

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

Issue: ASU 2021-08, Business Combinations

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: In October 2021, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued *Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2021-08, Business Combinations, Accounting for Contract Assets and Contract Liabilities from Contracts with Customers* to require acquiring entities to apply Topic 606 (the topic that specifies the accounting for revenue and liabilities resulting from contracts with customers), when valuing and recognizing contract related assets and liabilities in a business combination.

Prior to the issuance of ASU 2021-08, acquirers would generally only recognize such items based on their fair values on the date of acquisition. When assessing liabilities at fair value, acquirers would generally only recognize an acquiree's deferred revenue (i.e., a contract liability), to the extent the acquirer had a legal obligation to perform a service or remit a product. However, to only recognize a contract liability to the extent of a legal obligation is contrary to Topic 606 as it states that performance obligations may (and often) extend beyond legal obligations – with examples including implied promises and customer business practices within the contract with a customer, regardless of whether such promises were legally enforceable.

This ASU noted that the amendments will enhance comparability of the business results from before and after the acquisition (as presumably in most cases, the Topic 606 liability of the acquiree would transfer from the acquiree to the acquirer) and thus continuity of presentation would be retained. It is also important to note that the application of Topic 606 (rather than applying fair value standards) for acquired contract liabilities will generally result in a larger liability being recognized by the acquirer. This is because in cases where a provider receives cash in advance of performing a service or providing a product, in many instances some or all of the advanced funds have been spent prior to the date of acquisition, and thus the acquirer, using fair value measurement techniques, will not designate value to the spent funds. However again, the primary goal of these amendments is to improve comparability by providing consistent recognition and measurement guidance for revenue contracts - regardless of if those contracts were or were not acquired in a business combination.

The statutory accounting guidance for business combinations is found in *SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill* and requires business combinations be reported at cost, which in an arms-length transaction; is presumably fair value. SSAP No. 68 also requires that for entities (other than insurance reporting entities), the acquirer use the acquiree's U.S. GAAP book value for the determination of statutory goodwill. The calculation of statutory goodwill, while beyond the scope of this agenda item, is important to briefly comment on as it adds an additional level of conservatism not recognized by U.S. GAAP – as it requires the recognition of goodwill for the amount of cost in excess of the acquiree's book value (as opposed to fair value under U.S. GAAP).

So, in essence, for statutory accounting, other than the reporting of statutory goodwill, the acquiree's book value of all associated assets (and liabilities) are reported on the acquirer's books. As ASU 2021-08 requires the acquirer to utilize the acquiree's book value, measured via Topic 606, for contract liabilities, the practice (unless the acquiree has not previously or has incorrectly applied Topic 606) conceptually consistent statutory accounting requirements, requires a measurement method previously rejected by statutory accounting.

Existing Authoritative Literature: As previously mentioned, the statutory guidance for business combinations is contained in SSAP No. 68 - relevant paragraphs, with applicable guidance is included below.

SSAP No. 68

Business Combinations

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

Statutory Purchases of SCA Investments

3. **The statutory purchase method of accounting is defined as accounting for a business combination as the acquisition of one entity by another.** It shall be used for all purchases of SCA entities including partnerships, joint ventures, and limited liability companies. **The acquiring reporting entity shall record its investment at cost. Cost is defined as the sum of: (a) any cash payment, (b) the fair value of other assets distributed, (c) the fair value of any liabilities assumed, and (d) any direct costs of the acquisition.**^(INT 00-28) Contingent consideration issued in a purchase business combination that is embedded in a security or that is in the form of a separate financial instrument shall be recorded by the issuer at fair value at the acquisition date.

4. **For those acquired SCA entities accounted for in accordance with paragraphs 8.b.i., 8.b.ii., 8.b.iii. or 8.b.iv. of SSAP No. 97, and joint venture, partnership or limited liability company entities accounted for in accordance with paragraph 8 of SSAP No. 48, goodwill is defined as the difference between the cost of acquiring the entity and the reporting entity's share of the book value of the acquired entity.** When the cost of the acquired entity is greater than the reporting entity's share of the book value, positive goodwill exists. When the cost of the acquired entity is less than the reporting entity's share of the book value, negative goodwill exists. Goodwill resulting from assumption reinsurance shall be recorded as a separate write-in for other-than-invested assets. All other goodwill shall be reported in the carrying value of the investment.

5. A business combination accounted for under the statutory purchase method and in which the acquired entity is valued in accordance with paragraphs 8.b.ii., 8.b.iii. or, 8.b.iv. of SSAP No. 97 **shall determine the amount of positive goodwill or negative goodwill created by the combination using the reporting entity's share of the GAAP net book value of the acquired entity**, adjusted to a statutory basis of accounting in accordance with paragraph 9 of SSAP No. 97 in the case of acquired entities valued in accordance paragraphs 8.b.ii. or 8.b.iv. of SSAP No. 97. Business combinations accounted for under the statutory purchase method and in which the acquired entity is valued in accordance with, paragraph 8.b.i. of SSAP No. 97 shall determine the amount of positive or negative goodwill created by the business combination using the insurer's share of the statutory book value of the acquired entity.

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

As mentioned above, utilizing an acquiree's book value is likely consistent with current practice, however, all previous Topic 606 guidance has been rejected for statutory accounting as insurance contracts are explicitly excluded from its scope. The rejections are noted within the body of statutory guidance in *SSAP No. 47—Uninsured Plans*.

SSAP No. 47**Relevant Literature**

15. This statement rejects *ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers*; *ASU 2015-14, Revenue From Contracts With Customers*; *ASU 2016-08, Revenue From Contracts with Customers: Principal versus Agent Considerations (Reporting Revenue Gross versus Net)*; *ASU 2016-10, Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Identifying Performance Obligations and Licensing*; *ASU 2016-12, Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Narrow-Scope Improvements and Practical Expedients*; *ASU 2016-20, Technical Corrections and Improvements to Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers*; *ASU 2018-18, Collaborative Arrangements (Topic 808), Clarifying the Interaction between Topic 808 and Topic 606*, and *ASU 2021-02, Franchisors—Revenue from Contracts with Customers*.

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): As previously mentioned, all ASUs related to ASC Topic 606 have been rejected by the Working Group.

Information or issues (included in *Description of Issue*) not previously contemplated by the Working Group:
None

Convergence with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS): ASC Topic 606 and IFRS 15 are the result of the joint project between the FASB and IASB to improve financial reporting by creating common revenue recognition guidance.

Staff Recommendation: NAIC staff recommends that the Working Group move this item to the active listing, categorized as SAP clarifications to:

- 1) **Expose revisions to *SSAP No. 47—Uninsured Plans* to reject ASU 2021-08 for statutory accounting.** This recommendation is consistent with how the prior ASUs related to Topic 606 have been treated.
- 2) **Expose revisions to *SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill* to reject the ASU 2021-08 for statutory accounting, while noting that rejection does not impact the determination of U.S. GAAP book value in an acquired entity.** NAIC staff note that as all prior Topic 606 guidance has been rejected for statutory accounting, the explicit rejection of this ASU should not be construed to mean that the U.S. GAAP net book value (which is utilized for the determination of statutory goodwill) will need to be modified by the guidance required in this ASU. The intent is to not modify any U.S. GAAP requirements for the determination of U.S. GAAP net book value within this standard.

Proposed Revisions to SSAP No. 47**Relevant Literature**

15. This statement rejects *ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers*; *ASU 2015-14, Revenue From Contracts With Customers*; *ASU 2016-08, Revenue From Contracts with Customers: Principal versus Agent Considerations (Reporting Revenue Gross versus Net)*; *ASU 2016-10, Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Identifying Performance Obligations and Licensing*; *ASU 2016-12, Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Narrow-Scope Improvements and Practical Expedients*; *ASU 2016-20, Technical Corrections and Improvements to Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers*; *ASU 2018-18, Collaborative Arrangements (Topic 808), Clarifying the Interaction between Topic 808 and Topic 606*, ~~and~~ [*ASU 2021-02, Franchisors—Revenue from Contracts with Customers*](#), [*and ASU 2021-08, Business Combinations, Accounting for Contract Asset and Contract Liabilities from Contracts with Customers*](#).

Proposed Revisions to SSAP No. 68

Relevant Literature

22. This statement rejects [ASU 2021-08, Business Combinations, Accounting for Contract Asset and Contract Liabilities from Contracts with Customers, however the rejection of which shall not modify the U.S. GAAP accounting standards as required within this standard](#), ASU 2019-06, *Intangibles—Goodwill and Other Business Combinations, and Non-for-Profit Entities*, ASU 2017-04, *Simplifying the Test for Goodwill Impairment*, ASU 2016-03, *Intangibles—Goodwill and Other, Business Combinations, Consolidation, Derivatives and Hedging*; ASU 2014-02, *Accounting for Goodwill (a consensus of the Private Company Council)*, ASU 2012-02, *Testing Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets for Impairment*, ASU 2011-08, *Testing Goodwill for Impairment* and ASU 2010-28, *When to Perform Step 2 of the Goodwill Impairment Test for Reporting Units with Zero or Negative Carrying Amounts*; Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 16, *Business Combinations*; FASB Statement No. 38, *Accounting for Preacquisition Contingencies of Purchased Enterprises, an amendment of APB Opinion No. 16*; Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 17, *Intangible Assets*; FASB Statement No. 79, *Elimination of Certain Disclosures for Business Combinations by Nonpublic Enterprises*; FASB Statement No. 141, *Business Combinations*; and FASB Statement No. 142, *Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets* The following related interpretative pronouncements are also rejected:

[NAIC Staff Note, the remainder of this paragraph has been omitted for brevity.]

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 revisions to *SSAP No. 47—Uninsured Plans* and *SSAP No. 68—Business Combinations and Goodwill* to reject ASU 2021-08 for statutory accounting. In addition, the proposed revisions to SSAP No. 68 include notations that the rejection of ASU 2021-08 does not impact the determination of U.S. GAAP book value in an acquired entity. The proposed revisions are illustrated above, under the recommended action.

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