Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group

**Maintenance Agenda Submission Form**

**Form A**

## **Issue: SSAP No. 56 – Book Value Separate Accounts**

**Check (applicable entity):**

P/C Life Health

Modification of Existing SSAP

New Issue or SSAP

Interpretation

**Description of Issue:** This agenda item has been developed to expand the guidance in *SSAP No. 56—Separate Accounts* to further address situations and provide consistent accounting guidelines for when assets are reported at a measurement method other than fair value. The guidance in SSAP No. 56 predominantly focuses on separate account products in which the policyholder bears the investment risk. In those situations, the assets in the separate account are reported at fair value. SSAP No. 56, paragraph 17 provides limited guidance for assets supporting fund accumulation contracts (GICs), and this measurement method is generally referred to as “book value”:

Assets supporting fund accumulation contracts (GICs), which do not participate in underlying portfolio experience, with a fixed interest rate guarantee, purchased under a retirement plan or plan of deferred compensation, established or maintained by an employer, will be recorded as if the assets were held in the general account. Assets supporting all other contractual benefits shall be recorded at fair value on the date of valuation, or if there is no readily available market, then in accordance with the valuation procedures in the applicable contract.

NAIC staff are aware that there has been an increase in assets reported at “book value” within the separate account. These have been approved under state prescribed practices and/or interpretations that the reference for fund accumulation contracts captures pension risk transfer (PRT) or registered indexed-linked annuities (RILA) and other similar general-account type products that have been approved by the state of domicile for reporting in the separate account.

The guidance in *SSAP No. 56—Separate Accounts* focuses on the accounting and reporting for both the separate account and general account, with specific focus on what is captured within each account as well as transfers between the two accounts. As the focus is on fair value separate account assets, there is not guidance that details how transfers should occur between the separate and general accounts when the assets will be retained and reported at “book value.” Particularly, the guidance does not address whether assets should be disposed / recognized at fair value when transferring between accounts, with subsequent reporting at the general account measurement guidance or whether the assets should be transferred at the “book value” that is reported in the existing account. The process has the potential to impact recognition of gains / losses and IMR, so it should be clearly detailed to ensure consistent reporting.

**Existing Authoritative Literature:**

* ***SSAP No. 56—Separate Accounts***

*Although the entirety of SSAP No. 56 may be relevant, key paragraphs have been identified.*

General Account Reporting

1. For those separate account contracts classified as life contracts under *SSAP No. 50—Classification of Insurance or Managed Care Contracts,* premiums and annuity considerations shall be recorded as income in the Summary of Operations of the general account, and as transfers to premiums and considerations in the separate account statement. Deposit-type contracts shall be recorded in the general account in accordance with *SSAP No. 52—Deposit-Type Contracts*.(INT 00-03) Charges (e.g., fees associated with investment management, administration, and contract guarantees) assessed on the separate accounts, as well as the net gain from operations of the separate account, shall be recorded as income in the Summary of Operations of the general account. Expenses relating to investment management, administration, and contract guarantees pertaining to separate account operations, as well as benefits and surrenders incurred on behalf of separate account contracts classified as life contracts, net transfers between separate accounts, commissions, and premium taxes (if any) shall be recorded as expenses in the Summary of Operations of the general account.
2. The general account shall include the total assets and liabilities, including transfers due or accrued, of any separate accounts business which it maintains and, therefore, the surplus, if any, of its separate accounts business. Transfers to the general account due or accrued shall be reported on a net basis so that the asset and the liability totals of the general account are not overstated. Changes in the surplus of the separate accounts business of an insurer, except for changes resulting from the net gain from operations of the separate account, shall be charged or credited directly to the unassigned funds (surplus) of the general account.

Separate Account Reporting

15. The separate accounts annual statement is concerned with the flow of funds related to investment activities and obligations of the separate accounts and with the transfer of funds between the separate account and the general account. As a result, the separate account statement shall report only the assets, liabilities, and operations of the separate account and shall not include general account expenses related to investment management, administration, or contract guarantees pertaining to separate account operations which are recorded in the general account.

16. The separate account records premiums, considerations (net of loading for sales charges such as commissions and premium taxes) and receipts (other than for net investment income and realized capital gains and losses) as income transfers from the general account. Net investment income and realized and unrealized capital gains and losses relating to the investment operations of the separate account are recorded as income in the Summary of Operations. When the contract provides for such, expenses and taxes associated with the separate account investment operations shall be deducted in the determination of net investment income. Deposits and withdrawals on deposit-type contracts shall be recorded in the Summary of Operations. Benefits and surrenders, reserve transfers, policy loans[[1]](#footnote-2), policyholder charges (e.g., fees associated with investment management, administration, and contract guarantees), and federal income taxes relating to the separate account are recorded as expense transfers to the general account in the Summary of Operations. The net change in aggregate reserves relating to separate account contracts is reported as an expense in the Summary of Operations.

17. Assets supporting fund accumulation contracts (GICs), which do not participate in underlying portfolio experience, with a fixed interest rate guarantee, purchased under a retirement plan or plan of deferred compensation, established or maintained by an employer, will be recorded as if the assets were held in the general account. Assets supporting all other contractual benefits shall be recorded at fair value on the date of valuation, or if there is no readily available market, then in accordance with the valuation procedures in the applicable contract.

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):

* Agenda Item 2022-19: Negative IMR introduced the discussion of interest maintenance reserve (IMR) within statutory accounting, specifically the guidance for nonadmittance of disallowed negative IMR. This agenda item resulted with *INT 23-01: Net Negative (Disallowed) Interest Maintenance Reserve*. This INT permits admittance of disallowed negative IMR up to 10% of adjusted capital and surplus. The guidance permits admittance of the separate account negative IMR once the general account negative IMR has been admitted if the 10% limit has not been reached. The INT identifies that the concept of nonadmitted assets does not exist in the separate account, therefore the guidance includes application guidance for reversing prior actions that charged negative IMR to surplus before permitting the negative IMR to be recognized as an asset.

**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 recommend that the Working Group move this item to the active listing of the maintenance agenda categorized as a SAP clarification with direction to work with industry in determining current application / differences in interpretations to present to the Working Group along with suggested revisions to codify the approach within SSAP No. 56.

Staff Review Completed by: Julie Gann, NAIC Staff—February 2024

Status:

On March 16, 2024, the Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group exposed this agenda item and directed NAIC staff to work with industry in determining current application and differences in the treatment of book value assets within the separate account and to prepare suggested revisions to codify an approach within *SSAP No. 56—Separate Accounts*.

https://naiconline.sharepoint.com/teams/FRSStatutoryAccounting/National Meetings/A. National Meeting Materials/2024/03-16-24 Spring National Meeting/Exposures/24-10 - SSAP No 56 - BV.docx

1. Policy loans related to separate account products shall follow the guidance in *SSAP No. 49—Policy Loans*. As detailed within SSAP No. 49, as part of the expense transfer, policy loans related to separate account products require a liquidation of the separate account assets to fund the loan issued by the general account. A transfer of assets from the separate account to the general account must have occurred to fund the policy loan issuance; otherwise the policy loan is nonadmitted in the general account. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)