

Beyond IFRS 4 *Insurance Contracts* *Project*

Darrel Scott, IASB Member

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenter, not necessarily those of the International Accounting Standards Board or IFRS Foundation.

Copyright © IFRS Foundation. All rights reserved

Mutualisation

Measure contract at initial recognition

Future cash flows

3

Measurement of an insurance contract incorporates **all available information**, in a way consistent with **observable market information**.

Future cash flows
expected cash flows from premiums, claims and benefits

An explicit, unbiased and probability-weighted estimate of future cash flows that will arise as the insurer fulfils the insurance contract

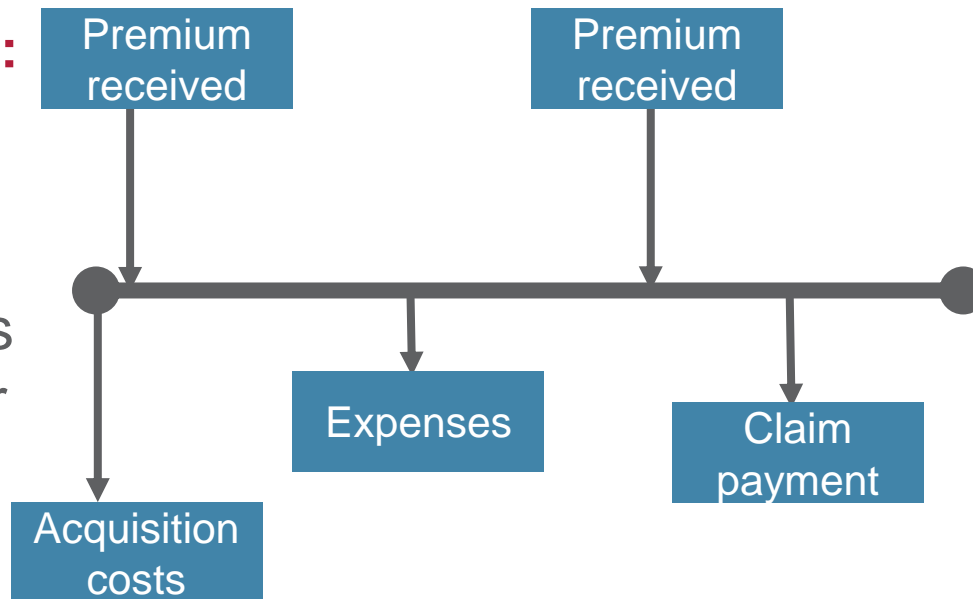
Measure contract at initial recognition

Future cash flows

4

Recognition:

Contract starts when **coverage period** begins (may be after insurer is on risk) **unless** contract is **onerous**



Included in cash flows:

All direct costs of *originating* and all directly attributable costs incurred in *fulfilling* insurance contracts

Contract boundary:

Contract ends when:

- Not required to provide **coverage**
- **Can reprice** to reflect **risks of policyholder**
- Or, In some cases, to reflect **risk of portfolio**
- On **substantial modification**

Measure contract at initial recognition

Fulfilment cash flows: mutualisation

In some contracts or contract types, **other policyholders form first layer of risk absorption**. In such cases:

- **Expected cash flows** from/to participating policyholders are **part of the fulfilment cash flows** of the primary policyholders: A group of policies is not considered to be onerous if another set of policyholders bears those losses
- **Losses are only recognised in profit or loss** from onerous contracts **when the underlying items in the fund as a whole are insufficient to bear those losses**, ie when no other policyholder has the capacity to absorb those losses

- No specific guidance for mutualisation
- Mutualisation is inherent in the **cash flows guidance**, and consequently is subject to that guidance
- Thus, **included in cash flow of individual policyholder** are:
 - Expected future cash flows to any other policyholder, or
 - Expected future cash flows from any other policyholder
- But **mutualisation is not**:
 - diversification of risk or cross subsidisation or discretion
- Requires **explicit right of the insurer to act**:
 - To **the detriment** of one policyholder;
 - To fund loss of another **policyholder** (or visa versa)

- **Expected cash flows** from/to participating policyholders are **part of the fulfilment cash flows**
 - In determining present value of future cash flows, it is **irrelevant whether determined at individual or group level**
 - **Entity includes cash flows** which come from or go to other policyholders as part of present value determination
 - **Cash flows are cash flows** (doesn't matter where from, so across portfolios is acceptable)
- Level of aggregation important for **CSM determination only**, but is determined **after** determination of cash flows, thus:
 - Level of aggregation **does not affect mutualisation**
 - **Mutualisation may affect** level of aggregation

Mutualisation

Level of determination

- Thus **first determine expected cash flows**, including cash flows to other policyholders, and cash flows from other policyholders (level of aggregation not relevant),

Then

- Determine **level of aggregation**, and
- Determine **at inception CSM**,

Thereafter

- Maintain the **level of aggregation** (no reassessment) and
- **Remeasurements of cash flows** include cash flows to and from other policyholders, and if they relate to future services, adjust CSM

Mutualisation

Examples

- Most obvious mutualisation **between policyholders sharing same pool of assets, and same generation**, for example:
 - Two policyholders (A & B) share in same underlying items, but A has higher guarantee
 - B shares in residual of underlying **after** A's guarantee settled
 - B is subsidising A – there is mutualisation
- **Can also occur across generations**, for example:
 - Returns on underlying assets accumulate, but are not paid out to current generation of policyholder (generation C)
 - Instead accumulated as obligation to future generation (D)
 - There is consequently mutualisation between C and D

Mutualisation

Examples

- Mutualisation can also **occur across product lines**, for example:
 - Product E participates in the return on an underlying product line, product F
 - In determining the expected cash flows of E, entity must consider cash flows to and from F
 - In determining the expected cash flows of F, entity must consider cash flows to and from E

Level of aggregation

Measure contract at initial recognition

Fulfilment cash flows

12

Measurement of an insurance contract incorporates all available information, in a way consistent with observable market information.

'Fulfilment cash flows'

Future cash flows

Discounting

Risk adjustment

Fulfilment cash flows is a **probability-weighted, risk adjusted, estimate** of the present value of cash **inflows and outflows** that will arise as the entity fulfils the contract.

Measure contract at initial recognition

Fulfilment cash flows: Level of aggregation

13

Level of **aggregation** is **not** relevant for:

- Determination of **fulfilment cash flows**
 - Present value is consistently applied irrespective of level of application
- Determination and **allocation of directly attributable expenses**
 - Allocation based on nature and ‘attribute-ability’ of costs
- Determination and **allocation of risk margin**
 - Based on **entity approach** to determining compensation for risk

Measure contract at initial recognition

Contractual Service Margin (CSM)

14

Measurement of an insurance contract incorporates all available information, in a way consistent with observable market information.

Contractual service margin

'Fulfilment cash flows'

Future cash flows

Discounting

Risk adjustment

Contractual service margin is measured as the **positive** (net inflow) difference between the **risk-adjusted present value** of expected inflows and outflows at inception.

Fulfilment cash flows is a probability-weighted estimate of cash inflows and outflows that will arise as the entity fulfils the contract.

Measure contract at initial recognition

CSM

- CSM is determined as the **risk adjusted present value** of **all** the cash inflows and outflows (**including** mutualised cash flows)
- As such, **at inception it captures the expected profitability** of the contract over its entire expected life
 - If **contract expected to be loss making**, CSM is ‘negative’ and recognised in profit or loss (**onerous contract**)
 - If **contract expected to be profit making**, CSM is ‘positive’ and recognised as a liability (**unearned profit**)
- At inception, **CSM is not a cash flow**, instead it is the inverse of other cash flows

Measure contract at initial recognition

CSM: Onerous contracts

16

- **Loss** for onerous contracts should be recognised **only when the contractual service margin is negative** for a group of contracts, and that group should comprise contracts that at inception have:
 - Cash flows entity expects will respond in similar ways to key drivers of risk in terms of amount and timing AND
 - Similar expected profitability (ie similar contractual service margin as a percentage of the premium)
- Within group, net off the negative and positive CSM
- Model is asymmetric
- Group not reassessed after inception

Subsequent remeasurement

CSM: Onerous contracts

- **Loss** for onerous contracts should be recognised **only when the contractual service margin becomes negative** for a group of contracts, and that group should comprise contracts **that at inception** have:
 - Cash flows entity expects will respond in similar ways to key drivers of risk in terms of amount and timing **AND**
 - Similar expected profitability (ie similar contractual service margin as a percentage of the premium)
- Within group, **net off** the negative and positive CSM
- **Model is asymmetric**
- Group **not** reassessed after inception

Subsequent remeasurement

CSM: Allocation

- Objective for adjustment and allocation of CSM is that CSM at end of reporting period represents profit for future services for a group of contracts
- The group is the same as that for deciding when contracts are onerous
- Allocation should reflect expected duration and size of contracts remaining in the group

Importance of aggregation

Why aggregate

- Model is asymmetric
 - This causes different outcomes for grouped and individual contracts
 - For example,
 - entity has 2 contracts, based on data at inception are identical
 - after inception, Contract A becomes onerous (CSM = -CU10), while the contract B remains as expected (CSM = +CU20).
 - If accounted individually level, loss on A recognised immediately, profit on B spread over its life,
 - if grouped, A set off against B, smaller profit spread over life
- Nature of insurance is to aggregate risks
- Operationally, insurers use a myriad of different levels of aggregation

Importance of aggregation

Why limit aggregation

- Loss of transparency of information
 - Insight into loss making activities, cohorts, or products
 - Timing of loss recognition shielded by profitable business
 - Timing of profits over contract life (allocation)
 - At extreme, no losses until entire entity loss making
- Current inconsistency of application
 - Not generally defined in National GAAPs, or regulatory frameworks
- Consistency within IFRS
 - Revenue, leases and impairment all allow grouping, but only in very limited circumstances

Importance of aggregation

Why more generous for Insurance

- Level of aggregation guidance allows considerably fewer groups than would be the case for equivalent guidance for Impairment/revenue/leases
 - Those standards prohibit the setting off of onerous contracts against profitable contracts in the absence of contractual link
- BUT in balancing reasons for and against
- Board maintains importance of transparency, but
 - Board accepts that insurance is different
 - Risk Aggregation
 - Longer term contracts

Measure contract at initial recognition

CSM: Effect of regulation

- **No exception** to the **level of aggregation** for determining onerous contracts or the allocation of the contractual service margin **when regulation affects the pricing** of contracts
 - Contracts that do not have similar profitability, even if as a consequence of regulation, may not be aggregated for determining onerous contracts
 - Normal test applies
 - Regulation does not change the economics of the contracts, aggregation based on economics of the contracts

Questions or comments?

