

THE SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES IN IRELAND

ACTUARIAL STANDARD OF PRACTICE LA-12

LIFE REINSURANCE BUSINESS: ACTUARIAL REPORTS

Classification

Mandatory

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST ALWAYS COMPLY WITH THE CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND THAT ACTUARIAL STANDARDS OF PRACTICE IMPOSE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

Purpose

The purpose of this ASP is to specify the circumstances in which a member should normally prepare a formal report in the field of life reinsurance, and to describe the basic elements that should normally be included in such a report.

Application

Any member of the Society preparing a formal report relating to the field of life reinsurance as defined below. It applies equally whether the member is acting as an employee, director, owner or third-party contractor to an organisation.

Version	Effective from
1.0	30.12.2007
1.1	01.11.2010

Definitions

“life reinsurance business” means business that is written by a reinsurance undertaking authorised to write life reinsurance business and is classified as such by the undertaking

“Principle of Proportionality” means that an action should be proportionate to the problem or task in hand and need not go beyond what is necessary to achieve its objective

“Principle of Practicability” means that an action can only be required if practicable

“Quantitative Formal Report” means a formal report on an assignment with significant scope for quantitative actuarial analysis

“Reserved Advice” means advice given by a member which, because of prescription in:

- legislation,
- regulation or the requirements of any statutory or regulatory body, or
- a contract, deed or other legal document,

usually to the effect that the advice must be given by an actuary as therein defined, could not have been given by the individual if that individual were not a member

“*should normally*” and, where the context requires, “*should*” indicate that members of the Society to whom this ASP applies must comply with a particular requirement or prohibition, unless the circumstances are such that the requirement or prohibition is inappropriate and non-compliance is consistent with the standards of behaviour, integrity, competence and professional judgement which other members or the public might reasonably expect of a member

“*the Society*” means the Society of Actuaries in Ireland

1 Introduction

1.1 The member must exercise professional judgement when deciding whether work requires a formal report, paying regard to:

- (i) the Principle of Practicability and the Principle of Proportionality;
- (ii) the terms of reference; and
- (iii) the need to communicate his or her advice effectively to the recipient.

Subject to these considerations, a formal report is required:

- (iv) for Reserved Advice;
- (v) for work that is to be used in compiling statutory accounts or submission to regulators;
- (vi) if under the terms of reference, an independent third party may rely on the results; or
- (vii) if the advice given is likely to have a material financial impact on the recipient.

1.2 If work is performed as part of a multidisciplinary team, then compliance with this ASP is required only if, when viewed as a discrete assignment, the actuarial work would warrant a formal report. In this case, this ASP applies only to the actuarial content of the overall work.

1.3 An update to a formal report should normally be regarded as a formal report and comply with this ASP. However, when testing compliance, it is acceptable to consider the update together with the original report and any formal updates already made to it. Under these circumstances the report must be identified as an update to earlier reports and the member:

- (i) must indicate in the update which previous reports and updates are needed to reach a full understanding of the latest update;
 - (ii) must make clear which part of the earlier reports he or she endorses and which are being updated;
 - (iii) should normally be satisfied that all recipients of the update have access to all of these reports.
- 1.4 The member must have regard to any other relevant ASPs issued by the Society.
- 1.5 If a member has relied upon the knowledge of another suitably qualified professional then this must be made clear in the report.
- 1.6 If more than one member signs the report, then unless the respective responsibilities are clearly stated, responsibility for the contents of the report is joint and several.
- 1.7 Sections four and later of this ASP are applicable to all Quantitative Formal Reports. The member must exercise professional judgement when determining the applicability of these sections to other formal reports.

2 Definition of terms

- 2.1 The report should normally include definitions of technical words and expressions used in the report.

3 Purpose and scope

- 3.1 The report must state:
- (i) who has commissioned the report and, if different, the addressee(s) of the report;
 - (ii) the name and qualifications of the member taking responsibility for the report;
 - (iii) the capacity in which the member is acting;
 - (iv) the effective date of the report and the data used;
 - (v) the purpose of the report or the terms of reference given;
 - (vi) the scope of the report;
 - (vii) the extent, if any, to which the report falls short of, or goes beyond, its stated scope or purpose;

(viii) that the report has been prepared in accordance with the version of this ASP current at the effective date of the report;

(ix) any restrictions on the work carried out by the member.

3.2 The report should normally contain or make reference to and address the issues arising out of:

(i) the nature, accuracy and interpretation of the data;

(ii) comparisons of actual experience with that expected under the assumptions in the last similar report, if available;

(iii) the actuarial models, key methods and key assumptions;

(iv) any changes in the key methods and key assumptions since the last similar report – unless the member has not been allowed access to that report, in which case this fact should be stated;

(v) results;

(vi) uncertainty of the results;

(vii) the effect of any known actual or planned business developments on the conclusions of the report;

(viii) the fact that third parties reading the report may not have the background information necessary for a full understanding of the report.

If the report does not address each of the points above, then the report should normally justify why the point has not been addressed.

3.3 The report should normally contain detail sufficient for another suitably experienced member to form an opinion on the original member's key judgements and assess the reasonableness of the results.

3.4 A methodology or an assumption must be considered key if, in the opinion of the member, it has a material impact on the results of the actuarial investigation.

4 Information and data used by the member

4.1 The report must indicate the sources of the data that the member has used and the extent to which he or she takes responsibility for data accuracy or completeness. The member may need to rely on or use the work of other people. If there is a risk of confusion as to the division of responsibilities between the member and other persons or organisations, the respective responsibilities must be made clear in the report.

- 4.2 The member must draw attention to any material limitations in the available data including the effect on the appropriateness of the data of changes in the way the business analysed has been conducted. Specifically, the member must make reference to limitations in the data that have materially added to the uncertainty surrounding the results of the work carried out. Much of the data and information sources available for use in life reinsurance business have some degree of imperfection. This does not prevent the use of data and information from such sources.
- 4.3 The Report should normally draw attention to any material shortcomings in the available data including but not limited to:
- the timeliness of data;
 - the availability of policy by policy data;
 - data other than that secured at the time of pricing of the contract;
 - the availability of historic data to assess the reasonableness of actuarial assumptions;
 - the availability of sufficient asset information to assess the reasonableness of the economic assumptions.
- 4.4 The report must describe the criteria used for subdividing data into groups.
- 4.5 Where the member makes adjustments to the data the nature, amount, and rationale for the adjustments must be clearly stated.

5 Analysis of emerging experience

- 5.1 The report should normally include an appropriate analysis of variations in the material elements which are being reported on since any prior report.
- 5.2 If the member is aware of material changes in approach, key methods or key assumptions from the previous report, then regardless of who was responsible for the previous report, the member should normally describe the changes and the impact on the results.
- 5.3 The member should normally comment on new data that has emerged in the context of previous actuarial models, methods and assumptions.
- 5.4 The member should normally explain the influence of new data on the results.
- 5.5 The member should normally comment upon external issues that may change the credibility of the data.

6 Methodology and assumptions

- 6.1 The report must include a section providing a summary of the methods used.
- 6.2 Where unusual or non-standard methods have been used, or where one or more of the recipients of the report is unlikely to be familiar with the methods used, then a more detailed description of the methods should normally be given.

- 6.3 The report must specify and comment on the reasonableness of key methods, key assumptions and judgements.
- 6.4 If the report includes illustrations based on assumptions that the member does not regard as appropriate, this must be made clear in the report.
- 6.5 The member must explain the rationale for selecting the methods used in producing results and for each method provide a statement of key assumptions.
- 6.6 Where the results of different methods or assumptions presented in the report differ significantly, the member must comment on the likely reasons for the differences and explain the basis for the choice of results.
- 6.7 It is not necessary to disclose every assumption made, but there should normally be sufficient data and other information to understand the key assumptions made and the process by which the member has identified them.

7 Results

- 7.1 The report must provide clear interpretations of any point estimates shown.
- 7.2 The member must state whether the amounts he or she recommends or opines as suitable for inclusion as technical provisions in financial statements or returns to supervisory authorities are in accordance with the governing accounting principles or legislation.

8 Uncertainty

- 8.1 The report should normally indicate the nature, degree and sources of uncertainty surrounding the results and sensitivities to key assumptions. Uncertainty should normally be quantified where practicable, but otherwise should normally be reported using an appropriate descriptive summary.
- 8.2 If there are specific features of the business that present potential concerns or significantly increase the uncertainty of the results, beyond that which an informed reader of the report would reasonably expect, then this fact must be clearly highlighted in the corresponding reservations, or limitation of scope, included in the report.
- 8.3 If there is a substantial probability of material adverse deviation from modelled results, the member should normally draw attention to this in the report.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

ACTUARIAL STANDARD OF PRACTICE LA-12, VERSION 1.1

This Explanatory Note does not form part of the ASP.

Version 1.1 was introduced when the Society's Professional Conduct Standards were replaced by a new Code of Professional Conduct at 1st November 2010.

Changes:

- References to Professional Conduct Standards have been updated.
- The definitions have been expanded to include the term “should” as well as “should normally”.