

**Statutory Accounting Principles (E) Working Group
Maintenance Agenda Submission Form
Form A**

Issue: Asset Liability Management Derivatives

Check (applicable entity):

	P/C	Life	Health
Modification of Existing SSAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Issue or SSAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Description of Issue: This agenda item has been developed to consider new statutory accounting guidance that prescribes guidance for interest-rate hedging derivatives that do not qualify as effective hedges under *SSAP No. 86—Derivatives*, but that are used for asset-liability management (ALM). Specifically, industry has proposed two assessment metrics for macro-hedges, the “ALM Risk Reduction Approach,” which is a hedging approach to reduce mismatches between identified assets and liabilities and the “ALM Target Management Approach,” which is a hedging approach to keep an asset portfolio aligned with a liability target. These programs do not qualify for effective hedge treatment under SSAP No. 86 (or any accounting regime) as they reflect macro-hedges.

This agenda item originated from discussions at the IMR Ad Hoc Group, noting that full Working Group discussion is needed on this topic. Industry has communicated that these hedging derivatives, although not accounting effective under SSAP No. 86, are economically effective (meaning effective in achieving the hedge intent). With this industry assessment, and their interpretation of the Annual Statement Instructions, the fair value fluctuations reported as unrealized gains and losses while the derivative is open have been allocated by some life entities to the interest maintenance reserve (IMR) upon derivative termination. This approach essentially reverses the surplus impact from the unrealized position and defers the realized impact from these derivative structures through the IMR formula with subsequent amortization into income over time.

INT 23-01: Net Negative (Disallowed) IMR, allows losses for interest-rate hedging derivatives that do not qualify for “hedge accounting” under SSAP No. 86 to continue to be allocated to IMR (and admitted if IMR is net negative) if the company has historically followed the same process for interest-rate hedging derivatives that were terminated in a gain position. The guidance does not permit entities to allocate current derivative losses to IMR without evidence illustrating the historical treatment for gains. This INT was established to provide limited-time exception guidance while IMR is further discussed and is effective through Dec. 31, 2025, with automatic nullification on Jan. 1, 2026. The treatment of the gains and losses from these non-accounting effective hedges is a key element in the long-term guidance for clarifying IMR.

SSAP No. 86 provides guidance on designations that hedge a variety of exposures, with assessments of effectiveness adopted from U.S. GAAP. Derivatives that qualify as “highly effective hedges” are permitted “hedge accounting treatment,” which means that the measurement method of the derivative mirrors the measurement method of the hedged item. (This measurement method is different than US GAAP, which requires all derivatives to be at fair value. This different measurement method is necessary under SAP to prevent a measurement mismatch between the hedged item and derivative, which would result in surplus volatility for accounting effective hedges.) Derivatives that do not qualify as “highly effective hedges” under SSAP No. 86 are reported at fair value, which does mirror the measurement method under U.S. GAAP. Pursuant to the IMR Ad Hoc Group discussion, this item is focused on hedges that address interest-rate risk exposure used in macro-hedges, that would not qualify under the effective hedge requirements under SSAP No. 86.

If the Working Group wants to pursue accounting guidance for macro-hedges focused on hedging interest-rate risk that results with different treatment than what is detailed in SSAP No. 86, the guidance is anticipated to detail:

- 1) The requirements for the interest-rate hedging derivatives, including effectiveness assessments.
- 2) The accounting for the derivatives and the resulting gains/losses (including amortization if those gains/losses are deferred from immediate recognition), and
- 3) Disclosure and reporting requirements for the derivatives.

If developing new guidance, it is anticipated that the concepts of *SSAP No. 108—Derivatives Hedging Variable Annuity Guarantees* will be followed to the extent possible, but there would need to be variations based on the specific intent and application of these derivatives. A key item to note is that SSAP No. 108 does not use IMR for the reporting of deferred derivative gains and losses and this approach will also be considered within the new guidance for consistency purposes.

Existing Authoritative Literature:

- **SSAP No. 86—Derivatives**

SSAP No. 86 provides the broad statutory accounting principles for derivative instruments. The guidance is used to determine whether a derivative qualifies as “effective” and therefore permitted to be accounted for under the “hedge accounting” provisions. (Derivatives that qualify for hedge accounting are reported at the measurement method that mirrors the hedged item. For example, a derivative that qualifies for hedge accounting that is hedging a bond would be reported at amortized cost, to mirror the amortized cost measurement of the bond.) Derivatives that do not qualify for “hedge accounting” are required to be reported at fair value.

The guidance in SSAP No. 86 is explicit that derivative gains or losses from derivatives that qualify for hedge accounting shall be recognized in a manner consistent with the hedged item. Hence, if the gain/loss on a hedged item was to go to IMR, then the gain/loss on the effective, hedging derivative should also go to IMR. This guidance makes sense, as the derivative gain/loss should predominantly offset the hedged item gain/loss, resulting in a zero (or negligible) impact to IMR.

SSAP No. 86 requires derivatives which do not qualify as effective to be carried at fair value and changes in fair value are reported in unrealized gains and losses until termination.

- **SSAP No. 108—Derivatives Hedging Variable Annuity Guarantees**

SSAP No. 108 provides special accounting treatment for limited derivatives hedging variable annuity guarantee benefits subject to fluctuations as a result of interest rate sensitivity. The items in scope of SSAP No. 108 would not qualify for hedge effectiveness under SSAP No. 86. The guidance is specific in that the provisions are only permitted if all of the components of the statement are met and that the guidance shall not be inferred as an acceptable statutory accounting approach for derivative transactions that do not meet the state qualifications or that are not specifically addressed within the guidance.

The guidance in SSAP No. 108 addresses derivative transactions that reflect a macro-hedge (portfolio of variable annuity contracts) as well as a dynamic hedging approach (rebalancing of derivative instruments). Due to the heightened risk of misrepresentation of successful risk management, specific provisions are detailed to ensure governance of the program as well as to provide sufficient tools for regulators to review.

Under SSAP No. 108, all derivatives are reported at fair value, and all fair value fluctuations attributed to the hedged risk (unrealized) are compared to the changes in the VM-21 reserve liability. The fair value fluctuations are then 1) recognized to realized gain/loss to offset a current period liability change, 2) recognized as deferred if attributed to the hedged risk but not offsetting a current period liability change or 3) recognized as unrealized if not attributed to the hedged risk. The changes recognized as deferred are amortized over a straight-line method into realized gains/losses via a timeframe that matches the Macaulay duration of the guarantee benefit cash flow, not to exceed 10 years. SSAP No. 108, although specific to interest rate risks, does not take derivative gains or losses to IMR.

Activity to Date (issues previously addressed by the Working Group, Emerging Accounting Issues (E) Working Group, SEC, FASB, other State Departments of Insurance or other NAIC groups):

In 2023, the Working Group adopted *INT 23-01: Net Negative (Disallowed) IMR* as short-term guidance and directed efforts towards a long-term resolution of IMR. The IMR Ad Hoc Group, comprised of accountants and actuaries representing regulators and industry, has met to discuss IMR, including the gains/losses from “economic effective” (ALM) derivatives that some reporting entities have been taking to IMR. With those discussions, and an ACLI presentation on ALM derivatives, regulators from the Ad Hoc Group supported moving discussion of potential statutory accounting guidance to the Working Group.

Information or issues (included in *Description of Issue*) not previously contemplated by the Working Group:
None

Convergence with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS): N/A

Staff Recommendation:

NAIC staff recommends that the Working Group move this item to the active listing, classified as a new statutory accounting concept, with exposure of this agenda item to obtain comments from Working Group members, as well as interested regulators and interested parties on the potential to develop statutory guidance for macro-derivative programs that hedge interest rate risk for asset-liability matching purposes. Initially, NAIC staff is requesting feedback on the following key concepts:

- 1) Do Working Group members support the development of statutory accounting guidance that would defer derivative gains/losses for structures that hedge interest rate risk with amortization over time into income? (These derivative programs would not qualify as accounting effective under SSAP No. 86 and are not captured within the specific variable annuity guarantee guidance in SSAP No. 108.)
- 2) If further development / consideration of guidance is supported, the following items are noted for discussion:
 - a. Determination of effectiveness that permits the derivative program to qualify for the special accounting treatment.
 - b. Discussion of whether net deferred losses (reported as assets) would be admissible, and if so, any admittance limitations.
 - c. Macro-limits on admissible net deferred losses (reported as assets) and other “soft” assets. (For example, capturing IMR and derivative deferred net losses, and then perhaps considering other soft assets, such as DTAs, EDP equipment and software, goodwill, etc.)
 - d. Timeframes over which deferred items are amortized into income.
 - e. Extent of application across the industry. (NAIC staff notes that SSAP No. 108 is only applied by 9 entities, and from a review of the derivative disclosures for INT 23-01, only 14 entities captured derivative gains/losses in the IMR balance.)

NAIC staff requests direction to work with regulators and industry during the interim to continue discussions and in the consideration of guidance.

Staff Review Completed by: Julie Gann, NAIC Staff—May 2024

<https://naiconline.sharepoint.com/teams/FRSStatutoryAccounting/NationalMeetings/A.NationalMeetingMaterials/2024/08-13-24SummerNationalMeeting/Meeting/D-24-15-ALMDerivatives.docx>