
MEMORANDUM

To: Financial Condition (E) Committee

From: Group Capital Calculation (E) Working Group

Date: January 19, 2021

Re: 2020 Revisions to *Insurance Holding Company System Model Act* (#440) and *Insurance Holding Company System Model Regulation with Reporting Forms and Instructions* (#450)

Executive Summary

On Dec. 9, 2020, the NAIC Executive (EX) Committee and Plenary unanimously adopted revisions to the NAIC *Insurance Holding Company System Model Act* (#440) and *Insurance Holding Company System Model Regulation with Reporting Forms and Instructions* (#450). These revisions implemented a Group Capital Calculation (GCC) for the purpose of group solvency supervision and Liquidity Stress Test (LST) for macroprudential surveillance. This memorandum makes recommendations with respect to the accreditation standards that this Working Group believes is appropriate with respect to only the GCC, and expect the Financial Stability (EX) Task Force to make separate recommendations to the Committee with respect to the LST.

The GCC was developed as a result of discussions which began in 2015. State insurance regulators believed that such a capital tool would represent a natural extension of work that had already begun on group supervision as a result of the lessons learned from the 2008 financial crisis. While state insurance regulators currently have the authority to obtain information regarding the capital positions of non-insurance affiliates, they do not have a consistent analytical framework for evaluating such information. The GCC is designed to address this shortcoming and will serve as an additional financial metric that will assist state insurance regulators in identifying risks that may emanate from a holding company system. More specifically, the GCC and related reporting provides more transparency to state insurance regulators regarding insurance groups and make risks more identifiable and more easily quantified.

In addition, the GCC is intended to comply with the requirements under the “Bilateral Agreement Between the United States of America and the European Union on Prudential Measures Regarding Insurance and Reinsurance” (Covered Agreement), which was signed on Sept. 22, 2017. On Dec. 18, 2018, a similar Covered Agreement was signed with the United Kingdom (UK). The GCC is intended to meet the requirement that the states have a “worldwide group capital calculation” in place by Nov. 7, 2022 in order to avoid the EU from imposing a group capital assessment or requirement at the level of the worldwide parent undertaking. Failure of any state to do so for any U.S. group operating in such jurisdiction raises the potential for any supervisor in the EU or UK to impose its own group capital calculation (e.g. Solvency II capital requirements) on that group and therefore all of the U.S. insurers within that group.

A statement and explanation of how the potential standard is directly related to solvency surveillance and why the proposal should be included in the standards:

The current *Insurance Holding Company Systems* accreditation standard requires that state law shall contain the significant elements from Model #440 and Model #450. These models have provided state insurance departments the framework for insurance group supervision since the early 1970s. Following the 2008 financial crisis, state regulators identified group supervision as an area where improvements could be made to the U.S. system. In December 2010, the NAIC adopted changes to the models enhancing the domestic legal structure under which holding companies are supervised. In December 2014, the NAIC adopted revisions to clarify legal authority and powers to act as a group-wide supervisor for internationally active insurance groups. These changes are newly required elements of the NAIC Accreditation Program and have been satisfactorily adopted by nearly all accredited U.S. jurisdictions. As discussed in the preceding paragraphs, the GCC was designed to enhance these same standards that were previously included as accreditation standards.

A statement as to why ultimate adoption by every jurisdiction may be desirable:

The Group Capital Calculation (E) Working Group believes that all states that are the lead state for a group subject to the GCC should be required to adopt the model revisions. The GCC is a tool intended to help protect the policyholders in all states from the risk that can emanate from outside the domestic insurer and will be an input into the Group Profile Summary (GPS). After an initial filing by all insurance groups, the GCC is required for all U.S. insurance groups with greater than \$1 billion in premium. The groups subject to the GCC are expected to have domestic insurers in most U.S. states. Therefore, it is recommended that the new significant elements apply to all states.

A statement as to the number of jurisdictions that have adopted and implemented the proposal or a similar proposal and their experience to date:

We are not currently aware of any states that have adopted the 2020 revisions to Model #440 and Model #450, although we have been advised that many states have begun their legislative processes for adoption of these revisions.

A statement as to the provisions needed to meet the minimum requirements of the standard. That is, whether a state would be required to have “substantially similar” language or rather a regulatory framework. If it is being proposed that “substantially similar” language be required, the referring committee, task force or working group shall recommend those items that should be considered significant elements:

The current accreditation standard for Model #440 and Model #450 requires state adoption on a substantially similar basis. Therefore, the Group Capital Calculation (E) Working Group supports the attached proposed significant elements (Attachment A) be adopted by NAIC-accredited jurisdictions in a “substantially similar” manner, as that term is defined in the Accreditation Interlineations of the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program. The Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation (F) Committee should consider a waiver of procedure as provided for in the Accreditation Program Manual and expeditiously consider adoption of this standard. The Group Capital Calculation (E) Working Group recommends that the accreditation standard become effective Nov. 7, 2022, the end of the 60-month period contemplated under the Covered Agreement, with enforcement of the standard to commence Jan. 1, 2023.

There were also revisions made to Section 8 of Model #440 regarding Confidential Treatment. The Group Capital Calculation (E) Working Group strongly supports the use of language similar to that contained in Section 8G of Model #440. This language was considered very critical to the GCC as its very important that members of the insurance industry (or regulators) not be allowed to make the results of the GCC public in any way as they are designed as regulatory-only tools. Unlike RBC that has regulatory trigger points, the GCC does not and the

regulators of these groups believed it would be detrimental if these tools were used by insurers as a means to advertise their relative solvency strength.

An estimate of the cost for insurance companies to comply with the proposal and the impact on state insurance departments to enforce it, if reasonably quantifiable:

The NAIC has not performed a cost/benefit analysis with respect to the 2020 revisions to Model #440 and Model #450, nor do we believe that the specific costs for insurance companies to comply with the proposal and the impact on state insurance departments to enforce it are reasonably quantifiable. However, the possible exemptions allowed under Model #450 are specifically designed to consider the cost to complete the GCC by the insurance company and the benefits of the GCC to the lead-state commissioner. More specifically, all insurers are required to submit the GCC at least once, after which time the expectation is that the lead state commissioner will evaluate the added insight brought to the state from GCC; then, provided the group has premium less than \$1 billion, no international business, no risky non-regulated entities and no banks or similar capital regulated entities in the group, the lead state commissioner can exempt the group from filing in the future.

In addition, the construction of the GCC also considers cost of completion and specifically provides a principle-based approach where the insurance company can exclude non-risky affiliates from the calculation and also provides the insurance company to group the information of multiple non-insurance/non-regulated affiliates as a means to further reduce the burden of completion. In short, the GCC is only as complex as the insurance group has structured itself, and therefore the GCC already inherently considers the cost to comply.

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6. Insurance Holding Company Systems

State law should contain the NAIC *Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act* (#440), or an act substantially similar, and the department should have adopted the NAIC *Insurance Holding Company System Model Regulation* (#450).

Insurance Holding Company Systems – continued

Changes to Existing

- k. Filing requirements for the enterprise risk filing similar to those specified in Section 4L(1) of the Model #440?

New

- l. Filing requirements for the group capital calculation filing similar to those specified in Section 4L(2) of Model #440?

- i. The ultimate controlling person of every insurer subject to registration shall concurrently file with the registration and annual group capital calculation completed in accordance with the NAIC Group Capital Calculation Instructions as directed by the lead state commissioner similar to section 4L(2)?
- ii. Provision for exempting an insurance holding company system that has only one insurer within its holding company structure, that only writes business [and is only licensed] in its domestic state and assumes no business from any other insurer, substantially similar to 4L(2)(a)?
- iii. Provision for exempting an insurance holding company system that is required to perform a group capital calculation specified by the U.S. Federal Reserve? If the Federal Reserve Board cannot share the calculation with the lead state commissioner, the insurance holding company system is not exempt from the GCC, substantially similar to 4L(2)(b)?
- iv. Provision for exempting an insurance holding company system whose non-U.S. group-wide supervisor is located within a Reciprocal Jurisdiction that recognizes the U.S. state regulatory approach to group supervision and group capital, substantially similar to 4L(2)(c)?
- v. Provision for exempting an insurance holding company system that provides information to the lead state that meets the requirements for accreditation under the NAIC financial standards and accreditation program and whose non-U.S. group-wide supervisor that is not in a Reciprocal Jurisdiction recognizes and accepts the GCC as the world-wide group capital assessment for U.S. insurance groups who operate in that jurisdiction, substantially similar to 4L(2)(d)?
- vi. Provision that gives the lead state the authority to require the GCC for U.S. operations of any non-U.S. based insurance holding company system where after any necessary consultation with other supervisors or officials, it is deemed appropriate by the lead state commissioner for prudential oversight and solvency monitoring purposes or for ensuring the competitiveness of the insurance marketplace, substantially similar to 4L(2)(e)?

New

- m. Provision prohibiting the making, publishing, disseminating, circulating or placing before the public in any way the group capital calculation and resulting group capital ratio under Section 4L(2) and/or the liquidity stress test along with its results and supporting disclosures required under Section 4L(3), by any insurer, broker, or other person engaged in any manner of the insurance business, except if the sole purpose of the announcement is to rebut a materially false statement, substantially similar to Section 8G of Model #440?

New

- n. Filing requirements for the group capital calculation filing similar to those specified in Section 21 of Model #450?
- i. Provision that gives the lead state the authority to exempt the filing of the group capital calculation provided the criteria are substantially similar to those allowed under Section 21A of Model #450?

- ii. Provision that gives the lead state the authority to accept a limited group capital filing provided the criteria are substantially similar to those allowed under Section 21B of Model #450?
- iii. Provision that gives the lead state the authority to require the group capital calculation of any group that previously met an exemption or submitted a limited filing if any insurer in the holding company system either triggers an RBC action level event, is deemed in hazardous financial condition, or otherwise exhibits qualities of a troubled insurer, substantially similar to those allowed under Section 21C of Model #450?
- iv. Provision that sets forth the criteria for a jurisdiction to be included on the NAIC listing that “recognize and accept the group capital calculation” substantially similar to that required under Section 21D and Section 21E of Model #450?