

Capital Adequacy (E) Task Force

RBC Proposal Form

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital Adequacy (E) Task Force | <input type="checkbox"/> Health RBC (E) Working Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Life RBC (E) Working Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catastrophe Risk (E) Subgroup | <input type="checkbox"/> P/C RBC (E) Working Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Longevity Risk (A/E) Subgroup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Variable Annuities Capital. & Reserve (E/A) Subgroup | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Scenarios (E/A) Subgroup | <input type="checkbox"/> RBC Investment Risk & Evaluation (E) Working Group |

<p style="text-align: right;">DATE: <u>4-24-24</u></p> <p>CONTACT PERSON: <u>Eva Yeung</u></p> <p>TELEPHONE: <u>816-783-8407</u></p> <p>EMAIL ADDRESS: <u>eyeung@naic.org</u></p> <p>ON BEHALF OF: <u>Capital Adequacy (E) Task Force</u></p> <p>NAME: <u>Tom Botsko</u></p> <p>TITLE: <u>Chair</u></p> <p>AFFILIATION: <u>Ohio Department of Insurance</u></p> <p>ADDRESS: <u>50 West Town Street, Suite 300</u> <u>Columbus, OH 43215</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FOR NAIC USE ONLY</p> <p>Agenda Item # <u>2024-16-CA</u> Year <u>2024</u></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">DISPOSITION</p> <p>ADOPTED:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TASK FORCE (TF) _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WORKING GROUP (WG) _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SUBGROUP (SG) _____</p> <p>EXPOSED:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TASK FORCE (TF) <u>04/30/2024</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> WORKING GROUP (WG) _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SUBGROUP (SG) _____</p> <p>REJECTED:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TF <input type="checkbox"/> WG <input type="checkbox"/> SG _____</p> <p>OTHER:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED TO _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED TO OTHER NAIC GROUP _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (SPECIFY) _____</p>
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IDENTIFICATION OF SOURCE AND FORM(S)/INSTRUCTIONS TO BE CHANGED

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health RBC Blanks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property/Casualty RBC Blanks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Life and Fraternal RBC Blanks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health RBC Instructions | <input type="checkbox"/> Property/Casualty RBC Instructions | <input type="checkbox"/> Life and Fraternal RBC Instructions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health RBC Formula | <input type="checkbox"/> Property/Casualty RBC Formula | <input type="checkbox"/> Life and Fraternal RBC Formula |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ | | |

DESCRIPTION/REASON OR JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGE(S)

The purpose of this proposal is to provide edits to the RBC Preamble to clarify and emphasize the purposes and the intent of using RBC.

Additional Staff Comments:

**** This section must be completed on all forms.**

Revised 2-2023

Risk-Based Capital Preamble

History of Risk-Based Capital by the NAIC

A. Background

1. The NAIC, through its committees and working groups, facilitated many projects of importance to state insurance regulators, the industry, and users of statutory financial information in the early 1990s. That was evidenced by the original mission statement and charges given to the Capital Adequacy (E) Task Force (CADTF) of the Financial Condition (E) Committee.
2. From the inception of insurance regulation in the mid-1800s, the limitation of insurance company insolvency risk has been a major goal of the regulatory process. The requirement of adequate capital has been a major tool in limiting insolvency costs throughout the history of insurance regulation. Initially, the states enacted statutes requiring a specified minimum amount of capital and surplus for an insurance company to enter the business or to remain in business.
3. Fixed minimum capital requirements were largely based on the judgment of the drafters of the statutes and varied widely among the states. Those fixed minimum capital and surplus requirements have served to protect the public reasonably well for more than a century. However, they fail to recognize variations in risk between broad categories of key elements of insurance, nor do they recognize differences in the amount of capital appropriate for the size of various insurers.
4. In 1992, the NAIC adopted the life risk-based capital (RBC) formula with an implementation date of year-end 1993. The formula was developed for specific regulatory needs. Four major categories were identified for the life formula: asset risk; insurance risk; interest rate risk; and all other business risk. The property/casualty and health formulas were implemented in 1994 and 1998, respectively. The focus of these two formulas is: asset risk; underwriting risk; credit risk; and business risk (health).
5. The total RBC needed by an insurer to avoid being taken into conservatorship is the Authorized Control Level RBC, which is 50% of the sum of the RBC for the categories, adjusted for covariance. The covariance adjustment is meant to take into account that problems in all risk categories are not likely to occur at the same time.
6. The mission of the CADTF was to determine the amount of capital an insurer should be required to hold to avoid triggering various specific regulatory actions. The RBC formula largely consists of a series of risk factors that are applied to selected assets, liabilities, or other specific company financial data to establish the threshold levels generally needed to bear the risk arising from that item.
7. To carry out its mission, the CADTF was charged with carrying out the following initiatives:
 - Evaluate emerging “risk” issues for referral to the RBC working groups/subgroups for certain issues involving more than one RBC formula.
 - Monitor emerging and existing risks relative to their consistent or divergent treatment in the three RBC formulas.
 - Review and evaluate company submissions for the schedule and corresponding adjustment to total adjusted capital (TAC).
 - Monitor changes in accounting and reporting requirements resulting from the adoption and continuing maintenance of the *Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual* and the *Valuation Manual* to ensure that model laws, publications, formulas, analysis tools, etc., supported by the CADTF continue to meet regulatory objectives.

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8. The RBC forecasting, and instructions were developed and are now maintained in accordance with the mission of the CADTF as a method of measuring the threshold amount of capital appropriate for an insurance company to avoid capital specific regulatory requirements based on its size and risk profile.

B. Purpose of Risk-Based Capital

9. The purpose of RBC is to identify potentially weakly capitalized companies **in order to** facilitate regulatory actions **designed to**, in most cases, ensure policyholders will receive the benefits promised without relying on a guaranty association or taxpayer funds. Consequently, the RBC formula calculates capital level trigger points that enable regulatory intervention in the operation of such companies.
10. **RBC instructions**, RBC reports and adjusted report(s) are intended solely for use by the commissioner/state in monitoring the solvency of insurers and the need for possible corrective action with respect to insurers and are considered confidential. All domestic insurers are required to file an RBC report unless exempt by the commissioner. There are no state permitted practices to modify the RBC formula and all insurers are required to abide by the RBC instructions.
11. Comparison of an insurer's TAC to any RBC level is a regulatory tool that may indicate the need for **possible** corrective action with respect to the insurer and is **not intended or appropriate as a means to rank insurers generally**. Therefore—except as otherwise required under the provisions of *Risk-Based Capital (RBC) for Insurers Model Act (#312)* or the *Risk-Based Capital (RBC) for Health Organizations Model Act (#315)*—the making, publishing, disseminating, circulation or placing before the public, or causing, directly or indirectly to be made, published, disseminated, circulated or place before the public, in a newspaper, magazine or other publication, or in a form of a notice, or in any other way, an advertisement, announcement or statement **(including but not limited to press releases, earnings releases, webcast materials, or any other earnings presentations or webcasts)** containing an assertion, representation or statement with regard to the RBC levels of any insurer or of any component derived in the calculation by any insurer is prohibited.

C. Objectives of Risk-Based Capital Reports

12. The primary responsibility of each state insurance department is to regulate insurance companies in accordance with state laws, with an emphasis on solvency for the protection of policyholders. The ultimate objective of solvency regulation is to ensure that policyholder, contract holder and other legal obligations are met when they come due and that companies maintain capital and surplus at all times and in such forms as required by statute.

To support this role, the RBC reports identify potentially weakly capitalized companies in that each insurer must report situations where the actual TAC is below a threshold amount for any of the several RBC levels. This is known as an “RBC event” and reporting is mandatory. The state regulatory response is likely to be unique to each insurer, as each insurer's risk profile will have some differences from the average risk profile used to develop the RBC formula factors and calculations.

There are several RBC levels with different levels of anticipated additional regulatory oversight following the reporting of an RBC event. Company Action Level (CAL) has the least amount of additional regulatory oversight, as it envisions the company providing to its regulator a plan of action to increase capital or reduce risk or otherwise satisfy the regulator of the adequacy of its capital. Regulatory Action Level (RAL) is the next higher level, where the regulator is more directly involved in the development of the plan of action. Authorized Control Level (ACL) anticipates an even higher amount of regulatory action in implementing the plan of action. **Mandatory Control Level (MCL) requires the insurance commissioner to place the reporting entity under regulatory control.**

D. Critical Concepts of Risk-Based Capital

13. Over the years, various financial models have been developed to try to measure the “right” amount of capital that an insurance company should hold.¹ “No single formula or ratio can give a complete picture of a company's

¹ Report of the Industry Advisory Committee to the Life Risk-Based Capital (E) Working Group, p. 6; Nov. 17, 1991.

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operations, let alone the operation of an entire industry. However, a properly designed formula will help in the early identification of companies with inadequate capital levels and allow corrective action to begin sooner. This should ultimately lower the number of company failures and reduce the cost of any failures that may occur.”

14. Because the NAIC formula develops threshold levels of capitalization rather than a target level, it is neither useful nor appropriate to use the RBC formula to compare the RBC ratio developed by one insurance company to the RBC ratio developed by another. Comparisons of amounts that exceed the threshold standards do not provide a reliable assessment of their relative financial strength. For example, a company with an RBC ratio of 600% is not necessarily financially stronger than a company with an RBC ratio of 400%. For this reason, Model #312 and Model #315 prohibit insurance companies, their agents and others involved in the business of insurance using the company’s RBC results to compare competitors.
15. The principal focus of solvency measurement is the determination of financial condition through an analysis of the financial statements and RBC. However, protection of the policyholders can only be maintained through continued monitoring of the financial condition of the insurance enterprise. Operating performance is another indicator of an enterprise’s ability to maintain itself as a going concern.
16. The CADTF and its RBC working groups are charged with evaluating refinements to the existing NAIC RBC formula and considering improvements and revisions to the various RBC blanks to 1) conform the RBC blanks to changes made in other areas of the NAIC to promote uniformity (when it is determined to be necessary); and 2) oversee the development of additional reporting formats within the existing RBC blanks as needs are identified.
17. The CADTF and its RBC working groups will monitor and evaluate changes to the annual financial statement blanks and the *Purposes and Procedure Manual of the NAIC Investment Analysis Office* to determine if assets or, specifically, investments evaluated by the NAIC Securities Valuation Office are relevant to the RBC formula in determining the threshold capital and surplus for all insurance companies or whether reporting available to the regulator is a more appropriate means to addressing the risk. The CADTF will consider different methods of determining whether a particular risk should be added as a new risk to be studied and selected for a change to the applicable RBC formula, but due consideration will be given to the materiality of the risk to the industry, as well as the very specific purpose of the RBC formulas to develop regulatory threshold capital levels.

E. Limited use of Risk-Based Capital

18. Use of RBC is limited to identifying potentially weakly capitalized companies to facilitate regulatory action and oversight. Any other application of RBC would be inappropriate to the detriment of policyholders, companies, and investors. While RBC may be used in other components of the regulatory framework, such uses should be in the context of identifying potentially weakly capitalized companies. For example, statutory accounting may leverage RBC in determining the admissibility of certain types of assets, when the benefits of those assets may not be readily available to the policyholders of a troubled company.
19. RBC does not provide a complete, clear, or meaningful ranking of insurers. For example, an insurer voluntarily strengthening assumptions used for reserving would generally reduce an insurer’s RBC ratio but does not indicate a weaker position than a similarly situated insurer who did not elect to strengthen assumptions used for reserving. Regulators are able to consider a complete picture of the insurer’s financial situation to appropriately follow up on RBC action levels. Using RBC beyond its intended purpose could create perverse incentives for companies that are not at risk of triggering an action level.
20. RBC requirements for particular risk categories were developed based on specific regulatory guidelines and following agreed upon procedures and methodologies. The RBC requirements were developed with regulatory needs in mind. They were not developed or intended for any other use. As such, except where prescribed, RBC requirements would not be appropriate to rely on in other contexts such as reserve setting or risk management or evaluating the risk of investments. While the development of RBC requirements often rely on historical data points, the data used extends over a substantial period of years and the actuarial modeling extends out over a long time horizon. They do not reflect risk at any one point in time. Moreover, the granularity of an analysis for

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RBC purposes likely differs from the granularity appropriate for other applications. Therefore, RBC requirements are not appropriate to evaluate the relative or absolute level of risk outside of the context of a regulatory framework for identifying potentially weakly capitalized companies.

21. Because RBC is a broad tool to facilitate regulatory oversight, an insurer's RBC can fluctuate without indicating a corresponding change in the insurer's financial strength.