsidiary’s new book value on its financial statements.

To illustrate the difference in applying pushdown accounting:

* Acquiree’s Book Value of Assets = $100 and Liabilities = $50.
* Acquiree’s Fair Value of Assets = $120 and Liabilities = $30.

If the purchase price was $90:

* “Normal” Purchase Accounting = Recognize SCA at $50 with the parent recognizing goodwill of $40.
* “Pushdown” Purchase Accounting = Recognize SCA at $90 with no goodwill recognized by the parent.

Under U.S. GAAP, goodwill is calculated as the purchase price of the acquiree less the market value of the acquiree. Any gains and losses associated with the new book value are “pushed down” from the acquirer’s income statement and balance sheet to the acquired company’s income statement and balance sheet. ASU 2014-17 states that an acquired entity may elect the option to apply pushdown accounting in the reporting period in which the change-in-control event occurs, but it also has the option to apply pushdown accounting in a reporting period subsequent to its most recent change-in-control event. If pushdown accounting is applied in a subsequent reporting period, it will be considered a change in accounting principle.

Under statutory accounting, a business combination is accounted for as either a statutory purchase or a statutory merger. A business combination in which one entity is acquired by another, and a parent-subsidiary relationship is created, is accounted for as a statutory purchase. The acquirer reports its investment at cost, which is defined as the sum of (a) any cash payment, (b) the fair value of other assets distributed, (c) the fair value of any liabilities assumed, and (d) any direct costs of the acquisition. For acquired subsidiary, controlled and affiliated (SCA) entities valued under an equity method of accounting, goodwill is defined as the difference between the cost of acquiring the SCA and the reporting entity’s share of the book value of the SCA. For U.S. insurance SCAs, the historical basis of the SCA will continue to be used in preparing its statutory financial statements. As such, pushdown accounting is not permitted for this equity method of accounting.

While statutory accounting utilizes the framework that was established by U.S. GAAP, statutory accounting focuses on the balance sheet, as opposed to the income statement, and places additional emphasis on the concepts of consistency and conservatism due to this difference in reporting objectives. The use of pushdown accounting as an accounting method under statutory accounting is problematic for the reasons listed below.

* A change in the ownership of an entity should not result in a new basis of accounting for that entity in its separate financial statements as transactions affecting an entity’s stock should not affect the entity’s accounting.
* If the acquiree has entered into third-party agreements with terms related to financial statements presented on the existing basis of accounting, restatement under pushdown accounting could pose problems in determining or maintaining compliance with those requirements.
* In the event there are still minority ownership interests in the acquired entity, utilization of pushdown accounting would result in a different set of financial statements and these owners would not have a meaningful set of comparative financial statements.
* There isn’t a reasonable way to determine which owner’s transactions should qualify for pushdown accounting, in a scenario in which there are multiple owners who are deemed to control the acquiree (10%+ ownership of outstanding stock measured at the holding company level).
* Goodwill restrictions under statutory accounting, such as the admissibility of goodwill limited to 10% of the reporting entity’s surplus and amortization over a ten-year span, would essentially be eluded.

Example of U.S. GAAP with and without Pushdown Accounting versus Statutory Accounting

Entity A purchases 100% of Entity Z (which has a fair value of 200 and is on the books for $100, Assets = $200 and Liabilities = $100) for $500.

Entity Z’s Accounting on Standalone Financials:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | U.S. GAAP without Pushdown | U.S. GAAP with Pushdown | Statutory Accounting |
| Assets | 300 | 500 | 200 |
| Liabilities | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Equity | 200 | 400 | 100 |
| Goodwill | 300 | 0 | 400 |

Result: Pushdown accounting increases the basis of the acquired entity from $100 under statutory accounting to $400 under U.S. GAAP. It also circumvents the goodwill restrictions under statutory accounting by increasing the basis of the acquired entity on its standalone financial statements.

Actual SCA Filing

NAIC Staff also refer to an actual SCA Sub 2 filing that was submitted during 2018 under the 8.b.iii valuation method (Non-Insurance SCA Entity under GAAP Basis).This acquisition was completed under the pushdown accounting method for U.S. GAAP. Since the existing guidance in SSAP No. 97 values 8.b.iii entities on the audited “U.S. GAAP equity of the investee,” the existing guidance does not allow for modifications/adjustments to remove the “pushdown accounting” impact. This allowed the parent reporting entity to avoid reporting goodwill for the acquired SCA. *(Entity names and values have been changed.)*

ABC purchased 50% of G for $500. G’s book value was $105 (Assets = $205 and Liabilities = $100) and fair value was $290.

Entity G’s Accounting on Standalone Financials:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | U.S. GAAP without Pushdown | U.S. GAAP with Pushdown | Statutory Accounting |
| Assets | 390 | 600 | 205 |
| Liabilities | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Equity | 290 | 500 | 105 |
| Goodwill | 210 | 0 | 395 |

The insurance reporting entity’s investment in G was increased due to the goodwill that was paid as part of the acquisition of G. This results in a value of G that vastly differs between U.S. GAAP where pushdown accounting is used and statutory accounting, which is much more conservative.

Existing Authoritative Literature:

SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill

### Statutory Purchases of SCA Investments

1. The statutory purchase method of accounting is defined as accounting for a business combination as the acquisition of one entity by another. It shall be used for all purchases of SCA entities including partnerships, joint ventures, and limited liability companies. The acquiring reporting entity shall record its investment at cost. Cost is defined as the sum of: (a) any cash payment, (b) the fair value of other assets distributed, (c) the fair value of any liabilities assumed, and (d) any direct costs of the acquisition.(INT 00-28) Contingent consideration issued in a purchase business combination that is embedded in a security or that is in the form of a separate financial instrument shall be recorded by the issuer at fair value at the acquisition date.
2. For those acquired SCA entities accounted for in accordance with paragraphs 8.b.i., 8.b.ii., 8.b.iii. or 8.b.iv. of SSAP No. 97, and joint venture, partnership or limited liability company entities accounted for in accordance with paragraph 8 of SSAP No. 48, goodwill is defined as the difference between the cost of acquiring the entity and the reporting entity’s share of the book value of the acquired entity. When the cost of the acquired entity is greater than the reporting entity’s share of the book value, positive goodwill exists. When the cost of the acquired entity is less than the reporting entity’s share of the book value, negative goodwill exists. Goodwill resulting from assumption reinsurance shall be recorded as a separate write-in for other-than-invested assets. All other goodwill shall be reported in the carrying value of the investment.
3. A business combination accounted for under the statutory purchase method and in which the acquired entity is valued in accordance with paragraphs 8.b.ii., 8.b.iii. or, 8.b.iv. of SSAP No. 97 shall determine the amount of positive goodwill or negative goodwill created by the combination using the reporting entity’s share of the GAAP net book value of the acquired entity, adjusted to a statutory basis of accounting in accordance with paragraph 9 of SSAP No. 97 in the case of acquired entities valued in accordance paragraphs 8.b.ii. or 8.b.iv. of SSAP No. 97. Business combinations accounted for under the statutory purchase method and in which the acquired entity is valued in accordance with, paragraph 8.b.i. of SSAP No. 97 shall determine the amount of positive or negative goodwill created by the business combination using the insurer’s share of the statutory book value of the acquired entity.
4. For those acquired SCA entities accounted for in accordance with paragraph 8.b.i. of SSAP No. 97 under the statutory purchase method, the historical bases of the acquired entity shall continue to be used in preparing its statutory financial statements. Therefore, pushdown accounting is not permitted.
5. Positive goodwill recorded under the statutory purchase method of accounting shall be admitted subject to the following limitation: Positive goodwill from all sources, including life, accident and health, and deposit-type assumption reinsurance, is limited in the aggregate to 10% of the acquiring[[1]](#footnote-1) entity’s capital and surplus as required to be shown on the statutory balance sheet of the reporting entity for its most recently filed statement with the domiciliary state commissioner adjusted to exclude any net positive goodwill, EDP equipment and operating system software, and net deferred tax assets. Additionally, all positive goodwill shall be nonadmitted when the underlying investment in the SCA or partnership, joint venture and limited liability company is nonadmitted[[2]](#footnote-2). When negative goodwill exists, it shall be recorded as a contra-asset. Positive or negative goodwill resulting from the purchase of an SCA, joint venture, partnership or limited liability company shall be amortized to unrealized capital gains and losses on investments over the period in which the acquiring entity benefits economically, not to exceed 10 years. Positive or negative goodwill resulting from life, accident and health, and deposit-type assumption reinsurance shall be amortized to operations as a component of general insurance expenses over the period in which the assuming entity benefits economically, not to exceed 10 years. Goodwill shall be evaluated separately for each transaction.(INT 01-18)

**SSAP No. 97—Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities**

### Valuation of Investments in Downstream Holding Companies

1. SSAP No. 48 requires the financial statements of joint ventures, partnerships, and/or limited liability companies in which the downstream noninsurance holding company has a minor ownership interest or otherwise lacks control, i.e., ownership interest is less than 10% (hereinafter referred to as “non SCA SSAP No. 48 entities”), to be valued using U.S. GAAP basis financial statements*.* Valuation of a downstream holding company, including its investments in SCA entities, depends upon the nature of the SCA entities and non SCA SSAP No. 48 entities it holds in accordance with paragraph 8 of this statement. All liabilities, commitments, contingencies, guarantees or obligations of the downstream noninsurance holding company, which are required to be recorded under applicable statutory accounting guidance, shall be reflected in the parent insurance reporting entity’s determination of the carrying value of the investment in the downstream noninsurance holding company, if not already recorded in the financial statements of the downstream noninsurance holding company. If an SCA investment of the downstream holding company does not meet the provisions of paragraph 8.a. or if it elects not to use the guidance in paragraph 8.a., and instead uses the guidance in paragraph 8.b., the downstream holding company would be valued as the sum of the following (if applicable):
2. Investments by a downstream holding company in U.S. insurance SCA entities are recorded based upon the guidance in paragraph 8.b.i.;
3. Investments by a downstream holding company in noninsurance SCA entities that are engaged in transactions or activities described in paragraph 8.b.ii., are recorded based upon the guidance in paragraph 8.b.ii.;
4. Investments by a downstream holding company in noninsurance SCA entities that do not qualify under paragraph 21.b. shall be recorded based upon the guidance in paragraph 8.b.iii.;

d. Investments by a downstream holding company in foreign insurance SCA entities shall be recorded based upon the guidance in paragraph 8.b.iv.; and

e. Any other assets and/or liabilities of the downstream holding company (not addressed in paragraphs 21.a. through 21.d.) shall be valued in accordance with the applicable SSAP.

For purposes of applying paragraphs 21-26 of this statement, a downstream holding company shall be considered to be the parent reporting entity’s investment in a SCA entity. See paragraphs 25 and 26 for a limited exception to the audited financial statements requirement for downstream noninsurance holding companies which meet specified conditions.

### Admissibility Requirements of Investments in Downstream Holding Companies

1. To meet the admissibility requirements of this statement, unless the limited exception to the audited financial statements requirement discussed in paragraphs 25 and 26 applies, an annual audit of the financial statements of SCA entities, including the downstream holding company valued under paragraphs 8.b.i through 8.b.iv. must be obtained. The requirement for audited financial statements may be met by utilizing any one of the following methods:
2. Audited US GAAP financial statements of the downstream SCA holding company. (Consolidated or combined financial statements are allowed encompassing one or more downstream holding companies, including such holding companies that directly own U.S. insurance entities, provided that the statutory financial statements of such U.S. insurance entities are audited. Annual consolidated or combined audits are allowed for insurance entities if completed in accordance with the Model Regulation Requiring Annual Audited Reports as adopted by the SCA’s domiciliary state.) The audited financial statements of the downstream holding company shall include as other financial information, consolidating or combining balance sheet schedule(s) showing the equity of all relevant SCA entities and non-SCA SSAP No. 48 entities, and any required intercompany eliminations. The consolidating or combining balance sheet schedule shall separately present those entities owned directly by the downstream holding company. The consolidating or combining balance sheet shall then be adjusted for GAAP to SAP differences for paragraph 8.b.i., 8.b.ii. and 8.b.iv. entities owned directly or indirectly by the downstream holding company. The adjusted amount would then be the reported value of the investment in the downstream holding company at the higher-level reporting entity; or
3. Audited foreign GAAP-basis financial statements of the downstream SCA holding company. (Consolidated or combined financial statements are allowed encompassing one or more downstream holding companies, including such holding companies that directly own U.S. insurance entities, provided that the statutory financial statements of such U.S. insurance entities are audited. Annual consolidated or combined audits are allowed for insurance entities if completed in accordance with the Model Regulation Requiring Annual Audited Reports as adopted by the SCA’s domiciliary state.) The audited foreign GAAP basis financial statements shall include an audited footnote disclosure within the financial statements that reconciles each consolidated entity’s net income and equity on a foreign basis of accounting to a U.S. GAAP basis. The audited financial statements of the downstream holding company shall include as other financial information, consolidating or combining balance sheet schedule(s) showing the equity of all relevant SCA entities non SCA SSAP No. 48 entities, and any required intercompany eliminations. The consolidating or combining balance sheet schedule shall separately present those entities owned directly by the downstream holding company. The consolidating or combining balance sheet shall then be adjusted for GAAP to SAP differences of the insurance entities and paragraph 8.b.ii., and 8.b.iv. entities owned directly or indirectly by the downstream holding company. The adjusted amount would then be the reported value of the investment in the downstream holding company at the higher-level reporting entity; or
4. Individual audits of the downstream holding company and the downstream holding company’s investments in individual SCA entities.

Activity to Date (issues previously addressed by the Working Group, Emerging Accounting Issues (E) Working Group, SEC, FASB, other State Departments of Insurance or other NAIC groups): During the 2019 Summer National Meeting, the Working Group received information on the history of pushdown and information from discussions with AICPA and interested party representatives. This information has been captured in the agenda item for future reference:

**Comparison of SAP / GAAP Goodwill Guidance, including GAAP Pushdown:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SCA Acquisition** | **Purchase Price: $300** | **Asset Book Value: $90** | **Asset Fair Value: $150** |
|  |
| Standard SAP Accounting:  | Investment in SCA: $90Goodwill: $210 | The combined $300 is reported as the investment in SCA, but the goodwill is separately reported and is subject to the SSAP No. 68 admittance restrictions and the 10-year amortization.  |
|  |
| U.S. GAAP Standard: | Investment in SCA: $150Goodwill: $150 | When pushdown is not elected, under U.S. GAAP, goodwill is calculated on the difference between fair value and the purchase price. This is different than SAP where goodwill is calculated based on the difference between book value and the purchase price.  |
|  |
| U.S. GAAP Pushdown:  | *Parent Reporting:*Investment in SCA: $300 | With pushdown, the reported value at the reporting entity level simply reflects the purchase price.  |
| *SCA Reporting:*Assets: $150Goodwill: $150 | With pushdown, the acquired SCA increases the book value of their assets to fair value, and reports goodwill on their F/S for any remaining difference.  |

**Preliminary information from discussions with AICPA and Industry representations**

* Insurance reporting entities that were SEC filers have historically used pushdown when acquiring SCAs. This is because pushdown accounting was required for SEC filers and US GAAP allowed pushdown to prevent differences between the SEC and US GAAP.
* With ASU 2014-17, the US GAAP guidance became an election for all reporting entities. As such, more entities may have elected to use pushdown, **but no information is known as to the extent pushdown accounting has been applied.**
* **For the SEC registrants that used pushdown, the U.S. GAAP guidance was followed**. As such, at acquisition the assets and liabilities of the SCA were adjusted to fair value, and the goodwill calculated was the difference between the purchase price and the fair value of the SCA. (This is different from the goodwill calculation required under SSAP No. 68.) The goodwill was then recognized as an asset on the SCA books (and not at the insurance reporting entity level). This goodwill was subject to the U.S. GAAP impairment calculation, which requires annual testing of impairment, but was not subject to the admittance or amortization requirements of SSAP No. 68.
* **For non-SEC registrants that have elected pushdown under the new GAAP provisions, it is uncertain how goodwill was calculated prior to the pushdown**. (Whether it was calculated under the guidance in SSAP No. 68 or under U.S. GAAP.)
* Although U.S. GAAP now permits pushdown beyond SEC filers, pushdown is prohibited under IFRS.
* Per the discussion with interested parties’ representatives, **the acquisition of a new SCA from a non-related party is considered to be an economic transaction under SSAP No. 25**. However, if the acquisition of an SCA was from a related party, the it would not be considered an economic transaction. With classification as an economic transaction, the interested parties noted that increase of the SCA to represent fair value is consistent under SSAP No. 25.

**Historical SAP Guidance:**

The original Issue Paper No. 68 noted that pushdown should be prohibited in all SCA acquisitions. Issue Papers are not authoritative, and this guidance was not what was adopted in the original SSAP No. 68. There is no discussion in the original Issue Paper on the expansion that permitted pushdown for the “7.b.iii” entities in the issued SSAP No. 46. The expansion on the use of pushdown to all SCA entities except insurance SCA entities “8.b.i” was then reflected as a modification to SSAP No. 68 from the 2004 adoption of *SSAP No. 88—Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities, A Replacement of SSAP No. 46.* (This revision expanded the ability to use pushdown accounting to noninsurance entities that engage in insurance “activities” and meet the revenue test under 8.b.ii.) There was no discussion in the corresponding Issue Paper (No. 118) regarding the expansion to all entities except insurance SCAs. NAIC staff suspects that as pushdown was limited to only SEC registrants under U.S. GAAP, the expansion to all entities that could use audited U.S. GAAP was not concerning as it would be applied only in the SEC-qualifying situations. This aspect of SSAP No. 68 has not been modified since the adoption of SSAP No. 88.

Original Codification of AP&P Manual – Effective Jan. 1, 2001:

*Issue Paper No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill:*

8. Under the statutory purchase method the historical bases of the acquired entity shall continue to be used in preparing its statutory financial statements except in those instances provided for in paragraph **8.b. of Issue Paper No. 46**. **Therefore, pushdown accounting is not permitted.**

*Issue Paper No. 46—Accounting for Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled or Affiliated Entities:*

8b. If a SCA investment does not meet the requirements for the market valuation approach in paragraph 7.a. or, if the requirements are met, but a reporting entity elects not to use that approach, investments in SCAs shall be recorded as follows:

i. Investments in insurance SCA entities shall be recorded based on the underlying statutory equity of the respective entity's financial statements, adjusted for unamortized goodwill as provided for in Issue Paper No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill (Issue Paper No. 68);

ii. Investments in noninsurance SCA entities that have no significant ongoing operations other than to hold assets that are primarily for the direct or indirect benefit or use of the reporting entity or its affiliates, shall be recorded based on the underlying equity of the respective entity's financial statements adjusted to a statutory basis of accounting and the resultant proportionate share of the subsidiary's adjusted surplus, adjusted for unamortized goodwill as provided for in Issue Paper No. 68. Examples include but are not limited to: 1) an insurer and a SCA entity that leases autos, furniture, office equipment, or computer equipment to the insurer, 2) an insurer and a SCA entity that owns real estate property that is leased to the insurer for office space, and 3) an insurer and an SCA entity which holds investments which an insurer could acquire directly (i.e., "look through" investment subsidiary);

iii. Investments in noninsurance SCA entities that have significant ongoing operations beyond the holding of assets that are primarily for the direct or indirect benefit or use of the reporting entity or its affiliates, shall be recorded based on the audited GAAP equity of the investee. Examples include but are not limited to: 1) a property-casualty or life insurer and a SCA entity that is an oil and gas venture, and 2) a property-casualty or life insurer and a SCA manufacturer.

*SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill*

8. Under the statutory purchase method the historical bases of the acquired entity shall continue to be used in preparing its statutory financial statements except in those instances provided for in paragraph **7.b.iii of SSAP No. 46**. Therefore, pushdown accounting is not permitted.

*SSAP No. 46—Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities:*

7.b.iii. Investments in noninsurance SCA entities that have significant ongoing operations beyond the holding of assets that are primarily for the direct or indirect benefit or use of the reporting entity or its affiliates, shall be recorded based on the audited GAAP equity of the investee. Examples include but are not limited to: (i) a property-casualty or life insurer and a SCA entity that is an oil and gas venture, and (ii) a property-casualty or life insurer and a SCA manufacturer.

AP&P Manual – As of March 2005:

*SSAP No. 88—Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities, A Replacement of SSAP No. 46 detailed the amendments adopted to SSAP No. 68:*

26. This statement supersedes paragraphs 4-6 of SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill as follows:

4. For those acquired SCA entities accounted for in accordance with paragraphs 8.b.i., 8.b.ii., 8.b.iii. or 8.b.iv. of SSAP No. 88, goodwill is defined as the difference between the cost of acquiring the entity and the reporting entity’s share of the book value of the acquired entity. When the cost of the acquired entity is greater than the reporting entity’s share of the book value, positive goodwill exists. When the cost of the acquired entity is less than the reporting entity’s share of the book value, negative goodwill exists. Goodwill resulting from assumption reinsurance shall be recorded as a separate write-in for other-than-invested assets. All other goodwill shall be reported in the carrying value of the investment.

5. A business combination accounted for under the statutory purchase method and in which the acquired entity is valued in accordance with paragraphs 8.b.ii., 8.b.iii. or, 8.b.iv. of SSAP No. 88 shall determine the amount of positive goodwill or negative goodwill created by the combination using the reporting entity’s share of the GAAP net book value of the acquired entity. Business combinations accounted for under the statutory purchase method and in which the acquired entity is valued in accordance with, 8 b. i. SSAP No. 88 shall determine the amount of positive or negative goodwill created by the business combination using the insurer’s share of the statutory book value of the acquired entity.

6. **For those acquired SCA entities accounted for in accordance with paragraph 8.b.i. under the statutory purchase method the historical bases of the acquired entity shall continue to be used in preparing its statutory financial statements. Therefore, pushdown accounting is not permitted**.

**Information or issues (included in *Description of Issue*) not previously contemplated by the Working Group:**

None

**Convergence with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS):**

Currently, there is no guidance in IFRS on pushdown accounting as this is not a method of accounting that is accepted under IFRS.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Working Group move this item to the active listing, categorized as nonsubstantive and expose the proposed revisions to *SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations* *and Goodwill* and *SSAP No. 97—Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities* to reject *ASU 2014-17, Business Combinations – Pushdown Accounting* for statutory accounting. This agenda item also explicitly prohibits use of pushdown accounting under the statutory accounting basis, which includes all entities accounting for under *SSAP No. 48—Joint Ventures, Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies* and SSAP No. 97. These revisions will explicitly prohibit insurance reporting entities that hold SCAs valued on the basis of U.S. GAAP (8.b.ii or 8.b.iii) to utilize a value for the SCA that reflects the impact of pushdown accounting. Insurance reporting entities that hold SCAs that utilized pushdown accounting for U.S. GAAP will be required to adjust their U.S. GAAP financial statements to remove the effect of pushdown accounting, and provide audited support of their modification. The insurance reporting entity shall recognize the difference between the purchase price and the net book value of the entity (prior to pushdown accounting) as goodwill in accordance with SSAP No. 68. This goodwill shall be admitted and amortized in accordance with the limitations and provisions of SSAP No. 68. The effective date of these revisions shall be Jan. 1, 2020.

Staff Note: Staff has considered that it will be more difficult to maintain separate sets of accounting records if multiple entities are acquired, especially with the complex nature of insurance company reporting structures. Staff also notes that the election to apply pushdown accounting under U.S. GAAP is irrevocable; as such, a grandfather provision will allow any SCAs acquired prior to December 31, 2019 to continue to use pushdown accounting in its financial statements.

Staff Review Completed by:

Fatima Sediqzad - NAIC Staff

March 2019

**Proposed Revisions:**

SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill

### Business Combinations

2. A business combination shall be accounted for as either a statutory purchase or a statutory merger. Business combinations that create a parent-subsidiary relationship shall be accounted for as a statutory purchase. Business combinations where equity of one entity is issued in exchange for the equity of another entity, which is then canceled, and prospectively only one entity exists, shall be accounted for as a statutory merger.

### Statutory Purchases of SCA Investments

3. The statutory purchase method of accounting is defined as accounting for a business combination as the acquisition of one entity by another. It shall be used for all purchases of SCA entities including partnerships, joint ventures, and limited liability companies. The acquiring reporting entity shall record its investment at cost. Cost is defined as the sum of: (a) any cash payment, (b) the fair value of other assets distributed, (c) the fair value of any liabilities assumed, and (d) any direct costs of the acquisition.(INT 00-28) Contingent consideration issued in a purchase business combination that is embedded in a security or that is in the form of a separate financial instrument shall be recorded by the issuer at fair value at the acquisition date. Pushdown accounting is not a permitted convention of accounting under statutory accounting, including the acquisition of an entity that follows U.S. GAAP as its basis of accounting.

6. For those acquired SCA entities accounted for using the equity method in accordance with paragraph 8.b. of SSAP No. 97 under the statutory purchase method, the historical basis of the acquired entity shall continue to be used in preparing its statutory financial statements. Therefore, pushdown accounting is not permitted, as noted in paragraph 20.

20. This statement rejects *ASU 2017-04, Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment*, *ASU 2016-03, Intangibles—Goodwill and Other, Business Combinations, Consolidation, Derivatives and Hedging*; *ASU 2014-17, Business Combinations – Pushdown Accounting, a Consensus of the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force; ASU 2014-02, Accounting for Goodwill (a consensus of the Private Company Council)*, *ASU 2012-02, Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment*, *ASU 2011-08, Testing Goodwill for Impairment* and *ASU 2010-28, When to Perform Step 2 of the Goodwill Impairment Test for Reporting Units with Zero or Negative Carrying Amounts*; *Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 16,* *Business Combinations*; *FASB Statement No. 38,* *Accounting for Preacquisition Contingencies of Purchased Enterprises, an amendment of APB Opinion No. 16*; *Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 17*, *Intangible Assets*; *FASB Statement No. 79,* *Elimination of Certain Disclosures for Business Combinations by Nonpublic Enterprises*; *FASB Statement No. 141, Business Combinations*;and *FASB Statement No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets.* The following related interpretative pronouncements are also rejected*:*

**SSAP No. 97—Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities**

### Applying the Market Valuation, Audited Statutory Equity and Audited GAAP Equity Methods

1. The admitted investments in SCA entities shall be valued using either the market valuation approach (as described in paragraph 8.a.), or one of the equity methods (as described in paragraph 8.b.) adjusted as appropriate in accordance with the guidance in *SSAP No. 25—Affiliates and Other Related Parties* (SSAP No. 25), paragraph 16.d.
2. In order to use the market valuation approach for SCA entities, the following requirements apply:
3. If a SCA investment does not meet the requirements for the market valuation approach in paragraph 8.a. or, if the requirements are met, but a reporting entity elects not to use that approach, the reporting entity’s proportionate share of its investments in SCAs shall be recorded as follows:
4. Investments in U.S. insurance SCA entities shall be recorded based on either 1) the underlying audited statutory equity of the respective entity’s financial statements, adjusted for any unamortized goodwill as provided for in *SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill* (SSAP No. 68)[[3]](#footnote-3) or 2) the underlying audited statutory equity of the respective entity’s financial statements, adjusted for any unamortized goodwill, modified to remove the impact of any permitted or prescribed accounting practices that depart from the NAIC *Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual*. Reporting entities shall record investments in U.S. insurance SCA entities on at least a quarterly basis, and shall base the investment value on the most recent quarterly information available from the SCA. Entities may recognize their investment in U.S. insurance SCA entities based on the unaudited statutory equity in the SCAs year-end Annual Statement if the annual SCA audited financial statements are not complete as of the filing deadline. The recorded statutory equity shall be adjusted for audit adjustments, if any, as soon as the annual audited financial statements have been completed. Annual consolidated or combined audits are allowed if completed in accordance with the Model Regulation Requiring Annual Audited Financial Reports as adopted by the SCA’s domiciliary state;
5. Investments in both U.S. and foreign noninsurance SCA entities that are engaged in the following transactions or activities:
6. Collection of balances as described in *SSAP No. 6—Uncollected Premium Balances, Bills Receivable for Premiums, and Amounts Due From Agents and Brokers*
7. Sale/lease or rental of EDP Equipment and Software as described in *SSAP No. 16R—Electronic Data Processing Equipment and Software*
8. Sale/lease or rental of furniture, fixtures, equipment or leasehold improvements as described in *SSAP No. 19—Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment and Leasehold Improvements*
9. Loans to employees, agents, brokers, representatives of the reporting entity or SCA as described in *SSAP No. 20—Nonadmitted Assets*
10. Sale/lease or rental of automobiles, airplanes and other vehicles as described in *SSAP No. 20—Nonadmitted Assets*
11. Providing insurance services on behalf of the reporting entity including but not limited to accounting, actuarial, auditing, data processing, underwriting, collection of premiums, payment of claims and benefits, policyowner services
12. Acting as an insurance or administrative agent or an agent for a government instrumentality performing an insurance function (e.g. processing of state workers compensations plans, managing assigned risk plans, Medicaid processing etc).
13. Purchase or securitization of acquisition costs

and if 20% or more of the SCA’s revenue is generated from the reporting entity and its affiliates, then the underlying equity of the respective entity’s audited U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) financial statements shall be adjusted to a limited statutory basis of accounting in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 20FN. For purposes of this section, revenue means GAAP revenue reported in the audited U.S. GAAP financial statements excluding realized and unrealized capital gains/losses. Foreign SCA entities are defined as those entities incorporated or otherwise legally formed under the laws of a foreign country. Paragraphs 23-28 provide guidance for investments in holding companies;

New Footnote – If the audited U.S. GAAP financial statements reflect the pushdown method of accounting, the financial statements must first be modified to eliminate the effects of the pushdown accounting before applying the statutory basis adjustments.

1. Investments in both U.S. and foreign noninsurance SCA entities that do not qualify under paragraph 8.b.ii., shall be recorded based on the audited U.S. GAAP equity of the investee, adjusted in accordance with paragraph 20. Foreign SCA entities are defined as those entities incorporated or otherwise legally formed under the laws of a foreign country. Additional guidance on investments in downstream holding companies is included in paragraphs 23-28. Additional guidance on the use of audited foreign GAAP basis financial statements for the U.S. GAAP equity valuation amount is included in paragraph 24.b.
2. Investments in foreign insurance SCA entities shall be recorded based on the underlying U.S. GAAP equity from the audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements, adjusted to a limited statutory basis of accounting in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 20, if available. If the audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements are not available, the investment can be recorded on the audited foreign statutory basis financial statements of the respective entity adjusted to a limited statutory basis of accounting in accordance with paragraph 9 and adjusted for reserves of the foreign insurance SCA with respect to the business it assumes directly and indirectly from a U.S. insurer using the statutory accounting principles promulgated by the NAIC in the *Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual*. The audited foreign statutory basis financial statements must include an audited footnote that reconciles net income and equity on the foreign statutory basis of accounting to the U.S. GAAP basis. Foreign insurance SCA entities are defined as alien insurers formed according to the legal requirements of a foreign country.

**Pushdown Accounting**

### 20. Pushdown accounting is a convention of accounting for the purchase of a subsidiary at the purchase cost rather than its historical cost. Under pushdown accounting, the acquiree’s assets and liabilities are written up (or down) to reflect the purchase price and, to the extent that the purchase price exceeds fair value, to recognize the excess as goodwill. As such, the total amount that is paid to purchase the subsidiary becomes the subsidiary’s new book value on its financial statements. Pushdown accounting is not permitted under statutory accounting, therefore all SCAs that utilize audited U.S. GAAP financial statements to determine the valuation method under this statement (SCAs valued in accordance with paragraphs 8.b.ii and 8.b.iii) that reflect pushdown accounting must be adjusted, in accordance with an audited reconciliation, to eliminate the effects of pushdown accounting. In addition to adjusting the equity basis of the SCA to eliminate pushdown accounting, the insurance reporting entity shall separately recognize goodwill, as appropriate based on the purchase price and net book value of the entity at acquisition (without pushdown accounting) and report the goodwill in accordance with the provisions of SSAP No. 68. Reporting entities that do not have audited support to eliminate the impact of pushdown accounting shall consider the SCA nonadmitted for statutory reporting purposes. Historical acquisitions of SCAs that have involved pushdown accounting shall continue admittance of the SCA with approval of the domiciliary commissioner. On a prospective basis for newly acquired SCAs, and for historical SCA acquisitions in which domiciliary commissioner approval is not received, reporting entities that do not have audited support to eliminate the impact of pushdown accounting shall report the SCA as a nonadmitted asset for statutory reporting purposes. Valuation of Investments in Downstream Holding Companies

* + 1. SSAP No. 48 requires the financial statements of joint ventures, partnerships, and/or limited liability companies in which the downstream noninsurance holding company has a minor ownership interest or otherwise lacks control, i.e., ownership interest is less than 10% (hereinafter referred to as “non SCA SSAP No. 48 entities”), to be valued using U.S. GAAP basis financial statements*.* Valuation of a downstream holding company, including its investments in SCA entities, depends upon the nature of the SCA entities and non SCA SSAP No. 48 entities it holds in accordance with paragraph 8 of this statement. All liabilities, commitments, contingencies, guarantees or obligations of the downstream noninsurance holding company, which are required to be recorded under applicable statutory accounting guidance, shall be reflected in the parent insurance reporting entity’s determination of the carrying value of the investment in the downstream noninsurance holding company, if not already recorded in the financial statements of the downstream noninsurance holding company. The historical basis of the acquired entity shall continue to be used in preparing its financial statements. If an SCA investment of the downstream holding company does not meet the provisions of paragraph 8.a. or if it elects not to use the guidance in paragraph 8.a., and instead uses the guidance in paragraph 8.b., the downstream holding company would be valued as the sum of the following (if applicable):

### Admissibility Requirements of Investments in Downstream Holding Companies

1. To meet the admissibility requirements of this statement, unless the limited exception to the audited financial statements requirement discussed in paragraphs 26 and 27 applies, an annual audit of the financial statements of SCA entities, including the downstream holding company valued under paragraphs 8.b.i through 8.b.iv. must be obtained. The requirement for audited financial statements may be met by utilizing any one of the following methods:
2. Audited US GAAP financial statements of the downstream SCA holding company, where the historical basis of the SCA has been used to prepare its financial statements. (Consolidated or combined financial statements are allowed encompassing one or more downstream holding companies, including such holding companies that directly own U.S. insurance entities, provided that the statutory financial statements of such U.S. insurance entities are audited. Annual consolidated or combined audits are allowed for insurance entities if completed in accordance with the Model Regulation Requiring Annual Audited Reports as adopted by the SCA’s domiciliary state.) The audited financial statements of the downstream holding company shall include as other financial information, consolidating or combining balance sheet schedule(s) showing the equity of all relevant SCA entities and non-SCA SSAP No. 48 entities, and any required intercompany eliminations. The consolidating or combining balance sheet schedule shall separately present those entities owned directly by the downstream holding company. The consolidating or combining balance sheet shall then be adjusted for GAAP to SAP differences for paragraph 8.b.i., 8.b.ii. and 8.b.iv. entities owned directly or indirectly by the downstream holding company. The adjusted amount would then be the reported value of the investment in the downstream holding company at the higher-level reporting entity; or
3. Audited foreign GAAP-basis financial statements of the downstream SCA holding company. (Consolidated or combined financial statements are allowed encompassing one or more downstream holding companies, including such holding companies that directly own U.S. insurance entities, provided that the statutory financial statements of such U.S. insurance entities are audited. Annual consolidated or combined audits are allowed for insurance entities if completed in accordance with the Model Regulation Requiring Annual Audited Reports as adopted by the SCA’s domiciliary state.) The audited foreign GAAP basis financial statements shall include an audited footnote disclosure within the financial statements that reconciles each consolidated entity’s net income and equity on a foreign basis of accounting to a U.S. GAAP basis. The audited financial statements of the downstream holding company shall include as other financial information, consolidating or combining balance sheet schedule(s) showing the equity of all relevant SCA entities non SCA SSAP No. 48 entities, and any required intercompany eliminations. The consolidating or combining balance sheet schedule shall separately present those entities owned directly by the downstream holding company. The consolidating or combining balance sheet shall then be adjusted for GAAP to SAP differences of the insurance entities and paragraph 8.b.ii., and 8.b.iv. entities owned directly or indirectly by the downstream holding company. The adjusted amount would then be the reported value of the investment in the downstream holding company at the higher-level reporting entity; or
4. Individual audits of the downstream holding company and the downstream holding company’s investments in individual SCA entities.
	* 1. This statement rejects *ASU 2014-17, Business Combinations – Pushdown Accounting, a Consensus of the FASB Emerging Issues Task Force, ASU 2011-10, Derecognition of in Substance Real Estate, APB Opinion No. 18, The Equity Method of Accounting for Investments in Common Stock, AICPA Accounting Interpretations APB 18,* *The Equity Method of Accounting for Investments in Common Stock:* Accounting Interpretations of *APB Opinion No. 18, FASB Technical Bulletin No. 79-19, Investor’s Accounting for Unrealized Losses on Marketable Securities Owned by an Equity Method Investee, FASB Emerging Issues Task Force No. 87‑21, Change of Accounting Basis in Master Limited Partnership Transactions,* *FASB Emerging Issues Task Force No. 96-16, Investor’s Accounting for an Investee When the Investor Has a Majority of the Voting Interest but the Minority Shareholder or Shareholders Have Certain Approval or Veto Rights*, *FASB Emerging Issues Task Force No. 98-2: Accounting by a Subsidiary or Joint Venture for an Investment in the stock of Its Parent Company or Joint Venture Partner* and *FASB Staff Position No. APB 18-1*, *Accounting by an Investor for Its Proportionate Share of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income of an Investee Accounted for under the Equity Method in Accordance with APB Opinion No. 18 upon a Loss of Significant Influence.*

**Status:**

On April 6, 2019, the Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group moved this agenda item to the active listing, categorized as nonsubstantive, and exposed revisions to *SSAP No 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill* and *SSAP No. 97—Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities* to reject *ASU 2014-17, Business Combinations – Pushdown Accounting* for statutory accounting as well as explicitly prohibit the use of pushdown accounting under statutory accounting, which includes all entities accounted for under *SSAP No. 48—Joint Ventures, Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies* and SSAP No. 97.

On August 3, 2019, the Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group exposed this agenda item with a request for comments on the three options listed below. Additionally, to ensure that goodwill resulting from an insurance reporting entity’s acquisition of an SCA when pushdown is applied is captured within the goodwill admittance limitation, the exposure includes limited revisions to reference this goodwill in *SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill*, paragraph 9. *(Note: Information provided during the Summer National Meeting on the history of pushdown and information from AICPA and industry representatives has been captured within this agenda item under the “Activity to Date” section.)*

**The options for Working Group consideration include:**

1. **Complete rejection of pushdown accounting**. As pushdown is now an election for SEC / U.S. GAAP filers, reporting entities can avoid use of pushdown if prohibited for statutory accounting. (NAIC staff would propose a prospective effective date if electing this option to avoid restatement of those entities that have previously elected pushdown.)
2. **Permission to use pushdown for all non-insurance entities.** This option would increase optionality into the statutory financial statements. If permitted, this approach would result in different SCA values and goodwill calculations for those that follow the guidance in SSAP No. 68 and those that utilize pushdown. Under SSAP No. 68, acquired SCAs do not write-up their assets or liabilities to fair value and goodwill is calculated as the difference between purchase price and book value. Under U.S. GAAP pushdown, acquired SCAs write-up their assets and liabilities to fair value, and goodwill is calculated as the difference between the purchase price and the fair value of the acquired entity. With pushdown, the goodwill is reported at the SCA level. As such, goodwill will be an indefinite asset unless it is identified as impaired. (Under U.S. GAAP, private entities and not-for-profit entities can elect to amortize goodwill over a 10-year period, but this is not an election for public entities.) **If this option is supported, NAIC staff would recommend that the goodwill admittance limitation capture goodwill from an insurance entity’s acquisition of an SCA that is reported on the SCA financial statements.** (This option would not permit pushdown for insurance SCAs (8.b.i entities).

*(If this option is considered, NAIC staff would propose restrictions on the use of pushdown that differ from U.S. GAAP. For example, under U.S. GAAP, a reporting entity could subsequent elect pushdown accounting in any reporting period after original acquisition. If pushdown was permitted, NAIC staff would propose to require the election at original acquisition and not allow subsequent elections.)*

1. **Permit pushdown if elected by SEC Registrants, excluding non-insurance entities**. Although this option would introduce different accounting by type of reporting entity, it is consistent with when pushdown would have been applied under prior statutory accounting guidance. (Under the old SEC provisions, pushdown was only permitted when meeting certain SEC requirements.) This would seemingly allow the companies that have historically utilized pushdown under the SEC rules to continue acquisitions under that prior approach. **If this option is supported, NAIC staff would recommend that the goodwill admittance limitation capture goodwill from the acquisition of an SCA that is reported on the SCA financial statements.** *(Also, NAIC staff would propose restrictions to the provisions to ensure the election is made at the time of original acquisition.)* (This option would not permit pushdown for insurance SCAs (8.b.i entities).

**Exposed Edits to *SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill:***

1. For those acquired SCA entities accounted for in accordance with paragraph 8.b.i. of SSAP No. 97 under the statutory purchase method, the historical bases of the acquired entity shall continue to be used in preparing its statutory financial statements. Therefore, pushdown accounting is not permitted.
2. Positive goodwill recorded under the statutory purchase method of accounting shall be admitted subject to the following limitation: Positive goodwill from all sources, including life, accident and health, and deposit-type assumption reinsurance and goodwill resulting from the acquisition of an SCA by the insurance reporting entity that is reported on the SCA’s financial statements (resulting from the application of pushdown accounting), is limited in the aggregate to 10% of the acquiring[[4]](#footnote-4) entity’s capital and surplus as required to be shown on the statutory balance sheet of the reporting entity for its most recently filed statement with the domiciliary state commissioner adjusted to exclude any net positive goodwill, EDP equipment and operating system software, and net deferred tax assets. Additionally, all positive goodwill shall be nonadmitted when the underlying investment in the SCA or partnership, joint venture and limited liability company is nonadmitted[[5]](#footnote-5). When negative goodwill exists, it shall be recorded as a contra-asset. Positive or negative goodwill resulting from the purchase of an SCA, joint venture, partnership or limited liability company shall be amortized to unrealized capital gains and losses on investments over the period in which the acquiring entity benefits economically, not to exceed 10 years. Positive or negative goodwill resulting from life, accident and health, and deposit-type assumption reinsurance shall be amortized to operations as a component of general insurance expenses over the period in which the assuming entity benefits economically, not to exceed 10 years. Goodwill shall be evaluated separately for each transaction.(INT 01-18)

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1. The “acquiring” entity is intended to reflect the insurance reporting entity that reports the investment resulting in goodwill. The goodwill limitation test shall be completed at the individual reporting company level. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This includes, but is not limited to, situations in which the investment is nonadmitted as the audited financial statements for the SCA, joint venture, partnership or limited liability company includes substantial doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, or on the basis/contents of the audit opinion pursuant to paragraph 21 of SSAP No. 97. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. If the insurance SCA employs accounting practices that depart from the NAIC accounting practices and procedures, and the reporting insurance entity has not adjusted the valuation of the insurance SCA to be consistent with the NAIC accounting practices and procedures, (i.e., retains the effect of the permitted or prescribed practice in its valuation), disclosure about those accounting practices that affect the insurance SCA’s net income and surplus shall be made pursuant to paragraph 36. If the reporting entity has adjusted the investment in the insurance SCA with the resulting valuation being consistent with the accounting principles of the AP&P Manual, the disclosures in paragraph 36 are not required. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The “acquiring” entity is intended to reflect the insurance reporting entity that reports the investment resulting in goodwill. The goodwill limitation test shall be completed at the individual reporting company level. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. This includes, but is not limited to, situations in which the investment is nonadmitted as the audited financial statements for the SCA, joint venture, partnership or limited liability company includes substantial doubt on the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern, or on the basis/contents of the audit opinion pursuant to paragraph 20 of SSAP No. 97. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)