



## Society of Actuaries in Ireland

### **RULES RELATING TO CERTIFICATES FOR ACTUARIES SIGNING STATEMENTS OF ACTUARIAL OPINION (SAOs) AND SAO REPORTS RELATING TO NON-LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES OR NON-LIFE REINSURANCE BUSINESS**

The Council, in accordance with the Regulations relating to Practising Certificates pursuant to Article 46 (formerly Article 39) of the Articles of Association, requires all members who sign a Statement of Actuarial Opinion (SAO) and SAO Report relating to a non-life insurance company, pursuant to statutory requirements or regulatory requirements or guidelines, to possess a certificate issued by the Society of Actuaries in Ireland (“Society”).

The requirements for obtaining or renewing a certificate are that the applicant must:

- (a) be a Fellow of the Society;
- (b) have had either:
  - (i) a minimum period of five years holding the qualification on the basis of which Fellowship of the Society is held; or
  - (ii) a minimum period of eight years practical actuarial experience;
- (c) have demonstrated compliance with Actuarial Standard of Practice PA-1, Continuing Professional Development, during the twelve month period ending on the previous 30<sup>th</sup> June;
- (d) have recent appropriate practical experience (guidance relating to the appropriate practical experience that would normally be considered acceptable is set out overleaf);
- (e) certify that he or she has the appropriate knowledge and practical experience for the role of Signing Actuary and/or Reviewing Actuary;
- (f) have completed such professionalism training as the Society has from time to time required;
- (g) for the purposes of an initial application, obtain references from two actuaries operating in the same practice area as the applicant; one of the referees should be external to the applicant’s practice or firm, but in exceptional circumstances the Practising Committee may waive this requirement; and
- (h) in the opinion of the Practising Certificate Committee be an appropriate person.

In deciding whether an applicant is an “appropriate person”, the Practising Certificate Committee will have regard to such matters as:

- (i) convictions (other than under the Road Traffic Acts) by any Court in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere;
- (ii) censuring, discipline or public criticism by any professional body, dismissal from any office of employment, refusal of entry to any profession or occupation in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere or refusal of any practising certificate application;
- (iii) being adjudged bankrupt by a Court in the last 10 years in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere;

- (iv) failure at any time to satisfy any debt adjudged to be due and payable under an order of a Court in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere;
- (v) in connection with the formation or management of any body corporate, insurance company or pension fund being adjudged by a Court in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere to be civilly liable for any fraud or other misconduct towards such a body, company or pension fund or towards any member thereof; and
- (vi) being associated as a director or a controller in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere with any body corporate or insurance company which has been compulsorily wound up or made any compromise or arrangement with its creditors or ceased trading in circumstances where its creditors did not receive or have not received full settlement of their claims, either while the applicant was associated with it or within one year after the applicant ceased to be associated with it; and
- (vii) being associated as actuary with an insurance company or reinsurance company which, in the last five years, was subject to judicial proceedings, quasi-judicial proceedings or litigation where actuarial involvement has been questioned.

If an applicant does not have experience of a wide range of risks (including both Irish and offshore business, personal and commercial lines, and direct and reinsurance business), a certificate may be specific to:

- (a) company type (direct insurer or reinsurer)
- (b) either Irish or offshore risks
- (c) a certain class or classes of business (in accordance with the classification in Annex I of the European Communities (Non-Life Insurance) Regulations, 1994 (S.I. No. 359 of 1994))

Alternatively, an applicant may apply for a certificate that is specific to a particular non-life insurance or reinsurance company.

Details of relevant experience must be provided when making an initial application for a certificate and every three years thereafter when renewing the certificate or if the scope of the certificate sought on renewal is wider than that previously held. If a renewal application is not received at least fourteen days before the expiry date of a certificate, the applicant will be required to complete an initial, rather than a renewal, application form.

Certificates issued from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 will be valid until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, or such earlier date as the member advises the Society that he/she is no longer compliant with the requirements for the Certificate. Members are required, in accordance with the Undertaking included in the application form, to notify the Society immediately if the answers which they gave to any of the questions in the application form are no longer valid or if they are no longer able to certify in relation to any of the Certificates covered in the application form

Enquiries regarding certificates, including requests for application forms, should be addressed to: The Secretary, Practising Certificate Committee, Society of Actuaries in Ireland, Clanwilliam House, Clanwilliam Place, Dublin 2, Ireland.

## **GUIDANCE RELATING TO APPROPRIATE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE FOR ACTUARIES SIGNING STATEMENTS OF ACTUARIAL OPINION (SAOs) AND SAO REPORTS RELATING TO NON-LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES OR NON-LIFE REINSURANCE BUSINESS**

Any actuary, before accepting appointment as a Signing Actuary pursuant to statutory requirements or regulatory requirements or guidelines, must consider most carefully, in the light of his or her knowledge and experience, whether acceptance would be in line with proper professional behaviour and standards. No actuary should act as Signing Actuary without appropriate knowledge and practical experience relevant to the company concerned.

An applicant should normally be able to demonstrate the equivalent of four years full-time experience in the last six years as a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland dealing with the actuarial estimation of non-life insurance reserves at a level where he or she has worked closely with an existing Signing Actuary or an actuary at an equivalent level.

For an unrestricted certificate, an applicant should have experience estimating non-life insurance reserves for a wide range of risks, including both Irish and offshore business, personal and commercial lines, and direct and reinsurance business. A minimum of one year's recent relevant experience of reserving for Irish business will be required.

For a certificate that is specific to particular types of risk (i.e. direct or reinsurance business, Irish or offshore risks, specific classes of business), an applicant should be able to demonstrate experience of reserving for those types of risk.

For a certificate that is specific to a particular non-life insurance or reinsurance company, the applicant should be able to demonstrate experience of reserving for the types of risk underwritten by that company.

### *Code of Professional Conduct*

Actuaries are reminded of the requirements of the [Code of Professional Conduct](#), in particular amplification 2.3a) thereto.