**Life Actuarial (A) Task Force**

**Amendment Proposal Form 2020-10**

**Exposed for a 12-day public comment period ending June 7, 2021**

**Request for Comment:** During the exposure, commenters are specifically asked to address the four versions exposed for the handling of YRT for the 2017-2019 issue years.

Please submit comments to Reggie Mazyck (RMazyck@naic.org) by COB 5/25/21.

**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.

Pat Allison – NAIC, Scott O’Neal – NAIC, Mary Bahna-Nolan – Pacific Life, and Rachel Hemphill – Texas Department of Insurance; SOA for development of rates and loading.

Reflect a prudent level of mortality improvement beyond the valuation date.

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

Valuation Manual (January 1, 2021 edition), VM-20 Section 6.A.2.b.v, VM-20 Section 8.C Introductory Paragraph, VM-20 Section 8.C.18 and Guidance Note, VM-20 Section 9.C.2.h, VM-20 Section 9.C.3.g, VM-20 Section 9.C.7.a, VM-20 Section 9.C.7.h (new), VM-31 Section 3.D.8.g (new – for 2017-2019 YRT Version 3 only), VM-31 Section 3.D.3.i, VM-31 Section 3.D.8.g (2017-2019 YRT handling option 3 only, new reporting section), VM-31 Section 3.D.11.c.i

1. 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 Appendix.

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

We propose to reflect a prudent level of mortality improvement beyond the valuation date, using SOA analysis for best estimate future mortality improvement and margin. The requirements also need to be clarified for the handling of historical or anticipated future mortality deterioration (i.e., negative improvement).

With the reflection of a prudent level of future mortality improvement in the mortality assumption, the interim 1/2cx approach to YRT is a reasonable consideration for a long-term approach.

For LATF consideration for re-exposure, there are four versions of the handling of the 2017-2019 issue year carveout from the interim YRT solution: 1) the original exposure, removing the carveout with the 1/2cx being made a longer term approach, 2) a modified version that removes the carveout, but makes that removal contingent on the first set of SOA future mortality rates being adopted, in case of delay, 3) a modified version that removes the carveout, but allows for a phase-in of the effect of this change, and 4) a version making the carveout long-term. These versions are presented starting on Page 6 of this document, after the other edits which do not vary based on this options.

#### Appendix

##### VM-20 Section 6.A.2.b.v:

1. Anticipated mortality improvement beyond the projection start date shall be reflected in the mortality assumption for the purpose of calculating the stochastic exclusion ratio. The future mortality improvement factors shall be no greater than the unloaded factors determined by the SOA, adopted by LATF, and published on the SOA website, at [link/reference to SOA site TBD].

**Guidance Note:** Mortality improvement may be positive or negative (i.e., deterioration). The anticipated mortality improvement may be lower than the rates published by the SOA, for example, if the company’s best estimate for mortality improvement for a particular block, such as simplified issue, is lower. Prior to adoption by LATF of the first set of future mortality improvement factors, the future mortality improvement rates shall be 0%.

To allow time for companies to reflect the updated mortality improvement rates, the rates that are to be used in the year-end YYYY valuation should be adopted by LATF and published on the SOA website by September of YYYY. If this timeline is not met, then at the company’s option they may use the mortality improvement rates for the prior year (year YYYY-1).

##### VM-20 Section 9.C.2.h:

h. Mortality improvement shall not be incorporated beyond the valuation date in the company experience mortality rates. However, historical mortality improvement from the central point of the underlying company experience data to the valuation date may be incorporated.

**Guidance Note:** Future mortality improvement is not applied to the company experience mortality rates, since it would be duplicative of the future mortality improvement that is applied to the prudent estimate assumptions for mortality in Section 9.C.7.f.

##### VM-20 Section 9.C.3.g:

g. Mortality improvement shall not be incorporated beyond the valuation date in the industry basic table. However, historical mortality improvement from the date of the industry basic table (e.g., Jan. 1, 2008, for the 2008 VBT and July 1, 2015, for the 2015 VBT) to the valuation date shall be incorporated using the improvement factors for the applicable industry basic table as determined by the SOA, adopted by LATF, and published on the SOA website, <https://www.soa.org/research/topics/indiv-val-exp-study-list/> (Mortality Improvement Rates for AG-38 for Year-End YYYY).

**Guidance Note:** Future mortality improvement is not applied to the industry basic table, since it would be duplicative of the future mortality improvement that is applied to the prudent estimate assumptions for mortality in Section 9.C.7.f.

To allow time for companies to reflect the updated mortality improvement rates, the rates that are to be used in the year-end YYYY valuation should be adopted by LATF and published on the SOA website by September of YYYY. If this timeline is not met, then at the company’s option they may use the most recent set of prior mortality improvement rates adopted by LATF and published on the SOA website.

##### VM-20 Section 9.C.7.a:

If applicable industry basic tables are used in lieu of company experience as the anticipated experience assumptions, or if the level of credibility of the data as provided in Section 9.C.5 is less than 20%, the prudent estimate assumptions for each mortality segment shall equal the respective mortality rates in the applicable industry basic tables as provided in Section 9.C.3, adjusted as necessary pursuant to Section 9.C.7.e and for any applicable improvement pursuant to Section 9.C.3.g, plus the prescribed margin as provided in Section 9.C.6.c, plus any applicable additional margin pursuant to Section 9.C.6.d.v and/or Section 9.C.6.d.vi. Future mortality improvement, pursuant to Section 9.C.7.f, shall be applied to the prudent estimate assumption for mortality.

##### Section 9.C.7.b.vi:

Beginning in the first policy duration after policy duration E, the prudent estimate mortality assumptions for each policy in a given mortality segment are determined as a weighted average of the company experience mortality rates with margins and the applicable industry basic table with margins, in which the weights on the company rates grade linearly from 100% down to 0%. This grading must be completed—i.e., must reach 100% of industry table—no later than the beginning of the first policy duration after policy duration Z (the determination of the applicable industry basic table is described in Section 9.C.3). Thus, the prudent estimate mortality rate, prior to any adjustments pursuant to Sections 9.C.7.c, 9.C.7.d, 9.C.7.e, and 9.C.7.f below, is:

##### VM-20 Section 9.C.7.f (new section):

Twenty years of future mortality improvement that the company anticipates beyond the valuation date shall be applied to the prudent estimate assumptions for mortality, using prudent future mortality improvement factors no greater than the loaded factors determined by the SOA, adopted by LATF, and published on the SOA website, at [link/reference to SOA site TBD].

**Guidance Note:** Mortality improvement may be positive or negative (i.e., deterioration). The anticipated mortality improvement may be lower than the rates published by the SOA, even zero, for example, if the company’s best estimate for mortality improvement for a particular block, such as simplified issue, is lower. Prior to adoption by LATF of the first set of future mortality improvement factors, the future mortality improvement rates shall be 0%.

To allow time for companies to reflect the updated mortality improvement rates, the rates that are to be used in the year-end YYYY valuation should be adopted by LATF and published on the SOA website by September of YYYY. If this timeline is not met, then at the company’s option they may use the mortality improvement rates for the prior year (year YYYY-1).

##### VM-31 Section 3.D.3.i:

1. Mortality Improvement – Description of and rationale for the mortality improvement assumptions applied up to the valuation date and the mortality improvement assumptions applied beyond the valuation date. Such a description shall include the assumed start and end dates of the improvements and a table of the annual improvement percentage(s) used, both without and with margin, separately for company experience and the industry basic table(s), along with a sample calculation of the adjustment (e.g., for a male preferred nonsmoker age 45).

##### VM-31 Section 3.D.11.c.i:

1. If the company believes the method used to determine anticipated experience mortality assumptions includes an implicit margin, the company can adjust the anticipated experience assumptions to remove this implicit margin for this reporting purpose only. If any such adjustment is made, the company shall document the rationale and method used to determine the anticipated experience assumption.

# 2017-2019 for Long-Term YRT – Version 1:

##### VM-20 Section 8.C, introductory paragraph:

C. Reflection of Reinsurance Cash Flows in the Deterministic Reserve or Stochastic Reserve

For non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance ceded or assumed, the cash-flow modeling requirements in Sections 8.C.1 through 8.C.14 below do not apply since non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance ceded or assumed does not need to be modeled; see Section 8.C.18 below. YRT shall include other reinsurance arrangements that are similar in effect to YRT.

##### VM-20 Section 8.C.18 and Guidance Note:

18.

When the reinsurance ceded or assumed is on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis, the corresponding reinsurance cash flows do not need to be modeled. Rather, for a ceding company, the post-reinsurance-ceded DR or SR shall be the pre-reinsurance-ceded DR or SR pursuant to Section 8.D.2, plus any applicable provision pursuant to Section 8.C.15 and Section 8.C.17, minus the NPR reinsurance credit from Section 8.B. For an assuming company, the DR or SR for the business assumed on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis shall be set equal to the NPR from Section 3.B.8, plus any applicable provision pursuant to Section 8.C.16 and Section 8.C.17. In the case where there are also other reinsurance arrangements that are not on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis, the reinsurance credit shall include the modeled reinsurance credit reflecting those other reinsurance arrangements. In particular, where there are also other reinsurance arrangements that are dependent on the non-guaranteed YRT or similar actuarial judgment shall be used to project cash flows consistent with the above outlined treatment for non-guaranteed YRT or similar arrangements.

# 2017-2019 for Long-Term YRT – Version 2:

##### VM-20 Section 8.C, introductory paragraph:

C. Reflection of Reinsurance Cash Flows in the Deterministic Reserve or Stochastic Reserve

For policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2020, and optionally for policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2020 up until adoption by LATF of the first set of unloaded future mortality improvement factors, at which point this shall apply for all policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2017:

For non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance ceded or assumed, the cash-flow modeling requirements in Sections 8.C.1 through 8.C.14 below do not apply since non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance ceded or assumed does not need to be modeled; see Section 8.C.18 below. YRT shall include other reinsurance arrangements that are similar in effect to YRT.

##### VM-20 Section 8.C.18 and Guidance Note:

18. For policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2020, and optionally for policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2020 up until adoption by LATF of the first set of unloaded future mortality improvement factors, at which point this shall apply for all policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2017:

When the reinsurance ceded or assumed is on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis, the corresponding reinsurance cash flows do not need to be modeled. Rather, for a ceding company, the post-reinsurance-ceded DR or SR shall be the pre-reinsurance-ceded DR or SR pursuant to Section 8.D.2, plus any applicable provision pursuant to Section 8.C.15 and Section 8.C.17, minus the NPR reinsurance credit from Section 8.B. For an assuming company, the DR or SR for the business assumed on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis shall be set equal to the NPR from Section 3.B.8, plus any applicable provision pursuant to Section 8.C.16 and Section 8.C.17. In the case where there are also other reinsurance arrangements that are not on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis, the reinsurance credit shall include the modeled reinsurance credit reflecting those other reinsurance arrangements. In particular, where there are also other reinsurance arrangements that are dependent on the non-guaranteed YRT or similar actuarial judgment shall be used to project cash flows consistent with the above outlined treatment for non-guaranteed YRT or similar arrangements.

2017-2019 for Long-Term YRT – Version 3:

C. Reflection of Reinsurance Cash Flows in the Deterministic Reserve or Stochastic Reserve

For non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance ceded or assumed, the cash-flow modeling requirements in Sections 8.C.1 through 8.C.14 below do not apply since non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance ceded or assumed does not need to be modeled; see Section 8.C.18 below. YRT shall include other reinsurance arrangements that are similar in effect to YRT.

For policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2020, the company may elect, with domiciliary commissioner approval, a phase-in of the current methodology for non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance with allowance for future mortality improvement from the methodology in the 2021 *Valuation Manual* for non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance without allowance for future mortality improvement, provided that the company uses a weighted average of the results from the two methodologies, with the weight for the prior methodology being no more than (20XX-YYYY)/(20XX-2021), where YYYY is the current valuation year and 20XX is the final year of the phase-in. A company may elect to phase in these requirements over a 3-year period beginning Jan. 1, 2022 and ending Dec. 31, 2024. A company may elect a longer phase-in period of up to seven years beginning Jan. 1, 2022 and ending Dec. 31, 2028, with approval of the domiciliary commissioner.

##### VM-20 Section 8.C.18 and Guidance Note:

18.

When the reinsurance ceded or assumed is on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis, the corresponding reinsurance cash flows do not need to be modeled. Rather, for a ceding company, the post-reinsurance-ceded DR or SR shall be the pre-reinsurance-ceded DR or SR pursuant to Section 8.D.2, plus any applicable provision pursuant to Section 8.C.15 and Section 8.C.17, minus the NPR reinsurance credit from Section 8.B. For an assuming company, the DR or SR for the business assumed on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis shall be set equal to the NPR from Section 3.B.8, plus any applicable provision pursuant to Section 8.C.16 and Section 8.C.17. In the case where there are also other reinsurance arrangements that are not on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis, the reinsurance credit shall include the modeled reinsurance credit reflecting those other reinsurance arrangements. In particular, where there are also other reinsurance arrangements that are dependent on the non-guaranteed YRT or similar actuarial judgment shall be used to project cash flows consistent with the above outlined treatment for non-guaranteed YRT or similar arrangements.

For policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2020, the company may elect, with domiciliary commissioner approval, a phase-in of the current methodology for non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance with allowance for future mortality improvement from the methodology in the 2021 *Valuation Manual* for non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance without allowance for future mortality improvement, provided that the company uses a weighted average of the results from the two methodologies, with the weight for the prior methodology being no more than (20XX-YYYY)/(20XX-2021), where YYYY is the current valuation year and 20XX is the final year of the phase-in. A company may elect to phase in these requirements over a 3-year period beginning Jan. 1, 2022 and ending Dec. 31, 2024. A company may elect a longer phase-in period of up to seven years beginning Jan. 1, 2022 and ending Dec. 31, 2028, with approval of the domiciliary commissioner.

##### VM-31 Section 3.D.8.g (new):

g. Phase-In: If electing a phase-in period as described in VM-20 Section 8.C, documentation of the length of the phase-in approved by the company’s domiciliary commissioner, the result of the current and prior methodologies, the weights applied to each result, and confirmation that reinsurance assumptions for the calculation of the prior methodology are discussed in Section 3.D.8.b above.

2017-2019 for Long-Term YRT – Version 4:

C. Reflection of Reinsurance Cash Flows in the Deterministic Reserve or Stochastic Reserve

For policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2020, and optionally for policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2020:

For non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance ceded or assumed, the cash-flow modeling requirements in Sections 8.C.1 through 8.C.14 below do not apply since non-guaranteed YRT reinsurance ceded or assumed does not need to be modeled; see Section 8.C.18 below. YRT shall include other reinsurance arrangements that are similar in effect to YRT.

##### VM-20 Section 8.C.18 and Guidance Note:

18. For policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2020, and optionally for policies issued on or after Jan. 1, 2017, and before Jan. 1, 2020:

When the reinsurance ceded or assumed is on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis, the corresponding reinsurance cash flows do not need to be modeled. Rather, for a ceding company, the post-reinsurance-ceded DR or SR shall be the pre-reinsurance-ceded DR or SR pursuant to Section 8.D.2, plus any applicable provision pursuant to Section 8.C.15 and Section 8.C.17, minus the NPR reinsurance credit from Section 8.B. For an assuming company, the DR or SR for the business assumed on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis shall be set equal to the NPR from Section 3.B.8, plus any applicable provision pursuant to Section 8.C.16 and Section 8.C.17. In the case where there are also other reinsurance arrangements that are not on a non-guaranteed YRT or similar basis, the reinsurance credit shall include the modeled reinsurance credit reflecting those other reinsurance arrangements. In particular, where there are also other reinsurance arrangements that are dependent on the non-guaranteed YRT or similar actuarial judgment shall be used to project cash flows consistent with the above outlined treatment for non-guaranteed YRT or similar arrangements.