

SVO



TO: Carrie Mears, Chair, Valuation of Securities (E) Task Force
Members of the Valuation of Securities (E) Task Force

FROM: Charles A. Therriault, Director, NAIC Securities Valuation Office (SVO)
Marc Perlman, Managing Investment Counsel, NAIC Securities Valuation Office (SVO)

CC: Eric Kolchinsky, Director, NAIC Structured Securities Group (SSG) and Capital Markets Bureau

RE: Proposed Amendment to Update the Definition of an NAIC Designation in the Purposes and Procedures Manual of the NAIC Investment Analysis Office (P&P Manual)

DATE: June 4, 2024

Summary –

NAIC Designations are currently explained and defined in both Parts One and Two of the *Purposes and Procedures Manual of the NAIC Investment Analysis Office* (P&P Manual). The SVO proposes both consolidating these explanations and definitions in Part One only and clarifying the meaning of an NAIC Designation including their use, purpose and risks addressed.

When the new format for the P&P Manual was adopted on November 16, 2018, and published in the new format on April 7, 2019, several changes were made in an attempt to simplify the P&P Manual. It has since become apparent that some of those changes have led to the interpretation that there are two meanings of an NAIC Designation: one meaning, found in Part One, applicable to all securities, whether assigned NAIC Designations pursuant to the Filing Exemption process or by the Securities Valuation Office (“SVO”) and a second meaning, found in Part Two, applicable only to securities assigned NAIC Designations by the SVO. It is the SVO staff’s belief that there is only one definition of an NAIC Designation and that it is applicable however the NAIC Designation is assigned. To that end, the revisions proposed in this amendment have consolidated the instructions that define an NAIC Designation to make a single uniform definition and includes updates to the definition to address questions and concerns raised about the purpose of NAIC Designations versus credit rating provider ratings.

At the Summer National Meeting held on Aug. 14, 2023, the Task Force discussed an initial draft of a proposed amendment to the P&P Manual updating the definition of an NAIC Designation. The Task Force directed the SVO staff to consider the feedback from Task Force members and interested parties and update the proposal. During and following the March 16, 2024 Spring National Meeting the Task Force received additional comments on the updated amendment. The revised amendment in this

memorandum reflects the actionable comments received from Task Force members and interested parties during each comment period including:

1. Creation of a concise definition of an NAIC Designation which focuses on the likelihood that an insurer will receive full and timely principal and expected interest. This change reflects a departure from the term “credit risk” which focuses on the ability of an issuer to make payments in accordance with contractual terms. Credit risk alone may, at times, be too narrow a concept for NAIC purposes. For example, the performance component of a principal protected security (PPS) may produce no return and, therefore, the PPS could pay no interest with no event of default by the issuer. As such, focusing solely on credit risk could limit the SVO’s ability to assess the risk of the performance component of a principal protected security.
2. Revisions to the regulatory objective to clarify that an objective of the Task Force is to support regulators in the assessment of the financial ability of an insurer to maintain financial solvency.
3. Removal of the current regulatory assumption that debt instruments pay scheduled interest and principal at maturity.
4. Removal of the application of Subscript S for other non-payment risks and the concept of “other non-payment risks”. If this amendment is adopted, any remaining P&P Manual references to Subscript S would be removed in a subsequent amendment.

Proposed Amendment - The proposed text changes to the P&P Manual are shown below with additions in **red font color**, new text from the last presented iteration of the proposal and deletions in **red underline** and text deleted from the last presented iteration of the proposal in **red strikethrough**, as it would appear in the 2023 P&P Manual format. Editing notes have been added with [] to explain section moves.

(VERSION WITH CHANGES DISPLAYED)

PART ONE
POLICIES OF THE NAIC VALUATION OF SECURITIES (E) TASK FORCE

POLICIES PERTAINING TO SVO AND SSG OPERATIONS

...

~~NAIC Designations~~

[Editing note: select portions moved from Part One, paras. 37-39 to the new "NAIC Designations" section within Part One]

~~37. The SVO's analysis of credit risk (hereafter defined), is expressed as an opinion of credit quality by assignment of an NAIC Designation that is notched to reflect the position of the specific liability in the issuer's capital structure. Collectively, NAIC Designations as defined in this Manual describe a credit quality risk gradation range from highest quality (least risk) to lowest quality (greatest risk). NAIC Designations express opinions about credit risk except when accompanied by the NAIC Designation subscript, described below.~~

- ~~■ Credit risk is defined as the relative financial capability of an obligor to make the payments contractually promised to a lender. Credit analysis is performed solely for the purpose of designating the quality of an investment made by an insurance company so that the NAIC member's department of insurance can better identify regulatory treatment.~~
- ~~■ Credit risk is assessed by analyzing the information and documentation provided to the SVO by the reporting insurance company and its advisors. The SVO does not audit the information submitted and assumes the information to be timely, accurate and reliable.~~
- ~~■ The ability of an insurance company to realize payment on a financial obligation can be affected by factors not related to credit risk or by the manner in which the repayment promise has been structured.~~
- ~~■ NAIC Designations do not measure other risks or factors that may affect repayment, such as volatility/interest rate, prepayment, extension or liquidity risk.~~
- ~~■ An NAIC Designation must be interpreted by the NAIC member in context of the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program, other characteristics of the investment, and the specific financial and regulatory status of the insurance company.~~

~~38. The result of the SVO's credit analysis, expressed as an opinion of credit quality by assignment of an NAIC Designation shall be further expanded into NAIC Designation Categories as, and for the purposes, discussed in this Manual.~~

~~**NOTE:** See "Production of NAIC Designations" in Part Two.~~

Other Non-Payment Risk in Securities

~~39. The result of the SVO's analysis of securities for other non-payment risk is expressed by the assignment of an NAIC Designation Subscript S and the application of the notching procedures described below.~~

~~**NOTE:** See "NAIC Designation Subscript S" and "SVO Notching Guidelines" in Part Two.~~

NAIC DESIGNATIONS

NAIC DESIGNATIONS

Regulatory Objective

88. An objective of the VOS/TF is to support regulators in the assessment of the financial ability of an insurer to maintain financial solvency, pay claims through the making of policy concerning insurer investment risk and the identification and sharing of pertinent information with other relevant regulators and regulatory groups responsible for the NAIC's regulatory framework. ~~For example, the regulatory assumption is that a fixed income instrument called debt by its originator or issuer requires that the issuer make scheduled payments of interest and fully repay the principal amount to the insurer on a date certain. A contractual modification that is inconsistent with this assumption creates a rebuttable inference that the security or instrument contains an additional or other non-payment risk created by the contract that may result in the insurer not being paid in accordance with the underlying regulatory assumption. NAIC Designations are required to reflect such contractual modifications and quantify the possibility that such contracts will result in a diminution in payment to the insurer.~~

Definitions

89. NAIC Designations represent opinions of gradations credit quality of the likelihood of an insurer's timely receipt of an investment's full principal and expected interest. Where appropriate for a given investment, NAIC Designations and Designation Categories shall reflect "tail risk" and/or loss given default, ~~NAIC Designations and Designations Categories shall reflect the position of the specific liability in the issuer's capital structure, and other non-payment risks or non-payment mitigants. NAIC Designations do not measure and all other risks or factors that may affect repayment, such as, except for volatility/interest rate, prepayment, extension or liquidity risk. [Editing Note: moved from Part One, para. 37] NAIC Designations shall be identified by the NAIC 1 through NAIC 6 symbols (as modified by NAIC Designation Categories) which indicate the highest quality (least risk) to the lowest quality (greatest risk), respectively, and which reflect the likelihood of timely and full payment of principal and scheduled periodic interest, in accordance with the regulatory objectives explained above, and the likelihood of principal and/or interest payment default.~~

Use and Purposes of NAIC Designations

90. **NAIC Designations** are proprietary symbols of the NAIC. The SVO, the SSG and, under certain circumstances, insurers, produce NAIC Designations for insurer-owned securities using the policies, procedures or methodologies adopted by the VOS/TF in this Manual.

[Editing Note: Moved from Part Two, para. 18.] The ~~credit~~ analysis is performed solely for the purpose of designating the quality of an investment made by an insurance company so that the NAIC member's department of insurance can better identify regulatory treatment. *[Editing Note: moved from Part One, para. 37]* Credit Investment risk is assessed by analyzing the information and documentation provided to the SVO by the reporting insurance company and its advisors. The SVO does not audit the information submitted and assumes the information to be timely, accurate and reliable. *[Editing Note: moved from Part One, para. 37]*

91. **NAIC Designations** are produced for statutory accounting, reporting, state investment laws and other purposes identified in the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program and/or other NAIC developed regulatory guidance embodied in state law *[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 18]* and must be interpreted by the NAIC member in context of the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program, other characteristics of the investment, and the specific financial and regulatory status of the insurance company. *[Editing note: Moved from Part One, para. 37]* ~~NAIC Designations are adjusted in accordance with the notching procedures described below so that an NAIC Designation for a given security reflects the position of that specific security in the issuer's capital structure. NAIC Designations may also be adjusted by notching to reflect the existence of other non-payment risk in the specific security in accordance with the procedures described in this Manual. [Editing note: Deleted from Part Two, para. 18]~~
92. **NAIC Designations** must be considered in the context of its appropriateness and consistency of use in the NAIC Policy Statement and Financial Regulation Standards (SFRS) and other NAIC guidance. For example, the NAIC Designation serves as the basis for determining the appropriate risk-based capital charge factor for a given security. NAIC Designations should consider if risks, such as tail-risk, are inconsistent with, or duplicative of, risks already captured and defined in the risk-based capital factors, as applicable.

93. ~~**NAIC Designation** — Means any one of the gradations of credit quality and credit risk identified by the **NAIC 1** through **NAIC 6** symbols further discussed and defined in this Manual and may reflect notching pursuant to one or both of the notching procedures discussed in this Manual. NAIC Designations are proprietary symbols of the NAIC to be used by the SVO and SSG or under certain circumstances by an insurer to denote a category or band of credit risk.~~

[Editing note: Originally in Part One, para. 88]

APPLICATION OF NAIC DESIGNATIONS

94. **NAIC 1** is assigned to obligations exhibiting the highest quality. ~~Credit~~ Investment risk is at its lowest and the issuer's credit profile is stable. This means that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement and that repayment of principal is well protected. An **NAIC 1** obligation should be eligible for the most favorable treatment provided under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.

[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 19]

95. **NAIC 2** is assigned to obligations of high quality. ~~Credit~~ Investment risk is low but may increase in the intermediate future and the issuer's credit profile is reasonably stable. This means that for the present, the obligation's protective elements suggest a high likelihood that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement, but there are suggestions that an adverse change in circumstances or economic, financial or business conditions will affect the degree of protection and lead to a weakened capacity to pay. An **NAIC 2** obligation should be eligible for relatively favorable treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.

[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 20]

96. **NAIC 3** is assigned to obligations of medium quality. ~~Credit~~ Investment risk is intermediate and the issuer's credit profile has elements of instability. These obligations exhibit speculative elements. This means that the likelihood that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement is reasonable for the present, but an exposure to an adverse change in circumstances or economic, financial or business conditions would create an uncertainty about the issuer's capacity to make timely payments. An **NAIC 3** obligation should be eligible for less favorable treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.

[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 21]

97. **NAIC 4** is assigned to obligations of low quality. ~~Credit~~ Investment risk is high and the issuer's credit profile is volatile. These obligations are highly speculative, but currently the issuer has the capacity to meet its obligations. This means that the likelihood that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement is low and that an adverse change in circumstances or business, financial or economic conditions would accelerate credit risk, leading to a significant impairment in the issuer's capacity to make timely payments. An **NAIC 4** obligation should be accorded stringent treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.

[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 22]

98. **NAIC 5** is assigned to obligations of the lowest credit quality, which are not in or near default. ~~Credit~~ Investment risk is at its highest and the issuer's credit profile is highly volatile, but currently the issuer has the capacity to meet its obligations. This means that the likelihood that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement is significantly impaired given any adverse business, financial or economic conditions. An **NAIC 5** Designation suggests a very high probability of default. An **NAIC 5** obligation should incur more stringent treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.

[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 23]

99. **NAIC 6** is assigned to obligations that are in or near default. This means that payment of interest, principal or both is not being made, or will not be made, in accordance with the contractual agreement. An **NAIC 6** obligation should incur the most severe treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program. *[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 24]*

NOTE: See ~~“NAIC Designations,”~~ “Prohibition on Use of NAIC Designation in a Covenant” and “Coordination Between the Statutory Accounting Principles Working Group and the Valuation of Securities Task Force” in Part One; ~~“NAIC Designation Categories”~~ below; and “Procedure Applicable to Filing Exempt (FE) Securities and Private Letter (PL) Rating Securities” in Part Three.

APPLICATION OF NAIC DESIGNATION CATEGORIES

100. Upon the determination of an NAIC Designation, the SVO produces NAIC Designation Categories, ~~as described and defined in this Manual.~~

[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 25]

101. **NAIC Designation Category** – Means and refers to 20 more granular delineations of credit investment risk in the **NAIC 1** through **NAIC 6** credit investment risk scale used by the VOS/TF to relate credit investment risk in insurer-owned securities to a risk-based capital factor assigned by the NAIC Capital Adequacy (E) Task Force. Each delineation of credit investment risk is represented by a letter (a Modifier) which modifies the NAIC Designation grade to indicate a more granular measure of credit investment risk within the NAIC Designation grade. The more granular delineations of credit investment risk are distributed as follows: 7 for the **NAIC 1** Designation grade indicated by the letters A through G; 3 delineations each for each of the NAIC Designation grades **NAIC 2**, **NAIC 3**, **NAIC 4** and **NAIC 5** indicated by the letters A, B and C and 1 delineation for NAIC Designation grade **NAIC 6**. The NAIC Designation Category framework is shown in this Manual. All Modifiers roll up into the respective NAIC Designation grade as they are a subset of them.

NOTE: See “~~Production of NAIC Designations~~” in Part Two.

[Editing Note: Moved from Part One, para. 89.]

102. **NAIC Designation Categories** are a subset of **NAIC Designations** and are used by the VOS/TF to link the NAIC risk-based-capital (RBC) framework adopted by the NAIC Capital Adequacy (E) Task Force to the VOS/TF’s credit investment risk assessment process. The NAIC Capital Adequacy (E) Task Force assigns RBC factors to each NAIC Designation Category as shown below.

NAIC Designation	+	NAIC Designation Modifier	=	NAIC Designation Category
1		A		1.A
1		B		1.B
1		C		1.C
1		D		1.D
1		E		1.E
1		F		1.F
1		G		1.G
2		A		2.A
2		B		2.B
2		C		2.C
3		A		3.A
3		B		3.B
3		C		3.C
4		A		4.A
4		B		4.B
4		C		4.C
5		A		5.A
5		B		5.B
5		C		5.C
6				6

[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 26]

103. NAIC Designations and Designation Categories may be adjusted in accordance with the ~~notching~~ procedures described in this Manual ~~below~~ so that an NAIC Designation and Designation Category for a given security reflects the position of that specific security in the issuer's capital structure, ~~and other non-payment risks or non-payment mitigants.~~ ~~NAIC Designations may also be adjusted by notching to reflect the existence of other non-payment risks in the specific security in accordance with the procedures described in this Manual associated with NAIC Designations Subscript S.~~
[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 18]

NAIC DESIGNATIONS RELATED TO SPECIAL REPORTING INSTRUCTION

104. An insurance company that self-assigns a 5GI must attest that securities receiving this designation meet all required qualifications by completing the appropriate general interrogatory in the statutory financial statements. If documentation necessary for the SVO to perform a full ~~credit~~ investment risk analysis for a security does not exist or if an NAIC CRP credit rating for an FE or PL security is not available, but the issuer is not current on contractual interest and principal payments, and/or if the insurer does not have an actual expectation of ultimate payment of all contracted interest and principal, the insurance company is required to self-assign this security an NAIC 6*.
[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 27]
105. NAIC 6* is assigned by an insurer to an obligation in lieu of reporting the obligation with appropriate documentation in instances in which appropriate documentation does not exist, but the requirements for an insurance company to assign a 5GI are not met.
[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 28]
106. Securities with NAIC 5GI Designations are deemed to possess the ~~credit~~ investment risk characteristics of securities assigned an NAIC 5 Designation. A security assigned an NAIC 5GI Designation incurs the regulatory treatment associated with an NAIC 5 Designation. *[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 29]*
107. Securities an insurance company previously assigned as NAIC 5GI are permitted to subsequently receive this designation if the requirements for an NAIC 5GI designation continue to be met. *[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 30]*
108. Securities with NAIC 6* Designations are deemed to possess the credit investment risk characteristics of securities assigned an NAIC 6 Designation. Therefore, a security assigned an NAIC 6* Designation incurs the regulatory treatment associated with an NAIC 6 Designation. *[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 31]*
109. Securities that are residual tranches or interests, as defined in *SSAP 43R – Loan Backed and Structured Securities*, shall be reported on Schedule BA - Other Long-Term Invested Assets, without an NAIC Designation and are ineligible to be assigned an NAIC 5GI or NAIC 6* Designation.

[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 32]

~~**NOTE REGARDING RESIDUAL TRANCHES OR INTERESTS:** For 2021 year-end reporting only, residual tranches or interests previously reported on Schedule D-1: Long Term Bonds shall be permitted to be reported on Schedule D-1 with an NAIC 6* Designation, however an NAIC 5GI is not permitted.~~

NOTE: The GI after the quality indicator 5 refers to General Interrogatory and distinguishes NAIC 5GI from an NAIC 5 Designation. The asterisk (*) after the quality indicator 6 distinguishes the NAIC 6* Designation from an NAIC 6 Designation.

[Editing note: Moved from Part Two, para. 32]

NAIC General Interrogatory

110. **NAIC 5GI** and NAIC Designation Category **NAIC 5.B GI** is assigned by an insurance company to certain obligations that meet all of the following criteria:

- Documentation necessary to permit a full ~~credit investment risk~~ analysis of a security by the SVO does not exist or an NAIC CRP credit rating for an FE or PL security is not available.
- The issuer or obligor is current on all contracted interest and principal payments.
- The insurer has an actual expectation of ultimate payment of all contracted interest and principal.

[Editing note: Moved from Part One, para. 91]

NAIC PLGI

111. Effective July 1, 2018, insurance companies shall be responsible for providing the SVO copies of private rating letters for PL securities, where applicable, until such time as industry representatives and the SVO shall have established reliable procedures for obtaining the necessary information on credit ratings directly from the NAIC CRPs. For PL Securities issued prior to January 1, 2018, if an insurance company cannot provide a copy of the rating letter to the SVO due to confidentiality concerns and the rating is not included in a CRP credit rating feed (or other form of direct delivery from the NAIC CRP), the insurer shall report such securities on such securities' General Interrogatory to be developed for this purpose (i.e., a PLGI security).

[Editing note: Moved from Part One, para. 92]

Monitoring of SVO-Designated Securities

112. The SVO shall monitor, on an ongoing basis **through the information provided by insurers as required by the Material Credit Events Filing described in this Manual**, improvements and deterioration of credit quality of securities that are not filing exempt.

[Editing note: Moved from Part One, para. 93]

PART TWO
OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLICABLE TO THE SVO

PRODUCTION OF NAIC DESIGNATIONS [EDITING NOTE: MOVED TO PART ONE “NAIC DESIGNATIONS”].]

NAIC DESIGNATIONS

18. ~~NAIC Designations are proprietary symbols of the NAIC. The SVO and sometimes the SSG produce NAIC Designations for insurer-owned securities using the policies, procedures or methodologies adopted by the VOS/TF in this Manual. NAIC Designations identify a category or band of credit risk. NAIC Designations are produced for statutory accounting, reporting, state investment laws and other purposes identified in the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program and/or other NAIC developed regulatory guidance embodied in state law. NAIC Designations are adjusted in accordance with the notching procedures described below so that an NAIC Designation for a given security reflects the position of that specific security in the issuer’s capital structure. NAIC Designations may also be adjusted by notching to reflect the existence of other non-payment risk in the specific security in accordance with the procedures described in this Manual.~~
19. ~~NAIC 1 is assigned to obligations exhibiting the highest quality. Credit risk is at its lowest and the issuer’s credit profile is stable. This means that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement and that repayment of principal is well protected. An NAIC 1 obligation should be eligible for the most favorable treatment provided under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.~~
20. ~~NAIC 2 is assigned to obligations of high quality. Credit risk is low but may increase in the intermediate future and the issuer’s credit profile is reasonably stable. This means that for the present, the obligation’s protective elements suggest a high likelihood that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement, but there are suggestions that an adverse change in circumstances or economic, financial or business conditions will affect the degree of protection and lead to a weakened capacity to pay. An NAIC 2 obligation should be eligible for relatively favorable treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.~~
21. ~~NAIC 3 is assigned to obligations of medium quality. Credit risk is intermediate and the issuer’s credit profile has elements of instability. These obligations exhibit speculative elements. This means that the likelihood that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement is reasonable for the present, but an exposure to an adverse change in circumstances or economic, financial or business conditions would create an uncertainty about the issuer’s capacity to make timely payments. An NAIC 3 obligation should be eligible for less favorable treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.~~

- ~~22. **NAIC 4** is assigned to obligations of low quality. Credit risk is high and the issuer's credit profile is volatile. These obligations are highly speculative, but currently the issuer has the capacity to meet its obligations. This means that the likelihood that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement is low and that an adverse change in circumstances or business, financial or economic conditions would accelerate credit risk, leading to a significant impairment in the issuer's capacity to make timely payments. An **NAIC 4** obligation should be accorded stringent treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.~~
- ~~23. **NAIC 5** is assigned to obligations of the lowest credit quality, which are not in or near default. Credit risk is at its highest and the issuer's credit profile is highly volatile, but currently the issuer has the capacity to meet its obligations. This means that the likelihood that interest, principal or both will be paid in accordance with the contractual agreement is significantly impaired given any adverse business, financial or economic conditions. An **NAIC 5** Designation suggests a very high probability of default. An **NAIC 5** obligation should incur more stringent treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.~~
- ~~24. **NAIC 6** is assigned to obligations that are in or near default. This means that payment of interest, principal or both is not being made, or will not be made, in accordance with the contractual agreement. An **NAIC 6** obligation should incur the most severe treatment under the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program.~~

NOTE: See “NAIC Designations,” “Prohibition on Use of NAIC Designation in a Covenant” and “Coordination Between the Statutory Accounting Principles Working Group and the Valuation of Securities Task Force” in Part One; “NAIC Designation Categories” below; and “Procedure Applicable to Filing Exempt (FE) Securities and Private Letter (PL) Rating Securities” in Part Three.

NAIC DESIGNATION CATEGORIES

- ~~25. Upon the determination of an NAIC Designation, the SVO produces NAIC Designation Categories, as described and defined in this Manual.~~
- ~~26. NAIC Designation Categories are a subset of NAIC Designations and are used by the VOS/TF to link the NAIC risk-based capital (RBC) framework adopted by the NAIC Capital Adequacy (E) Task Force to the VOS/TF's credit assessment process. The NAIC Capital Adequacy (E) Task Force assigns RBC factors to each NAIC Designation Category as shown below.~~

NAIC Designation	+	NAIC Designation Modifier	=	NAIC Designation Category
1		A		1.A
1		B		1.B
1		C		1.C
1		D		1.D
1		E		1.E
1		F		1.F
1		G		1.G
2		A		2.A
2		B		2.B
2		C		2.C
3		A		3.A
3		B		3.B
3		C		3.C
4		A		4.A
4		B		4.B
4		C		4.C
5		A		5.A
5		B		5.B
5		C		5.C
6				6

NAIC DESIGNATIONS RELATED TO SPECIAL REPORTING INSTRUCTION

- ~~27. An insurance company that self assigns a 5GI must attest that securities receiving this designation meet all required qualifications by completing the appropriate general interrogatory in the statutory financial statements. If documentation necessary for the SVO to perform a full credit analysis for a security does not exist or if an NAIC CRP credit rating for an FE or PL security is not available, but the issuer is not current on contractual interest and principal payments, and/or if the insurer does not have an actual expectation of ultimate payment of all contracted interest and principal, the insurance company is required to self-assign this security an NAIC 6*.~~
- ~~28. NAIC 6* is assigned by an insurer to an obligation in lieu of reporting the obligation with appropriate documentation in instances in which appropriate documentation does not exist, but the requirements for an insurance company to assign a 5GI are not met.~~
- ~~29. Securities with NAIC 5GI Designations are deemed to possess the credit characteristics of securities assigned an NAIC 5 Designation. A security assigned an NAIC 5GI Designation incurs the regulatory treatment associated with an NAIC 5 Designation.~~
- ~~30. Securities an insurance company previously assigned as NAIC 5GI are permitted to subsequently receive this designation if the requirements for an NAIC 5GI designation continue to be met.~~
- ~~31. Securities with NAIC 6* Designations are deemed to possess the credit characteristics of securities assigned an NAIC 6 Designation. Therefore, a security assigned an NAIC 6* Designation incurs the regulatory treatment associated with an NAIC 6 Designation.~~
- ~~32. Securities that are residual tranches or interests, as defined in SS-AP 43R – Loan Backed and Structured Securities, shall be reported on Schedule BA – Other Long-Term Invested Assets, without an NAIC Designation and are ineligible to be assigned an NAIC 5GI or NAIC 6* Designation. ———~~

NOTE REGARDING RESIDUAL TRanches OR INTERESTS: ~~For 2021 year-end reporting only, residual tranches or interests previously reported on Schedule D-1: Long-Term Bonds shall be permitted to be reported on Schedule D-1 with an NAIC 6* Designation, however an NAIC 5GI is not permitted.~~

NOTE: The GI after the quality indicator 5 refers to General Interrogatory and distinguishes NAIC 5GI from an NAIC 5 Designation. The asterisk (*) after the quality indicator 6 distinguishes the NAIC 6* Designation from an NAIC 6 Designation.

NAIC DESIGNATION SUBSCRIPT S

Description of Other Non-Payment Risk

- ~~33. It may not be practical, desirable or possible to specifically define other non-payment risk given the assumption that it originates as a result of a contractual agreement or the presence of a structural element of a transaction that is agreed upon between the issuer and the insurer. Accordingly, what follows is intended as general guidance to insurers and others.~~
- ~~34. Most typically, other non-payment risk has been associated with contractual agreements between the insurer and the issuer in which the issuer is given some measure of financial flexibility not to make payments that otherwise would be assumed to be scheduled, given how the instrument has been denominated, or the insurer agrees to be exposed to a participatory risk.~~
- ~~35. Other non-payment risk differs from the type of issues encountered in credit risk. This is because typically, credit assessment is concerned with securities in which the parties create subordination by modifying the lender's priority of payment (e.g., senior unsecured versus junior subordinated) but in a context where the contract otherwise specifies that the failure to make payments on a scheduled basis (defined in the contract) is an event of default (in the case of a bond) or triggers some other specific and identifiable lender remedy (in the case of other fixed income securities).~~
- ~~36. Using the broad concepts identified above, non-payment risk may be present when:~~
- ~~■ A reporting insurance company takes on a participatory risk in the transaction;~~

Illustration — The contract promised payment of a dollar denominated obligation in non-U.S. currency but does not require an exchange rate that would yield foreign currency sufficient to buy a defined principal amount of U.S. dollars. The other non-payment risk in this illustration consists of the reporting insurance company's acceptance of currency risk which may diminish the principal amount of the investment. Currency risk here is not related to the issuer's ability or willingness to pay and therefore is not appropriately reflected in the NAIC Designation of the issuer or captured by notching for credit risk.
 - ~~■ The contract governing the loan provides for a degree of permanence in the borrower's capital structure that is incompatible with notions of a loan that is expected to be repaid;~~

Illustration — A loan stated to be perpetual and giving the issuer the right to miss interest or dividend payments otherwise said to be scheduled where the missed payments are not required to be paid on a subsequent date.

Illustration — An instrument denominated as a bond but lacking a maturity date, a mechanism to determine a maturity dates (e.g., a mandatory redemption) or that states a maturity equal to

~~or exceeding 40 years.~~

~~37. Agrees to an exposure that has the potential to result in a significant delay in payment of contractually promised interest and/or a return of principal in an amount less than the original investment.~~

Meaning of the Subscript S Symbol

~~38. An SVO determination that a specific security contains other non-payment risk is communicated by assigning the NAIC Designation subscript S to the specific CUSIP and applying the notching procedure described below. The subscript follows the NAIC Designation as follows: **NAIC 2S**.~~

~~39. The SVO shall assess securities for other non-payment risk:~~

- ~~▪ Routinely, for any security or financial product filed with the SVO.~~
- ~~▪ As part of the analysis of a security or financial product submitted to the SVO under the RTAS – Emerging Investment Vehicle process discussed in of this Manual.~~
- ~~▪ When requested to do so by any state insurance regulator acting pursuant to this Manual, and:~~

~~*When requested by the VOS/TF; or*~~

~~*In support of any other NAIC group engaged in the analysis of investment risks in new securities.*~~

~~**NOTE:** See “NAIC Designation Subscript S” in Part One.~~

