Review of U.S. derivative guidance and the application to SAP is complex with many facets. This document is the second of two initial documents and focuses on the accounting and reporting of hedging instruments, including excluded components.

2) Measurement of Excluded Components In Hedging Instruments

Existing guidance in SSAP No. 86, paragraph 40, Exhibit B – Assessment of Hedging Effectiveness, and Exhibit C – Specific Hedge Accounting Procedures for Derivatives address components permitted to be excluded when determining hedge effectiveness and/or the measurement of excluded components. Key elements to note with regards to the existing guidance:

- Components permitted for exclusion in Exhibit B were adopted from U.S. GAAP (FAS 133, paragraph 63) at the time of initial SSAP adoption. Although these have not been updated since original issuance, NAIC staff is proposing (in the Hedge Effectiveness review document) to continue the adoption of U.S. GAAP in determining hedge effectiveness. This will ensure that hedging instruments identified as effective hedges under U.S. GAAP will be considered effective hedges under statutory accounting principles.

- The guidance in paragraph 40 and Exhibit B appears to adopt U.S. GAAP with the treatment of accounting for excluded components at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized as unrealized gains or losses.

- The existing guidance adopted from U.S. GAAP (in paragraph 40 and Exhibit B) is contradictory to guidance in SSAP No. 86, paragraph 23 and Exhibit C. Pursuant to paragraph 23, entities should not bifurcate the effectiveness of derivatives and a derivative instrument is either classified as an effective hedge or an ineffective hedge. If classified as an effective hedge, then the measurement method of the hedged item is used for the hedging instrument (e.g., amortized cost). This guidance does not seemingly permit reporting entities to report part of a hedging instrument at amortized cost, with excluded components reported at fair value. (However, NAIC staff believes this may in fact occur in practice under the provisions of paragraph 40 and Exhibit B.)

- Furthermore, the guidance in Exhibit C for foreign currency swaps and forwards identifies that premiums / discounts shall be amortized into income over the life of the contract. This treatment is different than the fair value / change in unrealized recognition for excluded component detailed in paragraph 40 and Exhibit B. (This guidance has been part of Exhibit C since the original adoption of the SSAP and reflects a difference from U.S. GAAP.)

Interested parties have identified that the SAP treatment of excluded components related to foreign currency transactions are hindering the ability to engage in those transactions and have requested consideration to 1) clarify the inconsistent guidance in SSAP No. 86, and 2) consider SAP specific measurement methods for excluded components to prevent surplus volatility from derivative transactions.

As background information, the classification of derivatives as highly effective is ultimately an income-statement matching tool. Although all derivatives are reported at fair value under U.S. GAAP, if effective hedges, then changes in fair value are allocated to either net income or other comprehensive income (OCI) in a manner that matches and predominantly offsets the fluctuations from the hedged item. (For example, under U.S. GAAP, a fair value hedge requires both the hedging instrument and the hedged item to be reported at fair value, so fluctuations on one of offset by the other.) Under SAP, as the hedged items are not commonly reported at fair value, the guidance in SSAP No. 86 permits the derivative to reflect a measurement method that is more akin to the hedged item. (So, if hedging a bond at amortized cost, the
hedging instrument would also be reported at amortized cost. This prevents fair value fluctuations from the highly effective hedge from causing ‘noise’ in the financial statements throughout the hedge duration.)

Interested parties have communicated that requiring excluded components for foreign currency hedges to be recognized at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized as unrealized gains / losses, the financial statements show volatility that is not reflective of the underlying hedging transaction:

- For foreign currency forward contracts that have a premium / discount (e.g., forward point – difference between the forward contract rate and the spot rate at derivative execution), the amount required is set at origination. Although the change in spot rate over the hedge term could result with a fair value change of the forward point / premium, this change in fair value does not impact the required amount that was set at derivative execution. (Under Exhibit C, the existing guidance would require amortization of the premium, but this is conflicting with paragraph 40 and Exhibit B.) Regardless of if the derivative is terminated early or is identified as ineffective, there is no change to the amount required from the forward point determined at derivative execution. (As such, requiring recognition at fair value, and the change of fair value, does not result with a presentation of the amount owed by the reporting entity.)

- For a foreign currency swap with a cross-currency basis spread, the fair value changes are captured as part of the foreign currency periodic interest accruals. (A forward contract does not have periodic interest accruals, which is why the premium / forward point is proposed to be amortized under the prior example). Furthermore, regardless of if the derivative transaction continues to be effective, at the time of derivative maturity, the cross-currency basis spread is zero. The only time a reporting entity would be obligated to provide payment for a cross-currency basis spread is if the currency swap is terminated prior to maturity. Interested parties have noted that this is unlikely for the following reasons:

  o Most foreign bond exposures come through private investments that are generally more difficult to sell, providing a disincentive to selling the bond exposure.

  o The investment was originally acquired as the risk profile of the foreign bond was attractive to the reporting entity over the term of the investment. So, unless the bond issuer is having significant credit deterioration, it is unlikely an insurer will sell the bond.

  o In the event the foreign bond is terminated early, the derivative would also be terminated early. This will result in both items being removed from the balance sheet, and the offsetting economics would be recognized together in the same period. (So, in this situation, even if a cross-currency basis spread is obligated, it would be offset by the foreign currency impact of the bond.)

  o Industry representatives have identified that it would be even more unlikely for the derivative to be sold while retaining the foreign bond, however, if that was to occur, then the existing guidance for derivative termination would occur.

After considering the scenarios and industry comments for foreign currency excluded components, NAIC staff agrees that requiring these foreign currency excluded components to be reported at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized as unrealized gains / losses throughout the derivative term, results with financial statement impacts that are not reflective of the derivative transactions. Ultimately, the fair value recognition of these components creates surplus volatility / noise, that is not reflective of the intent, nor the final outcome of the derivative instrument. NAIC staff highlights that the key exception to this conclusion would be for scenarios in which a reporting entity was to elect to terminate a derivative in advance of the maturity date. Although existing guidance requires recognition at fair value with the impact in net income
(realized gain/loss) at the time of such termination, NAIC staff believes it would be more appropriate to require recognition at fair value at the time that an entity has decided to terminate a hedging instrument prior to its maturity date. This would be consistent with other statutory accounting guidance that requires recognition at fair value (other than amortized cost) at the time such decisions are made. NAIC staff believe this would be appropriate in situations in which both the hedging instrument and hedged item would be terminated together and situations in which the hedging instrument is terminated while the hedged item continues to be held.

Although the prior discussion, and current industry comments, were focused on foreign currency excluded components, NAIC staff highlights that U.S. GAAP permits other elements to be excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness. These include the following:

a. If the effectiveness of a hedge with an option is assessed based on changes in the option’s intrinsic value, the change in the time value of the option would be excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness.

b. If the effectiveness of a hedge with an option is assessed based on changes in the option’s minimum value, that is, its intrinsic value plus the effect of discounting, the change in the volatility value of the contract shall be excluded from the assessment of hedge effectiveness.

c. An entity may exclude any of the following components of the change in an option’s time value from the assessment of hedge effectiveness:
   i. The portion of the change in time value attributable to the passage of time (theta)
   ii. The portion of the change in time value attributable to changes due to volatility (vega)
   iii. The portion of the change in time value attributable to changes due to interest rates (rho).

Even if specific guidance is established for the foreign currency forward point and the cross-currency basis spread, statutory accounting guidance would still need clarification on the accounting and reporting for the other excluded components. If these excluded components are reported at fair value, with changes in unrealized gain/loss, NAIC staff highlights that the guidance should be clear in SSAP No. 86 and in the Schedule DB reporting instructions. Based on preliminary information, it seems current reporting for effective hedges is likely inconsistent for hedging instruments that have excluded components. NAIC staff has the impression that the following two options may currently be occurring:

- **BACV reflects amortized cost.** This would be consistent with SSAP No. 86, paragraph 23, but would be contrary to paragraph 40 and Exhibit B. (This would mean that the excluded components are not being recognized in the statutory financial statements.)

- **BACV reflects a combination of amortized cost and fair value for the excluded components.** This would be consistent with SSAP No. 86, paragraph 40 and Exhibit B, but would present an odd representation in Schedule DB as a derivative reported as an effective hedge would have an unrealized gain/loss, and the amount shown as an unrealized gain or loss would only be a specific portion of the change in fair value and could not be calculated from the information reported.

Unless subsequent information and discussion supports a different approach for the non-foreign currency excluded components detailed above, NAIC staff agrees that reporting these components at fair value, with fair value changes recognized through unrealized gains/losses is appropriate. In order to facilitate this recognition, NAIC staff recommends clarifications to SSAP No. 86 to specify the commingled reporting of BACV for effective hedges with excluded components, as well as revisions to Schedule DB to capture information on excluded components in new electronic-only columns. NAIC staff also recommends a new disclosure that captures information on all excluded components by classification type.
Proposed SSAP Revisions To Incorporate / Clarify Guidance for Excluded Components

Derivatives Used in Hedging Transactions

22. Derivative instruments used in hedging transactions that meet the criteria of a highly effective hedge shall be considered an effective hedge and are permitted to be valued and reported in a manner that is consistent with the hedged asset or liability (referred to as hedge accounting). For instance, assume an entity has a financial instrument on which it is currently receiving income at a variable rate but wishes to receive income at a fixed rate and thus enters into a swap agreement to exchange the cash flows. If the transaction qualifies as an effective hedge and a financial instrument on a statutory basis is valued and reported at amortized cost, then the swap would also be valued and reported at amortized cost. Derivative instruments used in hedging transactions that do not meet or no longer meet the criteria of an effective hedge, or that meet the required criteria but the entity has chosen not to apply hedge accounting, shall be accounted for at fair value and the changes in the fair value shall be recorded as unrealized gains or unrealized losses (referred to as fair value accounting).

23. Entities shall not bifurcate the effectiveness of derivatives. A derivative instrument is either classified as an effective hedge or an ineffective hedge. Entities must account for the derivative using fair value accounting if it is deemed to be ineffective or becomes ineffective. Derivatives classified as effective with excluded components in determining hedge effectiveness pursuant to Exhibit A, paragraph [___], shall account for the derivative and excluded components pursuant to the guidance in paragraph 40. Entities may redesignate a derivative in a hedging relationship even though the derivative was used in a previous hedging relationship that proved to be ineffective. A change in the counterparty to a derivative instrument that has been designated as the hedging instrument in an existing hedging relationship would not, in and of itself, be considered a termination of the derivative instrument. An entity shall prospectively discontinue hedge accounting for an existing hedge if any one of the following occurs:

   a. Any criterion in paragraphs 26-38 is no longer met;
   b. The derivative expires or is sold, terminated, or exercised (the effect is recorded as realized gains or losses or, for effective hedges of firm commitments or forecasted transactions, in a manner that is consistent with the hedged transaction – see paragraph 24);
   c. The entity removes the designation of the hedge; or
   d. The derivative is deemed to be impaired in accordance with paragraph 18. A permanent decline in a counterparty’s credit quality/rating is one example of impairment required by paragraph 18, for derivatives used in hedging transactions.

Hedge Effectiveness

39. The measurement of hedge effectiveness for a particular hedging relationship shall be consistent with the entity’s risk management strategy and the method of assessing hedge effectiveness that was documented at the inception of the hedging relationship, as discussed in paragraph 41.

40. The gain or loss on a derivative designated as a hedge and assessed to be effective is reported consistently with the hedged item. (Therefore, if the hedged item is reported at amortized cost, and the hedging instrument is consistent with that measurement method, fluctuations in fair value would not be recognized as unrealized gains or losses for either the hedging item or hedging instrument.) If an entity’s defined risk management strategy for a particular hedging relationship excludes a specific component of the gain or loss, or related cash flows, on the hedging derivative from the assessment of hedge effectiveness (as discussed in Exhibit BA, paragraph [___]), specific accounting treatment shall be followed for the that excluded component: ____________.
or loss. For example, if the effectiveness of a hedge with an option contract is assessed based on changes in the option’s intrinsic value, the changes in the option’s time value would be recognized in unrealized gains or losses. Time value is equal to the fair value of the option less its intrinsic value.

a. If the excluded component pertains to the difference between a foreign currency spot price and the forward or future price (e.g., a forward spot rate), then this premium / discount shall be amortized into income over the life of the contract or hedged program. (This guidance addresses the excluded component in Exhibit A, paragraph 8d.)

b. If the excluded component pertains to a foreign currency swap cross-currency basis spread, the impact of fair value changes shall be reflected as a component of the foreign currency swap’s periodic interest accrual. (This guidance addresses the excluded component in Exhibit A, paragraph 8e.)

c. For all other excluded components, the excluded component shall be measured and reported at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized as unrealized gains or losses. (This guidance shall be applied to excluded components detailed in Exhibit A, paragraphs 8a-8c.)

41. Hedging instruments with excluded components shall be identified in the financial statement investment schedule (Schedule DB) and shall be disclosed pursuant to paragraph 41g.

Proposed New Disclosure Paragraph (This is proposed as a new subparagraph 41g with reordering of subsequent paragraphs.)

Proposed Edits to Exhibit C – Foreign Currency Swaps and Forwards

Note: Only Specific Excerpts Included

Specific hedge accounting procedures for derivative instruments are outlined below.

1. Call and Put Options, Warrants, Caps, and Floors:

   a. Accounting at Date of Acquisition (purchase) or Issuance (written): The premium paid or received for purchasing or writing a call option, put option, warrant, cap or floor shall either be (i) recorded as an asset (purchase) or liability (written) on the Derivative line on the Assets (or) Liabilities pages or (ii) combined with the hedged item(s) individually or in the aggregate;
b. Statement Value:

i. Open derivatives hedging items recorded at amortized cost:

(a) Options, warrants, caps, and floors purchased or written shall be valued at amortized cost in a manner consistent with the hedged item. (Components of a hedging instrument excluded from the determination of hedge effectiveness shall be recognized at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized as unrealized gains/losses throughout the duration of the hedging instrument. These components are not captured within the guidance for effective hedges detailed within this section.);

(b) The amortization period and methods used shall result in a constant effective yield over the life of the hedged item or program. (For floating rate hedged items, the estimated effective yield shall be based on the current rate so the changes in yields attributable to changes in interest rates will be recognized in the period of change). Specific treatment includes:

1. Holdings in derivatives purchased or written within a year of maturity or expiry need not be amortized;

2. For hedges of forecasted transactions or firm commitments, the derivative may be recorded at cost until the hedged transaction occurs or it is determined that the hedge was not effective (see (d) in this section 1.b.i.);

3. For other derivatives, the amortization period is usually from date of acquisition (issuance) of the derivative to maturity of the hedged item or program.

(c) For hedges where the cost of the derivative is combined with the hedged item, the statement value is zero. The fair value of the derivative and hedged item shall be determined and reported separately, either individually or in the aggregate;

(d) For hedges of forecasted transactions or firm commitments, the derivative shall be recorded at cost until (1) the hedged transaction occurs or (2) it is determined that the hedge was not effective (when the derivative is valued in accordance with (e) in this section);

(e) If during the life of the derivative it or a designated portion of the derivative is no longer effective as a hedge, valuation at amortized cost ceases and the derivative or the designated portion of the derivative shall be valued at its current fair value with gains and losses recognized in unrealized gains or unrealized losses to the extent it ceased to be an effective hedge.

d. Gain/Loss on Termination of an option, warrant, cap or floor accounted for under hedge accounting (includes closing, exercise, maturity, and expiry):

i. Exercise of an Option: The remaining book value of the derivative shall become an adjustment to the cost or proceeds of the hedged item(s) received or disposed of individually or in aggregate;

ii. Sale, maturity, expiry, or other closing transaction of a derivative which is an effective hedge—Any gain or loss on the transaction, except for excluded components, will adjust the basis (or proceeds) of the hedged item(s) individually or in aggregate. Alternatively, if the item being hedged is subject to IMR, the gain
or loss on the terminated hedging derivative may be realized and shall be subject to IMR upon termination. For hedging instruments with excluded components in determining hedge effectiveness, the unrealized gain/loss from the change in fair value of the excluded component shall be realized upon the closing transaction. This gain/loss shall not be used to adjust the basis or proceeds of the hedged item.

iii. Gain/loss on termination of derivatives will be recognized currently in net income (realized gain/loss) to the extent they ceased to be effective hedges.

iv. Upon the redesignation of a derivative from a currently effective hedging relationship:

(a) with an item(s) carried at amortized cost to another effective hedging relationship with an item(s) carried at amortized cost, the derivative shall continue to be recorded at amortized cost and no gain or loss on the derivative shall be recognized.

(b) with an item(s) carried at amortized cost or fair value to an effective relationship with an item(s) carried at fair value, the accounting for the derivative shall be consistent with (ii) above.

(c) with an item(s) carried at fair value to an effective relationship with an item(s) carried at amortized cost, the accounting for the derivative shall be consistent with (ii) above.

2. Swaps, Collars, and Forwards (see also discussion in Introduction above):

a. Accounting at Date of Opening Position:

i. Any premium paid or received at date of opening shall either be (a) recorded on the Derivative line on the Assets (or) Liabilities pages or (b) combined with the hedged item(s), individually or in the aggregate;

b. Statement Value:

i. Open derivatives hedging items recorded at amortized cost:

(a) Swaps, collars, and forwards shall be valued at amortized cost in a manner consistent with hedged item. (Components of a hedging instrument excluded from the determination of hedge effectiveness not addressed in 2.b.iii shall be recognized at fair value, with changes in fair value of the excluded component recognized as unrealized gains/losses throughout the duration of the hedging instrument. These components are not captured within the guidance for effective hedges detailed within this section.)

(b) The amortization period and methods used shall result in a constant effective yield over the life of the hedged item or program. (For floating rate hedged items the estimated effective yield shall be based on the current rate so the changes in yields attributable to changes in interest rates will be recognized in the period of change.) Specific treatment includes:

(1) Holdings in derivatives purchased or written within a year of maturity or expiry need not be amortized;
(2) For hedges of forecasted transactions or firm commitments, the derivative shall be recorded at cost until (a) the hedged transaction occurs or (b) it is determined that the hedge was not effective (see (5) in this section 2.b.i.);

(3) For other derivatives the amortization period is usually from date of acquisition (issuance) of the derivative to maturity of the hedged item or program;

(4) For hedges where the cost of the derivative is combined with the hedged item, the statement value is zero. The fair value of the derivative and hedged item shall be determined and reported separately, either individually or in the aggregate;

(5) If during the life of the derivative it or a designated portion of the derivative is no longer effective as a hedge, valuation at amortized cost ceases and the derivative or a designated portion of the derivative shall be valued at its current fair value with gains and losses recorded in unrealized gains or unrealized losses to the extent that it ceased to be an effective hedge. Upon redesignation into an effective hedging relationship, the derivative’s mark to fair value through unrealized gain or loss shall be reversed.

ii. Open derivatives hedging items recorded at fair value (where gains and losses on the hedged item are recognized as adjustments to unassigned funds (surplus)):

(a) Swaps, collars, or forwards shall be valued at current fair value with changes in fair value recognized currently consistent with the hedged item; this will result in unrealized gain/loss treatment with adjustment to unassigned funds (surplus);

(b) For hedges where the derivative is combined with the hedged item, the fair value of the derivative and hedge item shall be determined and reported separately, either individually or in the aggregate. The cost (book value) basis used to figure gain/loss on the derivative is zero.

iii. Open foreign currency swap and forward contracts hedging foreign currency exposure on items denominated in a foreign currency and translated into U.S. dollars where fair value accounting is not being used:

(a) The foreign exchange premium (discount) on the currency contract shall be amortized into income over the life of the contract or hedge program. The foreign exchange premium (discount) is defined as the foreign currency (notional) amount to be received (paid) times the net of the forward rate minus the spot rate at the time the contract was opened. For forward contracts, an excluded component representing a foreign exchange premium (discount) (forward points) on the currency contract shall be amortized into income over the life of the contract or hedge program. Amortization is not required if the contract was entered into within a year of maturity. For foreign currency swaps, an excluded component representing a cross-currency basis spread, is recognized into income through the foreign currency swap’s periodic interest accruals.

Amortization is not required if the contract was entered into within a year of maturity;
(b) A foreign currency translation adjustment shall be reflected as an unrealized gain/loss (unassigned funds (surplus) adjustment) using the same procedures as done to translate the hedged item;

(c) The unrealized gain/loss for the period equals the foreign currency (notional) amount to be received (paid) times the net of the current spot rate minus the prior period end spot rate;

(d) The statement value of the derivative equals the amortized cost plus:
   1. For forward contracts, the amortized (premium) discount plus the cumulative unrealized gain/(loss) on the contract.
   2. For foreign currency swaps, the cumulative unrealized gain/(loss) on the contract. The cross-currency basis spread is recorded through the Investment Income Due and Accrued or Other Liabilities, as a component of the foreign currency swap’s periodic interest accrual.

   The cumulative unrealized gain/loss equals the foreign currency (notional) amount to be received (paid) times the net of the current spot rate minus the spot rate at the time the contract was opened;

(e) Recognition of unrealized gains/losses and amortization of foreign exchange premium/discount on derivatives hedging forecasted transactions or firm commitments shall be deferred until the hedged transaction occurs. These deferred gains/losses will adjust the basis or proceeds of the hedged transaction when it occurs;

(f) For hedges where the cost of the foreign currency contract is combined with the hedged item, the statement value on Schedule DB is zero. The fair value of the derivative and hedged item shall be determined and reported separately, either individually or in the aggregate;

(g) If during the life of the currency contract it or a designated portion of the currency contract is not effective as a hedge, The derivative shall be recorded at fair value and valuation at amortized cost shall cease. To the extent it ceased to be an effective hedge, a cumulative unrealized gain/loss (surplus adjustment) will be recognized equal to the difference between the carrying value of the derivative on the balance sheet and the fair value of the derivative if either of the following occur:
   1. During the life of the currency contract it or a designated portion of the currency contract is not effective as a hedge.
   2. The entity decides to terminate the derivative in advance of scheduled maturity.

   notional amount or designated notional amount times the difference between the forward rate available for the remaining maturity of the contract (i.e., the forward rate as of the balance sheet date) and the forward rate at the time it ceased to be an effective hedge.

iv. Open derivatives hedging items recorded at fair value, where gains and losses on the hedged item are recognized currently in earnings: swaps, collars and forwards shall be valued at current fair value with changes in fair value recognized currently in earnings together with the gains and losses on the hedged item.
(a) If during the life of the derivative it or a designated portion of the derivative is no longer effective as a hedge, recognition of changes in fair value through earnings ceases. The derivative shall continue to be valued at its current fair value, but thereafter gains or losses shall be recognized in unrealized gains or unrealized losses to the extent it ceased to be an effective hedge.

c. Cash Flows and Income:

   i. Where the cost of the derivative is not combined with the hedged item:

      (a) Amortization of premium paid or received on derivatives is an adjustment to net investment income or another appropriate caption within operating income consistent with the reporting of the hedged item;

      (b) Periodic cash flows and accruals of income/expense are to be reported in a manner consistent with the hedged item, usually as net investment income or another appropriate caption within operating income.

   ii. Where the cost of the derivative is combined with the hedged item, the cash flows and income of the derivative on Schedule DB is zero. All related amortization and cash flow accounting shall be reported with the hedged item instead of with the derivative.

d. Gain/Loss on Termination of a swap, collar or forward accounted for under hedge accounting (includes closing, exercise, maturity, and expiry):

   i. Exercise—The remaining book value of the derivative shall become an adjustment to the cost or proceeds of the hedged item(s) received or disposed of individually or in aggregate;

   ii. Sale, maturity, expiry, or other closing transaction of a derivative which is an effective hedge—Any gain or loss on the transaction, except for excluded components, will adjust the basis (or proceeds) of the hedged item(s) individually or in aggregate. Alternatively, if the item being hedged is subject to IMR, the gain or loss on the terminated hedging derivative may be realized and shall be subject to IMR upon termination.

   iii. Gain/loss on termination of derivatives will be recognized currently in net income (realized gain/loss) to the extent they ceased to be effective hedges.

   iv. Upon the redesignation of a derivative from a currently effective hedging relationship:

      (a) with an item(s) carried at amortized cost to another effective hedging relationship with an Item(s) carried at amortized cost, the derivative shall continue to be recorded at amortized cost and no gain or loss on the derivative shall be recognized.

      (b) with an item(s) carried at amortized cost or fair value to an effective relationship with an item(s) carried at fair value, the accounting for the derivative shall be consistent with (ii) above.

      (c) with an item(s) carried at fair value to an effective relationship with an item(s) carried at amortized cost, the accounting for the derivative shall be consistent with (ii) above.