

## Interpretation of the Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group

### INT 20-07: Troubled Debt Restructuring of Certain Debt Investments Due to COVID-19

#### INT 20-07 Dates Discussed

May 5, 2020; May 20, 2020; January 6, 2021; January 25, 2021

#### INT 20-07 References

*SSAP No. 26R—Bonds*

*SSAP No. 36—Troubled Debt Restructuring*

*SSAP No. 43R—Loan-Backed and Structured Securities*

*SSAP No. 103R—Transfer and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities*

#### INT 20-07 Issue

1. A previously unknown virus began transmitting between October 2019 and March 2020, with the first deaths in the U.S. reported in early March 2020. The disease caused by the virus is known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Several states and cities issued “stay at home” orders and forced non-essential businesses to temporarily close. This led to a significant increase in unemployment and the potential permanent closure of many businesses. Total economic damage is still being assessed; however, the total impact is likely to exceed \$1 trillion in the U.S. alone.

2. In response to COVID-19, Congress and federal and state prudential banking regulators issued provisions pertaining to loan modifications as a result of the effects of COVID-19. These provisions are intended to be applicable for the term of the loan modification, but solely with respect to a modification, including a forbearance arrangement, interest rate modification, repayment plan, or other similar arrangements that defers or delays the repayment of principal and/or interest, that occurs during the applicable period for a loan that was not more than 30 days past due as of December 31, 2019.

3. On April 15, the Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group issued *INT 20-03T: Troubled Debt Restructuring Due to COVID-19*. This interpretation provides guidance for mortgage loans and bank loans, consistent with the CARES Act and an April 7 interagency statement in recognizing troubled debt restructurings in response to COVID-19. Although the original comment letter received from interested parties proposed an expansion to all SSAP No. 26R and SSAP No. 43R debt securities, during the April 15 discussion, the comments presented from interested parties clarified their request to expand the interpretation, which was primarily related to private placement debt securities. The Working Group requested that interested parties provide more detail on this request.

4. On April 23, the interested parties submitted a comment letter requesting expansion consideration to all debt instruments in scope of SSAP No. 26R and SSAP No. 43R. In making these expanded requests, the interested parties’ comment letter stated that from a practical standpoint, actual relief will almost exclusively apply to private placement debt securities. However, by referencing “all debt securities,” it will not be necessary to provide a precise definition of a private placement debt security. In addition to considering edits for troubled debt restructuring, the comment letter also requested exceptions to impairment recognition for these securities.

5. The issues addressed in this interpretation include:

- a. Should exceptions be provided to the determination of troubled debt restructurings and impairment for all debt securities in response to COVID-19?

- b. Should exceptions be considered in the determination of troubled debt restructurings for non-public debt instruments in which the reporting entity is a direct, active, participant in the modification negotiations?
- c. Should exceptions be considered to assist with the determination of insignificant modifications in accordance with SSAP No. 36, paragraph 10?

## **INT 20-07 Discussion**

### **Consideration of Exceptions for All Debt Securities**

6. After evaluating the April 23 interested parties' comment letter, this interpretation considers statutory accounting exceptions to minimize documentation and assessment requirements for specific debt securities. However, due to the importance of state regulators having accurate and reliable financial statement information, this interpretation does not propose the following:

- a. Exceptions to the recognition of a troubled debt restructuring for debt securities with modifications that result in non-insignificant concessions to a debtor that is experiencing financial difficulties.
- b. Exceptions to the assessment or recognition of impairment for debt instruments.

7. With the conclusion in paragraph 6, this interpretation does not eliminate a reporting entity's responsibility to recognize modifications in debt instruments that to a debtor that is experiencing financial difficulties that qualify as concessions under SSAP No. 36. Furthermore, this interpretation does not delay the assessment and recognition of impairment for debt instruments that are not captured in scope of INT 20-04. As detailed above, these exceptions are not granted due to the importance of state regulators having timely, accurate and reliable financial information.

### **Consideration of Exceptions if the Reporting Entity is a Direct, Active Participant in Negotiating Modifications**

8. Consideration was given as to whether exceptions should be provided for troubled debt restructuring and impairment assessments for situations in which the reporting entity is a direct, active participant in negotiating debt instrument modifications. However, due to the vast nature of non-public instruments that are currently classified as debt instruments that are designed in response to specific insurance reporting entity needs (such as collateralized fund obligations, principal protected notes, and other non-traditional securitizations), using direct, active participation as the sole threshold in determining whether exceptions should be granted was viewed as too expansive to ensure appropriate recognition of non-insignificant concessions and/or known impairments in the statutory financial statements.

### **Consideration of Provisions to Assist with Existing Troubled Debt Restructuring Guidance**

9. Pursuant to existing guidance in SSAP No. 36, not all modifications are considered a troubled debt restructuring. In order to be troubled debt restructuring, a creditor, for economic or legal reasons related to the debtor's financial difficulties, grants a concession to the debtor that it would not otherwise. As such, in order to be considered a troubled debt restructuring, the debtor must be having financial difficulties and the modification must be considered a concession. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of SSAP No. 36, a restructuring that results in only a delay in payment that is insignificant is not a concession. The guidance also indicates that the following factors, when considered together, may indicate that a restructuring results in a delay in payment that is insignificant:

- a. The amount of the restructured payments subject to the delay is insignificant relative to the unpaid principal or collateral value of the debt and will result in an insignificant shortfall in the contractual amount due.

- b. The delay in timing of the restructured payment period is insignificant to any one of the following:
  - i. frequency of payments due under the debt
  - ii. debt's original contractual maturity,
  - iii. debt's original expected duration.

10. Although this interpretation does not support exceptions that would result with “significant” modifications (concessions) not being recognized, from information received, differing assessments of what could be considered insignificant, and the required documentation, may be prohibitive in providing modifications. Particularly, it has been noted that the assessments are subject to auditor assessment and there are concerns that a modification considered insignificant by a reporting entity may be subsequently assessed as a significant modification by the reporting entity's auditor.

### **Practical Expedients to Assessing Concessions**

11. This interpretation, as a means of assisting with troubled debt restructuring assessments, provides limited-time practical-expedient determinants that can be used in accordance with existing SSAP No. 36 provisions in determining whether a modification shall be considered a troubled debt restructuring. These provisions are intended to assist reporting entities and auditors when considering whether a modification is insignificant. If a modification is considered insignificant, then the modification is not a concession, and recognition of a troubled debt restructuring, and disclosure is not required. If a modification does not meet the practical expedient provisions provided within this interpretation, the modification shall not automatically be considered a “non-insignificant” modification (concession). Rather, the reporting entity can continue to apply the existing guidance in SSAP No. 36 in assessing whether the modification is insignificant and is therefore not a concession. Modifications that qualify as concessions (do not qualify as insignificant) are required to follow the existing guidance in SSAP No. 36 as a troubled debt restructuring.

12. Specifically, this interpretation provides the following limited-time practical expedients:

- a. Paragraph 10.a. of SSAP No. 36 identifies that restructured payments are considered insignificant if the delay is insignificant to the unpaid principal or collateral value of the debt and will result in an insignificant shortfall in the contractual amount due. For the duration of this interpretation, debt security restructurings in response to COVID-19 are considered to be insignificant if the restructuring results with a change that reflects a 10% or less shortfall amount in the contractual amount due.
- b. Paragraph 10.b. of SSAP No. 36 identifies that restructured payments are considered insignificant if the delay in timing of the restructured payment period is insignificant to the frequency of payments due under the debt, debt's original contractual maturity or the debt's original expected duration. For the duration of this interpretation, debt security restructurings in response to COVID-19 are considered to be insignificant if the restructuring does not result in an extension of the maturity of the debt by more than three years.

13. For the duration of this interpretation, debt security restructurings in response to COVID-19 that solely impact covenant requirements are not considered troubled debt restructurings.

### **Practical Expedients on Debt Extinguishments and Exchanges**

14. In addition to the limited-time practical expedients to SSAP No. 36, this interpretation provides an exception to assess modifications as an exchange of debt instruments under paragraph 22 of *SSAP No. 103R*—

*Transfer and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities.* Pursuant to the guidance in SSAP No. 103, debt instruments that are exchanged with substantially different terms are reported as an extinguishment and a new debt instrument. Pursuant to the provisions in this interpretation:

- a. Modifications that reflect a 10% or less change in contractual cash flows considered insignificant pursuant to paragraph 12.a. do not need to be further evaluated to determine whether the modification is more than minor based on the specific facts and circumstances (and other relevant considerations) surrounding the modification. As such, these investments shall not be reported as an extinguishment and a new debt instrument.

#### **INT 20-07 Consensus**

15. The Working Group reached a consensus in response to requests to consider exceptions to statutory accounting guidance for troubled debt restructurings and impairment for all debt instruments. Pursuant to this consensus:

- a. This interpretation does not provide exceptions to the recognition of a troubled debt restructuring for debt securities with modifications that result in non-insignificant concessions to a debtor that is experiencing financial difficulties.
- b. This interpretation does not provide exceptions to the assessment or recognition of impairment for debt instruments. Pursuant to the guidance in SSAP No. 26R, after a modification for a debt instrument, assessment of OTTI shall be based on the current terms of the debt instrument.

16. In response to assessments on the application of existing SSAP No. 36 provisions, particularly in determining whether a modification is a concession (insignificant), this consensus provides the following limited-time practical expedients in determining whether a modification is a concession under SSAP No. 36:

- a. Paragraph 10.a. of SSAP No. 36 identifies that restructured payments are considered insignificant if the delay is insignificant to the unpaid principal or collateral value of the debt and will result in an insignificant shortfall in the contractual amount due. For the duration of this interpretation, debt security restructurings in response to COVID-19 are considered to be insignificant if the restructuring results with a change that reflects a 10% or less shortfall amount in the contractual amount due.
- b. Paragraph 10.b. of SSAP No. 36 identifies that restructured payments are considered insignificant if the delay in timing of the restructured payment period is insignificant to the frequency of payments due under the debt, debt's original contractual maturity or the debt's original expected duration. For the duration of this interpretation, debt security restructurings in response to COVID-19 are considered to be insignificant if the restructuring does not result in an extension of the maturity of the debt by more than three years.

17. For the duration of this interpretation, debt security restructurings in response to COVID-19 that solely impact covenant requirements are not considered troubled debt restructurings.

18. In response to assessments on the application of existing SSAP No. 103R provisions, particularly in determining whether a modification that is not a troubled debt restructuring needs to be assessed as an exchange, this consensus provides the following exceptions to SSAP No. 103R:

- a. Modifications that reflect a 10% or less change in contractual cash flows considered insignificant under this interpretation do not need to be further evaluated to determine whether the modification is more than minor based on the specific facts and circumstances (and other relevant considerations)

surrounding the modification. As such, these investments shall not be reported as an extinguishment and a new debt instrument.

- b. Modifications in response to COVID-19 that exceed the practical expedient of a 10% shortfall in contractual cash flows permitted in this interpretation that were assessed and deemed insignificant under paragraph 10 of SSAP No. 36 shall not be considered an exchange of debt instruments with substantially different terms under SSAP No. 103, paragraph 22. (Under SSAP No. 103, an exchange of debt instruments (in a nontroubled debt situation) is accomplished with debt instruments that are substantially different if the present value of cash flows under the terms of the new instruments is at least 10% different from the present value of the remaining cash flows under the terms of the original instrument.) Reporting entities shall work with auditors and regulators with the application of paragraph 10 of SSAP No. 36 to confirm that a change in contractual cash flows in excess of 10% qualifies as insignificant.

19. The Working Group highlights that modifications that would be considered troubled debt restructurings, particularly as they provide a non-insignificant concession, may be presented to the domiciliary state regulatory for a permitted practice exception to prevent troubled debt restructuring recognition and disclosure. However, the Working Group concluded that the need for reliable and accurate financial information does not permit exceptions that would allow wide-spread non-insignificant restructurings to occur and not be recognized on the statutory financial statements.

20. **Original Effective Date:** This interpretation is effective for the specific purpose to provide practical expedients in assessing whether modifications in response to COVID-19 are insignificant under SSAP No. 36 and in assessing whether a change is substantive under SSAP No. 103R. This interpretation will only be applicable for the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on the earlier of December 31, 2020, or the date that is 60 days after the date on which the national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak declared by President Donald Trump on March 13, 2020, under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) terminates. For clarity, this effective timeframe specifies when modifications in response to COVID-19 can be incorporated using the provisions of this interpretation. Once incorporated, the provisions of this interpretation will continue for the duration of the modification.

21. **Extension of Effective Date:** On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*, which slightly modified and extended the original CARES Act. These modifications included extending the provisions for temporary relief from troubled debt restructurings. Accordingly, on January 25, 2021, the provisions in this INT were extended to be applicable through the earlier of January 1, 2022, or the date that is 60 days after the date on which the national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak declared by President Trump on March 13, 2020, under the National Emergencies Act terminates. With this extension, this INT's effective date corresponds with the current effective dates of the CARES Act. Unless the outbreak under the National Emergencies Act terminates, this INT will automatically expire on January 2, 2022 (to include year-end 2021 financial statements reporting).

#### **INT 20-07 Status**

22. No further discussion is planned.

#### **Application of the INT 20-07 Consensus**

##### **Example 1: Payment Holiday with Extension of Payment Term for SSAP No. 26R Instrument**

- A. Insurer modifies a debt instrument captured in scope of SSAP No. 26R to provide a payment holiday for 6-months in response to COVID-19. For the duration of the payment holiday, no payments are due, however the original maturity of the debt instrument has been extended from 10 years to 10 years and 6 months, with all terms and conditions remaining the same except for the payment holiday.

- B. The amount of restructuring is considered insignificant as it results in a less than 10% shortfall in the contractual amount due.
- C. At the time of the restructuring, fair value has dropped below amortized cost.
- D. At the time of the restructuring, the reporting entity believes it is probable that the reporting entity will collect all amounts due in accordance with the modified terms of the debt instrument. Furthermore, the reporting entity does not intend to sell the instrument.

#### **Example 1 - Application of INT 20-07**

1. As this modification only extends the duration 6-months and results in a less than 10% shortfall in the contractual amount due, pursuant to the practical expedients in INT 20-07, the modification is considered insignificant and not a concession under SSAP No. 36. As this modification is not a concession, accounting and reporting as a troubled debt restructuring is not required.
2. As this modification is less than 10% of the contractual cash flows, pursuant to the practical expedients in INT 20-07, further assessment is not required to determine whether the modification is more than minor under SSAP No. 103R. As such, the modification shall not be reported as an extinguishment and a new debt instrument.
3. As the reporting entity believes it is probable that they will collect all amounts due in accordance with the modified terms of the debt instrument, no other-than-temporary impairment recognition is required under SSAP No. 26R. Future assessments of impairment will be based on the modified terms of the debt instrument.

#### **Example 2: Reduction of Covenant Terms for SSAP No. 43R Instrument**

- A. Insurer modifies a debt instrument captured in scope of SSAP No. 43R to eliminate covenant terms in response to COVID-19. For the remainder of the maturity of the debt instrument, the covenant terms will reflect the modification incorporated in response to COVID-19. There has been no changes to the debt instrument with the exception of the covenant requirements.
- B. At the time of the restructuring, fair value has dropped below amortized cost.
- C. At the time of the restructuring, the reporting entity has the intent and ability to hold debt instrument to recover the amortized cost basis. Additionally, the reporting entity has not identified that a non-interest related decline exists.

#### **Example 2 - Application of INT 20-07**

1. As this modification only pertains to covenant components (and not the amount or timing of payments), pursuant to the practical expedients in INT 20-07, the modification is considered insignificant and not a concession under SSAP No. 36. As this modification is not a concession, accounting and reporting as a troubled debt restructuring is not required.
2. As this modification does not change the contractual cash flows, pursuant to the practical expedients INT 20-07, further assessment is not required to determine whether the modification is more than minor under SSAP No. 103R. As such, the modification shall not be reported as an extinguishment and a new debt instrument.

3. As the reporting entity has the intent and ability to hold the debt security to recover the amortized cost basis, and they have not identified a non-interest related decline, an other-than-temporary impairment is not required under SSAP No. 43R.

**Example 3: Reduction in Interest Rate and Covenants for SSAP No. 26R Debt Security**

- A. Insurer modifies a debt instrument captured in scope of SSAP No. 26R in response to COVID-19 to eliminate interest payments for a 12-month timeframe, and to eliminate covenant requirements for the same 12-month timeframe. This change will represent an 11% shortfall of the contractual amount due.
- B. At the time of the restructuring, fair value has dropped below amortized cost.
- C. At the time of the restructuring, the reporting entity believes it is probable that the reporting entity will collect all amounts due in accordance with the modified terms of the debt instrument. Furthermore, the reporting entity does not intend to sell the instrument.

**Example 3 - Application of INT 20-07**

1. As this modification results with a 11% shortfall in the contractual amount due, the reporting entity cannot assume the change is insignificant, and therefore not a concession, under the practical expedients provided within this interpretation.
2. The reporting entity may continue to assess whether this modification is an insignificant change under paragraph 10 of SSAP No. 36. (If the reporting entity elects not to further assess for insignificance, then would proceed with considering the change as a concession.) If the reporting entity concludes that the change is insignificant, and therefore not a concession, then recognition as a troubled debt restructuring is not required. If the change is assessed as insignificant, although the change in cash flows exceeds 10%, the instrument does not need to be assessed as an exchange of debt instruments pursuant to SSAP No. 103R, paragraph 22. An OTTI is not required at the time of the modification if the reporting entity has the intent and ability to hold to recover the modified amortized cost basis and if the reporting entity has not identified that a non-interest related decline exists. Future assessments of impairment will be based on the modified terms of the debt instrument.
3. If the reporting entity concludes that the change is not insignificant under paragraph 10 of SSAP No. 36, then the modification is a concession and further assessment as a troubled debt restructuring is required. Assuming there is no collateral, a realized loss shall be recognized for the difference between fair value and amortized cost. Subsequent to this realized loss recognition, future assessments of impairment will be based on the modified terms of the debt security.