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| **Dates:** Received | Reviewed by Staff | Distributed | Considered |
| 2/18/20 | RM |  |  |
| **Notes:** APF 2020-03 revised 2/26/20 Exposed 2/27/20, Revised 3/31/20 | | | |

**Life Actuarial (A) Task Force/ Health Actuarial (B) Task Force**

**Amendment Proposal Form\***

1. Identify yourself, your affiliation and a very brief description (title) of the issue.

**Identification:**

Rachel Hemphill, Texas Department of Insurance

**Title of the Issue:**

Clarify NPR calculation requirements.

2. Identify the document, including the date if the document is “released for comment,” and the location in the document where the amendment is proposed:

VM-20 Section 3.B.1 – 3.B.3, and VM-20 Section 3.B.6.d.i

January 1, 2020 NAIC *Valuation Manual*

3. Show what changes are needed by providing a red-line version of the original verbiage with deletions and identify the verbiage to be deleted, inserted or changed by providing a red-line (turn on “track changes” in Word®) version of the verbiage. (You may do this through an attachment.)

See attached.

4. State the reason for the proposed amendment? (You may do this through an attachment.)

Clarify any confusion on whether more direct calculations of the NPR to reflect non-annual premium modes, etc., are allowed. The current guidance note in Section 3.B.3 states that these may be reflected **either** “directly or through adjusting accounting entries”. However, due to some confusion on this point, I suggest emphasizing that more direct calculation methods are not prohibited. This is consistent with SSAP 51R, Paragraph 24:

*24. Since terminal reserves are computed as of the end of a policy year and not the reporting date, the terminal reserve as of policy anniversaries immediately prior and subsequent to the reporting date are adjusted to reflect that portion of the net premium that is unearned at the reporting date. This is generally accomplished using either the mean reserve method or the mid-terminal method as discussed in paragraphs 25-28. Other appropriate methods, including an exact reserve valuation, may also be used.*

For re-exposure, to address both the question posed in the initial exposure of clearly reflecting both mean and mid-terminal adjustments, as well as to address comments received, I recommend language consistent with SSAP 51R, paragraph 24. SSAP 51R paragraphs 25-28 are referenced by paragraph 24. They are provided below for completeness, and specific references for policies subject to the *Valuation Manual* are highlighted.

***Mean Reserve Method***

*25. Under the mean reserve method, the policy reserve equals the average of the terminal reserve at the end of the policy year and the initial reserve (the initial reserve is equal to the previous year’s terminal reserve plus the net annual valuation premium for the current policy year). When reserves are calculated on the mean reserve basis, it is assumed that the net premium for a policy is collected annually at the beginning of the policy year and that policies are issued ratably over the calendar year.*

*26. However, as premiums are often received in installments more frequently than annually and since the calculation of mean reserves assumes payment of the current policy year’s entire net annual premium, the policy reserve is overstated by the amount of net modal premiums not yet received for the current policy year as of the valuation date. As a result, it is necessary to compute and report a special asset to offset the overstatement of the policy reserve.*

*27. This special asset is termed “deferred premiums.” Deferred premiums are computed by taking the gross premium (or premiums) extending from (and including) the modal (monthly, quarterly, semiannual) premium due date or dates following the valuation date to the next policy anniversary date and subtracting any such deferred premiums that have actually been collected. Deferred premium assets shall also be reduced by loading. Since the calculation of mean reserves assumes payment of the current policy year’s entire net annual premium, deferred premium assets are considered admitted assets to compensate for the overstatement of the policy reserve. For policies subject to the Valuation Manual requirements, the deferred premium asset will continue to be calculated for the net premium reserve component of the total principle-based reserve.*

***Mid-Terminal Method***

*28. Under the mid-terminal method, the policy reserves are calculated as the average of the terminal reserves on the previous and the next policy anniversaries. These reserves shall be accompanied by an unearned premium reserve consisting of the portion of valuation premiums paid or due covering the period from the valuation date to the next policy anniversary date. For policies subject to the Valuation Manual requirements, the adjustment to the unearned premium reserve will continue to be calculated for the net premium reserve component of the total principle-based reserve.*

Since the guidance note at the end of Section 3.B.3 contains requirements and not just guidance, it should be taken out of a guidance note. This requires moving the four terms to Section 3.B.1 and updating two cross references in VM-20 Section 3.B.6.d.i.

\* This form is not intended for minor corrections, such as formatting, grammar, cross–references or spelling. Those types of changes do not require action by the entire group and may be submitted via letter or email to the NAIC staff support person for the NAIC group where the document originated.

NAIC Staff Comments:

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**VM-20 Section 3.B.1 – 3.B.3**

B. NPR Calculation

1. For the purposes of Section 3, the following terms apply:
   1. A policy with “multiple secondary guarantees” is one that: a) simultaneously has more than one shadow account; b) simultaneously has more than one cumulative premium type of guarantee; or c) simultaneously has at least one of each. A single shadow account with a variety of possible end dates to the secondary guarantee, depending on the policyholder’s choice of funding level, constitutes a single—not multiple—secondary guarantee.

**Guidance Note:**

Policy designs that are created simply to disguise guarantees or exploit a perceived loophole must be treated in a manner similar to more typical product designs with similar guarantees. If a policy contains multiple secondary guarantees, such that a subset of those secondary guarantees in combination represent an implicit guarantee that would produce a higher NPR if that implicit guarantee were treated as an explicit secondary guarantee of the policy, then the policy should be treated as if that implicit guarantee were an explicit guarantee. For example, if there were a policy with a “sequential secondary guarantee” where only one secondary guarantee applied at any given point in time but with a series of secondary guarantees strung together with one period ending when the next one began, the combined terms of the secondary guarantees would be regarded as a single secondary guarantee.

1. The “fully funded secondary guarantee” at any time is:

i. For a shadow account secondary guarantee, the minimum shadow account fund value necessary to fully fund the secondary guarantee for the policy at that time. For any policy for which the secondary guarantee contractually cannot be fully funded in advance, this shall be the present value of the contractually permitted premium stream that would fully fund the guarantee at the earliest possible date (using the valuation interest rate and mortality standard specified in Section 3.C).

ii. For a cumulative premium secondary guarantee, the amount of cumulative premiums required to have been paid to that time that would result in no future premium requirements to fully fund the guarantee, accumulated with any interest or accumulation factors per the contract provisions for the secondary guarantee. For any policy for which the secondary guarantee contractually cannot be fully funded in advance, this shall be the present value of the contractually permitted premium stream that would fully fund the guarantee at the earliest possible date (using the valuation interest rate and mortality standard specified in Section 3.C).

1. The “actual secondary guarantee” at any time is:

i. For a shadow account secondary guarantee, the actual shadow account fund value at that time.

ii. For a cumulative premium secondary guarantee, the actual premiums paid to that point in time, accumulated with any interest or accumulation factors per the contract provisions for the secondary guarantee.

1. The “level secondary guarantee” at any time is:

i. For a shadow account secondary guarantee, the shadow account fund value that would have existed at that time assuming payment of the level gross premium determined according to Section 3.B.6.c.i.

ii. For a cumulative premium secondary guarantee, the amount of cumulative level gross premiums determined according to Section 3.B.6.c.i, accumulated with any interest or accumulation factors per the contract provisions for the secondary guarantee.

1. provide the calculation ofIn Section 3.B.4, Section 3.B.5 and Section 3.B.6, tis
2. Since terminal NPRs are computed as of the end of a policy year and not the reporting date, the terminal NPR as of policy anniversaries immediately prior and subsequent to the reporting date are adjusted to reflect that portion of the net premium that is unearned at the reporting date. This is generally accomplished using either the mean reserve method or the mid-terminal method as discussed in SSAP 51R. Other appropriate methods, including an exact reserve valuation, may also be used.

**VM-20 Section 3.B.6.d.i**

As of the valuation date for the policy being valued, determine the actual secondary guarantee, denoted ASGx+t, as outlined in Section 3.B.1.c and the fully funded secondary guarantee, denoted FFSGx+t, as outlined in Section 3.B.1.b.