

*Implementation Plan adopted Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs (D) Committee – Nov. 30, 2016*  
*Implementation Plan adopted by the Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group – Nov. 3, 2016*  
*Guidelines and Checklist adopted by the Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs (D) Committee – Aug. 27, 2016*  
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# **Voluntary Market Regulation Certification Program Self-Assessment Guidelines, Checklist Tool and Implementation Plan**

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## **Purpose**

The mission of the NAIC Market Regulation Certification Program is to establish and maintain standards that promote sound practices relating to the market conduct examination, market analysis and related continuum activity functions performed for insurance consumer protection. Inasmuch as the program is anticipated to evolve and improve over time, it is anticipated that additional functions necessary for sound consumer protection may be developed in the future. The certification program is designed to provide an initial process that facilitates each jurisdiction’s ability to conduct self-evaluation. An ultimate goal is to develop measurable and meaningful standards that can be independently evaluated and monitored.

Program standards, assessment checklist items and guidelines should:

- Provide a roadmap regarding resources, abilities and functions for jurisdictions wishing to build, or improve upon, their market conduct program.
- Promote consistency while respecting individual jurisdictional differences and circumstances by promoting use of NAIC resources.
- Demonstrate accountability and responsiveness to those impacted by the business of insurance, and to others that are charged with evaluating and assessing the effectiveness of state-based insurance regulation.
- Promote an environment of continuous process improvement for enhancing outcomes relating to insurance consumer protection.
- Improve predictability and understanding of processes for regulated entities.
- Enhance jurisdictional coordination and information-sharing.
- Enhance protection of insurance consumers through promotion of sound market conduct processes.

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## Voluntary Market Regulation Certification Guidelines

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### Requirement 1 – Department’s Authority

The jurisdiction or department shall have the statutory authority to conduct market regulation activities, including market analysis; comprehensive and targeted market conduct examinations; the continuum of market regulation actions, including enforcement; and collaboration and coordination with other regulatory agencies. Additionally, the jurisdiction has adopted key insurance consumer protection laws and regulations.

### Guidelines

When determining your department’s authority for conducting market regulation activities, several different considerations should be evaluated. Direct legal authority may exist in the jurisdiction’s insurance code or within its regulations. Insurer examination acts, specific market regulation acts, acts that outline the authority and duties of the department are all potential items to review. Generally such authority is cited when requesting documents from an insurer. Jurisdictions may also have broad oversight authority within other consumer protection laws.

Additional authority may be implied or may exist on a less direct basis. Examples could include insurance consumer protection-related insurance laws or regulations and their associated enforcement provisions. Other potential areas of authority are activities performed pursuant to the powers or orders of the insurance commissioner, director, superintendent or administrator (i.e., the applicable chief insurance regulator of your jurisdiction).

When evaluating checklist items for Requirement 1, it may be beneficial to look beyond the mere capability to perform the listed functions. If not directly addressed within the insurance code or regulations, consider whether direct authority for all mentioned items would be desirable (most continuum items would fall under examination, investigation or analysis categories). Having direct authority may provide valuable guidance on such issues as application of administrative procedure act requirements, status of examination, investigational or analysis records, handling of associated costs, etc.

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction “passes” Requirement 1, the jurisdiction must have authority to coordinate with other jurisdictions. If the jurisdiction does not have the authority to coordinate with other jurisdictions, it will not pass this requirement. Additionally, a jurisdiction should have authority to conduct analysis, examinations and enforcement. Requirements to have reasonable cause to conduct an examination does not negatively impact the evaluation. Ability to perform these items without having the ability to perform continuum actions should be considered as “marginally passing but with strong recommendations for additional authority.”

Consider which consumer protections model laws and regulations have been adopted in your jurisdiction. Investigation, subpoena, and cease and desist powers are found in most unfair trade and producer laws. Most commissioners also have a general powers statute that may contain similar enforcement authorities.

The key basic models or similar versions should include:

- *Unfair Trade Practices Act* (#880)
- *Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Act* (#900)
- *Health Carrier Grievance Procedure Model Act* (#72)
- *Uniform Health Carrier External Review Model Act* (#76)
- *Producer Licensing Model Act* (#218)
- *Suitability in Annuity Transactions Model Regulation* (#275)
- *Life Insurance Illustrations Model Regulation* (#582)
- *Life Insurance and Annuities Replacement Model Regulation* (#613)
- *Standard Nonforfeiture Law for Life Insurance* (#808)

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- *Standard Nonforfeiture Law for Individual Deferred Annuities (#805)*
- *Unfair Discrimination Against Subjects of Abuse in Health Benefit Plans Model Act (#895)*
- *Unfair Discrimination Against Subjects of Abuse in Life Insurance Model Act (#896)*
- *Unfair Discrimination Against Subjects of Abuse in Disability Income Insurance Model Act (#897)*
- *Unfair Discrimination Against Subjects of Abuse in Property and Casualty Insurance Model Act (#898)*
- *Model Law on Examinations (#390) or Market Conduct Surveillance Model Law (#693)*

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## **Requirement 2 – Department’s Authority Regarding the *Market Regulation Handbook***

The department shall have sufficient authority by appropriate statute, regulation, rule, or other authority to utilize the most recent version of the *Market Regulation Handbook*. When a department initiates a market regulation examination, it shall be guided by the version of the *Market Regulation Handbook* in effect at the time the examination was initiated.

### **Guidelines**

When determining your department’s authority by appropriate statute, regulation, rule, or other authority to utilize the most recent version of the *Market Regulation Handbook*, the department should identify the statute, regulation, rule or other authority to use the *Market Regulation Handbook* within their response.

When evaluating checklist items for Requirement 2, remember the objective of this item is to promote guidance and consistent handling of examination processes within each jurisdiction through the use of the *Market Regulation Handbook*. Additionally, a jurisdiction should be able to demonstrate, on an individual basis, when it is deemed appropriate to deviate from the *Market Regulation Handbook*. The jurisdiction should also be able to demonstrate that it has followed its own established policies and procedures for adopting processes that deviate from the *Market Regulation Handbook*, which at a minimum should include review and concurrence by a department’s legal staff member.

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction “passes” Requirement 2, the jurisdiction must at a minimum be able to demonstrate when conducting examinations or continuum activities their use of applicable *Market Regulation Handbook* review standards and related materials to the extent they are consistent with jurisdictional law. The department’s policies and procedures should properly reference the use of those materials set forth in the *Market Regulation Handbook* or its predecessor/successor.

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## **Requirement 3 – Department Staffing**

The department must have either, or a combination of:

- Its own staff sufficient to perform market regulation work, including market analysis, examinations and other continuum actions.
- Statutory authority sufficient to engage competent contractors on an as-needed basis and appropriate department staff to oversee and manage such contractors.

## **Guidelines**

Requirement 3 provides guidance on whether a jurisdiction has resources and capabilities to conduct market analysis, market conduct examinations and/or continuum activities. The standard recognizes that some jurisdictions use contracted services to perform these functions. In the event that contracted services are used, the standard inquires if the jurisdiction has the authority to hire contractors, established processes for selecting contractors and whether the jurisdiction engages in oversight of the contracted services. It is understood that jurisdictions vary in their usage of examinations versus continuum activities.

This requirement anticipates that some data will be obtained through the *Insurance Department Resources Report*. Those results should be reviewed in the event that classifications differ. Additionally, it is anticipated that each jurisdiction will evaluate changes in its level of resources from year to year.

To evaluate its own status regarding the checklist for Requirement 3, each jurisdiction determines its specific appropriate level of staffing and or use of contracted services. Levels will vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Factors such as population size, premium volume, complexity of insurance issues with a particular jurisdiction, complaints, legal requirements, directives for conducting market conduct activities and ability to keep abreast of emerging market issues are valid factors when evaluating your jurisdiction's needs. Jurisdictions are encouraged to establish resource levels that permit them to meet their obligations or needs for market analysis, market conduct examinations and/or continuum actions.

During each jurisdiction's evaluation of its staffing levels, it may also be helpful to determine what NAIC resources are relied upon for market conduct functions and how the use of those resources has changed over time. If additional NAIC resources are identified that may be beneficial, it is a good idea to bring forth those suggestions to NAIC staff. This will help to provide opportunities and diagnostic tools for improvement.

Where independent contractors are used to fulfill staffing needs, the department must be engaged and responsible throughout the examination and be responsive to issues and concerns that might arise.

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction "passes" Requirement 3, the jurisdiction, initially, should be able to respond to one of the following combinations:

- "Yes" to checklist item 3a., item 3d. and item 3i.
- If the answer to checklist item 3a. is "Yes," and the department uses contractors to fulfill requirements of checklist item 3d., then a "Yes" response is required for item 3o., item 3p., item 3q. and item 3r.

All remaining Requirement 3 checklist items should be collected and evaluated from year-to-year to evaluate the jurisdiction's abilities.

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## Requirement 4 – Department Staffing

With respect to qualifications, the department:

- Shall ensure market regulation staff and contractors are qualified by establishing qualifications consistent with the standards for experience, education (including designations) and licenses in the *Market Regulation Handbook Core Competencies* (“Appendix D – Core Competencies – Resources – Staff and Training, Standard 2” and Appendix D – Core Competencies – Resources – Contractor Examiner, Standard 2” or successor documents).
- Should have a policy that encourages professional development for staff involved in market regulation through job-related college courses, professional designation programs or other training programs.
- Should have a policy that encourages the professional development of all staff involved with market regulation through job-related college courses, professional designation programs or other training programs.

## Guidelines

### Note to Evaluators:

- “Unqualified pass” means the requirement has been met with no comment or corrective action contemplated.
- “Provisional pass” means either marginally or not strictly meeting the requirement; however, certification will not be denied. Progress is recommended/expected during successive reviews.
- With the exception of criteria outlined in “unqualified pass,” equivalent substitutions may be considered with appropriate justification.

**a. *Does the department have a policy or procedure in place on necessary credentials or minimum educational and experience requirements for selecting and hiring staff and contractors?***

Unqualified Pass:

- Does the department include in its job announcements/descriptions preference for relevant experience and credentials as outlined in item b. below?
- Does the department’s specification in requests for proposals (RFPs) include requirements that contracted personnel (*with emphasis on supervisory personnel*) have relevant experience, in addition to the following: 1) either a certified insurance examiner (CIE), accredited insurance examiner (AIE), chartered life underwriter (CLU), fellow, Life Management Institute (FLMI), chartered property casualty underwriter (CPCU), certified insurance counselor (CIC), fellow, Academy for Healthcare Management (FAHM), professional in insurance regulation (PIR) or chartered healthcare consultant (ChHC) designation; *and* 2) a market conduct management (MCM)<sup>1</sup> designation?

Provisional Pass:

- If collective bargaining or jurisdictional personnel policies prohibit such requirements, the department must show evidence that it has made good faith attempts to include such requirements.

**b. *Does the department have a staff development program that encourages and supports educational and training pursuits, including training, courses, webinars, and certifications offered by the NAIC?***

(1) Staff Examiners/Analysts with More than Five Years of Service

Unqualified Pass (Department Personnel):

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<sup>1</sup> NAIC market conduct examination training may substitute for an MCM designation.

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- Rate as “pass” if all examiners and analysts with more than five years of service with the department have: 1) either a juris doctor degree (J.D.), AIE designation or CIE designation; *and* 2) an MCM designation. These personnel are “presumed qualified.”

Or

- Rate as “pass” if all examiners and analysts with more than five years of service in the position of market conduct analyst or market conduct examiner specialize in a particular line of business have: 1) either a CLU, FLMI, CPCU, CIC, FAHM or ChHC designation; *and* 2) an MCM designation. These personnel are “presumed qualified.”

Or

- Rate as “pass” if all examiners and analysts with more than five years of service in the position of market conduct analyst or market conduct examiner specialize in a particular line of business have: 1) a PIR; 2) an associate’s level designation from either The American College of Financial Services, The Institutes, America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) or similar organization; *and* 3) an MCM designation. These personnel are “qualified.”

- Employees that have more than 20 years of service with the department or less than five years until retirement are exempt from this requirement.

Provisional Pass (Department Personnel):

If all examiners and analysts with more than five years of service do not have the above qualifications, rate a provisional “pass” if:

- The department has a training policy and or job specifications that require completion and or experience to attain the next highest level in their job classification series.
  - If collective bargaining or jurisdictional personnel policies prohibit such requirements, the department must show evidence that it has made good faith attempts to include such requirements.
  - Employees that have greater than 20 years of service with the department or less than five years until retirement are exempt from this requirement.
  - The department must have a policy that allows voluntary access to NAIC designation programs and the department must show good faith attempts for encouragement and budgetary allowances to provide for voluntary training at other sources of professional education such as the Insurance Regulatory Examiners Society (IRES), The American College of Financial Services, The Institutes or AHIP.
  - Evidence of good faith activities include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - The department adopts procedures to include a statement encouraging professional education.
    - The department has made arrangements to be a testing location for organizations such as the Life Office Management Association (LOMA) or The Institutes.
    - The department attempts to secure funds for the professional development of market regulation personnel.

(2) Staff Examiners/Analysts with Less than Five Years of Service

Unqualified Pass:

- The department has a formal training program whereby new personnel have a clear requirement to attain qualifications outlined below within five years:

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- Either a CIE, AIE, CLU, FLMI, CPCU, CIC, FAHM, PIR or ChHC designation; *and* an MCM designation.
- Personnel with a J.D. and five years of regulatory experience are exempt, with the exception they must earn an MCM designation or complete NAIC market conduct examination training.

Provisional Pass:

- If collective bargaining prohibits such requirements, the department must show evidence that it has made good faith attempts to include such requirements.
- The department must have a policy that allows voluntary access to NAIC designation programs and the department must show good faith attempts for encouragement and budget allowances to provide for voluntary training at other sources of professional education such as IRES, The American College of Financial Services, The Institutes or AHIP.
- Evidence of good faith activities include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - The department has made statements encouraging professional education in performance evaluations.
  - The department has made arrangements to be a testing location for organizations such as LOMA or the Institutes.
  - The department attempts to secure funds in budget proposals for the professional development of market regulation personnel.

***c. Does the department determine the composition of members of an examination team?***

Unqualified Pass:

- Examiners in charge examining companies will, when possible, possess or be making progress towards completion, as appropriate by line of business: 1) either a CIE, AIE, CLU, FLMI, CPCU, CIC, FAHM, PIR or ChHC designation; *and* 2) an MCM designation.
- Other members of the examination team, when possible, will have appropriate experience; cross-training personnel is an acceptable exception.

Provisional Pass:

- When staff with specific qualifications is not available, other qualifications are acceptable so long as the department is compliant with checklist item 4b. (development program).

***d. Does the department recognize licenses and other highly technical credentials of professionals and experts such as attorneys, actuaries, cybersecurity experts, certified public accountants, IT experts and other professionals and specialists as qualified to perform certain market regulation activities?***

Unqualified Pass:

- Did the department retain appropriate contractors with highly technical credentials when appropriate?

Provisional Pass:

- No examinations that required highly technical specialties were conducted during the review period.



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## **Requirement 5 – Confidentiality and Information-Sharing**

The department shall have the authority and capability to:

- Request, hold and produce examination workpapers on a confidential basis and protect it from subpoena, as permitted by jurisdictional law.
- Maintain confidentiality of confidential information shared by other jurisdictional or federal agencies; and only share confidential information with jurisdictional and federal agencies that agree, in writing, to adequately protect such confidential information.

### **Guidelines**

The jurisdiction's treatment of examination workpapers and information shared by or with other jurisdictions has a significant impact on the various jurisdictions' ability to communicate and collaborate on confidential matters. The provisions within each jurisdiction's laws, regulations or case law may vary regarding the extent to which workpapers are confidential or to timing which such information becomes a public document. Some laws may extend beyond workpapers and apply to examination reports, as well. Research and documentation of the applicable jurisdiction's confidentiality provisions should provide clear guidance for individuals within the market regulation division. Checklist item 5a. does not anticipate a uniform confidentiality framework among jurisdictions, but rather is viewed as a necessity to adequately fulfill the requirements of checklist item 5c.

Entering into the Multi-State Information-Sharing Agreement with other jurisdictions and the NAIC is also a necessary part of being able to adequately maintain confidentiality of information shared by other jurisdictions.

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction "passes" Requirement 5, the jurisdiction must answer "Yes" to checklist item 5a., item 5b. and item 5c.

Information-sharing agreements with international jurisdictions may be handled either on a case-by-case basis or by way of properly executed memorandums of mutual understanding.

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## **Requirement 6 – Collaboration with Other Jurisdictions**

The department participates in collaborative actions with other jurisdictions.

The department follows the referral or reporting procedures outlined in the Market Actions (D) Working Group Policies and Procedures for any material action that has a potential for collaborative action. In order to determine if a referral or reporting to Market Actions (D) Working Group is necessary, the department will notify all other Collaborative Action Designees (CADs) via meeting, bulletin board, or other method, of proposed activities that have the potential for collaboration.

The department will consider joining called Market Actions (D) Working Group collaborative actions relevant to its jurisdiction and provide a response indicating whether or not it will join the collaborative action.

### **Guidelines**

Collaboration with other jurisdictions helps to keep market regulation more effective and efficient by preventing duplication of effort. Sharing of key information among jurisdictions helps to identify market place issues as they arise. By encouraging a multi-jurisdictional response to issues when practical, jurisdictions can more effectively direct their resources.

The first portion of Requirement 6 relates to participation in the Market Analysis (D) Working Group and is followed by checklist item 6a., item 6b., item 6c. and item 6d. The second portion of Requirement 6 relates to how the jurisdiction joins or considers joining Market Actions (D) Working Group actions and is followed by checklist item 6e., item 6f. and item 6g.

For regulators to fully adhere with Requirement 6, especially as it relates to handling of referrals, it is important to become familiar with both the *Market Regulation Handbook*, Chapter 6—Collaborative Actions, and the Market Actions (D) Working Group Policies and Procedures.

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction “passes” Requirement 6, the jurisdiction must answer “Yes” to checklist item 6a., item 6b., item 6c., item 6e. and item 6f., unless there is an applicable explanation briefly explained in applicable checklist item 6d. or item 6g.

Examples of reasonable explanations for checklist item 6d. and item 6g. may include, but are not limited to, such justifications as:

- The issue has minimal or no consumer impact.
- The issue is not yet sufficiently defined, investigated or analyzed.
- There are no known laws or regulations to address the issue.
- There are reasons why expediency to address the matter in the jurisdiction is of utmost concern.
- Significant differences in the jurisdictions particular insurance laws or regulations.
- The matter has been previously addressed in a satisfactory manner by the jurisdiction.
- An executive decision made at the commissioner or general counsel level.

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## **Requirement 7 – Market Conduct Annual Statement**

The department participates in the centralized collection of the Market Conduct Annual Statement (MCAS).

### **Guidelines**

The objective of participating in the centralized collection of the MCAS is to enhance each jurisdiction's market analysis via a consistent process that has been vetted and agreed upon by the various jurisdictions. Use of a standardized system also reduces expense and resources that would otherwise be needed if multiple jurisdictions requested such data in a variety of formats.

When evaluating checklist item 7a., item 7b. and item 7c., a “Yes” answer may be assumed if your jurisdiction signs on to the annual data request that is sent annually by the NAIC. To answer “Yes” to checklist item 7d., a jurisdiction must review the resulting market analysis reports prepared by the NAIC for purposes of market analysis. To evaluate whether your jurisdiction “passes” Requirement 7, a “Yes” answer must be made for checklist item 7a., item 7b., item 7c. and item 7d.

In the event your jurisdiction participates, but does not require each line of insurance that is part of the MCAS program, consider a one-year “grace period” for newly adopted lines of insurance as being acceptable for a “pass.” Additionally, intention to perform analysis for newly adopted lines that have not yet been reported is acceptable for a “Yes” response to item 7d. If your jurisdiction participates in MCAS, but does not participate in all lines after the one-year grace period has elapsed, consider that your jurisdiction has passed with a strong recommendation to add the additional line(s).

In the event a jurisdiction conducts its own individualized MCAS program, consider that scenario as marginally passing with a strong recommendation to participate in the standardized NAIC program.

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## **Requirement 8 – Electronic Data Entry with the NAIC**

The department enters data no less frequently than on a quarterly basis (but preferably monthly) to all NAIC systems, including, but not limited to, the Complaint Database System (CDS) and the Regulatory Information Retrieval System (RIRS). Except for immediate concerns as defined in the *Market Regulation Handbook*, the department enters data into the Market Actions Tracking System (MATS) concerning upcoming examinations at least 45 days prior to the start of an examination or at least 60 days prior to the start of the on-site examination. Additionally, the department enters continuum actions into MATS when initiating the action.

Notes to Requirements:

- The Market Information Systems Research and Development (D) Working Group report on reporting timeliness, accuracy and completeness will be attached.
  - Timeliness, accuracy and completion standards may be implemented upon consideration by the Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group.
- The goal of this requirement is to ensure that regulators in other jurisdictions are completely and timely informed of market conduct actions that have occurred, are ongoing, or that are anticipated. Any back-end system that auto-populates the referenced NAIC systems will meet this requirement. If a jurisdiction is using a back-end system which does not currently auto-populate the referenced NAIC systems, that jurisdiction must ensure that the information is entered in the NAIC systems. This may require dual entry until such time as the back-end system auto-populates the NAIC systems.

## **Guidelines**

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction “passes” Requirement 8, the jurisdiction must answer “Yes” to checklist item 8a. and item 8b., unless there is an applicable explanation, briefly explained, in applicable checklist item 8f. With respect to checklist item 8c., further clarification of what continuum items must be entered will be forthcoming; however, any item resulting in a formal order must be entered into RIRS. Source documents should be reviewed in order to ensure timeliness. Only entries after the certification program is adopted should be measured.

Acceptable explanations for checklist item 8a. and item 8b. in item 8f. include:

- Delayed reporting due to implementation of a new back-office system.
- Technical issues with the NAIC database.

Either “Yes” or “No” in checklist item 8d. is acceptable.

- If checklist item 8d. is answered “Yes,” ensure each examination is called 60 days prior to the start of the on-site examination unless there is reason (noted in item 8f. of “immediate concerns” as set forth in Chapter 12 of the *Market Regulation Handbook*). Examples of immediate concerns include, but are not limited to:
  - Fraud allegations.
  - Imminent consumer harm.
  - Blatant disregard of a department order.
  - Imminent solvency concern.
- Only entries after the certification program is adopted should be measured. De minimis variations (i.e., less than five business days) should be given a “provisional pass.”

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## **Requirement 9 – Participation in all NAIC Market Conduct and Market Analysis Working Groups**

The department participates in or monitors NAIC market conduct and market analysis-related working groups as a member or interested regulator.

### **Guidelines**

The objective of participating in or monitoring all NAIC market conduct and market analysis-related working groups as a member or interested regulator is to make sure jurisdictions are fully aware of market conduct and market analysis initiatives, assist in keeping abreast of what is happening in other jurisdictions and promote collaboration amongst jurisdictions.

NAIC market conduct and market analysis-related working groups provide a national forum for jurisdictions to share and coordinate efforts.

When evaluating checklist items for Requirement 9, it is important to remember participation in teleconferences are tracked through registration and attendance of conference calls through the NAIC's conference call vendor, as well as the roll call for regulators who are members of the different working groups and task forces.

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction "passes" Requirement 9, the jurisdiction must, at a minimum, be able to answer "Yes" to checklist item 9a. and item 9b., as well as document who in the department or jurisdiction participates in or monitors the Market Analysis Procedures (D) Working Group and the Market Conduct Examination Standards (D) Working Group and is able to accurately document a listing of other market conduct and market analysis-related working groups and/or task forces that your department participates in or monitors. In the absence of the ability to participate in every applicable meeting or conference call, it is anticipated that a passing jurisdiction will monitor the applicable working group activities through a review of available materials, minutes and regulator materials.

At each jurisdiction's discretion, consideration may be given to monitoring the Market Information Systems (D) Task Force and applicable working groups and task forces reporting to the Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs (D) Committee.

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## **Requirement 10 – Collaborative Action Designee**

The department appoints a collaborative action designee (CAD). The department’s Market Actions (D) Working Group member, CAD or CAD alternate attends at least 50% of the discussions, either telephonically or in person, of the Market Actions (D) Working Group every year.

### **Guidelines**

The objective of the department appointing a CAD is to promote collaboration with other CADs, as well as communication with other jurisdictions’ insurance departments via the NAIC Market Regulation and Market Analysis electronic forums (bulletin boards).

When evaluating checklist items for Requirement 10, it is important to remember that the CAD is the one contact identified by the insurance director/commissioner/superintendent of each jurisdiction to have full responsibility for all communications related to collaborative efforts, including, but not limited to, multi-jurisdictional issues. This includes participating, or assigning a designee to participate in, certain meetings or conference calls of the Market Actions (D) Working Group. While the market analysis chief (MAC) oversees the internal jurisdictional process of identifying entities with potential market regulatory issues, the CAD oversees the process of communicating about those entities and collaborating with other CADs, potentially through the Market Actions (D) Working Group.

The CAD is the person identified with authority to receive information regarding collaborative actions from the Market Actions (D) Working Group. Additionally, the department’s Market Actions (D) Working Group member, CAD or CAD alternate must attend at least 50% of the discussions, either telephonically or in person, of the Market Actions (D) Working Group every year.

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction “passes” Requirement 10, the jurisdiction must answer “Yes” to checklist item 10a., item 10b. and item 10c.

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## **Requirement 11 – Collaboration – National Analysis**

The department participates\* in the review of national analysis data annually, and participates on one national analysis team at least every other year.

(\*Participation means either performing analysis on one of the selected companies or participating in the selection process. Please note if none of the selected companies wrote business in your jurisdiction.)

### **Guidelines**

The objective of participating in the review of national analysis data annually, and participates on one national analysis team at least every other year is to promote collaboration and the sharing of perspectives and approaches to analyzing data among the jurisdictions. This involves multiple jurisdictions conducting detailed analysis on companies that are shown as outliers. The approach to detailed analysis may differ among jurisdictions; therefore, participation encourages the sharing of ways to analyze data.

When evaluating checklist items for Requirement 11, it is important to remember that participation means either performing analysis on one of the selected companies or participating in the selection process.

Additionally, it is important to know that the Market Action (D) Working Group's annual national analysis process uses the Market Conduct Annual Statement (MCAS) and other existing data to identify companies of national (or multi-jurisdictional) interest that exhibit potential market conduct issues. The process includes the review of the following lines of business: 1) private passenger automobile; 2) homeowners; 3) individual life; 4) individual annuity; 5) group accident and health; and 6) individual accident and health. The lines of business are generally segregated into property/casualty; life and annuity; and health teams. The goal is to find and address issues common across jurisdictions, while reducing the strain on single jurisdictional resources.

The Market Actions (D) Working Group selects a team lead for each of the teams to facilitate the selection of a minimum of five companies for each of the six lines of business. Market Actions (D) Working Group volunteers can be chosen to work with the leaders to identify the companies that will require more in-depth analysis.

Overall, jurisdictions should work together to test the results of the market analysis process against their findings to refine the process. By doing this, the jurisdictions can develop a more efficient market analysis process that will provide more useful information about companies' market activities. By working together in this manner, jurisdictions will achieve the goal referenced above.

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction "passes" Requirement 11, the jurisdiction must answer "Yes" to checklist item 11a. and item 11c., in addition to providing a name of the individual (or individuals) who participate in the annual national analysis project and who participate on a national analysis team at least every other year. Please note that participation on a selection team qualifies as participating in the national analysis process for the year that the jurisdiction is on a selection team.

**Drafting Note:** Assumes at least one company to be reviewed is licensed or conducting business in your jurisdiction.

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## **Requirement 12 – Interdivisional Collaboration**

The Department of Insurance has established and follows a systematic procedure for interdivisional communication (as referenced in the *Market Regulation Handbook*).

### **Guidelines**

The objective is to establish a systematic procedure for interdivisional communication. This includes identifying warning signs that all staff should share with the market analysis chief (MAC). In particular, all insurance department staff should report to the MAC when information of concern that may result in consumer harm is received in the department.

As a means of improving the sharing of information among the jurisdictions, at the conclusion of an investigation that resulted from interdivisional communication, all jurisdictions are encouraged to contact the jurisdiction's market analysis coordinator in an affected jurisdiction and inform them of the results of the investigation.

When evaluating checklist items for Requirement 12, it is important to remember that market conduct problems do not occur in a vacuum. Complaint activity, legal issues, financial concerns or irregularities in rate and form filings often accompany them. At the same time, market conduct problems may be an early warning sign of other problems with a company, so it is essential for information to be shared and discussed between the MAC and other department staff. This should be done on a systematic basis, including, at a minimum, a quarterly meeting or questionnaire requesting other work areas within the department to report unusual activity that may be of interest to the MAC, such as patterns of adverse financial data, consumer complaints, policy termination activity, producer misconduct or use of noncompliant forms or rates.

To evaluate whether your jurisdiction “passes” Requirement 12, the jurisdiction must answer “Yes” to checklist item 12a., item 12b., item 12c. and item 12d.



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## Voluntary Market Regulation Certification Self-Assessment Checklist

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### 1. Department’s Authority

The jurisdiction or department shall have the statutory authority to conduct market regulation activities, including market analysis; comprehensive and targeted market conduct examinations; the continuum of market regulation actions, including enforcement; and collaboration and coordination with other regulatory agencies. Additionally, the jurisdiction has adopted key insurance consumer protection laws and regulations.

**Please provide the statutory reference(s) your jurisdiction or department relies on for the following:**

	YES	NO
1a. Does the department have the general authority to collect and analyze information whenever it is deemed necessary?	_____	_____

**REFERENCE** \_\_\_\_\_

1b. Is the department’s authority broad enough to cover these market regulation activities?	_____	_____
---	-------	-------

1c. If the department has authority specific to any of these itemized activities, please provide the citation:

	Citation
Market analysis	
Comprehensive and targeted market conduct exams	
Continuum of market regulation actions (including enforcement)	
Ability to collaborate and coordinate with other regulatory agencies	

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## 2. Department’s Authority Regarding the *Market Regulation Handbook*

The department shall have sufficient authority by appropriate statute, regulation, rule, or other authority to utilize the most recent version of the *Market Regulation Handbook*. When a department initiates a market regulation examination, it shall be guided by the version of the *Market Regulation Handbook* in effect at the time the examination was initiated.

	YES	NO
2a. Does the department have authority by statute, rule or other authority to utilize the most recent version of the <i>Market Regulation Handbook</i> or its predecessor/successor?	_____	_____
2b. Does the department reference the <i>Market Regulation Handbook</i> by statute or rule? If so, identify the reference.	_____	_____

**REFERENCE** \_\_\_\_\_

2c. When conducting examinations or continuum activities, does the department incorporate applicable <i>Market Regulation Handbook</i> review standards and related materials to the extent they are consistent with state laws?	_____	_____
2d. Are there departmental policies and procedures in addition to those guidelines set forth in the <i>Market Regulation Handbook</i> or its predecessor/successor? (The objective of this item is to promote guidance and consistent handling of examination processes within each state on an individual basis when it is deemed appropriate to deviate from the <i>Market Regulation Handbook</i> )	_____	_____

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### 3. Department Staffing

The department must have either, or a combination of:

- Its own staff sufficient to perform market regulation work, including market analysis, examinations and other continuum actions.
- Statutory authority sufficient to engage competent contractors on an as-needed basis and appropriate department staff to oversee and manage such contractors.

#### Sufficient Qualified Staff and Resources (Market Analysis)

The department should have the resources to analyze effectively on a periodic basis the market behavior of insurers doing business in the state

**General Guidance:** Identified personnel who have the time and experience necessary to perform this function should be assigned to the analysis tasks, and the tasks should be satisfactorily completed in a timely manner.

**Note:** The following tables will be populated from the *Insurance Department Resources Report*.

- |  | YES   | NO    |
|--|-------|-------|
| 3a. Does the department have analysts on staff or under contract whose primary responsibility is to conduct market analysis of insurers doing business in the state?   | _____ | _____ |
| 3b. If the department utilizes contract analysts, please describe in a separate attachment the manner and extent of utilization in the department’s recent activities. |       |       |
| 3c. Indicate below the number of contract and staff analysts, and supervisors for each of the last three years.  |       |       |

	Market Analysis	Supervisors
Current Year (CY)		
CY-1		
CY-2		

	Multi-State L&H Companies	Single-State L&H Companies	Multi-State P&C Companies	Single-State P&C Companies	Total Companies
Current Year (CY)					
CY-1					
CY-2					

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**Sufficient Qualified Staff and Resources (Examinations and/or Continuum Actions)**

The department should have resources to effectively examine and/or conduct continuum actions of insurers as deemed appropriate by the department based upon its market analysis or as prescribed by state laws.

**(General Guidance:** Identified personnel who have the time and experience necessary to perform this function should be assigned to the examination tasks, and the tasks should be satisfactorily completed in a timely manner.)

**YES**                      **NO**

3d. Does the department have a full-time staff of market examiners and/or utilize contract examiners to examine and/or conduct continuum actions of insurance companies as indicated by the department’s market analysis or as prescribed by state laws?

\_\_\_\_\_

3e. If the department utilizes contractual examiners, please describe in a separate attachment the manner and extent of utilization in the department’s recent activities.

3f. Indicate below the number of full-time market examiners, including supervisory personnel on the department’s staff and/or the number of individual contract examiners used compared to the last three years. Also list your jurisdiction’s premium volume for the most recently completed year.

	In-House Examiners	Contract Examiners
Current Year (CY)		
CY-1		
CY-2		

3g. As a separate attachment, provide a list of market examiners that includes the following: name; professional designation(s); title; years employed by the department (include functional area); type of college degree; and prior regulatory or insurance experience. Also indicate those market conduct examiners that are contractual and whether each is full-time with the department.

3h. In a separate attachment, please discuss the state’s statutory requirement regarding the trigger for market conduct examinations and/or other continuum-type activities.

3i. Does the department have established goals, subject to periodic review and updates, for identifying and addressing market conduct issues through the use of market analysis and market conduct continuum activities, including examinations?

\_\_\_\_\_

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	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
3j. If the answer to item 3i. is “Yes,” what quantitative and subjective measurements are available to evaluate the department’s achievement of such goals?	_____	_____
3k. Has the department performed any targeted exams in the prior two years?	_____	_____
3l. If the answer to item 3k. is “Yes,” please provide a list of such exams and the scope of the exams.	_____	_____
3m. If the answer to item 3k. is “No,” does the department have the on-staff resources or the ability to contract additional resources to perform targeted exams, if deemed necessary?	_____	_____

**Sufficient Qualified Staff and Resources (Contractor Selection and Oversight)**

3n. Does the department have the authority to hire contractors as specialists to perform market regulation and enforcement activities?	_____	_____
3o. If the department has authority to hire contractors, does it have either a statewide or departmental established process it follows for selecting contractors? Briefly explain.	_____	_____
3p. Does the department oversee and manage contractors?	_____	_____
3q. Does the department have the appropriate staff to oversee and manage contractors?	_____	_____

**Summary**

3r. Based on the review of staff resources, please provide an explanation of any significant changes in resources and/or workload over the three-year period covered in the data above.

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#### 4. Department Staffing

With respect to qualifications, the department:

- Shall ensure market regulation staff and contractors are qualified by establishing qualifications consistent with the standards for experience, education (including designations) and licenses in the *Market Regulation Handbook Core Competencies* (“Appendix D – Core Competencies – Resources – Staff and Training, Standard 2” and Appendix D – Core Competencies – Resources – Contractor Examiner, Standard 2” or successor documents).
- Should have a policy that encourages professional development for staff involved in market regulation through job-related college courses, professional designation programs or other training programs.
- Should have a policy that encourages the professional development of all staff involved in market regulation through job-related college courses, professional designation programs or other training programs.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
4a. Does the department have a policy or procedure in place on necessary credentials or minimum educational and experience requirements for selecting and hiring staff and contractors?	_____	_____
4b. Does the department have a staff development program that encourages and financially supports educational and training pursuits, including training, courses, webinars and certifications offered by the NAIC?	_____	_____
4c. Does the department determine the composition of members of an examination team?	_____	_____
4d. Does the department recognize licenses and other highly technical credentials of professionals and experts such as attorneys, actuaries, cybersecurity experts, certified public accountants, information technology (IT) experts and other professionals and specialists as qualified to perform certain market regulation activities?	_____	_____

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## 5. Confidentiality and Information-Sharing

The department shall have the authority and capability to:

- Request, hold and produce examination workpapers on a confidential basis and protect it from subpoena, as permitted by state law.
- Maintain confidentiality of confidential information shared by other state or federal agencies; and only share confidential information with state and federal agencies that agree in writing to adequately protect such confidential information.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
5a. Does the jurisdiction have laws, regulations or case law that specify how the confidentiality of market conduct examination workpapers is to be handled?	_____	_____

**REFERENCE** \_\_\_\_\_

5b. Has the jurisdiction entered into the Multi-State Information-Sharing Agreement with other jurisdictions and the NAIC?	_____	_____
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5c. Does the jurisdiction have written policies and procedures and has communicated such policies and procedures to employees relating to the protection of confidential information, handling of public records requests and requirements for confidentiality agreements when it becomes necessary to share confidential information with other federal and international regulatory or law enforcement agencies, not otherwise covered by the multi-state agreement?	_____	_____
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## 6. Collaboration with Other Jurisdictions

The department participates in collaborative actions with other jurisdictions.

- The department follows the referral or reporting procedures outlined in the Market Actions (D) Working Group Policies and Procedures for any material action that has a potential for collaborative action. In order to determine if a referral or reporting to the Market Actions (D) Working Group is necessary, the department will notify all other collaborative action designees (CADs)—via meeting, bulletin board or other method—of proposed activities that have the potential for collaboration.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
6a. Are the department’s procedures for staff to follow when reporting potential collaborative actions to the department’s CAD, consistent with those in the <i>Market Regulation Handbook</i> and the Market Actions (D) Working Group Policies and Procedures?	_____	_____
6b. If the department identified a potential collaborative action, did the department notify all CADs—via meeting, bulletin board or other communication—of the activities identified that may have the potential for collaboration?	_____	_____
6c. If the department received a positive response to its inquiries to other CADs regarding a potential collaborative action, did the department refer the action to Market Actions (D) Working Group using the reporting procedures outlined in the Market Actions (D) Working Group Policies and Procedures, including completing the Request for Review form and submitting the form to the designated NAIC support staff?	_____	_____
6d. If the response to item 6a., item 6b., item 6c. or item 6d. is “No,” please provide a brief explanation.		

Complete the following if this is an Interim Annual Review:

Have there been any changes to your requirements since last year’s review?  
If “Yes,” please provide an explanation

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
	_____	_____

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- The department will consider joining called Market Actions (D) Working Group collaborative actions relevant to its jurisdiction and provide a response indicating whether or not it will join the collaborative action.

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
6e. Does the department have written procedures for reviewing and evaluating its participation in potential collaborative actions brought to its attention, either through the Market Actions (D) Working Group or by another department?	_____	_____
6f. If the department declined to participate in a collaborative action, has the department provided a response to the Market Actions (D) Working Group regarding its decision?	_____	_____
6g. If the response to item 6e. or item 6f. is “No,” please provide a brief explanation.		

Complete the following if this is an Interim Annual Review:

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Have there been any changes to your requirements since last year’s review? If “Yes,” please provide an explanation.	_____	_____

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## 7. Market Conduct Annual Statement

The department participates in the centralized collection of the Market Conduct Annual Statement (MCAS).

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
7a. Does the department require eligible companies to file the MCAS with the NAIC?	_____	_____
7b. Does the department require that the MCAS be prepared in accordance with the NAIC MCAS user guides and instructions?	_____	_____
7c. Does the department require such companies to file the MCAS in an electronic format acceptable to the NAIC?	_____	_____
7d. Does the department utilize the data obtained from the MCAS for market analysis? (Examples of utilization include, but are not limited to, such activities as performing baseline or Level 1 analysis.)	_____	_____

Complete the following if this is an Interim Annual Review:

Have there been any changes to your requirements since last year’s review?  
If “Yes,” please provide an explanation

<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
_____	_____

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## 8. Electronic Data Entry with the NAIC

The department enters data no less frequently than on a quarterly basis (but preferably monthly) to all NAIC systems, including but not limited to: the Complaint Database System (CDS), and the Regulatory Information Retrieval System (RIRS). Except for immediate concerns as defined in the *Market Regulation Handbook*, the department enters data into the Market Actions Tracking System (MATS) concerning upcoming examinations at least 45 days prior to the start of an examination or at least 60 days prior to the start of the on-site examination. Additionally, the department enters continuum actions into MATS when initiating the action.

### Note to Requirements:

- The Market Information Systems Research and Development (D) Working Group report on reporting timeliness, accuracy and completeness will be attached.
  - Timeliness, accuracy and completion standards may be implemented upon consideration by the Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group.
- The goal of this requirement is to ensure that state insurance regulators in other jurisdictions are completely and timely informed of market conduct actions that have occurred, are ongoing, or that are anticipated. Any back-end system that auto-populates the referenced NAIC systems will meet this requirement. If a jurisdiction is using a back-end system that does not currently auto-populate the referenced NAIC systems, that jurisdiction must ensure that the information is entered in the NAIC systems. This may require dual entry until such time as the back-end system auto-populates the NAIC systems.

	YES	NO
8a. Does the department enter or transmit data at least quarterly into the CDS?	_____	_____
8b. Does the department enter or transmit data at least quarterly into RIRS?	_____	_____
8c. Does the department enter continuum actions into the appropriate NAIC database (MATS/RIRS) when initiated and the resulting applicable final status reports or updates (if applicable) at least quarterly?	_____	_____
8d. Did the department initiate an examination of a regulated entity?	_____	_____
8e. If the answer to item 8d. is “Yes,” was the examination entered into MATS at least 45 days before the start of the examination or at least 60 days before the start of the on-site examination as set forth in the <i>Market Regulation Handbook</i> ? ( <b>Note:</b> The start of the examination is the date the department began work on the examination materials received from the examined entity.)	_____	_____
8f. If the answer to item 8a., item 8b., item 8c., item 8d. or item 8e. is “No,” please provide an explanation.		

### COMMENTS:

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Complete the following if this is an Interim Annual Review:

Have there been any changes to your requirements since last year's review?  
If "Yes," please provide an explanation

**YES**

**NO**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 9. Participation in all NAIC Market Conduct and Market Analysis Working Groups

The department participates in or monitors NAIC market conduct and market analysis-related working groups as a member or interested regulator.

	YES	NO
9a. Does the department participate in or monitor the Market Analysis Procedures (D) Working Group as a working group member or interested regulator either by conference calls or by attending meetings?	_____	_____
9b. Does the department participate in or monitor the Market Conduct Examination Standards (D) Working Group as a working group member or interested regulator either by conference calls or by attending meetings?	_____	_____
9c. Who in the department, by functional title, participates in or monitors the Market Analysis Procedures (D) Working Group?		
9d. Who in the department, by functional title, participates in or monitors the Market Conduct Examination Standards (D) Working Group?		
9e. List any other market conduct or market analysis-related working groups and/or task forces that your department participates in or monitors.		

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## 10. Collaborative Action Designee

The department appoints a collaborative action designee (CAD). The department’s Market Actions (D) Working Group member, CAD or CAD alternate attends at least 50% of the discussions, either telephonically or in person, of the Market Actions (D) Working Group every year.

	YES	NO
10a. Has the department appointed a CAD?	_____	_____
10b. Has the department appointed a CAD alternate?	_____	_____
10c. Does the CAD or CAD alternate attend at least 50% of all meetings and conference calls of the Market Actions (D) Working Group?	_____	_____

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## 11. Collaboration – National Analysis

The department participates\* in the review of national analysis data annually, and participates on one national analysis team at least every other year.

(\*Participation means either performing analysis on one of the selected companies or participating in the selection process. Please note if none of the selected companies wrote business in your jurisdiction.)

	YES	NO
11a. Has the department established procedures to ensure annual participation in national analysis projects?	_____	_____
11b. Who in the department, by functional title, participates in the annual national analysis project?	_____	_____
11c. Has the department established procedures to ensure participation on a national analysis team at least every other year?	_____	_____
11d. Who in the department, by functional title, participates on a national analysis team at least every other year?		

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## 12. Interdivisional Collaboration

The Department of Insurance has established and follows a systematic procedure for interdivisional communication (as referenced in the *Market Regulation Handbook*).

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
12a. Has the department established procedures for the market analysis chief (MAC), or appropriate designee, to communicate interdepartmentally with the appropriate staff?	_____	_____
12b. Does the MAC, or appropriate designee provide the appropriate interdepartmental staff with market concerns such as, but not limited to, financial data, consumer complaints, policy termination activity, producer misconduct or use of noncompliant forms or rates, related to the following functional areas:	_____	_____
i. Consumer Services	_____	_____
ii. Enforcement	_____	_____
iii. Legal	_____	_____
iv. Forms and Filing	_____	_____
v. Financial	_____	_____
vi. Market Analysis	_____	_____
vii. Market Conduct	_____	_____
12c. On a quarterly basis, does the MAC, or appropriate designee, solicit information from the above functional areas regarding adverse patterns on, but not limited to, financial data, consumer complaints, policy termination activity, producer misconduct, or use of noncompliant forms or rates?	_____	_____
12d. Does the MAC participate in communication with other insurance departments regarding market analysis by posting and responding to NAIC Market Regulation and Market Analysis Electronic Bulletin Board inquiries?	_____	_____

**COMMENTS:**



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# Voluntary Market Regulation Certification Program Proposal for Implementation

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## **Current Charge of the Working Group**

The Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group will develop a formal market regulation certification proposal for consideration by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) membership that provides recommendations for the following:

- 1) Certification standards.
- 2) A process for the state implementation of the standards.
- 3) A process to measure the states' compliance with the standards.
- 4) A process for future revisions to the standards.

As per the charges adopted for the Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group, the following is a draft proposal for charge 2 through charge 4.

## **Implementation Proposal**

### ***Three Year Self-Certification Program***

- Upon adoption/approval of the First Tier Certification Standards, the *Market Regulation Certification Program Self-Assessment Guidelines and Checklist Tool* and the Implementation Plan by the NAIC membership, participating jurisdictions may begin self-certification. No later than two weeks prior to the 2017 Fall National Meeting, each participating jurisdiction may submit a self-certification report that outlines the progress achieved towards implementation of the first-tier market regulation certification standards. The self-certification will follow the formatted checklist designed and finalized by the Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group. The self-certification report will be submitted to NAIC staff and reviewed by the Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs (D) Committee or a Working Group assigned to do so on its behalf. Each jurisdiction that submits a self-certification report will be provisionally certified.
- Prior to the 2018 and 2019 Fall National Meeting, each provisionally certified jurisdiction will submit its self-certification report to the Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs (D) Committee, which will monitor and assess its progress towards full compliance to the First Tier Certification Standards. Jurisdictions that did not previously submit self-certification reports in 2017 may do so prior to either the 2018 Fall National Meeting or 2019 Fall National Meeting in order to receive provisional certification.
- During the three-year self-certification period, the Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group will regularly review feedback from jurisdictions concerning any issues or recommended changes to the First Tier Certification Standards and the *Market Regulation Certification Program Self-Assessment Guidelines and Checklist Tool* based on the use of the guidelines and checklist for self-certification.
- At any time, participating jurisdictions may request peer-review, guidance, and training. To the extent necessary to accommodate such requests, NAIC staff may work with seasoned regulators to assist in meeting the needs of such requestors.
- In 2020, jurisdictions will have the option to continue self-certifying or to apply for full certification. (See *Full Certification Program* below.) Jurisdictions that decide to continue self-certifying will use the same process described above.

*Implementation Plan adopted Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs (D) Committee – Nov. 30, 2016*

*Implementation Plan adopted by the Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group – Nov. 3, 2016*

*Guidelines and Checklist adopted by the Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs (D) Committee – Aug. 27, 2016*

*Guidelines and Checklist adopted by the Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group – July 28, 2016*

### ***Full Certification Program***

- The Market Regulation Standards and Certification Committee will determine whether jurisdictions that apply to be fully certified meet the certification standards. Members of the Committee shall be appointed annually pursuant to the NAIC Bylaws. An NAIC Review Team (similarly constructed as the Financial Regulation and Accreditation Standards Accreditation Review Team) will conduct the certification reviews.
- No later than two weeks prior to the 2020 Spring National Meeting (or no later than two weeks prior to any subsequent Spring National Meeting), any participating jurisdiction may decide to continue to self-certify or apply for full certification by submitting an application for full certification with its self-certification report to NAIC staff. The jurisdiction's application will be reviewed by the NAIC Review Team, which will provide its recommendation to the Market Regulation Standards and Certification Committee. For jurisdictions applying for full certification, the Committee will use applicable monitoring tools to verify the self-certification information reported by the participating jurisdictions. NAIC staff may use additional forms of verification deemed necessary, such as interviews or on-site visits. Each fully certified jurisdiction will be reviewed every five years to assess the jurisdiction's ongoing compliance with the certification standards.
- The applications for full certification will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. No more than 12 reviews will be conducted in each of the first five years (2020 through 2024) of the certification program. Beginning in 2025 and in each subsequent year, jurisdictions that request to have full certification must submit their application with its self-certification report to NAIC staff two weeks prior to the Spring National Meeting. The NAIC Review Team will conduct the five-year re-assessments and review all the applications. Recommendations for full certification and re-certifications will be provided to the Market Regulation Standards and Certification Committee prior to the Fall National Meeting of the same calendar year. The Market Regulation Standards and Certification Committee will make its decision regarding certification or re-certification by the end of the calendar year.
- In the first five years (2020 through 2024) of the full certification program, all jurisdictions that submit an application for full certification will be provisionally certified by the Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs (D) Committee (as per the process described in the *Three Year Self-Certification Program* above) until their application for full certification is reviewed and a decision on the application is made by the Market Regulation Standards and Certification Committee.
- In the years between each five-year re-certification review, fully certified jurisdictions will submit annual self-assessment audits to NAIC staff at least two weeks prior to the Summer National Meeting.
- A jurisdiction may withdraw its application for full certification at any time. A jurisdiction that is fully certified can exit the full certification re-assessment cycle and choose to be either provisionally certified (per the process described in the *Three Year Self-Certification Program* above) or to not participate in the Market Regulation Certification Program.
- A fully certified jurisdiction may qualify for financial incentives. (Details will be determined and approved by the Executive (EX) Committee.)

### ***Future Revisions***

- Future revisions of the market regulation certification standards will be made from time to time by the Market Regulation Certification (D) Working Group with approval of the Market Regulation and Consumer Affairs (D) Committee and NAIC membership. New standards will be added only as necessary and added no more frequently than once per year. Revised sets of standards will constitute a new "certification tier." An effective date will be specified for each new requirement within a tier. Self-certified

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and fully certified jurisdictions that comply with a previous tier of requirements will not be measured on compliance to new tier requirements until the first annual self-assessment audit or the five-year re-certification review (whichever occurs first) after the effective date of the new requirement.