Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group

**Maintenance Agenda Submission Form**

**Form A**

## **Issue: Interpretation Policy Statement Updates**

**Check (applicable entity):**

 P/C Life Health

Modification of Existing SSAP [x]  [x]  [x]

New Issue or SSAP [ ]  [ ]  [ ]

Interpretation [ ]  [ ]  [ ]

Description of Issue: This agenda item proposes edits to Appendix F of the *NAIC Policy Statement on Maintenance of Statutory Accounting Principles,* clarifyingthe requirements regarding the issuance and adoption of accounting interpretations.

Existing Authoritative Literature:

*NAIC Policy Statement on Maintenance of Statutory Accounting Principles* (Appendix F) documents the requirements of interpretation issuances and adoptions.

**Development of Interpretations to SSAPs and Referencing Interpretations Within SSAPs**

1. Interpretations will be developed to address, but will not be limited to issues requiring timely application or clarification of existing SAP, which shall not amend, supersede or conflict with existing, effective SSAPs. Issues being considered as an interpretation must be discussed at no less than two open meetings. (Original introduction of the issue when the Working Group identifies the intent to address the issue as an “interpretation” during a public discussion is considered the first open meeting discussion.) The process must allow opportunity for interested parties to provide comments, but as interpretations are intended to provide timely responses to questions of application or interpretation and clarification of guidance, no minimum exposure timeframe is required.
2. The voting requirement to adopt an interpretation is a simple majority. As interpretations do not amend, supersede or conflict with existing SSAP guidance, the interpretation is effective upon Working Group adoption unless specifically stated otherwise. The Working Group shall report the adopted interpretation to the Task Force as part of its public report during the next NAIC national meeting (or earlier if applicable). Interpretations can be overturned, amended or deferred only by a two-thirds majority of the Task Force membership.
3. **In rare circumstances, the Working Group may adopt an interpretation which creates new SAP or conflicts with existing SSAPs. Historically, these interpretations temporarily modified statutory accounting principles and/or specific disclosures were developed in response to nationally significant events (e.g., Hurricane Sandy, September 11, 2001). In order to adopt an interpretation that creates new SAP or conflicts with existing SSAPs, the Working Group must have 67% of its members voting (10 out of 15 members) with a super majority (7 out of 10, 8 out of 11 or 12, 9 out of 13, 10 out of 14, or 11 out of 15) supporting adoption. These interpretations can be adopted, overturned, amended or deferred only by a two-thirds majority of the Task Force membership.**
4. As new SSAPs are developed, it is essential to review and, if necessary, update the status of interpretations related to SSAPs that are being replaced and/or new SSAPs being developed. The following options are available to the Working Group when a SSAP with existing interpretations is replaced:
5. **Interpretation of the new SSAP -** If the Working Group would like to maintain the interpretation, the new SSAP can be added to the list of statements interpreted by the interpretation. In addition, the status section of the new SSAP will list the interpretation number next to the heading “Interpreted by.”
6. **Nullification** - When an interpretation is nullified by a subsequent SSAP or superseded by another interpretation, the interpretation is deemed no longer technically helpful, is shaded and moved to Appendix H (Superseded SSAPs and Nullified Interpretations), and the reason for the change is noted beneath the interpretation title. The status section of the SSAP describes the impact of the new guidance and the effect on the interpretation (for example, nullifies, incorporated in the new SSAP with paragraph reference, etc.).
7. **Incorporation** - When an interpretation is incorporated into a new SSAP, the Working Group can choose from the following two options:

i. If the interpretation only interprets one SSAP, then the interpretation is listed as being nullified under the “affects” section of the SSAP and is not referenced under the “interpreted by” section of the status page of the SSAP.

ii. If the interpretation references additional SSAPs, and the Working Group intends to maintain the guidance, the interpretation is unchanged (no nullification). The new SSAP (Summary of Issue section) reflects that the interpretation issue has been incorporated into the new statement.

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): None

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

None

**Convergence with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS):** N/A

Staff Recommendation: NAIC staff recommends that the Working Group move this item to the active listing, categorized as nonsubstantive and expose clarifying revisions to *NAIC Policy Statement on Maintenance of Statutory Accounting Principles* in Appendix F regarding the issuance and adoption of accounting interpretations.

**Development of Interpretations to SSAPs and Referencing Interpretations Within SSAPs**

Interpretations which DO NOT amend, supersede, or conflict with existing SSAPs

1. Interpretations may be developed to address issues requiring timely application or clarification of existing SAP, which shall not amend, supersede or conflict with effective SSAPs. Issues being considered as an interpretation must be discussed at no less than two open meetings. (Original introduction of the issue when the Working Group identifies the intent to address the issue as an “interpretation” during a public discussion is considered the first open meeting discussion.) The process must allow opportunity for interested parties to provide comments, but as interpretations are intended to provide timely responses to questions of application or interpretation and clarification of guidance, no minimum exposure timeframe is required.
2. As these interpretations do not amend, supersede or conflict with existing SSAP guidance, the interpretation is effective upon Working Group adoption, unless specifically stated otherwise. of this type The Working Group shall report the adopted interpretation to the Accounting Practice and Procedures (E) Task Force as part of its public report during the next NAIC national meeting (or earlier if applicable). Interpretations can be overturned, amended or deferred by a two-thirds majority of the Task Force membership. For clarification, a two-thirds majority of the Task Force requires two-thirds of the entire Task Force membership, not just those electing to vote. Additionally, interpretations can be overturned, amended, deferred, or referred to either the Task Force and/or the Working Group by a simple majority of the Financial Condition (E) Committee.

Interpretations which amend, supersede, or conflict with existing SSAPs

1. In certain circumstances, the Working Group may adopt an interpretation which creates a new SAP or conflicts with existing SSAPs. Historically, these interpretations temporarily modified statutory accounting principles and/or specific disclosures were developed in response to nationally significant events (e.g., Hurricane Sandy, September 11, 2001). In order to adopt an interpretation that creates new SAP or conflicts with existing SSAPs, the Working Group must have 67% of its members voting (10 out of 15 members) with a super majority (7 out of 10, 8 out of 11 or 12, 9 out of 13, 10 out of 14, or 11 out of 15) supporting adoption.
	1. These interpretations are effective upon Working Group adoption, unless stated otherwise, and shall be reported to the Accounting Practice and Procedures (E) Task Force as part of its public report during the next NAIC national meeting (or earlier if applicable). In circumstance where the Working Group adopts an interpretation (which creates new SAP or conflicts with existing SSAPs) that is controversial in nature (i.e. due to regulator or industry feedback or could have a policy level impact), the Working Group may elect to postpone the effective date until the item has been discussed by the Task Force and the Financial Condition (E) Committee and both have had an opportunity to review the interpretation.
	2. These interpretations can be overturned, amended or deferred by a two-thirds majority of the Task Force membership. For clarification, a two-thirds majority of the Task Force requires two-thirds of entire Task Force membership, not just those electing to vote. Additionally, interpretations can be overturned, amended, deferred, or referred to either the Task Force and/or the Working Group by a simple majority of the Financial Condition (E) Committee.

Staff Review Completed by: Jim Pinegar, NAIC Staff – August 2020

**Status:**

On November 12, 2020, the Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group moved this item to the active listing, categorized as nonsubstantive, and exposed revisions to *NAIC Policy Statement on Maintenance of Statutory Accounting Principles* in *Appendix F—Policy Statements* regarding the issuance and adoption of accounting interpretations, as illustrated above.

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