

Seeing Beyond Risk

Canadian
Institute of
Actuaries



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Voir au-delà du risque

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2000—INSURERS

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2100 VALUATION OF POLICY LIABILITIES: ALL INSURANCE

2110 SCOPE

- .01 The standards in sections 2100, 2200 and 2300 apply to the valuation of the policy liabilities in an insurer's financial statements if the intent is that those statements be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The standards in Part 2000 do not apply to post-employment benefit plans covered by the Practice-Specific Standards for Post-Employment Benefit Plans and do not apply to personal injury compensation plans covered by the Practice-Specific Standards for Public Personal Injury Compensation Plans.
- .02 The standards in this section 2100 apply to all kinds of insurance. The standards in sections 2200 and 2300 following apply respectively to
- property and casualty insurance; that is, to insurance with respect to property (for example, fire and marine insurance), to insurance with respect to the actions of individuals and corporations (for example, liability and fidelity insurance), and to insurance with respect to both (for example, automobile insurance), and [2200](#)
 - life and health insurance (accident and sickness); that is, to insurance with respect to the life and health of persons other than corporations. [2300](#)
- .03 Sometimes, however, techniques described in one section may be useful for the insurance to which the other section applies. For example, while a simple technique is usually appropriate for valuation of life and health insurance claim liabilities, the more sophisticated techniques for valuation of property and casualty insurance claim liabilities may be appropriate for life and health insurance whose claim development is complex. Another example is that a simple technique may be appropriate for travel insurance and other short-term policies sold by property and casualty insurers.

2120 EXTENSION OF SCOPE

- .01 The standards in section 2100, 2200 and 2300 also apply to financial statements of a quasi-insurer if the intent is that those statements be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The actuary would modify the standards to take account of any substantive difference between that quasi-insurer and an insurer; for example, the quasi-insurer's liabilities may be permitted to be less than fully funded. That report would describe the modifications to the standards and their implications.

- .02 In part 2000, “quasi-insurer” means an entity which assumes risks which an insurer may assume, without having the legal form of an insurer. Examples of a quasi-insurer are [2140.21](#)
- a federal or provincial crown corporation or agency acting in a capacity similar to a property and casualty insurer,
 - a reciprocal insurance exchange,
 - a provider of extended warranties,
 - a self-funding mechanism, such as a facility association, and
 - a charity or not-for-profit organization that issues “self-insured” gift annuities.

- .03 The standards in part 2000 may also provide useful guidance for an actuary’s report on the valuation of liabilities for an enterprise which is not an insurer but whose operations include benefits which an insurer may provide. [2110.02](#)

- .04 The standards in part 2000 may also provide guidance for a valuation in accordance with a different basis of accounting; for example, where the policy liabilities are calculated in accordance with regulatory prescription which differs from accepted actuarial practice and generally accepted accounting principles.

2130 METHOD

- .01 *The actuary should value the policy liabilities for the balance sheet and the change in those liabilities for the income statement.*

- .02 *The actuary should co-ordinate the valuation with the insurer’s accounting policy as respects the choice between going concern and wind-up accounting, and so that the policy liabilities and other items in the balance sheet*
are consistent,
avoid omission and double counting, and
conform to the presentation of the income statement.

- .03 *The relevant policies for the valuation are those which are in force, including those whose issue is then committed, at the balance sheet date, or which were in force earlier and which will generate cash flow after the balance sheet date.*

- .04 *The policy liabilities in respect of each of the relevant policies should comprise the net cash flow after the balance sheet date from the premiums, benefits, claims, expenses, and taxes which are incurred during the term of its liabilities.* [2210.02](#)
[2320.04](#)

- .05 *The comprised cash flow should include the effect of*
retrospective premium, commission, and similar adjustments,
experience rating refunds,
reinsurance ceded,
subrogation and salvage,
the exercise of policyholder options, and
the deemed termination at the end of the term of its liabilities of each policy then in force.

- .06 *The valuation should take account of the time value of money. [Effective January 1, 2003]*
- .061 *The actuary should ensure that the application of a margin for adverse deviations results in an increase to the value of the liability net of reinsurance. The provision resulting from the application of all margins for adverse deviations, in addition to increasing the net liability, should be appropriate in the aggregate. [Effective October 1, 2006]*

Definitions

- .07 “Policy” includes a financial instrument which is substantively like a policy, such as a reinsurance agreement or an annuity contract, and includes a commitment to issue a policy.
- .08 “Policyholder” includes an individual insured under a group policy, a claimant, a beneficiary, an applicant for a policy, and a customer of a non-insurance service deemed to be a policy.
- .09 “Premiums” include income equivalent to premiums, such as management fees, and cost of insurance charges.

The insurer’s accounting policy

- .10 The preparers of the financial statements make a choice between going concern and wind-up accounting. The actuary would conform the valuation to that choice. If the actuary believes the choice to be inappropriate, then, after consultation with the auditor, he or she would so report. Going concern accounting is appropriate for an insurer that is expected to remain open to new business and in satisfactory financial position indefinitely. Going concern accounting is also appropriate for an insurer which is expected to become closed to new business, but to continue in a satisfactory financial position, either indefinitely or until an increase in capital, combination with another insurer in a satisfactory financial condition, or transfer of its policies to such an insurer brings financial relief.
- .11 Use of the terms “policy liabilities,” “premium liabilities,” and “claim liabilities” is desirable in financial statements, but the choice of their terminology and their itemisation is a management decision. What matters is that the actuary identify, value, and report on all the policy liabilities, whatever they may be called in the financial statements. The classification between premium and claim liabilities is usually evident but is in any case less important than assurance that **all** policy liabilities have been identified and valued.
- .12 Policy liabilities consist of premium liabilities and claim liabilities. Claim liabilities are those in respect of cash flow after the balance sheet date from benefits and claims incurred on or before that date, and their related expenses and taxes; i.e., all of the cash flow, excluding the portion paid before the balance sheet date. Premium liabilities are those in respect of all other cash flow; i.e., that from premiums, benefits, claims, and their related expenses and taxes, incurred after the balance sheet date.

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- .13 The policy liabilities reported in the insurer's balance sheet may be either net of the value of recoveries which are expected from reinsurance ceded or gross of that value. In the latter case, the value of the expected reinsurance recoveries is recorded as an asset. Fair presentation of the reported policy liabilities requires the amount of that asset to be appropriate. The recovery on account of reinsurance ceded would take account of not only the reinsurer's share of claims but also reinsurance commissions, allowances, and retrospective premium adjustments. [2140.01](#)
- .14 The policy liabilities reported in the insurer's balance sheet exclude deposit liabilities of segregated funds but include any related liabilities of the general fund, such as a liability for capital guarantees of amounts in segregated funds.
- .15 The insurer's accounting policy may report amounts related to the relevant policies and the assets which support their policy liabilities, such as
- deposit liabilities (for example, policyholder dividends on deposit),
 - incurred but unpaid items (for example, taxes incurred but not paid and policyholder dividends due but not paid),
 - future tax liabilities and assets (for example, those in connection with the timing differences between accounting and tax liabilities),
 - unamortized realized capital gains,
 - receivables from, payables to, and deposits by reinsurers,
 - the offset to gross liabilities on account of reinsurance ceded and retroceded,
 - amounts recoverable from policyholders,
 - asset impairment, and
 - deferred policy acquisition expenses,
- either as part of the policy liabilities or as separate items in the balance sheet or as a mixture of the two. The actuary would value the policy liabilities so that,
- in the aggregate, the policy liabilities and those separate items are consistent and avoid omission and double counting, and
 - the separate reporting of those items does not affect the insurer's capital (i.e., assets minus liabilities).
- .16 As respects consistency, the actuary would, for example, ensure that the policy liabilities
- provide for any risk of asset depreciation (C-1 risk) and of interest rate change (C-3 risk) for any deposit liabilities which the actuary did not value and which are separately reported without such provision, and
 - provide consistently for cash flow gross of reinsurance and reinsurance cash flow, except that reinsurance cash flow would also take account of the financial condition of the reinsurer.

- .17 As respects double counting and omission, the actuary would, for example, ensure that the same assets are not allocated twice to support liabilities, and provision for asset depreciation (C-1 risk) in valuing the policy liabilities does not duplicate any provision for asset depreciation deducted from the asset side of the balance sheet.

Relevant policies

- .18 The relevant policies for the valuation are those which are in force at the balance sheet date, including those whose issue is then committed, or which were in force earlier and which will generate cash flow after the balance sheet date. There are no policy liabilities in respect of other policies expected to be issued after that date, whether or not they are expected to be profitable.
- .19 There usually are both premium liabilities and claim liabilities in respect of policies which are in force at the balance sheet date.
- .20 There may be claim liabilities in respect of policies which are not in force at the balance sheet date as a result of outstanding claims incurred while they were in force. There may be premium liabilities in respect of those policies as a result of the right of policyholders to reinstate them, or of their unpaid retrospective premium, commission, and similar adjustments, experience rating refunds, reinsurance ceded, and subrogation and salvage.

Term of the Liabilities

- .21 The term of the liabilities of a property and casualty insurance policy ends at its expiry, which usually is within one year of the balance sheet date, unless for example the policy has been cancelled, in which case that term ends at the effective date of cancellation, or the contractual term of the policy exceeds one year; for example, an extended warranty policy which provides coverage for several years after expiry of the basic warranty.

Paragraphs 2320.16 through 2320.27 provide guidance on determination of the term of the liabilities of a life or health insurance policy.

[2320.16](#)
[2320.27](#)

Cash flow comprised in the policy liabilities

- .22 The policy liabilities in respect of a relevant policy comprise all of that policy's cash flow after the balance sheet date, except for cash flow from premiums, benefits, claims, expenses, and taxes which are **incurred** after the term of the policy's liabilities.
- .23 The tax cash flow is limited to that generated by premiums, benefits, claims, and expenses, and by the assets which support policy liabilities. The expense cash flow is limited to that generated by the relevant policies, including overhead allocations. The tax and expense cash flow exclude, for example, tax on investment income from, and the investment expense of, assets which support capital.
- .24 The comprised cash flow for a policy may extend beyond the term of its liabilities as a result of lag between incurral and the resultant cash flow. The extension may be prolonged, for example, for a claim payable in instalments under long term disability insurance, and a claim under product liability insurance which has a long settlement period.

Retrospective premium, commission, and similar adjustments

- .25 In determining the value of a contractual right of the insurer to future premiums which depend on past claims experience, the actuary would take account of credit risk of the policyholder.

Experience rating refunds

- .26 The liability for experience rating refunds would take account of
- the assumptions in calculating the policy liabilities in respect of those matters which determine experience rating refunds,
 - the difference between the basis for policy liabilities and the corresponding basis in the experience rating, and
 - any cross-rating across coverages in the experience rating.
- .27 The experience rating refund element of the policy liabilities would include provision for adverse deviations only for
- risk of misestimation (C-2 risk) of interest rates and risk of interest rate change (C-3 risk) and uncertainty in the calculation of the experience rating refund.

- .28 The experience rating refund element of the policy liabilities would not be negative except to the extent that in settlement it may be offset against another liability or recovered from policyholders.
- .29 Where an insurer holds an asset for an accrued experience rating deficit, the actuary would test the appropriateness and recoverability of the receivable amount using the valuation assumptions and methodology for experience rating refunds, and make an adjustment to the policy liabilities if necessary.

Reinsurance ceded and retroceded

- .30 The recovery on account of reinsurance ceded would take account of the financial condition of the reinsurer.
- .31 The actuary would assume that the insurer and the reinsurer each exercises its control over recapture, cancellation or commutation to its advantage.
- .32 The sign (positive or negative) of an assumption's margin for adverse deviations may depend on that assumption's effect on recapture, cancellation or commutation.

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Subrogation and salvage

- .33 The actuary would either net subrogation and salvage amounts against claims or value them as a separate item, depending on the insurer's accounting policy.

Exercise of policyholder options

- .34 Examples of policyholder options are
- the conversion of group insurance or individual term insurance,
 - the election of a settlement option in individual life insurance,
 - the purchase of additional insurance or coverage without underwriting, and
 - the selection of the amount of premiums for universal life insurance.

Deemed termination of remaining policies

- .35 The comprised cash flow in respect of a policy which is deemed to terminate at the end of the term of its liabilities would include any amount then payable by the insurer in the event of its termination, modified to take account of the fact that the termination is deemed and not actual. For example, the modification would
- forego a surrender charge deducted at an actual termination from the policy's account value to calculate its cash value,
 - forego a deduction at an actual termination from the policy's unearned premium to calculate its premium refund, and
 - anticipate a persistency bonus becoming payable at a date after the end of the term of the policy's liabilities if the policy remains in force to that date.

Time value of money

- .36 In this context, "supporting assets" means the insurer's assets and asset commitments which support its policy liabilities.
- .37 To take account of the time value of money is to express the year-by-year forecast of the cash flow comprised in the policy liabilities as an equivalent single amount at the balance sheet date. There are two methods of doing so – the Canadian asset liability method and the actuarial present value method. In the Canadian asset liability method, the amount of the policy liabilities is the amount of their supporting assets which reduce to zero at the last liability cash flow in the forecast of the cash flow from the assets and liabilities. The Canadian asset liability method is a "roll forward" method applicable to any scenario. The actuarial present value method is a "pull backward" method which produces the same result as the Canadian asset liability method for a particular scenario if present value factors, v^t , exist which replicate the investment return assumptions of that scenario. Such factors do not exist for complex scenarios; for example, a scenario which includes a spike in mortgage lending rates in forecast year 5. [2320](#)
- .38 The discount rates or the forecast of supporting assets, as the case may be, would take account of
- the supporting assets at the balance sheet date and the insurer's policy for asset-liability management after that date and/or
 - assumptions about investment return after the balance sheet date.

- .39 The actuary would value the policy liabilities so that, in the aggregate, they and the other policy-related items in the balance sheet take account of the time value of money.
- .40 In some cases, applicable regulation requires policy liabilities to be valued without taking account of the time value of money; i.e., to be valued as the sum of, rather than the present value of, the cash flow after the balance sheet date. For such a case, the actuary would make a dual valuation of policy liabilities:
- A in accordance with accepted actuarial practice, and
 - B in accordance with accepted actuarial practice but not taking account of the time value of money, with the provision for adverse deviations appropriately reduced.
- .41 If A is acceptable under the applicable regulation (which would usually be the case if A is greater than or equal to B), then the actuary would report A without reservation on account of the regulation.
- .42 If A is not acceptable under the applicable regulation (which would usually be the case if A is less than B), then the actuary would report B with reservation.

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Margin for adverse deviations

- .43 The margin for adverse deviations reflects the degree of uncertainty of the best estimate assumption. This uncertainty results from the risk of misestimation of and deterioration from the best estimate assumption. The potential for misestimation is greater when the past experience has been more volatile and hence would justify a greater margin. However, the margin for adverse deviations would be based on a forward-looking assessment of the expected experience and would not act as a mechanism to absorb changes in observed experience, such as changes caused by statistical fluctuations.

2140 REPORTING

- .01 *The actuary's report should describe*

the valuation and presentation of policy liabilities for the insurer's balance sheet and income statement,

the actuary's opinion on the appropriateness of those liabilities and on the fairness of their presentation, and

the actuary's role in the preparation of the insurer's financial statements if that role is not described in those statements or their accompanying management discussion and analysis.

.02 *If*
the financial statements (or their accompanying management discussion and analysis) describe the actuary's role in their preparation, and
the actuary can report without reservation,
then the actuary's report should conform to the standard reporting language, consisting of
a scope paragraph, which describes the actuary's work, and
an opinion paragraph, which gives the actuary's favourable opinion on the valuation and its presentation.

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[2140.17](#)

.03 *If not, the actuary should modify the standard reporting language to report with reservation.*
[Effective January 1, 2003]

Accounting in the balance sheet

.04 The amount of the policy liabilities is usually the largest amount in the balance sheet, so that its itemisation is desirable.

.05 The reference to "policy liabilities" in the standard reporting language is adequate if
the notes to the financial statements or their accompanying management discussion and analysis verbally define "policy liabilities", or
the balance sheet presents their total amount as a separate item.

Accounting in the income statement

.06 The standard reporting language implies that the income statement accounts for the total change in the policy liabilities during the accounting period. That accounting is direct in the case of a life insurer's actuarial liabilities, whose change is presented as a separate item in the income statement. That accounting is indirect in the case of other policy liabilities, because their change is not separately presented, but is included within other items in the income statement. For example, the item, incurred claims, equals

claims and claim expenses paid during the accounting period, plus
claim liabilities (which are part of the policy liabilities) at the end of the accounting period, minus
claim liabilities at the beginning of the accounting period.

Disclosure of unusual situations

- .07 The items that the actuary values for the financial statements may be misleading if the financial statements do not present them fairly. The actuary's report is a signal to the reader of the financial statements that there is, or is not, fair presentation.
- .08 In an unusual situation, fair presentation may require explanation of an item which the actuary values for the financial statements. Usually, the notes to the financial statements would provide that explanation, including, where appropriate, disclosure of the situation's effect on income and capital. Failing such explanation, the actuary would provide it by a reservation in reporting.
- .09 The question, "Will explanation enhance the user's understanding of the insurer's financial position?" may help the actuary to identify such a situation. Unusual situations may include
- capital appropriated on the actuary's advice,
 - off-balance-sheet obligations, for example, contingent policy liabilities in connection with market conduct,
 - restatement of items for preceding accounting periods,
 - the impracticality of restating any items which are reported in current period financial statements and which were reported inconsistently in preceding period financial statements, 1750.05
 - inconsistency among accounting periods, 1750.05
[2140.11](#)
 - an unusual relationship between the items in current period financial statements and the expected corresponding items in future period financial statements,
 - a change in the method of valuation which does not have an effect in the current accounting period but which is expected to have an effect in future accounting periods,
 - allocation of expense or investment income to a participating account (if reported in the financial statements) other than in accordance with the method approved by the actuary and the insurer's board of directors,
 - a subsequent event, and 1520
 - a difference between the insurer's present practice and that which the actuary assumed in valuing the policy liabilities.
- .10 An example of the last item is the actuary's assumption of a policy for setting dividend scales which differs from the insurer's current policy. The actuary would not, however, report the assumption of a dividend **scale** which is in accordance with an unchanged dividend **policy**. The same applies to a difference between current and assumed policy for setting non-guaranteed cash value scales and premium rates for adjustable policies.

Consistency among accounting periods

- .11 Financial statements usually report results for one or more preceding accounting periods in addition to those for the current period. Meaningful comparability requires the financial statement items for the various periods to be consistent through the restatement of preceding period items if they were inconsistently reported in the preceding period financial statements. A less desirable alternative to restatement is disclosure of the inconsistency.
- .12 A change in the method of valuation creates an inconsistency. If a change in the assumptions for valuation reflects a change in the expected outlook, then it does not create an inconsistency although, if its effect is major, then fair presentation may require its disclosure. 1750
- .13 A change in assumptions which results from the application of new standards may create an inconsistency.

Communication with the auditor

- .14 Communication with the auditor is desirable at various stages of the actuary's work. These include
- use of work in accordance with the *CIA/CICA Joint Policy Statement*, 1630
 - the drafting of common features in the auditor's report and actuary's report, 1520
 - the drafting of a report with reservations,
 - the presentation of the policy liabilities, and
 - the treatment of subsequent events.

Description of the actuary's role

- .15 The actuary would report a description of his or her role in the preparation of the insurer's financial statements only if the financial statements or their accompanying management discussion and analysis do not provide that description.

.16 Here is an illustrative description:

“The Appointed Actuary is

appointed by the [Board of Directors] of [the Company];

responsible for ensuring that the assumptions and methods for the valuation of policy liabilities are in accordance with accepted actuarial practice, applicable legislation, and associated regulations and directives;

required to provide an opinion on the appropriateness of the policy liabilities at the balance sheet date to meet all policyholder obligations of [the Company]. The work to form that opinion includes an examination of the sufficiency and reliability of policy data and an analysis of the ability of the assets to support the policy liabilities; and

required each year to analyse the financial condition of the company and prepare a report for the [Board of Directors]. The analysis tests the capital adequacy of the company until [31 December xxxx] under adverse economic and business conditions.”

Standard reporting language

.17 Here is the standard reporting language:

Appointed Actuary’s Report

To the policyholders [and shareholders] of [the ABC Insurance Company]:

I have valued the policy liabilities of [the Company] for its [consolidated] balance sheet at [31 December xxxx] and their change in the statement of income for the year then ended in accordance with accepted actuarial practice, including selection of appropriate assumptions and methods.

In my opinion, the amount of policy liabilities makes appropriate provision for all policyholder obligations and the [consolidated] financial statements fairly present the results of the valuation.

[Montréal, Québec]

[Report date]

[Mary F. Roe]

Fellow, Canadian Institute of Actuaries

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.18 The language in square brackets is variable and other language may be adjusted to conform to interim financial statements and to the terminology and presentation in the financial statements.

- .19 An auditor's report usually accompanies the financial statements. Uniformity of common features in the two reports will avoid confusion to readers of the financial statements. Those common features include:

Addressees. Usually, the actuary addresses the report to the policyholders of a mutual insurer and to both the policyholders and shareholders of a stock insurer.

Years referenced. Usually, the actuary's report refers only to the current year, even though financial statements usually present results for both the current and prior years.

Report date. If the two reports have the same date, then they would take account of the same subsequent events.

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Reservations in reporting

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- .20 The examples which follow are illustrative.

Quasi-insurer

- .21 Here is an example of a report for a quasi-insurer:

I have valued the outstanding claim liabilities of [the Professional Indemnity Plan] for its balance sheet at [31 December XXXX] in accordance with accepted actuarial practice, including selection of appropriate assumptions and methods.

As explained in Note [XX], the [Plan's] liabilities are not fully funded.

In my opinion, and having regard for Note [XX], the amount of policy liabilities makes appropriate provision for all of the [Plan's] outstanding claims and the financial statements fairly present the results of the valuation.

Note [XX] would quantify and describe the actuary's assumptions with respect to the asset shortfall, describe the plan, if any, for its funding, and explain its implications for the financial security of participants and claimants.

New appointment

- .22 A newly appointed actuary who is unable to use the predecessor actuary's work, but who has no reason to doubt its appropriateness, would modify the standard reporting language as follows:

I have valued the policy liabilities of [the Company] for its [consolidated] balance sheet at [31 December XXXX] and, except as noted in the following paragraph, their change in the statement of income for the year then ended in accordance with accepted actuarial practice, including selection of appropriate assumptions and methods.

I became the [appointed actuary] during the year and was unable to confirm the appropriateness of the valuation for the preceding year.

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In my opinion, the amount of policy liabilities makes appropriate provision for all policyholder obligations and the [consolidated] financial statements fairly present the results of the valuation. For the reason stated in the previous paragraph, I am unable to say whether or not those results are consistent with those for the preceding year.

- .23 If the actuary doubts the appropriateness of the predecessor actuary's work as a result of a review of it, then the actuary would consider a more serious reservation.

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Impracticality of restatement

- .24 The actuary would if necessary restate the preceding year valuation to be consistent with the current year valuation. If it is not practical to restate the preceding year valuation, then the actuary would modify the opinion paragraph in the standard reporting language as follows:

As explained in Note [XX], the method of valuation for the current year differs from that for the preceding year. In my opinion, except for that lack of consistency, the amount of policy liabilities makes appropriate provision for all policyholder obligations and the [consolidated] financial statements fairly present the results of the valuation.

- .25 Note [XX] would usually explain the change in the basis of valuation, explain the impracticality of applying the new basis retroactively, and disclose the effect of the change on the opening equity at the beginning of the preceding year.

Valuation does not take account of time value of money

- .26 If a regulation that policy liabilities be valued without taking account of the time value of money requires a reservation, then the actuary would modify the standard reporting language as follows:

I have valued the policy liabilities of [the Company] for its [consolidated] balance sheet at [31 December xxxx] and their change in the statement of income for the year then ended in accordance with accepted actuarial practice, including the selection of appropriate assumptions and methods, except as described in the following paragraph.

In accepted actuarial practice, the valuation of policy liabilities reflects the time value of money. Pursuant to the authority granted by the *Insurance Companies Act*, the Superintendent of Financial Institutions has directed that the valuation of some policy liabilities not reflect the time value of money. My valuation complies with that directive.

In my opinion, the amount of policy liabilities makes appropriate provision for all policyholder obligations, except as noted in the previous paragraph, and the [consolidated] financial statements fairly present the results of the valuation.

Takeover of insurer with poor records

- .27 If the insurer took over another insurer with poor records, then the actuary would modify the standard reporting language as follows:

I have valued the policy liabilities of [the Company] for its [consolidated] balance sheet at [31 December xxxx] and their change in the statement of income for the year then ended in accordance with accepted actuarial practice, including selection of appropriate assumptions and methods, except as described in the following paragraph.

During the year, [the Company] took over the assets, liabilities, and policies of [WWW Insurer], whose policy records are, in my opinion, unreliable. [The Company] is making but has not completed the necessary improvements. My valuation with respect to the policies taken over from [WWW Insurer] is therefore uncertain. Their policy liabilities comprise [N]% of the total policy liabilities at [31 December xxxx].

In my opinion, except for the reservation in the previous paragraph, the amount of policy liabilities makes appropriate provision for all policyholder obligations and the [consolidated] financial statements fairly present the results of the valuation.

Liabilities greater than those calculated by the actuary

- .28 If the financial statements of an insurer report policy liabilities which are greater than those calculated and reported by the actuary, and if the notes to those financial statements do not provide sufficient disclosure of the rationale for the greater liabilities, then the actuary would report as follows:

I have valued the policy liabilities of [the Company] for its [consolidated] balance sheet at [31 December XXXX] and their change in the statement of income for the year then ended in accordance with accepted actuarial practice, including selection of appropriate assumptions and methods, except as described in the following paragraph.

In my valuation, the amount of the policy liabilities is \$[X]. The corresponding amount in the [consolidated] financial statements is \$[Y].

In my opinion, the amount of policy liabilities of \$[X] makes appropriate provision for all policyholder obligations and, except as described in the preceding paragraph, the [consolidated] financial statements fairly present the result of the valuation.

2200 VALUATION OF POLICY LIABILITIES: P&C INSURANCE

2210 SCOPE

- .01 The standards in this section 2200 apply in accordance with subsections 2110 and 2120.
- .02 Repealed

2110

2220 CLAIM LIABILITIES

- .01 *The amount of the claim liabilities should be equal to the present value, at the balance sheet date, of cash flow on account of claims (and of related expenses and taxes) incurred before that date.* [Effective January 1, 2003]
- .02 The amount of claim liabilities consists of the following components
- the amount of the case estimates,
 - a provision (which may be positive or negative) for development on reported claims, including claim adjustment expenses, and
 - a provision for incurred but unreported claims, including claim adjustment expenses.
- .03 The development on reported claims compensates for the inadequacy or redundancy in case estimates.
- .04 The incurred but unreported claims are those not yet reported to the insurer, including those reported but not yet recorded.
- .05 The development on reported claims and the incurred but unreported claims need not be calculated separately. Some valuation methods calculate only their combined amount.
- .06 The selection of valuation methods depends on the circumstances of the case. The actuary would usually consider several methods, each of which involves assumptions; e.g., an assumption that the settlement patterns of the available past claims experience are uniform and the same as those of the insurer's future claims experience. The actuary would where practical adjust the available past claims experience in order to recognize those assumptions.

.07 The actuary would consider the circumstances of the case in selecting assumptions. The available past claims experience may lack pertinence for assumptions about the insurer's future claims experience as a result of internal changes, such as changes in

- the insurer's underwriting practice,
- its claims handling practice, including case estimate practice,
- its reinsurance,
- its data processing, and
- its accounting,

and as a result of external changes, such as inflation and changes in the judicial, regulatory, and legislative environment, or residual insurers, like the Facility Association.

1730.08
1730.10
1730.17

.08 The past and future claims experience of a pool or association in which the insurer participates tends to be beyond the insurer's control and may differ from the insurer's own claims experience.

2230 PREMIUM LIABILITIES

.01 *The amount of the premium liabilities (after deducting any deferred policy acquisition expense asset) should be equal to the present value, at the balance sheet date, of cash flow on account of premium development and of the claims, expenses, and taxes to be incurred after that date on account of the policies in force at that date or an earlier date. [Effective January 1, 2003]*

[2130.03](#)

.02 The actuary would consider the standards for claim liabilities in selecting assumptions about claims.

.03 Expenses include both claim adjustment expenses and the expense of servicing policies.

.04 Premium development includes additional premiums such as reinstatement premiums and provisions for swing-rated policies.

2240 PRESENT VALUES

.01 The expected investment return rate for calculation of the present value of cash flow is that to be earned on the assets which support the policy liabilities. It depends on

- the method of valuing assets and reporting investment income,
- the allocation of those assets and that income among lines of business,
- the return on the assets at the balance sheet date,
- the yield on assets acquired after the balance sheet date,
- the capital gains and losses on assets sold after the balance sheet date, and
- investment expenses, and losses from default (C-1 risk).

- .02 The actuary need not verify the existence and ownership of the assets at the balance sheet date, but would consider their quality.

2250 MARGIN FOR ADVERSE DEVIATIONS

- .01 The standards in this subsection 2250 apply to the selection of a margin for adverse deviations in the assumptions for a valuation of policy liabilities by a single scenario valuation.

1740.39

- .02 *The actuary should select a margin for adverse deviations for an assumption which is within the range defined by the low margin and the high margin for that assumption. The criteria for selection of that margin are the considerations for that assumption.*

[2250.10](#)

- .03 *The selected margin should tend toward the high margin to the extent that those considerations, viewed in the aggregate but considering their individual relative importance,*

have been unstable during the period covered by the experience data on which the selection of the corresponding expected assumption is based and the effect of that instability cannot be quantified, or

otherwise undermine confidence in the selection of the corresponding expected assumption,

and should tend toward the low margin to the extent that the opposite is the case.

- .04 *The selected margin should vary*

between premium liabilities and claim liabilities,

among lines of business, and

among accident years, policy years, or underwriting years, as the case may be,

according to how those considerations so vary. [Effective January 1, 2003]

Assumptions subject to margin

- .05 The actuary would include margin in the assumptions for

claims development,

recovery from reinsurance ceded, and

investment return rates.

- .06 The actuary would not usually include margin in the other assumptions. An example of unusual circumstances which warrants an exception is:

Salvage and subrogation assumption: Presentation as an asset separate from the claim liabilities.

Amounts of high and low margins

- .07 The margin for claims development is a percentage of the claim liabilities excluding provision for adverse deviations.
- .08 The margin for recovery from reinsurance ceded is a percentage of the amount deducted on account of reinsurance ceded in calculating the premium liabilities or claim liabilities, as the case may be, without provision for adverse deviations.
- .09 The margin for investment return rate is a deduction from the expected investment return rate per year.
- .10 The amounts of margin are:
- | | <u>High</u> | <u>Low</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Claims <u>development</u> | 15% | 2.5% |
| Recovery from reinsurance ceded | 15% | Zero |
| Investment return rates | 200 basis points | 50 basis points |
- .11 Selection of a margin for adverse deviations above the high margin may be appropriate for unusually high uncertainty – for example, during the transition to new insurance coverages.

Considerations

- .12 A consideration for an assumption generates lack of confidence in that assumption as a result of past or future instability of the consideration or a shortcoming in its quality, quantity, or performance. For example,
- Instability in the guidelines for setting and reviewing case estimates may result in inconsistent development among accident years, and
- A history of claim and coverage disputes with a reinsurer creates uncertainty of recovery of 100¢ in each dollar of the reinsurer's share of liabilities.
- .13 The actuary would select and evaluate considerations for each assumption which are appropriate to the circumstances of the insurer, including
- insurer practices, for example, the guidelines for setting and reviewing case estimates,
- data, for example, the stability of claims frequency and average claim cost,
- reinsurance, for example, the history of claim and coverage disputes with reinsurers,
- investments, for example, the matching of assets and liabilities, and
- the external environment, for example, the effect of regulatory change on claim settlements.

**2300 VALUATION OF POLICY LIABILITIES: LIFE AND HEALTH
(ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS) INSURANCE**

2310 SCOPE

- .01 The standards in this section 2300 apply in accordance with subsections 2110 and 2120.

[2110](#)

2320 METHOD

- .01 *The actuary should calculate policy liabilities by the Canadian asset liability method.*
- .02 *The amount of policy liabilities by that method for a particular scenario is equal to the amount of supporting assets at the balance sheet date which are forecasted to reduce to zero at the last liability cash flow in that scenario.*

[2130.37](#)

- .03 The term of the liabilities should take account of any renewal, or any adjustment equivalent to renewal, after the balance sheet date if

[2320.16](#)

the insurer's discretion at that renewal or adjustment is contractually constrained, and

policy liabilities are larger as a result of taking account of that renewal or adjustment.

- .04 *In forecasting the cash flow which the policy liabilities comprise, the actuary should*

[2130.05](#)

take account of policyholder reasonable expectations, and

include policyholder dividends, other than the related transfers to the shareholders account and other than ownership dividends, in the comprised cash flow from benefits.

- .05 The actuary should calculate policy liabilities for multiple scenarios and adopt a scenario whose policy liabilities make sufficient but not excessive provision for the insurer's obligations in respect of the relevant policies.

1740.04

- .06 *The assumptions for a particular scenario consist of*

scenario-tested assumptions, which should include no margin for adverse deviations, and

each other needed assumption, whose best estimate should be consistent with the scenario-tested assumptions and which should include margin for adverse deviations.

- .07 *The scenario-tested assumptions should include at least the interest rate assumptions.*

- .08 The scenarios of interest rate assumptions should comprise
- a base scenario, as defined under paragraph 2330.09.1,*
 - each of the prescribed scenarios in a deterministic application,*
 - ranges which comprehend each of the prescribed scenarios in a stochastic application, and*
 - other scenarios appropriate for the circumstances of the insurer.*
- [Effective October 15, 2006]

Liability grouping and asset segmentation

- .09 The actuary would usually apply the Canadian asset liability method to policies in groups which reflect the insurer's asset-liability management practice for allocation of assets to liabilities and investment strategy. That application is a convenience, however, which would not militate against calculation of policy liabilities that, in the aggregate, reflect the risks to which the insurer is exposed.

Other methods

- .10 For a particular scenario, another method may be equivalent to or approximate the Canadian asset liability method. If the actuary uses that other method, then the calculation for multiple scenarios and the selection of one which makes sufficient but not excessive provision for the insurer's obligations would be the same as for the Canadian asset liability method.

Supporting assets

- .11 In allocating assets to support liabilities, the actuary would preserve the connection between unamortized capital gains, both realized and unrealized, and the asset segments which generated them.
- .12 The value of the assets which support policy liabilities at the balance sheet date would be their value in the insurer's financial statements; i.e., book value, taking account of accrued investment income and of adjustments for impairment, amortized unrealized capital gains, and amortized realized capital gains.
- .13 The forecasted cash flow of the assets would take account of any related, off-balance sheet, financial instruments.
- .14 The forecast of cash flow from taxes would take account of permanent and temporary differences between the amortization of capital gains in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in accordance with tax law.

- .15 The assumed cash flow from policyholder dividends would avoid omission and double counting. For example, if the dividend scale includes distribution of a deferred realized capital gain (net of any corresponding future tax asset), then the assumed cash flow from policyholder dividends would exclude that distribution. In the opposite case, the assumed cash flow from policyholder dividends would provide for negative distribution of a deferred realized capital loss asset (net of any corresponding future tax liability). Such avoidance is appropriate only in the case of liabilities and would not be appropriate if the dividend scale included distribution of assets that support capital, or distribution of investment income on assets that support capital.

[2320.35](#)

Term of the liabilities

- .16 If an element of a policy operates independently of the other elements, then it would be treated as a separate policy with its own term of liabilities. Examples are

a flexible premium deferred annuity where the interest guarantee and cash value attached to each premium are independent of those for the other premiums, and

a certificate of voluntary non-contributory association or creditor group insurance.

- .17 The term of a policy's liabilities is not necessarily the same as the contractual term of the policy.

- .18 In this context,

“renewal” means the renewal of a policy at the end of its term, with the insurer having discretion to adjust premiums or coverage for the new term,

“adjustment” means an insurer's adjustment to a policy's coverage or premiums equivalent to that in a renewal, and

“constraint” means a constraint on the insurer's exercise of discretion in renewal or adjustment which results from contractual obligations, legally binding commitments,

[2320.28](#)

and policyholder reasonable expectations. Examples of constraint are an obligation to renew a policy unless renewal is refused for all other policies in the same class, a guarantee of premiums, a guarantee of credited interest rate, a general account guarantee of segregated fund value, and a limitation on the amount of adjustment. “Constraint” would not include a price-competitive market expected at renewal or adjustment.

- .19 The term of a policy's liabilities takes account of all renewals and adjustments before the balance sheet date. Depending on the circumstances, that term may also take account of one or more renewals or adjustments after the balance sheet date.

- .20 If the term of the liabilities is not evident, and if selection of a longer term would reduce policy liabilities, then the actuary would be cautious in making such a selection. On the other hand, if selection of a longer term would increase those liabilities, then the actuary would usually select the longer term. Substance would supersede form in the selection; for example, a universal life policy which is in form an annual premium life insurance policy may be in substance a single premium deferred annuity.
- .21 The term of the liabilities of
- a policy which has been cancelled by the insurer ends at the effective date of cancellation.
 - a policy which has not been cancelled, but which is cancellable by the insurer at or before the date to which its premiums have been paid, ends at that date.
 - an individual annual premium life or accident and sickness insurance policy ends at the last day to which the policyholder may prolong its coverage without the consent of the insurer.
 - a certificate of group insurance if the group policy is in effect a collection of individual policies is the same as if it were an individual policy, unless contributions or experience rating of the group negate anti-selection by certificate holders.
- .22 The term of the liabilities of any other policy ends at the earlier of
- the first renewal or adjustment date at or after the balance sheet date at which there is no constraint, and
 - the renewal or adjustment date after the balance sheet date which maximizes the policy liabilities.
- .23 The actuary would extend such term solely to permit recognition of cash flow to offset acquisition or similar expenses
- whose recovery from cash flow that would otherwise be beyond such term was contemplated by the insurer in pricing the policy, and
 - where the value of the additional cash flow recognized by such extension of the term cannot exceed the value of the remaining balance of acquisition or similar expenses.

.24 The balance of acquisition or similar expenses would be written down to zero using an appropriate method. Such method would:

have a term consistent with the extended term established at inception,

have a write-down pattern reasonably matched with the net cash flow available to offset these expenses at inception, and

be locked in, so the amount of write-down in each period will not fluctuate from the expected amount established at inception provided such balance is recoverable from the additional cash flow recognized at the balance sheet date, and where not fully recoverable at the balance sheet date, is written down to the recoverable amount, with the expected amount of write-down in each future period proportionately reduced.

.25 That implies that the term ends at

the balance sheet date if the policy is continually renewable or adjustable without constraint,

the first renewal or adjustment after the balance sheet date if there is no constraint at that renewal or adjustment, and

a renewal or adjustment determined by testing for any other policy. The actuary would calculate the policy liabilities assuming that the term of its liabilities ends at each renewal or adjustment at or after the balance sheet date up to and including the first renewal or adjustment at which there is no constraint, and would select the term corresponding to the largest policy liabilities.

.26 A change in the outlook may provoke a change in the term of a policy's liabilities. For example, the constraint of a cost of insurance guarantee which previously lengthened the term of the policy's liabilities may no longer do so if the outlook for mortality improves. On the other hand, the constraint of a guaranteed credited interest rate which previously was considered innocuous may become meaningful, and thereby lengthen the term of the policy's liabilities, if the outlook changes to one of lower interest rates.

- .27 For example, the term of the liabilities ends at
- the balance sheet date for a daily interest rate deposit without minimum guarantee, an administrative services only (ASO) contract without expense guarantee, and the general account portion of a deferred annuity with segregated fund liabilities but without guarantees; for example, with no guarantee of the segregated fund value,
 - the first renewal of a single premium deferred annuity which is, in effect, a term deposit (i.e., having a credited interest rate guarantee for a stipulated period, say three years, beginning at the date of deposit, and no guarantee thereafter),
 - the first renewal (usually one year after the previous renewal) of a group policy which insures employee benefits, unless there is a constraint at that renewal, and
 - the next renewal date or adjustment date even if there is a constraint at renewals and adjustments at and after that date, but the constraint is so weak that its operation does not increase policy liabilities.

Policyholder reasonable expectations

- .28 The insurer's policies define contractually its obligations to its policyholders. The contractual definition may leave certain matters to the insurer's discretion, such as
- the determination of policyholder dividends, experience-rating refunds, and retrospective commission adjustments, and
 - the right to adjust premiums.
- .29 Matters left to the insurer's discretion implicitly include
- underwriting and claim practices, and
 - the right to waive contractual rights and to create extra-contractual obligations.
- .30 Policyholder reasonable expectations are the expectations which
- may be imputed to policyholders as their reasonable expectations of the insurer's exercise of discretion in those matters, and
 - arise from the insurer's communication in marketing and administration, from its past practice, from its current policy, and from general standards of market conduct. Past practice includes the non-exercise of discretion; for example, long non-exercise without affirmation of a right to adjust premiums may undermine it. The insurer's communication includes policyholder dividend and investment performance illustrations at sale of a policy and that of intermediaries reasonably perceived as acting in its behalf.

- .31 In selecting assumptions for the insurer's exercise of discretion in those matters, the actuary would take policyholder reasonable expectations into account. Taking account of policyholder reasonable expectations may affect not only the amount of policy liabilities but also disclosure in the financial statements.
- .32 The determination of policyholder reasonable expectations is straightforward when the insurer's practice has been clear, unvarying, consistent with its communications, consistent with general standards of market conduct, and the insurer does not intend to change it. The actuary would discuss any other practice with the insurer, with a view to clarifying policyholder reasonable expectations.
- .33 If the insurer makes a change which will eventually alter policyholder reasonable expectations, then the actuary would consider both the appropriate disclosure of the change in policyholder communication and the financial statements, and the time elapsed before the altered expectations crystallize.
- .34 A dispute over policyholder reasonable expectations may lead to class action or other litigation by policyholders against the insurer, which may affect policy liabilities or generate contingent liabilities.

Policyholder dividends

- .35 The assumed cash flow from policyholder dividends would be that from both periodic (usually annual) dividends and terminal and other deferred dividends, but excluding that from the related transfers from the participating to the shareholders account in a stock insurer.
- .36 The assumed cash flow from policyholder dividends would avoid omission and double counting with other elements of the policy liabilities and with liabilities other than policy liabilities. For example, if the actuary has valued the policy liabilities for riders and supplementary benefits in participating policies as though they were non-participating—i.e., with provision for adverse deviations in excess of that appropriate for participating insurance – then the assumed cash flow from policyholder dividends would exclude the portion of that excess which is included in the dividend scale.
- .37 The selected policyholder dividend scales in a particular scenario would be consistent with the other elements of that scenario, but would take account of how insurer inertia, policyholder reasonable expectations, and market pressure may preclude the dividend scale from being responsive to changes assumed in the scenario. Those scales would also be consistent with the insurer's dividend policy except in a scenario which that policy does not contemplate and which would provoke a change in it.
- .38 If the current dividend scale anticipates a future deterioration in experience, then the actuary would assume continuance of that scale in response to that deterioration. If the current dividend scale does not respond to a recent deterioration in experience but the insurer's policy is to do so, and if the delay in doing so does not provoke a contrary policyholder reasonable expectation, then the actuary would assume such response.

- .39 An assumption of cash dividends to all policyholders is appropriate only if the alternative options to cash have equivalent value, failing which the actuary would
- either adjust the cash dividends to reflect the non-equivalence or make explicit assumption about policyholder exercise of the various dividend options, and
 - provide for the anti-selection which will result from increasing exercise of the more valuable options.

Forecast of cash flow

- .40 In calculating policy liabilities, the actuary would allocate assets to the liabilities at the balance sheet date, forecast their cash flow after that date, and, by trial and error, adjust the allocated assets so that they reduce to zero at the last cash flow.
- .41 Use of the work of another person may be appropriate for forecasting the cash flow of certain assets, such as real estate. 1610

Income tax and alternative tax

- .42 This item deals with cash flow from tax based on income (herein called “income tax”) and other taxes not based on income but which interact with income tax; for example, certain capital taxes in Canada (herein called “alternative tax”).
- .43 The cash flow from such taxes would be limited to that in respect of the relevant policies and the assets which support their policy liabilities, and thus, with the exception of the recoverability of future tax losses described below would ignore any interaction between that cash flow and cash flow in the rest of the insurer; e.g., it would ignore tax on investment income from assets which support the insurer’s capital. For a particular scenario, forecasted income before tax is equal to zero in each accounting period after the balance sheet date. That is so because that scenario assumes occurrence of the adverse deviations for which it makes provision. If income according to tax rules were equal to income in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and if there were no alternative tax, then the corresponding forecasted tax cash flow would also be equal to zero. In reality, however, such tax cash flow may differ from zero because of
- differences—both temporary and permanent—between income in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and in income in accordance with tax rules,
 - the operation of carry-forward and carry-back in the tax rules, and
 - alternative tax and the interaction between it and income tax.
- .44 An example of a temporary difference is a difference between policy liabilities and the corresponding tax liabilities.

[2320.40](#)

- .45 An example of a permanent difference is a preferential tax rate on the investment income on a class of assets.
- .46 The forecast of cash flow from such taxes would therefore take account of positive or negative tax as a result of permanent and temporary differences at, and arising after, the balance sheet date, and of alternative taxes incurred after the balance sheet date.
- .47 The resulting policy liabilities make appropriate provision for cash flow on account of such taxes. If the insurer's balance sheet records a future tax asset or liability in respect of such taxes, then, in order to avoid double counting, the actuary would adjust the policy liabilities otherwise calculated upward to reflect the existence of the future tax asset and downward to reflect the existence of future tax liability.
- .48 The realization of negative tax depends on the simultaneous availability of income which is otherwise taxable. In forecasting such income, the actuary would [2320.43](#)
- make provision for adverse deviations,
- take into account the projected tax position of the company overall, but
- not take account of the expected release of provisions for adverse deviations in the policy liabilities because, as noted above, their calculation implicitly assumes that those adverse deviations occur.

Adverse deviations borne by policyholders

- .49 The policy liabilities need not make provision for adverse deviations to the extent that the insurer can offset its effect by adjustments to policyholder dividends, premium rates, and benefits. The insurer's contractual right of such offset may be constrained by policyholder reasonable expectations, competition, regulation, administrative delays, and the fear of adverse publicity or anti-selection. [1740.12](#)
[1740.24](#)

Adoption of a scenario

- .50 If the selection of scenarios is deterministic, then the actuary would adopt a scenario whose policy liabilities are within the upper part of the range of the policy liabilities for the selected scenarios, provided, however, that the policy liabilities would not be less than those in the prescribed scenario with the largest policy liabilities.
- .51 If the selection of scenarios is stochastic, then the actuary would adopt a scenario whose policy liabilities are within the range defined by
- the average of the policy liabilities which are above the 60th percentile of the range of policy liabilities for the selected scenarios, and
- the corresponding average for the 80th percentile.

Scenario-tested assumptions

- .52 The provision for adverse deviations in respect of scenario-tested assumptions results from calculating the policy liabilities for multiple scenarios and adopting a scenario whose policy liabilities are relatively high. 1740.21

Other assumptions

- .53 The provision for adverse deviations in respect of each assumption other than the scenario-tested assumptions results from a margin for adverse deviations included in that assumption.
- .54 The assumptions unique to a particular scenario are the scenario-tested assumptions and each other assumption which is correlated with them. For example, policyholder dividends and the exercise of options by borrowers and issuers are strongly correlated with interest rates. Lapses may be correlated or not, depending on the circumstances. The assumption on a matter not so correlated would be common to all scenarios. 1740.39

Margin for adverse deviations

- .55 The margin for adverse deviations would be at least the average of the applicable high and low margin whenever at least one ‘significant consideration’ exists, or at least one other consideration is significant in the context of the valuation. Significant considerations vary by type of assumption and are described under subsections 2340 and 2350.

2330 SCENARIO ASSUMPTIONS: INTEREST RATES

General Considerations

- .01 An interest rate scenario comprises, for each forecast period between the balance sheet date and the last cash flow,
 an investment strategy, and
 an interest rate for each risk-free asset and the corresponding premium for each asset subject to default.
- .02 Each interest rate scenario would include an assumption with respect to the rate of inflation that is consistent with that scenario.
- .03 The interest rate scenario would be consistent among the insurer’s lines of business.
- .04 The investment strategy defines reinvestment and disinvestment practice for each type, default risk classification, and term of the invested assets which support policy liabilities. Assumption of the insurer’s current investment strategy implies investment decisions of reinvestment and disinvestment in accordance with that strategy and hence the risk inherent in that strategy.

- .05 The investment strategy for each scenario would be consistent with the insurer's current investment policy. The policy liabilities would therefore make no provision for any increased risk which may result from a change in that policy.
- .06 When using non-debt instruments, the actuary would ensure that the proportion of non-debt instruments, at each duration, would be in accordance with the insurer's current investment policy (regardless of whether net cash flows for the period are positive or negative). This review would be performed without taking into consideration any business that could be issued after the valuation date (new sales) even for a valuation done on a going concern basis as stipulated in paragraph 2130.02. In the case where the investment policy limits are set on a going concern basis, the actuary would be satisfied that the projected proportion of non-debt assets is appropriate to support only the in-force business at the valuation date, and does not explicitly or implicitly assume any future new business. This may create a situation where the actuary would have to assume that non-debt instruments would be divested. This disinvestment is not limited to non-debt instruments acquired after the valuation date.
- .07 The number of assumed terms of assets would be large enough to permit assumption of changes in the shape and steepness of the yield curve. That implies a minimum of a short, a medium, and a long term.
- .08 A scenario for a foreign country's interest rates would be formulated independently of that for Canadian interest rates unless their positive historical correlation is expected to continue.
- .09 The importance of the assumptions for a particular forecast period depends on the magnitude of the net forecasted cash flow for that period.

Base Scenario

- 09.1 The interest rates for investments purchased or sold are based on the following interest rate scenario using the insurer's current investment strategy:

risk-free interest rates effective after the balance sheet date are equal to the forward interest rates implied by the equilibrium risk free market curve at that date, for the first 20 years after the balance sheet date;

at or after the 40th anniversary from the balance sheet date, risk-free interest rates are equal to the sum of ½ of the 60 month and 120 month moving averages of historic long-term Canadian risk-free bond yields (V122544 term-to-maturity>10 years), annualized and rounded to the nearest 10 basis points;

between the 20th and 40th anniversary, the forward risk-free interest rates are determined using a uniform transition; and

the premiums for default risk at all durations, consistent with the current investment strategy and risk premiums available in the market at the balance sheet date.

- .09.2 The provision for adverse deviations for interest rate risk for both deterministic and stochastic applications would be measured as the difference between the reported policy liabilities and the policy liability resulting from the application of the Base Scenario.

Prescribed scenarios

- .10 Because future investment returns and inflation rates are so conjectural, it is desirable that the calculation of policy liabilities for all insurers take account of certain common assumptions. There are therefore nine prescribed scenarios which follow.

- .11 The prescribed scenarios apply to debt investments acquired or sold after the balance sheet date.

- .12 For a prescribed scenario, if the net cash flow forecast for a period is positive, then the actuary would assume its application to repay the outstanding balance, if any, of borrowing in accordance with paragraph 2330.14, and then

assume the reinvestment of any remainder in debt investments,

except that, in lieu of debt investments, the actuary may assume reinvestment in non-debt investments

not to exceed their proportion of investments at the balance sheet date if the insurer controls investment decisions and if such reinvestment is consistent with its investment policy, or

in the proportion expected to be selected by policyholders if policyholders control investment decisions.

- .13 The limitation on reinvestment in non-debt instruments is intended to apply in situations where reflecting increased utilization of these instruments would reduce the policy liabilities.

- .14 For a prescribed scenario, if the net cash flow for a period is negative, then the actuary would assume an offsetting disinvestment or borrowing, or a mix of the two. For insurer controlled investment decisions, any borrowing would be in accordance with the investment policy, would be short term, and would be expected to be soon repayable by subsequent positive forecasted net cash flow.

- .15 The prescribed scenarios provide guidance on interest rates for sale and purchase of investments and on the type and term of investments purchased, but provide no guidance on the type and term of investments sold.

- .15.1 The prescribed range of short-term Canadian risk-free interest rates for the ultimate forecast period is calculated as follows (but see also paragraph 2330.153 below for limitations). The lower bound of the short-term rates is determined as the lesser of 3%, and the rate determined by taking 90% of the sum of 1/2 of the 60 month and 120 month moving averages of historic 91-day Canadian risk-free interest rates. The upper bound of the short-term rates is determined as the greater of 10%, and 110% of the sum of 1/2 of the 60 month and 120 month moving averages of historic 91 day Canadian risk-free rates. These range bounds are rounded to the nearest 10 basis points. The 91 day Canadian risk-free interest rate is defined as the effective annual rate equivalent to the Short Rate: V122531 - Government of Canada 91 Day Treasury Bill Yield rate which is compounded quarterly.
- .15.2 The prescribed range of long-term Canadian risk-free interest rates for the ultimate forecast period is calculated as follows (but see also paragraph 2330.153 below for limitations). The lower bound of the long-term rates is determined as the lesser of 5%, and the rate determined by taking 90% of the sum of 1/2 of the 60 month and 120 month moving averages of historic long-term Canadian risk-free bond interest rates (term-to-maturity >10 years). The upper bound of the long-term rates is determined as the greater of 12%, and 110% of the sum of 1/2 of the 60 month and 120 month moving averages of historic long-term Canadian risk-free bond interest rates (term-to-maturity >10 years). These range bounds are rounded to the nearest 10 basis points. The long-term Canadian risk-free bond interest rate (term-to-maturity >10 years) is defined as the effective annual rate equivalent to the Long Rate: V122544 - Government of Canada Benchmark Bond Yield – Long Term rate which is compounded semi-annually.
- .15.3 The width of the prescribed range of interest rates is exactly 7%. As a result, if the lower bound of the range is below 3% (short-term) or 5% (long-term), the upper bound of the range will be adjusted to be exactly 7% larger than the lower bound. Similarly, if the upper bound of the range is above 10% (short-term) or 12% (long-term), the lower bound of the range will be adjusted to be exactly 7% less than the upper bound.
- .16 The parameters in the prescribed scenarios apply to investments denominated in Canadian dollars. For each prescribed scenario, the actuary would determine the corresponding parameters for investments denominated in a foreign currency from the historical relationship between investments denominated in that currency and investments denominated in the Canadian dollar if the expected continuance of that relationship so permits. Otherwise the actuary would devise independent scenarios for investments denominated in that currency.

- .17 For each of prescribed scenarios 1 to 6 the insurer's reinvestment strategy for debt instruments by type and term

at the balance sheet date is the distribution which the insurer is then purchasing,

at and after the 20th anniversary of the balance sheet date is risk-free coupon bonds with a term of 20 -years or less, and

between those two dates is according to a uniform transition from the balance sheet date distribution to risk-free coupon bonds with a term of 20 years or less.

Prescribed scenario 1

- .18 The risk-free interest rates for investments purchased or sold

at the balance sheet date are those for the distribution of investments which the insurer is then making,

at the first anniversary from the balance sheet date are 90% of the risk-free rates at the balance sheet date,

at and after the 20th anniversary of the balance sheet date are the lower bounds of the short-term and long-term rates as described in paragraphs 2330.15.1 through 2330.15.3, and

between the last two dates are determined according to a uniform transition from the first anniversary rates to the lower bounds of the prescribed range.

Interest rates between the short-term and long-term bounds are determined using yield rates that are appropriate for the terms of those assets, in accordance with the historic relationship between the rates of those assets and the short-term and long-term interest rates.

Prescribed scenario 2

- .19 This scenario is the same as prescribed scenario 1, with the 90% replaced by 110% and with the short-term lower bound replaced by the short-term upper bound and the long-term lower bound replaced by the long-term upper bound.

Prescribed scenario 3

- .20 The long-term risk-free interest rate moves cyclically in 1% steps between the long-term lower and upper bounds of the prescribed range determined in paragraphs 2330.15.1 through 2330.15.3. The first cycle is irregular; at the first anniversary of the balance sheet date, the rate is

the next step higher, such that the interest rate is an integral difference from the bounds of the range, if the actual rate at the balance sheet date is less than the long-term upper bound, with the rate at subsequent anniversaries increasing in 1% steps to the long-term upper bound, at which point the cycle continues regularly, and

the next step lower, such that the interest rate is an integral difference from the bounds of the range, if the actual rate at the balance sheet date is equal to or greater than the long-term upper bound, with the rate at subsequent anniversaries decreasing in 1% steps to the long-term upper bound, at which point the cycle continues regularly.

- .21 The short-term risk-free interest rate changes uniformly over a period, usually not more than three years, from that at the balance sheet date to 60% of the corresponding long-term interest rate, and thereafter remains at 60% of the corresponding long-term interest rate.
- .22 Other interest rates are determined using yield rates that are appropriate for the terms of those assets, in accordance with the historic relationship between the rates of those assets and the short and long-term interest rates.

Prescribed scenario 4

- .23 This scenario is the same as prescribed scenario 3, except that the first irregular cycle reaches the long-term lower bound rather than the long-term upper bound.

Prescribed scenario 5

- .24 This scenario is the same as prescribed scenario 3, except that the short-term interest rate at an anniversary of the balance sheet date is a percentage of the corresponding long-term interest rate. That percentage moves cyclically in 20% annual steps from 40% to 120% and back. The first cycle is irregular; at the first anniversary, the percentage is

the next step above the actual percentage at the balance sheet date if that actual percentage is less than 120%, and

120% otherwise,

after which the cycle continues regularly.

Prescribed scenario 6

- .25 As respects long-term interest rate, this scenario is the same as prescribed scenario 4.
- .26 As respects short-term interest rate, this scenario is the same as prescribed scenario 5, except that, at the first anniversary of the balance sheet date, the percentage is
- the next step below the actual percentage at the balance sheet date if that actual percentage is more than 40%, and
- 40% otherwise.

Prescribed scenario 7

- .27 The interest rates for investment purchased or sold are 100% of the Base Scenario at the balance sheet date and 90% of the Base Scenario at the first anniversary from the balance sheet date and all following durations.

Prescribed scenario 8

- .28 The interest rates for investment purchased or sold are 100% of the Base Scenario at the balance sheet date and 110% of the Base Scenario at the first anniversary from the balance sheet date and all following durations.

Prescribed scenario 9

- .29 This scenario assumes continuance of risk-free interest rates and the premiums for default risk consistent with the current investment strategy and risk premiums available in the market at the balance sheet date.

Other scenarios

- .30 In addition to the prescribed scenarios, which are common to the calculation of policy liabilities for all insurers, the actuary would also select other scenarios which are appropriate to the circumstances of the case. If current rates are near or outside the limits of the prescribed ranges defined, then some scenarios would include rates that, in the near term, are outside the prescribed ranges. The reasonableness of degrees of change of interest rates is largely dependent on the period of time being considered. Other plausible scenarios include parallel shifts up and down as well as flattening and steepening of the yield curve. The scenarios would include those in which the premiums for default risk range from 50% to 200% of the actual premiums at the balance sheet date.

- .31 The number of other interest rate scenarios would be relatively large to the extent that
- the pattern of forecasted net cash flow in the Base Scenario is such that the classification of scenarios between favourable and unfavourable is unclear,
 - forecasted net cash flow is sensitive to the selection of interest rate scenarios,
 - the range of present values of forecasted net cash flow is wide, suggesting exposure to mismatch risk,
 - investment policy does not control mismatch risk,
 - asset-liability management is loose, or
 - flexibility to manage assets or liabilities is limited.

Stochastic scenarios

- .32 If stochastic modelling is performed, the actuary would ensure that the stochastic model includes scenarios that generate policy liabilities outside the range produced by application of the prescribed deterministic scenarios.

2340 OTHER ASSUMPTIONS: ECONOMIC

Margin for adverse deviations

- .001 The following significant considerations indicate difficulties in properly estimating the best estimate assumption:
- there is little relevant experience,
 - future experience is difficult to estimate,
 - operational risks adversely impact the likelihood of obtaining the best estimate assumption,
 - asset underwriting criteria are weak or poorly controlled,
 - there are liquidity concerns,
 - there is uncertainty regarding the credit enhancement techniques used,
 - the trust structure and legal responsibilities of the different parties for a securitized asset are not clearly understood in a practical and/or legal sense,
 - the asset held is from a non-passthrough structure with a repackaging of the credit risk that is difficult to understand,
 - the asset held is from a lower quality tranche of a non-passthrough structure that repackages credit risks,
 - there is uncertainty about the counterparty credit, or
 - there is no netting of the aggregate exposure with a counterparty.

.002 Other significant considerations indicative of a potential deterioration of the best estimate assumption include:

there is significant concentration of risks and/or lack of diversification, or

operational risks are present such that the likelihood of continuing to obtain the best estimate assumption is adversely impacted.

Fixed income assets: investment return

.01 The forecast of cash flow from a fixed income asset would be the promised cash flow over the term of the asset, modified for asset depreciation and borrower and issuer options.

2340.02
[2340.08](#)

Fixed income assets: asset depreciation

.02 The actuary's best estimate of asset depreciation would depend on

asset type, credit rating, liquidity, term, and duration since issue,

subordination to other debt of borrower or issuer,

the insurer's credit underwriting standards, diversification within a particular type of investments,

to the extent that it is indicative of the future, the insurer's own experience,

the insurance industry's experience,

guarantees which offset depreciation, such as that in an insured mortgage, and

potential for anti-selection by borrowers and issuers.

.03 Asset depreciation comprises that of both assets impaired at the balance sheet date and assets which become impaired after the balance sheet date, and includes loss of interest, loss of principal, and expense of managing default.

.04 Asset depreciation is likely to be relatively high after the forced renewal of a mortgage loan; i.e., one where the mortgagor can neither pay, nor find an alternative mortgagee for the balance outstanding at the end of its term but is able to continue its amortization. The explicit forecasting of subsequent cash flow is usually so conjectural that, to commute the cost of that asset depreciation to the end of the term of the mortgage is an acceptable approximation unless it undermines the interest rate assumption in the scenario.

.05 The actuary would not necessarily assume that the best estimate of asset depreciation is less than the premium of an asset's investment return over the corresponding default-free interest rate.

.06 The low and high margins for adverse deviations for a scenario are respectively 25% and 100% of the best estimate for that scenario, except that

a higher range is appropriate where those percentages of an unusually low best estimate are not meaningful, and

zero is usually appropriate for an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) government's debt denominated in its own currency.

.07 Repealed

Fixed income assets: exercise of borrower and issuer options

.08 Examples of borrower and issuer options are the option to prepay a mortgage loan, to extend the term of a loan, and to call a bond.

.09 The assumed exercise may depend on the interest rates in the scenario. Anti-selection by commercial borrowers and issuers would usually be intense.

.10 Forecasted cash flow would include any penalty generated by exercise of an option.

Non-fixed income assets: investment return

.11 The actuary's best estimate of investment return on a non-fixed income asset would not be more favourable than a benchmark based on historical performance of assets of its class and characteristics.

.12 The low and high margins for adverse deviations in the assumptions of common share dividends and real estate rental income are respectively 5% and 20%.

.13 The margin for adverse deviations in the assumption of common share and real estate capital gains is 20% of the best estimate plus an assumption that those assets change in value at the time when the change is most adverse. That time would be determined by testing, but usually is the time when their book value is largest. The assumed change as a percentage of market value

of a diversified portfolio of North American common shares is 30%, and

of any other portfolio is in the range of 25% to 40% depending on the relative volatility of the two portfolios.

.14 Whether the assumed change is a gain or loss depends on its effect on benefits to policyholders. A capital loss may reduce policy liabilities as a result of that effect.

Taxation

1520.06

- .15 The best estimate would be for continuation of the tax regime at the balance sheet date, except that the best estimate should anticipate a definitive or virtually definitive decision to change that regime. The margin for adverse deviations would be zero.

Foreign exchange

- .16 The needed assumptions would include foreign exchange rates when policy liabilities and their supported assets are denominated in different currencies.
- .17 The best estimate would be for continuance of the foreign exchange rates at the balance sheet date, except that the best estimate should anticipate any imminent unfavourable devaluation. There would be a provision for adverse deviations in respect of a currency mismatch.

2350 OTHER ASSUMPTIONS: NON-ECONOMIC

Margin for adverse deviations

- .01 The actuary would select a margin for adverse deviations between a low margin and a high margin specified for each best estimate assumption discussed below, and of 5% and 20% (or -5% and -20%) respectively of each other best estimate assumption.
- .02 Provided, however, that, if a margin for adverse deviations cannot be defined as a percentage of the best estimate assumption, then the related provision for adverse deviations would be taken as the increase in policy liabilities which results from substitution of a conservative assumption for the best estimate assumption.
- .03 The following significant considerations indicate difficulties in properly estimating the best estimate assumption:
- the credibility of the company's experience is too low to be the primary source of data,
 - future experience is difficult to estimate,
 - the cohort of risks lack homogeneity,
 - operational risks adversely impact the likelihood of obtaining best estimate assumption, or
 - the derivation of the best estimate assumption is unrefined.

1740.39

.031 Other significant considerations indicative of a potential deterioration of the best estimate assumption include:

- there is significant concentration of risks and/or lack of diversification,
- operational risks adversely impact the likelihood of continuing to obtain best estimate assumption, or
- past experience may not be representative of future experience and the experience may deteriorate.

Other significant considerations may exist, but are tied to specific assumptions. Where applicable, they are described below.

.04 A selection above the high margin is appropriate, however, for unusually high uncertainty or if the resulting provision for adverse deviations is unreasonably low because the margin is expressed as a percentage and the best estimate is unusually low.

Insurance mortality

.05 The actuary's best estimate of insurance mortality would depend on

- the life insured's age, sex, smoking habit, health, and lifestyle,
- duration since issue of the policy,
- plan of insurance and its benefits provided,
- the insurer's underwriting practice (that of its reinsurer for facultative reinsurance), including, if applicable to the policy, the absence of underwriting or less stringent underwriting for a group of simultaneously sold policies,
- the size of the policy, and
- the insurer's distribution system and other marketing practice,

and would include the effect of any anti-selection.

.06 If the actuary's best estimate assumption includes a secular trend toward lower mortality rates whose effect is to reduce the policy liabilities, then it is prescribed that the actuary negate that trend by an offsetting increase or decrease in what the actuary would otherwise select as a margin for adverse deviations.

.07 The low and high margins for adverse deviations for the mortality rate per 1,000 are respectively an addition of 3.75 and 15, each divided by the best estimate curtate expectation of life at the life insured's projected attained age.

.08 Repealed

1730.18

Annuity mortality

- .09 The actuary's best estimate assumption of annuity mortality would depend on
the annuitant's age, sex, smoking habit, health, and lifestyle,
size of premium,
plan of annuity and its benefits provided, and
whether registered or not, whether structured settlement, and whether
group or individual contract,
and would include the effect of any anti-selection resulting from the annuitant's option to
select the timing, form, or amount of annuity payment, or to commute annuity payments. 1730.18
- .10 The insurance underwriting in a "back-to-back" insurance/annuity package may
unfavourably affect the best estimate.
- .11 It is prescribed that the actuary's best estimate includes a secular trend toward lower
mortality rates as promulgated from time to time.
- .12 The low and high margins for adverse deviations are respectively a subtraction of 5% and
15% of the best estimate.
- .13 An additional significant consideration for the determination of the level of margin for
adverse deviations is the possibility of commuting survival dependent benefits after periodic
payments have started. [2350.01](#)

Morbidity

- .14 The actuary's best estimate of insurance morbidity would depend on
the life insured's age, sex, smoking habit, occupation, industry, health, and
lifestyle,
duration since issue of the policy,
in the case of income replacement insurance, definition of disability,
unemployment levels, and, in the case of an outstanding claim, cause of
disability,
plan of insurance and its benefits provided, including elimination period,
guarantees, deductibles, coinsurance, return-of-premium benefits, and
benefit limits, indexation, and offsets,

the insurer's underwriting practice (that of its reinsurer for facultative reinsurance), including, if applicable to the policy, the absence of underwriting or less stringent underwriting for a group of simultaneously sold policies,

the insurer's administration and claim adjudication practice,

the size of the policy,

seasonal variations,

in the case of group insurance, participation level, and

environmental factors, such as a change in the offset to government benefits,

1730.18

and would include the effect of any anti-selection.

- .15 If the actuary selects a higher-than-usual best estimate of disability incidence because of an outlook for a high level of unemployment, he or she would not necessarily select a concomitant higher-than-usual best estimate of disability termination.

- .16 Repealed

- .17 The low and high margins for adverse deviations are respectively an addition of 5% and 20% of the best estimate of morbidity incidence rates, and a subtraction of 5% to 20% of the best estimate morbidity termination rates. The actuary's selection would reflect any expected correlation between incidence and termination rates.

- .18 The following additional significant considerations are taken into account when determining the level of margin for adverse deviations:

[2350.01](#)

the contract wording is not tight enough to protect against medical advances,

definitions of claim events are not precise and/or provide for potential anti-selection, or

the interpretation of claim event definitions by the court is uncertain.

Withdrawal and partial withdrawal

- .19 The actuary's best estimate of withdrawal rates would depend on
- policy plan and options,
 - the life insured's attained age,
 - duration since issue of the policy,
 - method of payment and frequency of premiums,
 - premium paying status,
 - policy size,
 - the policy's competitiveness, surrender charges, persistency bonuses, taxation upon withdrawal, and other incentives and disincentives to withdrawal,
 - policyholder and sales representative sophistication,
 - the insurer's distribution system and its commission, conversion, replacement, and other marketing practices, and
 - the interest rate scenario,
- and would include the effect of any anti-selection.
- .20 The insurer's withdrawal experience is pertinent and usually credible. It is not available for new products and for higher durations on recent products, which is a problem for the actuary if their policy liabilities are sensitive to withdrawal rates.
- .21 The automatic payment of insurance premiums by the annuity benefit in a "back-to-back" insurance/annuity package is a disincentive to withdrawal.
- .22 Reinsurance assumed withdrawal rates depend on practice in the direct insurer.
- .23 A "cliff" is a sudden significant increase in the benefit available at withdrawal. That increase may result from increase in cash value, decrease in surrender charge, or availability of a maturity benefit or persistency bonus. Unless there is pertinent persistency experience data to the contrary, the actuary's best estimate withdrawal rates would grade to zero as the cliff approaches and remains at zero for an interval before the cliff is reached. The same applies to a return of premium benefit in life insurance and to one in accident and sickness insurance, with modification in the latter case if the benefit is contingent upon zero claims or reduced by the amount of claims.
- .24 The actuary's best estimate withdrawal rate would be zero for a paid-up policy without non-forfeiture benefit.

1730.18

.25 The low and high margins for adverse deviations are respectively an addition or subtraction, as appropriate, of 5% and 20% of the best estimate withdrawal rates. In order to ensure that the margin for adverse deviations increases policy liabilities, the choice between addition and subtraction may need to vary by interest scenario, age, policy duration, and other parameters. In the case of partial withdrawal, two assumptions are needed – the amount withdrawn and the partial withdrawal rate.

.26 The following additional significant considerations are taken into account when determining the level of margin for adverse deviations in situations where a decrease in lapse rates increases the policy liabilities:

the remuneration policy encourages persistency, or

the cancellation of a contract would be clearly detrimental to the policyholder.

.261 The following additional significant considerations are taken into account when determining the level of margin for adverse deviations in situations where an increase in lapse rates increases the policy liabilities:

the remuneration policy encourages terminations,

cancellation of a contract would be clearly beneficial to the policyholder,

the company's contracts have provisions where rating decreases may trigger additional withdrawals, or

there is no market value adjustment on withdrawals for deposits and deferred annuities.

Anti-selective lapse

.27 Strictly speaking, "lapse" means termination of a policy with forfeiture, but in the context of anti-selection has come to include any termination or the election of the extended term insurance non-forfeiture option. "Anti-selective lapse" is a tendency of healthy policyholders to lapse or unhealthy policyholders not to lapse, with a concomitant deterioration in the insurer's mortality or morbidity experience. To determine whether the tendency has operated in a particular case requires either a re-underwriting of those who have lapsed and those who have not, or a study of the mortality among those who lapsed, neither of which is likely to be practical. Policyholders will, however, make decisions in their own perceived interest, so that anti-selective lapse is plausible whenever that perceived interest is for unhealthy policyholders not to lapse or for healthy policyholders to lapse.

- .28 It is difficult to estimate with confidence the intensity of anti-selective lapse. It is plausible that the intensity will be proportional to the intensity of policyholder perceived interest. However anti-selective lapse is merely a tendency provoked by the policyholder's perceived interest. The policyholder may not know the true state of his or her health. The policyholder may imprudently favour or be obliged by financial pressure to adopt a short-term interest with long-term detriment; thus, an unhealthy policyholder may lapse when the premium increases, perceiving the policy as no longer affordable. Through ignorance or inertia, a healthy policyholder may continue a policy which could be replaced by a superior one. Moreover, anti-selective lapse is not the unvarying effect of a decision in the policyholder's perceived interest: an unhealthy policyholder may lapse a policy no longer needed for which the healthy policyholder perceives continuing need. Without pertinent and reliable experience, however, the actuary would not assume that the non-lapsation of healthy policyholders favourably affects the best estimate for the persisting policyholders.
- .29 The premise to the actuary's assumptions would be that policyholder decisions
will tend to serve their perceived interest, and
not serve the insurer's interest unless the two run together.
- .30 Here are examples where the perceived interest of the healthy policyholder may be to lapse:
- a premium increase at renewal of term insurance,
 - an unfavourable underwriting decision at renewal of re-entry term insurance,
 - a benefit decrease or premium increase of adjustable insurance,
 - a premium needed to avoid termination of universal life insurance with exhausted funding,
 - a reduction in policyholder dividend scale,
 - an offer or availability of a superior replacement policy, such as by the creation of a preferred underwriting class,
 - a significant but temporary increase (spike) in non-forfeiture value, and
 - a downgrade in the insurer's credit rating.

1730.18

Expense

- .31 The actuary would select a best estimate assumption which provides for the expense of the relevant policies and their supporting assets, including overhead. The insurer's other expense is irrelevant to the valuation of policy liabilities. Other expense includes
- expense related to policies which, for the relevant policies, was incurred before the balance sheet date, such as marketing and other acquisition expense, and
 - expense not related to the relevant policies and their supporting assets, such as investment expense for the assets which support capital.
- .32 The assumption would provide for future expense inflation consistent with that in the interest rate scenario. 2330.01
- .33 A stable insurer's expense experience is pertinent if its expense allocation is appropriate for valuation of policy liabilities (or if the actuary can correct the inappropriateness, e.g., by reallocating corporate expense to operating lines of business).
- .34 A particular insurer may have an expectation of reduced expense rates, but the actuary would anticipate only a reduction which is forecasted with confidence.
- .35 Investment expense comprises
- administration expense, both internal and external,
 - expense related to investment income, such as deferred fees and commissions and direct taxes, and
 - interest on money borrowed to finance investment.
- .36 The insurer incurs neither cash rental expense nor cash rental income on real estate which it owns and occupies. The actuary would deem such expense and, if the real estate supports the policy liabilities, such income at a reasonable rate in the selection of an assumption of expense and investment return.
- .37 Certain taxes are akin to expenses. The actuary would make similar provision for them in the policy liabilities to the extent that they relate to the relevant policies and their supporting assets. They include both premium taxes, which are straightforward, and taxes whose basis is neither income nor net income but which may be complicated by a relationship with income tax; for example, those currently incurred may be offset against later income tax. 2320.42
- .38 The low and high margins for adverse deviations are respectively 2.5% and 10% of best estimate expense including inflation thereof. No margin for adverse deviations is needed for a tax, such as premium tax, whose history has been stable.

.39 The following additional significant considerations are taken into account when determining the level of margin for adverse deviations:

the distribution of general expenses by line of business, by product, or by issue and administrative expenses is not based on a recent internal expense study,

the allocation is not an appropriate basis for the best estimate expense assumption,

the expense study does not adequately reflect the appropriate expense drivers, or

future reductions in unit expenses (before inflation) are assumed.

Policyholder options

.40 Examples of policyholder options are an option

to purchase additional insurance,

to convert term to permanent insurance,

to select the extended term insurance non-forfeiture option,

to make partial withdrawal from a universal life insurance policy,

to select the amount of premium for a flexible premium policy, and

to purchase an annuity at a guaranteed rate.

.41 The actuary would select a best estimate assumption of policyholder exercise of both contractual options and extra-contractual options of which they have reasonable expectation.

.42 The actuary's best estimate would depend on

the life insured's attained age,

duration since issue of the policy,

plan of insurance and its benefits provided,

historical premium payment patterns,

method of premium payment,

sophistication of the policyholder and the intermediary,

perceived self-interest of the policyholder and the intermediary,

the policy's competitiveness, and

the insurer's distribution system and other marketing practice,

and would make provision for anti-selection.

- .43 The actuary would make provision for adverse deviations by testing the effect on policy liabilities of plausible alternative assumptions of policyholder exercise of options and adopting one with relatively high policy liabilities.

2400 THE APPOINTED ACTUARY

2410 DEFINITIONS

- .01 In sections 2400 and 2500, “senior management” means
- in the case of a Canadian insurer, both the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer, and,
 - in the case of a foreign insurer, both the Chief Agent for Canada and the person designated by the insurer as having responsibility for its Canadian operation.
- .02 In this section 2400, “directors” means an insurer’s Board of Directors and, in the case of a foreign insurer, includes the person whom they designate as responsible for the insurer’s Canadian branch.

2420 SCOPE

- .01 The standards in this section 2400 apply to an appointed actuary who, pursuant to
- the federal *Insurance Companies Act*, is the actuary of a company or society,
 - the federal *Insurance Companies Act*, is the actuary of the Canadian branch of a foreign company, or
 - a provincial Act, has the access to information, protection against civil liability, and duties in an insurer which are substantially the same as those of the appointed actuary in the federal *Act*.

2430 EXTENSION OF SCOPE

- .01 The standards in this section 2400 do not apply to an actuary who is not an appointed actuary unless that actuary has the access to information and protection against civil liability equivalent to that which the federal *Insurance Companies Act* grants to an appointed actuary.

2440 ACCEPTING AND CONTINUING AN ENGAGEMENT

- .01 *Section 1400 applies rigorously to the engagement.* [Effective January 1, 2003]

Qualifications, experience, and knowledge

- .02 As respects Rule 3, the necessary qualifications, experience, and knowledge go beyond technical understanding and include the awareness which comes with maturity, communications with other actuaries, discussions at Institute meetings, and familiarity with conditions both internal and external to the insurer, and include communications skills.

- .03 An actuary accepting an engagement for the first time may wish to arrange professional, formal, and timely access to another actuary with experience as an appointed actuary.
- .04 It is important that the insurer's directors understand and accept the actuary's role and its requirements for time, resources, and access to information. The actuary may wish written confirmation of the understanding and acceptance unless the role is part of the insurer's corporate culture.

Information needed

- .05 The information necessary for the work consists of the records, accounts, documents, and oral briefings which provide an understanding of the insurer's operations, its obligations and the resources available to meet those obligations. That information includes
- files of inforce policies and outstanding claims, including their reinsurance,
 - policy provisions and other communications with policyholders,
 - past experience data,
 - past financial data,
 - communications with auditors and regulators,
 - pricing practice,
 - underwriting practice,
 - claims settlement practice (including case estimate practice) and cost,
 - asset-liability management practice, and
 - capital management practice.
- .06 The process to identify and assure timely receipt of that information includes
- an understanding of the insurer's decision making,
 - continual communication with members of management who can supply information, and
 - continual communication with the auditor in accordance with the *CIA/CICA Joint Policy Statement*.

1630

2450 REPORT ON MATTERS REQUIRING RECTIFICATION

- .01 *The actuary should identify and monitor matters which may threaten the insurer's financial condition. The actuary should investigate and then report any such matter which requires rectification to the senior management and, in the case of a Canadian insurer, send a copy of the report to the directors. The report may include recommendations for rectification and should specify a deadline for rectification which the actuary may later extend if appropriate. If there is no suitable rectification by that deadline or its extension, then the actuary should report the matter to the insurer's regulator. [Effective January 1, 2003]*
- .02 The sensitivity of financial condition to adverse conditions and events varies among insurers. For example, an increase in withdrawal rates among policies may be devastating in one life insurer and may be beneficial in another. Financial condition, and hence the magnitude of the conditions and events which may threaten it, also varies among insurers.
- .03 The frequency and intensity of the monitoring depend on the threatening conditions and events and on the circumstances of the insurer. A quarterly review would usually be a minimum.
- .04 There would be no such report to senior management of an adverse condition which does not threaten the insurer's financial condition. Informal notification and consultation would usually precede, and may obviate, that report to senior management.
- .05 That report would describe the threatening condition or event and the methods and assumptions in the actuary's investigation of it. It is desirable that the report includes recommendations for its rectification.
- .06 The deadline would allow time which is reasonable in the circumstances to arrange rectification.
- .07 The report to the regulator would describe the actuary's investigation, the report to senior management, and senior management's response to that report. The actuary would advise the directors of the report to the regulator.

2460 REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS

- .01 *The actuary for a Canadian insurer should investigate and report at least yearly to the directors or to their audit committee if they so delegate*

on the insurer's financial position and financial condition and,

if the insurer has a participating account, on the allocation of income among accounts and on the dividend policy and dividend scales for the participating policyholders.

2500

- .02 *The actuary for a foreign insurer should report at least yearly to its Chief Agent for Canada on its financial position and financial condition.* [Effective January 1, 2003]

Allocation of income

- .03 The report on allocation of income among accounts would consider its fairness and equity to participating policyholders.

Dividend policy and dividend scale

- .04 The report on dividend policy and dividend scale would consider conformity of the dividend scale to the dividend policy.

2470 COMMUNICATION WITH THE AUDITOR

- .01 Communication with the insurer's auditor is desirable when the actuary makes a report to the insurer's senior management on a matter requiring rectification or makes an unfavourable report on the insurer's financial condition.

2480 CERTIFICATION OF REGULATORY CAPITAL FILING

- .01 This subsection 2480 applies to the appointed actuary of a life insurer when giving an opinion on the appropriateness of capital requirement calculations pursuant to law.
- .02 *The certification should contain an opinion signed by the actuary.*
- .03 *The actuary should prepare a memorandum to support the opinion that outlines the areas where the calculation required discretion or significant technical calculations, and the methodologies and judgments that were applied. The memorandum should be completed before the provision of a signed opinion pursuant to subsection 2480.* [Effective September 30, 2006]
- .04 The opinion will be made annually in support of the fiscal year-end regulatory capital filing on form(s) as prescribed by the regulator.
- .05 In providing such an opinion, the actuary is not opining on whether the underlying factors or specified methods to be followed are appropriate but rather on the appropriateness of any interpretation and discretionary technical calculations and methods with respect to such guidelines.

.06 The wording of the opinion follows: [insert appropriate wording where indicated by square brackets]

“I have reviewed the calculation of the Minimum Continuing Capital and Surplus Requirement ratios of [Company name] as at [Date]. In my opinion, the calculation of the components of the required and available capital have been determined in accordance with the regulatory guidelines, and the components of the calculation requiring discretion were determined using methodologies and judgment appropriate to the circumstances of the company.”

[Note: For Test of Adequacy of Assets in Canada and Margin Requirements form filings “Minimum Continuing Capital and Surplus Requirement ratios”, and “required and available capital” are replaced by “Test of adequacy of margin”, and “required and available margin”.]

[Note: For filings for provincially regulated companies, the ratio definition and definitions of required and available resources should be amended to reflect the appropriate definitions in the provincial requirements.]

2500 DYNAMIC CAPITAL ADEQUACY TESTING

2510 SCOPE

- .01 This section 2500 applies to the appointed actuary of an insurer when preparing a report on the insurer's financial condition pursuant to law.

2520 INVESTIGATION

- .01 *The actuary should make an annual investigation of the insurer's recent and current financial position, and financial condition, as revealed by dynamic capital adequacy testing for various scenarios.*
- .02 *The actuary should make a report of each investigation in writing to the insurer's Board of Directors (or to their audit committee if they so delegate) or Chief Agent for Canada. The report should identify possible actions for dealing with any threats to satisfactory financial condition which the investigation reveals.*
- .03 The actuary should also make an interim investigation if there is a material adverse change in the insurer's circumstances. [Effective January 1, 2003]

2530 METHOD

Recent and current financial position

- .01 The investigation would review operations of recent years (normally at least three years) and the financial position at the end of each of those years.

Dynamic capital adequacy testing

- .02 Dynamic capital adequacy testing examines the effect of various plausible adverse scenarios on the insurer's forecasted capital adequacy. It is the actuary's primary tool for investigation of an insurer's financial condition.
- .03 The purpose of dynamic capital adequacy testing is to identify plausible threats to satisfactory financial condition, actions which lessen the likelihood of those threats, and actions which would mitigate a threat if it materialized.
- .04 Dynamic capital adequacy testing is defensive: it addresses threats to financial condition rather than the exploitation of opportunity.

Satisfactory financial condition

- .05 The insurer's financial condition is satisfactory if throughout the forecast period it is able to meet all its future obligations under the base scenario and all plausible adverse scenarios, and under the base scenario it meets the minimum regulatory capital requirement.
- .06 The minimum regulatory capital requirement is the requirement imposed by the regulator requiring the actuary's report on the insurer's financial condition. In 2001, for example, for insurers regulated under the federal *Insurance Companies Act*, the minimum regulatory capital requirement is based upon the Minimum Asset Test (MAT) for a Canadian property and casualty insurer, the Minimum Continuing Capital and Surplus Requirement (MCCSR) for a Canadian life insurer, the Test of Adequacy of Assets in Canada and Margin Requirements (TAAM) for a Canadian branch of a foreign life insurer, and the Test of Adequacy of Deposits (TAD) for a Canadian branch of a foreign property and casualty insurer. For insurers regulated under provincial legislation, the minimum regulatory capital requirement is based upon such similar provincial requirement.

Forecast period

- .07 The forecast period begins at the most recent available fiscal year-end balance sheet date. The forecast period for a scenario would be long enough to capture the effect of its adversity and the ability of management to react. The forecast period for a typical life insurer would be five fiscal years. The forecast period for a typical property and casualty insurer would be two fiscal years.

Scenarios

- .08 The scenarios consist of a base scenario and several plausible adverse scenarios. Each scenario takes into account not only inforce policies but also the policies assumed to be sold during the forecast period, and both insurance and non-insurance operations. (For example, the operations of an insurer's trust company subsidiary.)

Base scenario

- .09 The base scenario is a realistic set of assumptions used to forecast the insurer's financial position over the forecast period. Normally, the base scenario is consistent with the insurer's business plan. It is awkward if the base scenario is not consistent with the business plan, because that implies a difference in outlook between the insurer's management and the actuary. The actuary would normally accept the business plan's assumptions for use in the base scenario unless these assumptions are so inconsistent or unrealistic that the resulting report would be misleading. The actuary would report any material inconsistency between the base scenario and the business plan.

Plausible adverse scenarios

- .10 A plausible adverse scenario is a scenario of adverse, but plausible, assumptions about matters to which the insurer's financial condition is sensitive. Plausible adverse scenarios vary among insurers and may vary over time for a particular insurer.
- .11 The actuary would consider plausible material risks to the insurer. Scenario testing may be required for the actuary to determine the sensitivity of the insurer's capital adequacy to each risk. It is expected that the actuary would scenario test and report annually on the base scenario, and a minimum of three plausible adverse scenarios posing the greatest risk for the insurer. Fewer than three adverse scenarios may be reported only in the rare event that it is not possible to develop three plausible adverse scenarios.
- .12 For life insurers, the actuary would consider threats to capital adequacy under plausible adverse scenarios that include but are not limited to the following risk categories:
- mortality,
 - morbidity,
 - persistency,
 - cash flow mismatch (C-3 risk),
 - deterioration of asset values (C-1 risk),
 - new business,
 - expense,
 - reinsurance,
 - government and political action, and
 - off balance sheet.
- .13 For property and casualty insurers, the actuary would consider threats to capital adequacy under plausible adverse scenarios that include but are not limited to the following risk categories:
- frequency and severity,
 - pricing,
 - misestimation of policy liabilities,
 - inflation,
 - interest rate,
 - premium volume,
 - expense,
 - reinsurance,
 - deterioration of asset values (C-1 risk),
 - government and political action, and
 - off balance sheet.

- .14 To help the actuary determine if a risk is material and plausible, it may be useful to stress test the capital adequacy of the insurer. The actuary might determine how much a base scenario assumption needs to be changed before an adverse scenario gives rise to an unsatisfactory financial condition. The actuary can then judge whether a plausible risk or event exists for the insurer over the forecast period.

Integrated scenarios

- .15 In many cases, plausible adverse scenarios are associated with a low probability of occurrence. In such cases, it is usually not necessary for the actuary to construct integrated scenarios by combining two or more low probability adverse scenarios.
- .16 In some cases, however, the probability associated with a plausible adverse scenario may be close to the probability associated with the base scenario. For example, a significant asset on the balance sheet may be showing early signs of distress. In such cases, an integrated scenario would be constructed by combining each more probable adverse scenario, with a low probability adverse scenario. The low probability adverse scenario selected would be the one that has the greatest effect on the insurer's financial condition and is plausible when combined with the more probable adverse scenario.
- .17 An integrated scenario would be included in the minimum of three plausible adverse scenarios required by 2530.11 if it (i.e., an integrated scenario) was found to be one of the three most adverse scenarios.

Ripple effects

- .18 In assuring consistency within each scenario, the actuary would consider “ripple” effects. Although most of the other assumptions used in the base scenario may remain appropriate under the plausible adverse scenario, some may require adjustment to reflect the interdependence of assumptions in the plausible adverse scenario.
- .19 Ripple effects include both regulatory action and policyholder action especially under any plausible adverse scenario where the insurer fails to meet the minimum regulatory capital requirement. In assessing potential regulatory action, the actuary would consider actions that could be taken by the Canadian regulator as well as by regulators in foreign jurisdictions. Such regulatory action and associated management response would consider the local assessment of solvency regardless of the insurer's worldwide solvency position as measured by Canadian regulatory standards.
- .20 Ripple effects also include the insurer's expected response to adversity. Selection of the assumptions for that response would take into account:
- the effectiveness of the insurer's management information systems,
 - the insurer's historical record of promptness and willingness to make difficult decisions, when faced with adversity, and
 - the external environment assumed in the scenario.

The actuary would report the expected response, so that users may consider its practicality and adequacy. The actuary may also report the results assuming that the insurer does not respond to the adversity.

Scope of the investigation and report

- .21 The report would contain the key assumptions of the base scenario and the plausible adverse scenarios posing the greatest risk to the satisfactory financial condition of the insurer. The report would also include comments on each of the risk categories identified in this standard. The meaning of satisfactory financial condition under this standard would be disclosed in the report.
- .22 The report would also contain the plausible adverse scenarios examined which cause the insurer to fall below the minimum regulatory capital requirement. Even though the actuary may have signed a satisfactory financial condition opinion, the report would make it clear that under these scenarios the regulators may impose restrictions on the operations of the insurer, including its ability to write new business.
- .23 If the investigation identifies any plausible threat to satisfactory financial condition, then the actuary would attempt to identify extraordinary management action which would lessen the likelihood of that threat, or which would mitigate that threat, if it materialized. For each such plausible adverse scenario reported upon, the actuary would report the results with the insurer's expected response to adversity but before extraordinary management action, and additionally including the effect of any extraordinary management action. The actuary would report the extraordinary management action so that users may consider its practicality and adequacy.

[2530.20](#)

Revaluation of the policy liabilities

- .24 Ideally, for each adverse scenario, the policy liabilities would be revalued throughout the forecast period. But their revaluation only at the end of the forecast period may be a suitable compromise, unless the actuary believes, given the financial position at the end of the forecast period, that the financial condition would not be satisfactory at some point during the forecast period if revaluation were performed at that point.

Interim investigation

- .25 In rare cases, a material adverse change in the insurer's circumstances since the last annual investigation may be so far reaching that to delay reporting to the time of the next annual investigation would be imprudent. For example, failure to meet the minimum applicable regulatory capital requirement, or adoption of a radically different business plan, may make an immediate report urgent. In such a case, the actuary would undertake and report on an interim investigation.

2540 REPORTING

- .01 In the case of a Canadian insurer, the actuary would report to the Board of Directors or to their audit committee if they so delegate. In the case of a Canadian branch of a foreign insurer, the actuary would report to the Chief Agent for Canada and may also report to the responsible senior executive in the parent head office.

- .02 In order to give the insurer's senior management an opportunity to react to the results of the investigation, the actuary would normally discuss the report with the insurer's senior management in advance of its submission to the Board of Directors or Chief Agent for Canada.
- .03 The report would be in writing, but an additional oral report which permits questions and discussions is desirable. An interpretative report is more useful than a statistical report.
- .04 The timing of the report would depend on the urgency of the matters reported and on the desirability of integrating dynamic capital adequacy testing into the insurer's annual financial planning cycle. The annual report would be submitted within twelve months of each fiscal year-end.

2550 OPINION

- .01 *The report should contain an opinion signed by the actuary. The purpose of the opinion is to report on the financial condition of the insurer.* [Effective January 1, 2003]
- .02 In this opinion, “future financial condition” has the same meaning as “financial condition.” The actuary may use the words “future financial condition” in order to comply with legislation or regulation in some jurisdictions.
- .03 The wording of the opinion follows: [insert appropriate wording where indicated by square brackets]

“I have completed my annual investigation of the [future] financial condition of [company name] as at [date] in accordance with accepted actuarial practice.

I have analyzed the forecasted financial positions of the company during the [number] year forecast period under a series of scenarios. A description of these scenarios and their impact on the company is included within this report.

The analysis incorporates assumptions relating to business growth, investments, [mortality, morbidity, claims frequency, capital injections, other policy-related experience] and other internal and external conditions during the forecast period as well as potential management responses to various plausible adverse scenarios. The most significant assumptions are described within this report.

In my opinion, the [future] financial condition of the company [is satisfactory under these assumptions or is not satisfactory for the following reason(s)...].

[Montréal, Québec]

[Report date]

[Mary F. Roe]

Fellow, Canadian Institute of Actuaries