

**Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group  
Maintenance Agenda Submission Form  
Form A**

**Issue: SSAP No. 48 – Alternative Valuation of Minority Ownership Interests**

**Check (applicable entity):**

	P/C	Life	Health
Modification of Existing SSAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Issue or SSAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Description of Issue:** *SSAP No. 48—Joint Ventures, Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies* establishes the statutory accounting principles for investments in joint ventures, partnerships, or limited liability companies (herein collectively referred to as SSAP No. 48 investments). This agenda item is presented to review the alternative valuation methods permitted in limited circumstances where the investee has a minor ownership interest (less than 10%) or lacks control as discussed in paragraphs 15 and 16 (see Authoritative Literature), and where audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements are not available.

In general, SSAP No. 48 requires a financial statement audit for admission of investments with a more than minor ownership interest or where control is present. If an investee owns greater than 10% measured at the holding company level, or can exercise control, the SSAP No. 48 investment is to be reported using the equity method as defined in *SSAP No. 97—Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities*, which effectively directs the valuation based on the nature of the operations (e.g., requiring statutory accounting for insurance operations or U.S. GAAP accounting for other various entities). Embedded in SSAP No. 97, the proxy for SSAP No. 48 investments in which the investor owns greater than 10% or can exercise control, is the requirement for a statutory or a U.S. GAAP financial statement audit. (The requirement for audited financial statements in these instances is not proposed to be the subject of discussion.)

If insurer has less than 10% ownership (minor ownership interest) or lacks control the preference is to use audited U.S. GAAP financial statements. However, when audited U.S. GAAP financials statements are not available, paragraph 9 provides the following three alternatives, which includes: 1) investee's audited foreign GAAP with an audited U.S. GAAP reconciliation footnote, 2) audited IFRS financial statements, or 3) audited U.S. tax equity financial statements. The permissible exceptions for when audited U.S. GAAP basis financials are not available are detailed in paragraph 9 below:

**9. If audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest (i.e., less than 10%) or lacks control as stipulated in paragraphs 15 and 16 may be recorded based on either of the valuation methodologies allowed under paragraphs 9.a. or 9.b.** If either one of the valuation methodologies allowed under paragraphs 9.a. or 9.b. is used to value the investment, documentation must be maintained regarding the reason that audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements could not be provided.

- a. Non U.S. joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest of less than 10% and for which audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, may be recorded based on:
  - i. the U.S. GAAP basis equity as set forth in the audited footnote reconciliation of the investee's equity and income to U.S. GAAP within the investee's audited foreign GAAP prepared financial statements or,
  - ii. the IFRS basis equity as set forth in the investee's audited IFRS financial statements prepared in compliance, both annually and quarterly, with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

- b. **If audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest of less than 10%, measured at the holding company level, may be recorded based on the underlying audited U.S. tax basis equity.** For investments recorded based on the underlying audited U.S. tax basis equity, the reporting entity shall review investments held by the joint venture, partnership or limited liability company in accordance with the impairment guidance in paragraphs 18 and 19. The reporting entity must first attempt to obtain audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements and, if such financial statements are unavailable, must maintain documentation regarding the reason that audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements could not be provided.

NAIC staff believe the intent of the U.S. GAAP audit exceptions provided in paragraph 9 was meant to accommodate limited situations where an insurer has a minor ownership interest and or lacks control and therefore, they are unable to require or entice the entity to acquire a U.S. GAAP audit. NAIC staff note this distinction, as SSAP No. 48, paragraph 9 currently permits that if an insurer owns less than 10% **or** lacks control, they are permitted the exceptions which still require audits if audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements are unavailable. It is important to note that technically SSAP No. 48, paragraph 16 could permit a significant ownership percentage and as long as an insurer has rebutted control of the investment, they would be permitted to use the paragraph 9 exceptions, that is if the insurer could articulate why audited U.S. GAAP basis financials statements were not available.

This agenda item has been drafted to propose two alternative clarifications to SSAP No. 48. The first option presented is to propose deletion of the U.S. GAAP audit exception provided in SSAP No. 48, paragraph 9.b as this exception does not appear to be utilized by insurers. The second option presented is to retain the U.S. GAAP audit exception in paragraph 9.b but clarify that the U.S. tax basis audit is to reside at the investee level – that is the investee must have an audit in order for this valuation be permitted for admission of the investment. This clarification would eliminate any ambiguity regarding the level at which the audit is required.

**Existing Authoritative Literature:** While a significant portion of the potentially impacted paragraphs have been included above, all relevant SSAP No. 48 guidance is included below, with pertinent items bolded for emphasis.

#### SCOPE OF STATEMENT

1. **This statement establishes statutory accounting principles for investments in any joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies, including investments** in certified capital companies (CAPCO) per *INT 06-02: Accounting and Reporting for Investments in a Certified Capital Company (CAPCO)*, whether or not it is considered to be controlled by or affiliated with the reporting entity. Single real estate property investments that are wholly-owned by an LLC that is directly and wholly-owned by the reporting entity, and that meet the criteria established in *SSAP No. 40R—Real Estate Investments*, are excluded from this statement. This statement does not address the accounting for investments in partnerships and limited liability companies that invest in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Properties as discussed in *SSAP No. 93—Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Property Investments*. However, investments in certain state Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Property Investments that do not fall within the scope of SSAP No. 93 are covered by the requirements of this statement.

#### SUMMARY CONCLUSION

2. **Investments in joint ventures shall include investments in corporate joint ventures and unincorporated joint ventures** (also referred to as undivided interests in ventures). A corporate joint venture is defined as a corporation owned and operated by a small group (the joint venturers) as a separate and specific business or project for the mutual benefit of the members of the group. A corporate joint venture usually provides an arrangement under which each joint venturer may participate, directly or indirectly, in the overall management of the joint venture. Joint venturers thus have an interest or relationship other than as passive investors. An unincorporated joint venture is similar in its purpose but is not incorporated.

3. **Investments in partnerships shall include investments in general partnership interests and limited partnership interests.** A general partnership is defined as an association in which each partner has unlimited liability. Each partner assumes joint and several liability for all partnership debts. A limited partnership shall be defined as a partnership having two classes of partners: (a) general partners who manage the partnership, subject to the partnership agreement, and have personal liability for the general obligations of the partnership and (b) limited partners who are passive investors and have no personal liability beyond their investment.

4. A limited liability company is defined as a business organization which is a hybrid of a corporation and partnership whereby the owners have limited liability like a corporation and profits may pass through to the owners for tax purposes like a partnership if certain criteria are met. The owner's personal liability is limited to his own acts and the owners can fully participate in the management of the business with no adverse impact on their limited liability.

5. Investments in the ventures defined in paragraphs 2-4 meet the definition of assets as defined in *SSAP No. 4—Assets and Nonadmitted Assets* and are admitted assets to the extent they conform to the requirements of this statement. Investments in joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies shall be reported in Other Invested Assets in the financial statements.

6. **Investments in these ventures, except for joint ventures, partnerships and limited liability companies with a minor ownership interest, shall be reported using an equity method as defined in SSAP No. 97—Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities, paragraphs 8.b.i. through 8.b.iv.** (The equity method calculation may result with a negative valuation of the investment; therefore, the SSAP No. 97 equity method calculation shall occur regardless of whether the investment is supported by an audit and the reporting entity will nonadmit the investment.) A reporting entity whose shares of losses in a SSAP No. 48 entity exceeds its investment in the SSAP No. 48 entity shall disclose the information required by SSAP No. 97, paragraph 35.a.

7. Investments reported using an equity method from SSAP No. 97, paragraph 8.b.ii. through 8.b.iv. may have fiscal year ends, not calendar year ends. To recognize a change to the reporting year-end of an equity method investee, including changes in, or the elimination of, previously existing differences (lag period) due to the reporting entity's ability to obtain financial results from a reporting period that is more consistent with, or the same as, that of the reporting entity's, the guidance included in *FASB Emerging Issues Task Force No. 06-9: Reporting a Change in (or the elimination of) a Previously Existing Difference Between the Fiscal Year-End of a Parent Company and That of a Consolidated Entity or Between the Reporting Period of an Investor and That of an Equity Method Investee* that defines such reporting period changes as a change in accounting principle in accordance with *SSAP No. 3—Accounting Changes and Corrections of Errors* shall be followed.

8. **Joint ventures, partnerships and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest (i.e., less than 10%) or lacks control as stipulated in paragraphs 15 and 16, shall be recorded based on the underlying audited U.S. GAAP equity of the investee.** The investment shall be nonadmitted if the audited financial statements include substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. Additionally, the investment shall be nonadmitted on the basis/contents of the audit opinion as detailed in paragraph 21 of SSAP No. 97.

9. **If audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest (i.e., less than 10%) or lacks control as stipulated in paragraphs 15 and 16 may be recorded based on either of the valuation methodologies allowed under paragraphs 9.a. or 9.b. If either one of the valuation methodologies allowed under paragraphs 9.a. or 9.b. is used to value the investment, documentation must be maintained regarding the reason that audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements could not be provided.**

- a. **Non U.S. joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest of less than 10% and for which audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, may be recorded based on:**

- i the U.S. GAAP basis equity as set forth in the audited footnote reconciliation of the investee's equity and income to U.S. GAAP within the investee's audited foreign GAAP prepared financial statements or,
  - ii the IFRS basis equity as set forth in the investee's audited IFRS financial statements prepared in compliance, both annually and quarterly, with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).
- b. **If audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest of less than 10%, measured at the holding company level, may be recorded based on the underlying audited U.S. tax basis equity. For investments recorded based on the underlying audited U.S. tax basis equity, the reporting entity shall review investments held by the joint venture, partnership or limited liability company in accordance with the impairment guidance in paragraphs 18 and 19. The reporting entity must first attempt to obtain audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements and, if such financial statements are unavailable, must maintain documentation regarding the reason that audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements could not be provided.**

10. The amount to be recorded shall be defined as the initial investment in an investee at cost (as defined in paragraph 3 of *SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill*) plus subsequent capital contributions to the investee. The carrying amount of the investment shall be adjusted for the amortization of the basis difference (difference between the cost and the underlying GAAP equity), as well as to recognize the reporting entity's share of: (i) the audited U.S. GAAP basis earnings or losses of the investee after the date of acquisition, adjusted for any distributions received, or (ii) if audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, the earnings or losses of the investee after the date of acquisition, adjusted for any distributions received, based on either one of the valuation methodologies allowed under paragraphs 9.a. or 9.b. A reporting entity's share of adjustments, excluding changes in capital contributions to the investee, that are recorded directly to the investee's stockholders' equity shall also be recorded as adjustments to the carrying value of the investment with an offsetting amount recorded to unrealized capital gains and losses on investments.

11. **Entities may recognize their investment in joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest based on an unaudited basis for investment determination (i.e., foreign GAAP, IFRS, or tax basis as allowed under paragraph 9) if annual audited information is not complete as of the annual statement filing deadline.** The recorded investment shall be adjusted for annual audit adjustments, if any, as soon as annual audited information is available. If financial statements of an investee are not sufficiently timely for the reporting entity to apply an equity method to the investee's current results of operations, the reporting entity shall record its share of the earnings or losses of an investee from the most recent available financial statements. A lag in reporting shall be consistent from period to period.

15. **Control is defined as the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the investee, whether through the (a) ownership of voting securities, (b) by contract other than a commercial contract for goods or nonmanagement services, (c) by common management, or (d) otherwise. Control shall be presumed to exist if a reporting entity and its affiliates directly or indirectly, own, control, hold with the power to vote, or hold proxies representing 10% or more of the voting interests of the entity.**

16. **Control as defined in paragraph 15 shall be measured at the holding company level. For example, if one member of an affiliated group has a 5% interest in an entity and a second member of the group has an 8% interest in the same entity, the total interest is 13% and therefore each member of the affiliated group shall be presumed to have control. This presumption will stand until rebutted by an evaluation of all the facts and circumstances relating to the investment based on the criteria in *FASB Interpretation No. 35, Criteria for Applying the Equity Method of Accounting for Investments in Common Stock, an Interpretation of APB Opinion No. 18*. The corollary is required to demonstrate control when a reporting entity owns less than 10% of the voting interests of an**

investee. The insurer shall maintain documents substantiating its determination for review by the domiciliary commissioner. Examples of situations where the presumption of control may be in doubt include the following:

- a. Any limited partner investment in a Limited Partnership, unless the limited partner is affiliated with the general partner.
- b. An entity where the insurer owns less than 50% of an entity and there is an unaffiliated individual or group of investors who own a controlling interest.
- c. An entity where the insurer has given up participation rights as a shareholder to the investee.

**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):**

In May 2008, in agenda item 2007-34R: SSAP 48, the Working Group adopted revisions in SSAP No. 48 permitting the use of an audited U.S. tax basis equity valuation method in cases where the insurer is a minor interest or lacks control and audited U.S. GAAP financial statements of the investee were not available.

**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 a SAP clarification, and expose two possible options for the U.S. GAAP audit exception in *SSAP No. 48—Joint Ventures, Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies*. Option #1 proposes to delete the audited U.S. tax basis equity as a permissible valuation method as this method does not appear to be utilized by insurers. Option #2 proposes to retain the audited U.S. tax basis equity valuation method but clarifies that the audit must reside at the investee level.

**Option 1: Delete the valuation method permitted in SSAP No. 48, paragraph 9b.**

9. If audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest (i.e., less than 10%) or lacks control as stipulated in paragraphs 15 and 16 may be recorded based on either of the valuation methodologies allowed under paragraphs 9.a. or 9.b. If either one of the valuation methodologies allowed under paragraphs 9.a. or 9.b. is used to value the investment, documentation must be maintained regarding the reason that audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements could not be provided.

- a. Non U.S. joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest of less than 10% and for which audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, may be recorded based on:
  - i. the U.S. GAAP basis equity as set forth in the audited footnote reconciliation of the investee's equity and income to U.S. GAAP within the investee's audited foreign GAAP prepared financial statements or,
  - ii. the IFRS basis equity as set forth in the investee's audited IFRS financial statements prepared in compliance, both annually and quarterly, with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

~~b. If audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest of less than 10%, measured at the holding company level, may be recorded based on the underlying audited U.S. tax basis equity. For investments recorded based on the underlying audited U.S. tax basis equity, the reporting entity shall review~~

~~investments held by the joint venture, partnership or limited liability company in accordance with the impairment guidance in paragraphs 18 and 19. The reporting entity must first attempt to obtain audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements and, if such financial statements are unavailable, must maintain documentation regarding the reason that audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements could not be provided.~~

**Option 2: Retain the alternative valuation method but clarify that the required U.S. tax basis equity audit is to reside at the investee level.**

9. If audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest (i.e., less than 10%) or lacks control as stipulated in paragraphs 15 and 16 may be recorded based on either of the valuation methodologies allowed under paragraphs 9.a. or 9.b. If either one of the valuation methodologies allowed under paragraphs 9.a. or 9.b. is used to value the investment, documentation must be maintained regarding the reason that audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements could not be provided.

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  - i the U.S. GAAP basis equity as set forth in the audited footnote reconciliation of the investee's equity and income to U.S. GAAP within the investee's audited foreign GAAP prepared financial statements or,
  - ii the IFRS basis equity as set forth in the investee's audited IFRS financial statements prepared in compliance, both annually and quarterly, with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).
- b. If audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements of the investee are not available, joint ventures, partnerships, and limited liability companies in which the entity has a minor ownership interest of less than 10%, measured at the holding company level, may be recorded based on the underlying audited U.S. tax basis equity. [The U.S. tax basis equity audit shall occur at the investee level.](#) For investments recorded based on the underlying audited U.S. tax basis equity, the reporting entity shall review investments held by the joint venture, partnership or limited liability company in accordance with the impairment guidance in paragraphs 18 and 19. The reporting entity must first attempt to obtain audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements and, if such financial statements are unavailable, must maintain documentation regarding the reason that audited U.S. GAAP basis financial statements could not be provided.

**Staff Review Completed by:** Jim Pinegar– NAIC Staff, February 2022

**Status:**

On April 4, 2022, the Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group moved this agenda item to the active listing, categorized as a SAP clarification, and exposed two possible options for the U.S. GAAP audit exception in *SSAP No. 48—Joint Ventures, Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies*. The options are described below while the revisions are illustrated above in the recommended action.

Option #1 proposes to delete the audited U.S. tax basis equity as a permissible valuation method as this method does not appear to be utilized by insurers.

Option #2 proposes to retain the audited U.S. tax basis equity valuation method but clarifies that the audit must reside at the investee level.

[https://naiconline.sharepoint.com/teams/FRSStatutoryAccounting/NationalMeetings/A.NationalMeetingMaterials/2022/4-SpringNM/Exposures/22-02-SSAP No. 48 - Alt Valuation Minority Ownership.docx](https://naiconline.sharepoint.com/teams/FRSStatutoryAccounting/NationalMeetings/A.NationalMeetingMaterials/2022/4-SpringNM/Exposures/22-02-SSAPNo.48-AltValuationMinorityOwnership.docx)