

EMERGENCY ORDER AMENDING AND CREATING A RULE

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance

Rule No. Agency 145 – Ins 2.30 (2) (f) to (j), 2.30 (3) (c), 2.30 (cm), and 2.30 (3m), Wis. Adm. Code.

The Commissioner of Insurance proposes an order to amend s. Ins 2.30 (3) (c); and to create ss. Ins 2.30 (2) (f) to (j), 2.30 (cm), and 2.30 (3m), Wis. Adm. Code, relating to 2012 Individual Annuity Reserving Mortality Table and Affecting Small Business.

The statement of scope for this rule SS: 086-14, was approved by the Governor on July 14, 2014, published in Register No. 705, on September 14, 2014, and approved by the Commissioner on September 26, 2014. This rule was approved by the Governor on December 15, 2014.

FINDING OF EMERGENCY

The Commissioner of Insurance finds that an emergency exists and that the attached rule is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, or welfare. Facts constituting the emergency are as follows:

Under the current rule governing the minimum standards of valuation for individual annuity and pure endowment contracts life insurers are required to use the Annuity 2000 Mortality Table, which has become outdated and risks leaving insurers with an insufficient level of reserves. OCI is addressing the issue by enacting a permanent rule that would require insurers to use the 2012 Individual Annuity Reserving Mortality Table (2012 IAR Table) for contracts issued on or after January 1, 2015. Wisconsin insurers have expressed support for the proposed rule and its enactment at the earliest date possible in 2014. Insurers are requesting time in advance of January 2015 in order to modify existing policy forms and marketing material so that they are able to compete with other insurers on a level playing field. However, in order for insurers to have sufficient time to file new policy and rate forms for use beginning January 1, 2015 the rule must be in place no later than November 2014 to ensure sufficient time to submit form or rate filings with the Office. Delay beyond January 2015 will not be in the best interest of insurers or consumers.

The 2012 IAR Table provides insurers with a more accurate tool for calculating minimum reserves. This is beneficial to the both the insurers and consumers. The emergency rule will provide insurers with the earliest opportunity to use the 2012 IAR Table while the permanent rule moves through the legislative process. In addition, the proposed permanent rule has been recommended by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and is in the process of being adopted in other states. The emergency rule will help domestic insurers remain on equal footing with insurers from other states where the rule is already being adopted.

ANALYSIS PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE (OCI)

1. Statutes interpreted:

ss. 600.01, 601.41 (3), 601.42, 623.06, and 632.43, Wis. Stats.

2. Statutory authority:

ss. 601.41 (3), 601.42 (3), and 623.06 (2a) (b) and (4m), Wis. Stats.

3. Explanation of OCI's authority to promulgate the proposed rule under these statutes:

The Commissioner has the general authority to promulgate rules necessary to administer and enforce chs. 600 to 655, Wis. Stat., and as provided under ss. 227.11 (2) (a) and 601.41 (3), Wis. Stat. Further, under ss. 623.06 (2a) (b) and (4m), Wis. Stat., the Commissioner has specific authority to determine the minimum standard for the valuation of individual annuity and pure endowment contracts by establishing mortality tables to be used by insurers to calculate minimum reserves and requirements related to the testing and reporting of actuarial information.

4. Related statutes or rules:

The proposed rule relates to existing rules prescribing valuation of liabilities, non-forfeiture values, and actuarial reporting and analysis under ss. 601.42, 623.06 and 632.43, Stats., and ss. Ins 2.80 and ch. 50, Wis. Adm. Code.

5. The plain language analysis and summary of the proposed rule:

The proposed rule would require life insurers to use the 2012 IAR Table when determining the minimum standard of valuation for individual annuity and pure endowment contracts issued on or after January 1, 2015. The proposed rule would modernize an outdated table that risks leaving insurers with an insufficient level of reserves. The 2012 IAR Table is comprised of a basic experience table with margins (2012 IAM Period Table) and a projection scale. The addition of a projection scale to the 2012 IAR Table allows the Table to remain up-to-date over a longer period of time because it allows the Table to adjust by considering the most accurate statistics during each valuation year.

6. Summary of and preliminary comparison with any existing or proposed federal regulation that is intended to address the activities to be regulated by the proposed rule:

The office is unaware of any proposed or existing federal regulation that is intended to address the activities to be regulated by this proposed rule.

7. Comparison of similar rules in adjacent states as found by OCI:

Illinois: 50 Ill. Adm. Code 935 was adopted on June 20, 2014 and becomes effective January 1, 2015. This rule closely resembles Wisconsin's proposed rule by adopting the 2012 IAR Table in determining the minimum standard of valuation of annuity and pure endowment contracts.

Iowa: 191 IAC 43.1 to 43.7 closely resembles Wisconsin's proposed rule and incorporates the 2012 IAR Table for determining the minimum standard of valuation for annuity and pure endowment contracts.

Minnesota: ch. 2752 closely resembles Wisconsin's proposed rule and incorporates the 2012 IAR Table for determining the minimum standard of valuation for annuity and pure endowment contracts.

8. A summary of the factual data and analytical methodologies that OCI used in support of the proposed rule and how any related findings support the regulatory approach chosen for the proposed rule:

The existing requirements are contained primarily in ss. 623.06 (2a) (b) and (4m), Wis. Stat., s. Ins 2.30 (3), and Subch. V of Ch. 50, Wis. Adm. Code. These provisions establish that mortality tables are to be used by insurers to calculate minimum reserves and establish requirements related to testing and reporting of actuarial information. Current rules require insurers to use the Annuity 2000 Mortality Table as adopted by the NAIC. The proposed rule will require insurers to use the 2012 IAR Table as adopted by the NAIC in December 2012 for calculating the minimum reserves on contracts written on or after January 1, 2015. The proposed rule is being considered as it has been recommended by the NAIC and is in the process of being adopted by other states. Further, not adopting the 2012 IAR Table may place domestic insurers at a competitive disadvantage compared to insurers from states where the table has been adopted.

9. Any analysis and supporting documentation that OCI used in support of OCI's determination of the rule's effect on small businesses under s. 227.114:

The proposed rule would have an impact on life insurers, however based on revenue and ownership structure very few, if any, life insurers meet the definition of small businesses. In addition, many of the potential implementation and compliance costs are mitigated by other factors contained in the proposed rule. Therefore, any economic impact on small businesses posed by the proposed rule would not be significant.

10. See the attached Private Sector Fiscal Analysis.

This rule change will have no significant effect on the private sector regulated by OCI.

11. A description of the Effect on Small Business:

This rule will have little or no effect on small business since very few, if any, life insurers meet the definition of a small business. In addition, many of the implementation and compliance costs are mitigated by other factors contained in the proposed rule. First, insurers already have the systems in place perform the calculations, they primarily just need to substitute in new numbers and equations. Moreover, the 2012 IAR Table will only apply to contracts issued on or after January 1, 2015, which provides insurers with the opportunity to minimize any economic impact by adjusting their products. Finally, with a majority of states on the verge of adopting the 2012 IAR Table, insurers will be able to avoid excess federal taxes on reserves held in excess of the current federally recognized mortality table.

12. Agency contact person:

A copy of the full text of the proposed rule changes, analysis and fiscal estimate may be obtained from the Web site at: <http://oci.wi.gov/ocirules.htm> or by contacting Inger Williams, OCI Services Section, at:

Phone: (608) 264-8110
Email: inger.williams@wisconsin.gov

Address: 125 South Webster St – 2nd Floor, Madison WI 53703-3474
Mail: PO Box 7873, Madison, WI 53707-7873

13. Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

The deadline for submitting comments is 4:00 p.m. on the 14th day after the date for the hearing stated in the Notice of Hearing.

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The proposed rule changes are:

SECTION 1. Ins 2.30 (2) (f) to (j) are created to read:

Ins 2.30 (2) (f) “Period table” means a table of mortality rates applicable to a given calendar year (the Period).

(g) “Generational mortality table” means a mortality table containing a set of mortality rates that decrease for a given age from one year to the next based on a combination of a Period table and a projection scale containing rates of mortality improvement.

(h) “2012 IAR Table” means that generational mortality table developed by the society of actuaries committee on life insurance research and containing rates, qx_{2012+n} , derived from a combination of the 2012 IAM Period Table and Projection Scale G2, using the methodology stated in Section 3m.

(i) “2012 Individual Annuity Mortality Period Life Table” or “2012 IAM Period Table” means the Period Table containing loaded mortality rates for calendar year 2012. This table contains rates, qx_{2012} , developed by the society of actuaries committee on life insurance research, and published in the 2012 proceedings of the NAIC, Fall Volume I, pages 149-150.

(j) “Projection Scale G2” or “Scale G2” is a table of annual rates, $G2x$, of mortality improvement by age for projecting future mortality rates beyond calendar year 2012. This table was developed by the society of actuaries committee on life insurance

research, and published in the 2012 proceedings of the NAIC, Fall Volume I, pages 151-152.

SECTION 2. Ins 2.30 (3) (c) is amended to read:

Ins 2.30 (3) (c) Except as provided in par. (d) the annuity 2000 mortality table shall be used to determine the minimum standard of valuation for any individual annuity or pure endowment contract issued on or after January 1, 1999, but before January 1, 2015.

SECTION 3. Ins 2.30 (3) (cm) is created to read:

Ins 2.30 (3) (cm) Except as provided in par. (d) the 2012 IAR Table shall be used for determining the minimum standard of valuation for any individual annuity or pure endowment contract issued on or after January 1, 2015.

SECTION 4. Section Ins 2.30 (3m) is created to read:

Ins 2.30 (3m) Application of the 2012 IAR Table

In using the 2012 IAR Table, the mortality rate for a person age x in year $(2012 + n)$ is calculated as follows:

$$q_x^{2012+n} = q_x^{2012} * (1 - G2_x)^n$$

(LRB NOTE: *If viewing as an HTML document, a formula in the original is not reproduced here. See the PDF version by clicking the red and white icon in the upper right.*)

The resulting qx 2012+n shall be rounded to three decimal places per 1,000, e.g., 0.741 deaths per 1,000. Also, the rounding shall occur according to the formula above, starting at the 2012 period table rate. For example, for a male age 30, qx 2012 = 0.741.

qx 2013 = $0.741 * (1 - 0.010)^1 = 0.73359$, which is rounded to 0.734.

qx 2014 = $0.741 * (1 - 0.010)^2 = 0.7262541$, which is rounded to 0.726.

A method leading to incorrect rounding would be to calculate qx 2014 as qx 2013 * $(1 - 0.010)$, or $0.734 * 0.99 = 0.727$. It is incorrect to use the already rounded qx 2013 to calculate qx 2014.

SECTION 5. INITIAL APPLICABILITY. These changes apply to contracts issued on or after January 1, 2015.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. These changes will take effect on the first day of the month after publication, as provided in s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Wis. Stats.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 19th day of December, 2014.

Theodore K. Nickel
Commissioner of Insurance

Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
Private Sector Fiscal Analysis

for Section Ins 2.30 relating to 2012 Individual Annuity Reserving
Mortality Table and Affecting Small Business

This rule change will have no significant effect on the private sector regulated by OCI.