



Regulatory Updates and Expectations on Appointed & Certifying Actuaries

SAS Practising Certificate Seminar

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Agenda

1 The Work Ahead

2 Approving AA/CA

3 Roles and Responsibilities

4 Challenges Faced

The Work Ahead



**Capital
Framework**

What we have achieved

- Implemented RBC 2 on 31 March 2020
- Introduced capital add-on for insurers
- Subsequent amendments in MAS Notice 133 in Dec 2020
- Introduced transitional measure for life insurance business, which was subsequently extended to end 2021
- Issued guidelines on preparation of actuarial investigation report [ID 01/20]
- Consulted on the Illiquidity Premium review process
- Soft-consulted on counter-cyclical adjustment concept (for equity risk requirement as a start), capital treatment for structured products, and non-standard derivatives
- Conducted a preliminary impact study (with qualitative survey) on design of general insurance catastrophe risk requirement

The Work Ahead



**Capital
Framework**

What to expect

- Update on IP calibration (ahead of 30 Jun 2021 valuation)
- Consult industry on -
 - Concept of counter-cyclical adjustment for equity risk requirement (as a start), infrastructure investments, structured product and derivatives
 - General insurance catastrophe risk charge
 - Other refinements of RBC 2
- Approach for capital add-on for reinsurers

The Work Ahead

What we have achieved

- Conducted interest rate stress test to selected direct life insurers in Aug 2020 – focus was on negative yield and low-for-long yield environment. MAS shared the findings with industry at townhalls in Feb 2021
- Conducted survey on climate risk analysis to selected direct general insurers and reinsurers in Nov 2020
- Consulted on changes to MAS Notice 126 on ERM, MAS 125 on Investment and MAS 124 on Public Disclosure
 - IAIS adopted holistic framework for assessing systemic risk for insurers in Nov 2019 and made changes to some Insurance Core Principles including on ERM
 - MAS took the opportunity to review the relevant notices to take on board best practices, especially with regards to liquidity risk management and stress testing



**Stress Testing,
Surveillance & ERM
Framework**

The Work Ahead

What to expect

- MAS sharing on the key observations from climate risk analysis
- Industry Wide Stress Test for 2021 will include climate risk (both transition and physical risks) and scope in significant reinsurers
- Effect revisions to MAS Notices on ERM, Investment and Public Disclosure following consultation feedback. Expect more guidance on liquidity risk management, including liquidity stress testing within ORSA



**Stress Testing,
Surveillance & ERM
Framework**

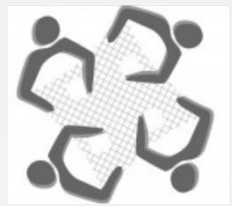
The Work Ahead

What we have achieved

- Completed PPF thematic inspections on selected significant PPF Scheme members
- Engaged external consultant to assist in PPF operationalisation and resolution matters

What to expect

- MAS sharing on best practices and common lapses noted from the thematic inspection, as well as provide greater clarity on some of the issues where divergent practices were observed
- Clarifications on PPF operationalisation where appropriate
- Consultation on having PPF returns audited
- Review of target fund size and levies



**Safety Nets &
Resolution
Framework**

The Work Ahead

What we have achieved

- Issued revised MAS Notice 320 on Management of Participating Life Insurance Business in Nov 2020, following industry consultation on allocation of charges and expenses

What to expect

- Review of Portfolio Bonds (PB) requirements. Expect to issue a survey to PB writers first
- Review of product approval & notification process and submission requirements



Regulatory Framework on Products

Better use of Technology in Regulatory and Supervisory work



Streamline processes,
better use of technology

- Product approval & notification
- Key persons' appointment
- Website revamp



Rationalising on the
regulations we have,
apply proportionality
where appropriate



Reduce duplicative
requests



Perform the analysis at
MAS' end

- Top-down stress testing

Efforts are underway to streamline processes, and leverage on data better for the industry's benefit. We need to **review the way** in which we have been preparing reports, submitting information etc.

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Approving AA/CA

MAS Notice 106 on Appointment of Director, Chairman and Key Executive Person

- Revisions made in Notice in April 2013 to enhance transparency in approval criteria and monitor ongoing fitness & propriety.
- Required more information to be submitted when insurers seek approval from MAS on new appointments e.g.
 - reporting structure, additional engagements in equivalent AA/CA positions, additional executive officer positions, etc.;
 - written explanation** from board of directors on how certain circumstances may result in a **conflict of interest** or **hamper the proposed appointee from discharging his statutory duties**, and the measures that it has put into place, or proposes to put into place, to mitigate the risks arising from such concerns.
- Need to submit ongoing information on changes in roles and responsibilities, and in reporting structure, as well as additional engagements in equivalent CA/AA roles.

Approving AA/CA

- Relevant Knowledge & Experience
- Potential Conflict of Interest
 - Reporting structure, shareholdings & directorships, multiple roles, etc.
- Additional Engagements in equivalent AA/CA roles
- Board's assessment

Assessment on fitness & propriety does not just take place at approval stage; it takes place on an ongoing basis

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Roles and Responsibilities

Insurance (Actuaries) Regulations 2013

- Previously, role of certifying actuaries (“CAs”) only specified as **valuation of liabilities** under the regulations, though stress testing introduced a few years ago.
- Now **more aligned with roles & responsibilities of appointed actuaries (“AAs”)**, where relevant, e.g.:
 - Conduct stress testing** of direct insurers as specified by MAS;
 - Verify whether reinsurance arrangement involves **significant insurance risk transfer** between insurer and counterparty of arrangement;
 - Prepare a **written report to chief executive** (extending a copy to the board of directors) of the insurer on any matter which
 - has come to the attention of the actuary in the course of carrying out his duties,
 - in the opinion of the actuary, has any material adverse effect on the financial condition of the insurer; and
 - requires rectification by the insurer;

Roles and Responsibilities

- ❑ Send a copy of the aforementioned report to MAS, notifying the board of directors, when insurer has failed to take appropriate steps to rectify any matter reported to him within a reasonable time (“whistleblowing”);
- ❑ Assist the insurer in the following, e.g.:
 - **Formulating a suitable policy** on how the assets of any of its insurance funds are to be invested, having regard to the nature and terms of the liabilities of the insurer and the availability of appropriate assets for purpose of asset liability matching;
 - **Any risk management activity** for its business, such as risk identification, risk quantification, risk management policies, controls relevant to the insurer’s financial condition, and the use of any internal model for the purposes of calculating liabilities and capital requirements for the insurer’s insurance products;
 - **Matters of product pricing and development**, such as identifying appropriate rating factors for product pricing, the design of product features and the setting of underwriting standards.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Explicitly stated that insurer has to ensure that its AA or CA **meets its board of directors at such frequency as the actuary may reasonably require, and has free and unfettered access to board of directors at all reasonable times.**
- Actuary required to **notify insurer of engagement accepted to carry out any duty or function that is equivalent to that of an AA or CA;** as well as for insurer to furnish such information to MAS in a form specified.

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Challenges Faced

- Uncertain macroeconomic and political environment
- Impact of pandemic and climate change
- Technological advancements affecting the way insurance business is carried out
- Regulatory, tax, and accounting requirements
- Actuaries continuing to exert sufficient influence

Challenges Faced

When each of the panelists was asked about what it meant to be a professional in 2017; and what we consider as the 3 key challenges facing the actuarial profession and/or the financial services sector in 2017/ the foreseeable future... I answered...

- First, **understanding the landscape of the future or the new rules of the game**, which are constantly changing. We do not know exactly how the landscape we operate in will look like in the future, but we have a general idea of where it is heading. There is still great uncertainty in how fast new ideas and concepts, once thought inconceivable, will take off.
- Second, **willingness to change and adapt**. Many of us will need to relearn again. Continuous professional development becomes ever so critical. Is it just a compliance requirement? Are we catching up quickly enough?
- Third, **the rising competition** (e.g. from the risk specialists, data scientists, modellers) and **increasing expectations from consumers**. We have to find ways to distinguish ourselves, both as a profession as well as a financial services sector, value add, or risk losing relevance quickly.

Therefore if you ask me what it means to be a professional in 2017, I would say one who can **constantly unlearn and relearn new things, is willing to do so, and is able to demonstrate value add amidst a fast-changing landscape.**

*Panel Session, State of the actuarial profession in 2017 and beyond,
28 Sep 2016, IFoA member event, Singapore, 8 May 2017*

Challenges Faced

“...**actuaries will need to increasingly exert influence**, not just at the technical level, but also at the level of the senior management and board of directors, to ensure that your views are heard and respected.

I would like to encourage all of you to **do your part in reversing this trend [i.e. declining seniority and influence of actuary]**; you can look beyond the technical work of reserving and actuarial reports, and comment on the business strategy of your company; and you can also **seek out opportunities to advise boards and senior management on risks and strategies**, based on your expertise and experience.

....**communication is a key part** of what you do. Actuaries are supposed to maintain independent views, and your ability to **communicate these views to the senior levels within the organisation** is critical for achieving sound and balanced business decisions.

Ultimately, insurers must have a structure that supports the role of actuaries. But actuaries too need to embrace these roles, and to **recognise that your opinion is an important part of a company's decision making process**.

Speech by Chua Kim Leng, Assistant Managing Director, MAS at SAS 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner, 28 Sep 2016

Regulation vs Professionalism

First regulation **gives recognition to the importance of the role of actuaries, being statutory roles**. Regulations also tries to give actuaries the conducive environment to be able to carry out their professional duties....

Second, **a risk-based and risk proportionate regulatory regime provides actuaries with ability to exercise their judgment**....Progressively, regimes are moving away from prescribed valuation bases and non-risk based solvency margins to use of best estimate assumptions with risk margin and risk-based capital...Regulators are also increasingly mindful of the need for proportional application of regulatory requirements. This again helps the profession to be able to focus on greater impact, more complex issues when carrying out their duties...

Third, **a forward looking regulatory regime will help nudge the profession in the right direction and prepare ahead for theses risks/developments**. In Singapore, we have through our industry wide stress testing, try to acclimatise our insurers to **emerging risks like non-affirmative cyber risk, climate variability risks etc**. We have also tried to **prepare the industry to think of its role** in view of climate change, use of AI and data analytics, and other insurtech developments through different initiatives...Regulators can also promote professionalism by getting actuaries to **provide their views of global issues**, e.g. international capital standards, holistic framework of assessing systemic risk of insurers, and think of whether these issues would impact their work....

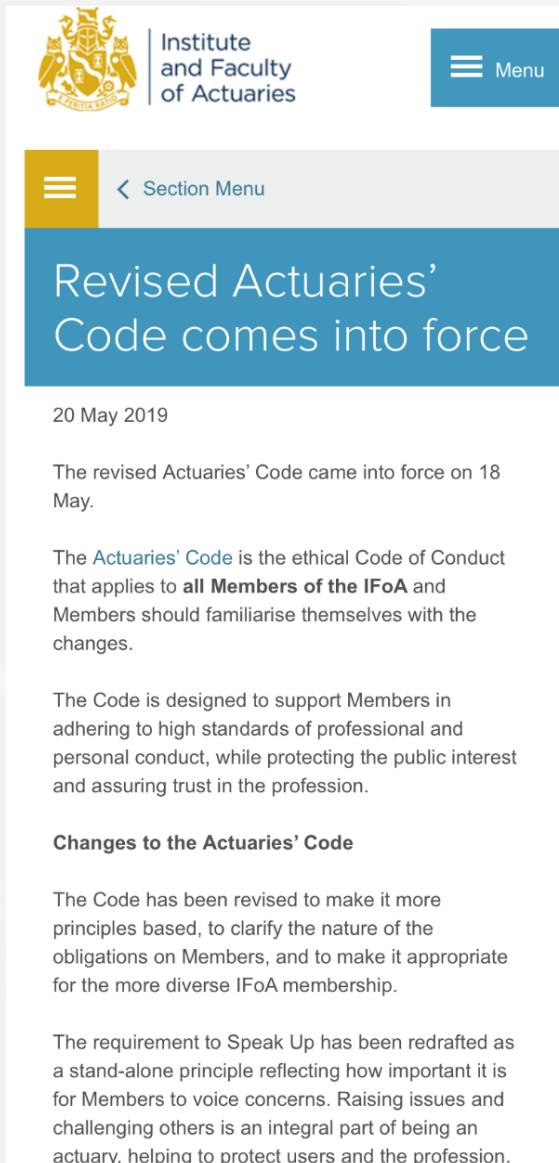
Fourth, **a regulatory approach that focuses on consultation and co-creation can help to foster greater professionalism**.RBC 2, in particular the matching adjustment design, is a good example.

Panel Session on Regulation and Professionalism – Safeguarding Public Interest on 24 Oct 2019, Asian Actuarial Conference, Singapore, 21-24 Oct 2019, where I gave my views on why I believe regulation can help, instead of impede professionalism

What we can do, and do better

- Greater awareness, and more concrete demonstration of how the changes in landscape will affect the way things are done
 - For example, how technological advancements, pandemic, climate change etc. will affect the way things are done (e.g. valuation, business projections, stress scenarios)
- Industry, SAS and MAS to continue to work in partnership to find the right balance in regulation setting
- Promulgate best practices amongst actuarial communities/professional bodies
 - For example, leveraging on relevant guidance notes and case studies e.g. on conflict of interest, whistle-blowing, and making it more relevant for the Asian context
- Develop the right risk culture and professionalism
 - Do what is good, what is right for policyholders and the insurance industry as a whole
- Right punitive actions if the right thing is not done
 - For example disciplinary process by SAS and even possible enforcement action by MAS

Other Actuarial Bodies have taken steps



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Revised Actuaries' Code comes into force

20 May 2019

The revised Actuaries' Code came into force on 18 May.

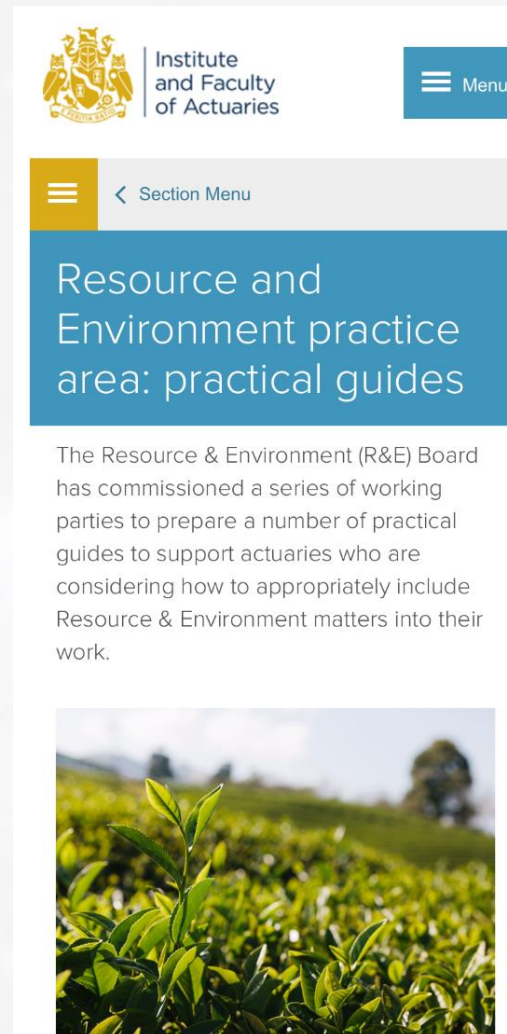
The **Actuaries' Code** is the ethical Code of Conduct that applies to **all Members of the IFoA** and Members should familiarise themselves with the changes.

The Code is designed to support Members in adhering to high standards of professional and personal conduct, while protecting the public interest and assuring trust in the profession.

Changes to the Actuaries' Code

The Code has been revised to make it more principles based, to clarify the nature of the obligations on Members, and to make it appropriate for the more diverse IFoA membership.

The requirement to Speak Up has been redrafted as a stand-alone principle reflecting how important it is for Members to voice concerns. Raising issues and challenging others is an integral part of being an actuary, helping to protect users and the profession.




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Resource and Environment practice area: practical guides

The Resource & Environment (R&E) Board has commissioned a series of working parties to prepare a number of practical guides to support actuaries who are considering how to appropriately include Resource & Environment matters into their work.



Actuaries Climate Index Fall 2018 Data Released Using Improved Methodology

ACI's Five-Year Moving Average Continues Upward Trend

Washington, D.C., Arlington, VA, Schaumburg, IL, and Ottawa, ON (May 7, 2019) —Organizations representing the actuarial profession in Canada and the United States have applied an improved methodology to the **Actuaries Climate Index** starting with newly released ACI data for fall 2018, and the latest data show that the previously reported upward trend in the key five-year moving average ACI metric continues.



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ERM Learnings From the Financial Advice 'Fees for No Service' Scandal - actuaries.digital/2019/05/28/erm...





Thank you