

CHAPTER 2711
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM

	REGULATION OF ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM		
2711.0020	PURPOSE.	2711.0080	STATEMENT OF ACTUARIAL OPINION BASED ON AN ASSET ADEQUACY ANALYSIS.
2711.0030	APPLICATION AND SCOPE.	2711.0090	DESCRIPTION OF ACTUARIAL MEMORANDUM INCLUDING AN ASSET ADEQUACY ANALYSIS.
2711.0040	DEFINITIONS.		
2711.0050	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.		
2711.0060	REQUIRED OPINIONS.	2711.0100	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ANALYSIS.
2711.0070	STATEMENT OF ACTUARIAL OPINION NOT INCLUDING AN ASSET ADEQUACY ANALYSIS.		

REGULATION OF ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM

2711.0020 PURPOSE.

The purpose of this chapter is to prescribe:

A. guidelines and standards for statements of actuarial opinion which are to be submitted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 61A.25, subdivisions 2a and 2b, and for memoranda in support of these opinions;

B. guidelines and standards for statements of actuarial opinion which are to be submitted when a company is exempt from Minnesota Statutes, section 61A.25, subdivision 2b; and

C. rules applicable to the appointment of an appointed actuary.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 45.023; 61A.25*

History: *17 SR 1791*

2711.0030 APPLICATION AND SCOPE.

Subpart 1. **Generally.** This chapter applies to all life insurance companies and fraternal benefit societies doing business in this state and to all life insurance companies and fraternal benefit societies which are authorized to reinsure life insurance, annuities, or accident and health insurance business in this state. This chapter applies to all annual statements filed with the office of the commissioner after January 26, 1993. Except with respect to companies which are exempted pursuant to part 2711.0060, a statement of opinion on the adequacy of the reserves and related actuarial items based on an asset adequacy analysis in accordance with part 2711.0080, and a supporting memorandum in accordance with part 2711.0090, shall be required each year. A company so exempted must file a statement of actuarial opinion pursuant to part 2711.0070.

Subp. 2. **Opinions from exempt companies.** Notwithstanding subpart 1, the commissioner shall require a company otherwise exempt pursuant to part 2711.0060 to submit a statement of actuarial opinion and to prepare a supporting memorandum in accordance with parts 2711.0080 and 2711.0090 if, after a financial analysis of the company the commissioner determines that the insurer's asset portfolio, when viewed in light of current economic conditions, is not of sufficient value, liquidity, or diversity to ensure the company's ability to meet its outstanding obligations as they mature, and that an asset adequacy analysis is necessary with respect to the company.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 45.023; 61A.25*

History: *17 SR 1791*

2711.0040 DEFINITIONS.

Subpart 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms in this part have the meanings given them.

MINNESOTA RULES 2003

317

ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM 2711.0050

Subp. 2. Actuarial Standards Board. “Actuarial Standards Board” is the board established by the American Academy of Actuaries to develop and promulgate standards of actuarial practice.

Subp. 3. Annual statement. “Annual statement” means that statement required by Minnesota Statutes, section 60A.13, to be filed by the company with the office of the commissioner annually.

Subp. 4. Appointed actuary. “Appointed actuary” means an individual who is appointed or retained in accordance with part 2711.0050, subpart 3, to provide the actuarial opinion and supporting memorandum as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 61A.25, subdivisions 2a and 2b.

Subp. 5. Asset adequacy analysis. “Asset adequacy analysis” means an analysis that meets the standards and other requirements in part 2711.0050, subpart 4. It may take many forms, including, but not limited to, cash flow testing, sensitivity testing, or applications of risk theory.

Subp. 6. Commissioner. “Commissioner” means the commissioner of commerce.

Subp. 7. Company. “Company” means a life insurance company, fraternal benefit society, or reinsurer subject to this chapter.

Subp. 8. NAIC. “NAIC” means the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Subp. 9. Noninvestment grade bonds. “Noninvestment grade bonds” are those designated as class 3, 4, 5, or 6 by the NAIC Securities Valuation Office.

Subp. 10. Qualified actuary. “Qualified actuary” means an individual who meets the requirements in part 2711.0050, subpart 2.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 45.023; 61A.25*

History: *17 SR 1791*

2711.0050 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

Subpart 1. Submission of statement of actuarial opinion.

A. There is to be included on or attached to page 1 of the annual statement for each year the statement of an appointed actuary, entitled “Statement of Actuarial Opinion,” setting forth an opinion relating to reserves and related actuarial items held in support of policies and contracts, in accordance with part 2711.0080. A company exempted pursuant to part 2711.0060 from submitting a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 shall include on or attach to page 1 of the annual statement a statement of actuarial opinion rendered by an appointed actuary in accordance with part 2711.0070.

B. If in the previous year a company provided a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0070, and in the current year fails the exemption criteria of part 2711.0060, subpart 3, item A, B, or E, to again provide an actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0070, the statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 shall not be required until August 1 following the date of the annual statement. In this instance, the company shall provide a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0070 with appropriate qualification noting the intent to subsequently provide a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080.

C. In the case of a statement of actuarial opinion required to be submitted by a foreign or alien company, the commissioner may accept the statement of actuarial opinion filed by the company with the insurance supervisory regulator of another state if the commissioner determines that the opinion reasonably meets the requirements applicable to a company domiciled in this state.

Subp. 2. Qualified actuary. A “qualified actuary” is an individual who:

A. is a member in good standing of the American Academy of Actuaries;

B. is qualified to sign statements of actuarial opinion for life and health insurance company annual statements in accordance with the American Academy of Actuaries qualification standards for actuaries signing these statements;

C. is familiar with the valuation requirements applicable to life and health insurance companies;

D. has not been found by the commissioner (or if so found has subsequently been reinstated as a qualified actuary), following appropriate notice and hearing to have:

(1) violated any provision of, or any obligation imposed by, the state insurance law or other law in the course of the actuary's dealings as a qualified actuary;

(2) been found guilty of fraudulent or dishonest practices;

(3) demonstrated incompetency, lack of cooperation, or untrustworthiness to act as a qualified actuary;

(4) submitted to the commissioner during the past five years, pursuant to this chapter, an actuarial opinion or memorandum that the commissioner rejected because it did not meet the provisions of this chapter including standards set by the Actuarial Standards Board; or

(5) resigned or been removed as an actuary within the past five years as a result of acts or omissions indicated in any adverse report on examination or as a result of failure to adhere to generally acceptable actuarial standards of the American Academy of Actuaries; and

E. has not failed to notify the commissioner of any action taken by any commissioner of any other state similar to that under item D.

Subp. 3. Appointed actuary. An "appointed actuary" is a qualified actuary who is appointed or retained to prepare the statement of actuarial opinion required by this chapter, either directly by or by the authority of the board of directors through an executive officer of the company. The company shall give the commissioner timely written notice of the name, title (and, in the case of a consulting actuary, the name of the firm), and manner of appointment or retention of each person appointed or retained by the company as an appointed actuary and shall state in the notice that the person meets the requirements in subpart 2. Once the notice is furnished, no further notice is required with respect to this person, if the company gives the commissioner timely written notice if the actuary ceases to be appointed or retained as an appointed actuary or to meet the requirements in subpart 2. If a person appointed or retained as an appointed actuary replaces a previously appointed actuary, the notice must so state and give the reasons for replacement.

Subp. 4. Standards for asset adequacy analysis. The asset analysis required by this chapter must:

A. conform to the standards of practice as promulgated from time to time by the Actuarial Standards Board and to any additional standards under this chapter, which standards are to form the basis of the statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080; and

B. be based on methods of analysis considered appropriate for these purposes by the Actuarial Standards Board.

Subp. 5. Liabilities to be covered.

A. Under authority of Minnesota Statutes, section 61A.25, subdivisions 2a and 2b, the statement of actuarial opinion applies to all in-force business on the statement date regardless of when or where issued, for example, reserves of exhibits 8, 9, and 10, and claim liabilities in exhibit 11, part 1, and equivalent items in the separate account statement or statements.

B. If the appointed actuary determines as the result of asset adequacy analysis that a reserve should be held in addition to the aggregate reserve held by the company and calculated in accordance with methods in Minnesota Statutes, section 61A.25, subdivisions 4, 4a, 7, 8, and 9, the company shall establish this additional reserve.

MINNESOTA RULES 2003

319

ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM 2711.0060

C. For years ending before December 31, 1994, the company may, in lieu of establishing the full amount of the additional reserve in the annual statement for that year, set up an additional reserve in an amount not less than the following:

- (1) December 31, 1992, the additional reserve divided by three; and
- (2) December 31, 1993, two times the additional reserve divided by three.

D. Additional reserves established under item B or C and considered not necessary in subsequent years may be released. Amounts released must be disclosed in the actuarial opinion for the applicable year. The release of these reserves is not considered an adoption of a lower standard of valuation.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 45.023; 61A.25*

History: *17 SR 1791*

2711.0060 REQUIRED OPINIONS.

Subpart 1. **General.** In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 61A.25, subdivisions 2a and 2b, every company doing business in this state shall annually submit the opinion of an appointed actuary as provided for by this chapter. The type of opinion submitted is determined by this part and must be in accordance with this chapter.

Subp. 2. **Company categories.** For purposes of this chapter, companies shall be classified according to items A to D based on the admitted assets as of the end of the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable.

A. Category A consists of those companies whose admitted assets do not exceed \$20,000,000.

B. Category B consists of those companies whose admitted assets exceed \$20,000,000 but do not exceed \$100,000,000.

C. Category C consists of those companies whose admitted assets exceed \$100,000,000 but do not exceed \$500,000,000.

D. Category D consists of those companies whose admitted assets exceed \$500,000,000.

Subp. 3. Exemption eligibility tests.

A. A category A company that for any year meets all of the criteria in subitems (1) to (4) is eligible for exemption from submission of a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 for the year in which these criteria are met. The ratios in subitems (1) to (3) must be calculated based on amounts as of the end of the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable.

(1) The ratio of the sum of capital and surplus to the sum of cash and invested assets is at least equal to 0.10.

(2) The ratio of the sum of the reserves and liabilities for annuities and deposits to the total admitted assets is less than 0.30.

(3) The ratio of the statement value of the noninvestment grade bonds to the sum of capital and surplus is less than 0.50.

(4) The examiner team for the NAIC has not designated the company as a first priority company in any of the two calendar years preceding the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable, or a second priority company in each of the two calendar years preceding the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable; or the company has resolved such first or second priority status to the satisfaction of the commissioner of the state of domicile and the commissioner has so notified the chair of the NAIC life and health actuarial task force and the NAIC staff and support office.

B. A category B company that for any year meets all of the criteria in subitems (1) to (4) is eligible for exemption from submission of a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 for the year in which the criteria are met. The ratios in subitems (1) to (3) must be calculated based on amounts as of the end of the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable.

(1) The ratio of the sum of capital and surplus to the sum of cash and invested assets is at least equal to 0.07.

(2) The ratio of the sum of reserves and liabilities for annuities and deposits to the total admitted assets is less than 0.40.

(3) The ratio of the statement value of the noninvestment grade bonds to the sum of capital and surplus is less than 0.50.

(4) The examiner team for the NAIC has not designated the company as a first priority company in any of the two calendar years preceding the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable, or a second priority company in each of the two calendar years preceding the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable; or the company has resolved such first or second priority status to the satisfaction of the commissioner of the state of domicile and the commissioner has so notified the chair of the NAIC life and health actuarial task force and the NAIC staff and support office.

C. A category A or B company that meets all of the criteria in item A or B, whichever is applicable, is exempted from submission of a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 unless the commissioner specifically indicates to the company that the exemption is not to be taken.

D. A category A or B company that for any year is not exempted under item C shall be required to submit a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 for the year for which it is not exempt.

E. A category C company that, after submitting an opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080, meets all of the criteria in subitems (1) to (4) shall not be required, unless required in accordance with item F, to submit a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 more frequently than every third year. A category C company which fails to meet all of the criteria in subitems (1) to (4) for any year shall submit a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 for that year. The ratios in subitems (1) to (3) must be calculated based on amounts as of the end of the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable.

(1) The ratio of the sum of capital and surplus to the sum of cash and invested assets is at least equal to 0.05.

(2) The ratio of the sum of the reserves and liabilities for annuities and deposits to the total admitted assets is less than 0.50.

(3) The ratio of the statement value of the noninvestment grade bonds to the sum of the capital and surplus is less than 0.50.

(4) The examiner team for the NAIC has not designated the company as a first priority company in any of the two calendar years preceding the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable, or a second priority company in each of the two calendar years preceding the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable; or the company has resolved such first or second priority status to the satisfaction of the commissioner of the state of domicile and the commissioner has so notified the chair of the NAIC life and health actuarial task force and the NAIC staff and support office.

F. A company which is not required by this part to submit a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 for any year shall submit a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0070 for that year unless as provided for by part 2711.0030, subpart 2, the commissioner requires a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080.

Subp. 4. **Large companies.** A category D company shall submit a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with part 2711.0080 for each year.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 45.023; 61A.25*

History: *17 SR 1791*

2711.0070 STATEMENT OF ACTUARIAL OPINION NOT INCLUDING AN ASSET ADEQUACY ANALYSIS.

Subpart 1. General description. The statement of actuarial opinion required by this part consists of a paragraph identifying the appointed actuary and the actuary's qualifications; a regulatory authority paragraph stating that the company is exempt pursuant to this chapter from submitting a statement of actuarial opinion based on an asset adequacy analysis and that the opinion, which is not based on an asset adequacy analysis, is rendered in accordance with part 2711.0070; a scope paragraph identifying the subjects on which the opinion is to be expressed and describing the scope of the appointed actuary's work; and an opinion paragraph expressing the appointed actuary's opinion as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 61A.25, subdivision 2a.

Subp. 2. Recommended language. The following language provided is that which in typical circumstances would be included in a statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with this part. The language may be modified as needed to meet the circumstances of a particular case, but the appointed actuary must use language which clearly expresses the actuary's professional judgment. However, the opinion must retain all pertinent aspects of the language provided in this part.

A. The opening paragraph should indicate the appointed actuary's relationship to the company. For a company actuary, the opening paragraph of the actuarial opinion should read as follows:

"I, [name of actuary], am [title] of [name of company] and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries. I was appointed by, or by the authority of, the board of directors of said insurer to render this opinion as stated in the letter to the commissioner dated [insert date]. I meet the academy qualification standards for rendering the opinion and am familiar with the valuation requirements applicable to life and health companies."

For a consulting actuary, the opening paragraph of the actuarial opinion should contain a statement such as:

"I, [name and title of actuary], a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, am associated with the firm of [insert name of consulting firm]. I have been appointed by, or by the authority of, the board of directors of [name of company] to render this opinion as stated in the letter to the commissioner dated [insert date]. I meet the academy qualification standards for rendering the opinion and am familiar with the valuation requirements applicable to life and health insurance companies."

B. The regulatory authority paragraph should include a statement such as the following: "This company is exempt pursuant to Minnesota Rules, part 2711.0060, of the Minnesota Department of Commerce from submitting a statement of actuarial opinion based on an asset adequacy analysis. This opinion, which is not based on an asset adequacy analysis, is rendered in accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 2711.0070."

C. The scope paragraph should contain a sentence such as the following: "I have examined the actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods used in determining reserves and related actuarial items listed below, as shown in the annual statement of the company, as prepared for filing with state regulatory officials, as of December 31,"

The paragraph should list items and amounts with respect to which the appointed actuary is expressing an opinion. The list should include but not be necessarily limited to:

- (1) aggregate reserve and deposit funds for policies and contracts included in exhibit 8;
- (2) aggregate reserve and deposit funds for policies and contracts included in exhibit 9;
- (3) deposit funds, premiums, dividend and coupon accumulations, and supplementary contracts not involving life contingencies included in exhibit 10; and

MINNESOTA RULES 2003

2711.0070 ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM

322

(4) policy and contract claims--liability end of current year included in exhibit 11, part 1.

D. If the appointed actuary has examined the underlying records, the scope paragraph should also include the following:

“My examination included such review of the actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods and of the underlying basic records and such tests of the actuarial calculations as I considered necessary.”

E. If the appointed actuary has not examined the underlying records, but has relied upon listings and summaries of policies in force prepared by the company or a third party, the scope paragraph should include a sentence such as one of the following:

“I have relied upon listings and summaries of policies and contracts and other liabilities in force prepared by [name and title of company officer certifying in-force records] as certified in the attached statement. (See accompanying affidavit by a company officer.) In other respects my examination included review of the actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods and such tests of the actuarial calculations as I considered necessary.”

or

“I have relied upon [name of accounting firm] for the substantial accuracy of the in-force records inventory and information concerning other liabilities, as certified in the attached statement. In other respects my examination included review of the actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods and such tests of the actuarial calculations as I considered necessary.”

The statement of the person certifying shall follow the form indicated by item J.

F. The opinion paragraph should include the following:

“In my opinion the amounts carried in the balance sheet on account of the actuarial items identified above:

(1) are computed in accordance with presently accepted actuarial standards consistently applied and are fairly stated in accordance with sound actuarial principles;

(2) are based on actuarial assumptions which produce reserves at least as great as those called for in any contract provision as to reserve basis and method, and are in accordance with all other contract provisions;

(3) meet the requirements of the insurance law and regulations of the state of [state of domicile] and are at least as great as the minimum aggregate amounts required by the state in which this statement is filed;

(4) are computed on the basis of assumptions consistent with those used in computing the corresponding items in the annual statement of the preceding year-end with any exceptions as noted below; and

(5) include provision for all actuarial reserves and related statement items which ought to be established.

The actuarial methods, considerations, and analyses used in forming my opinion conform to the appropriate standards of practice as promulgated by the Actuarial Standards Board, which standards form the basis of this statement of opinion.”

G. The concluding paragraph should document the eligibility for the company to provide an opinion as provided by this part. It shall include the following:

“This opinion is provided in accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 2711.0070. As such it does not include an opinion regarding the adequacy of reserves and related actuarial items when considered in light of the assets which support them.

Eligibility for Minnesota Rules, part 2711.0070, is confirmed as follows:

(a) The ratio of the sum of capital and surplus to the sum of cash and invested assets is [insert amount], which equals or exceeds the applicable

MINNESOTA RULES 2003

323

ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM 2711.0070

criterion based on the admitted assets of the company (Minnesota Rules, part 2711.0060, subpart 3).

(b) The ratio of the sum of the reserves and liabilities for annuities and deposits to the total admitted assets is [insert amount], which is less than the applicable criteria based on the admitted assets of the company (Minnesota Rules, part 2711.0060, subpart 3).

(c) The ratio of the statement value of the noninvestment grade bonds to the sum of capital and surplus is [insert amount], which is less than the applicable criteria of 0.50.

(d) To my knowledge, the NAIC examiner team has not designated the company as a first priority company in any of the two calendar years preceding the calendar for which the actuarial opinion is applicable, or a second priority company in each of the two calendar years preceding the calendar year for which the actuarial opinion is applicable; or the company has resolved such first or second priority status to the satisfaction of the commissioner of the state of domicile, and has provided the necessary NAIC notification.

(e) To my knowledge there is not a specific request from any commissioner requiring an asset adequacy analysis opinion.

Signature of Appointed Actuary

Address of Appointed Actuary

Telephone Number of Appointed Actuary"

H. If there has been any change in the actuarial assumptions from those previously employed, that change should be described in the annual statement or in a paragraph of the statement of actuarial opinion, and the reference in item F, paragraph (4), to consistency should read as follows:

"...with the exception of the change described on page [...] of the annual statement (or in the preceding paragraph)."

The adoption for new issues or new claims or other new liabilities of an actuarial assumption which differs from a corresponding assumption used for prior new issues or new claims or other new liabilities is not a change in actuarial assumptions within the meaning of this paragraph.

I. If the appointed actuary is unable to form an opinion, the actuary shall refuse to issue a statement of actuarial opinion. If the appointed actuary's opinion is adverse or qualified, the actuary shall issue an adverse or qualified actuarial opinion explicitly stating the reasons for the opinion. This statement should follow the scope paragraph and precede the opinion paragraph.

J. If the appointed actuary does not express an opinion as to the accuracy and completeness of the listings and summaries of policies in force, there should be attached to the opinion the statement of a company officer or accounting firm who prepared underlying data similar to the following:

"I, [name of officer], [title] of [name and address of company or accounting firm], hereby affirm that the listings and summaries of policies and contracts in force as of December 31, 19. ., prepared for and submitted to [name of appointed actuary], were prepared under my direction and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, are substantially accurate and complete.

Signature of the Officer of the Company
or Accounting Firm

Address of the Officer of the Company
or Accounting Firm

Telephone Number of the Officer of the
Company or Accounting Firm

Statutory Authority: *MS s 45.023; 61A.25*

History: *17 SR 1791; L 1998 c 254 art 1 s 107*

2711.0080 STATEMENT OF ACTUARIAL OPINION BASED ON AN ASSET ADEQUACY ANALYSIS.

Subpart 1. **General description.** The statement of actuarial opinion submitted in accordance with this part shall consist of:

A. a paragraph, as required by subpart 2, item A, identifying the appointed actuary and the actuary's qualifications;

B. a scope paragraph, as required by subpart 2, item B, identifying the subjects on which an opinion is to be expressed and describing the scope of the appointed actuary's work, including a delineation of the reserves and related actuarial items which have been analyzed for asset adequacy and the method of analysis, and identifying the reserves and related actuarial items covered by the opinion which have not been so analyzed;

C. a reliance paragraph, as required by subpart 2, item C, describing those areas, if any, where the appointed actuary has deferred to other experts in developing data, procedures, or assumptions (for example, anticipated cash flows from currently owned assets, including variation in cash flows according to economic scenarios) supported by a statement of each expert in the form prescribed by subpart 5;

D. an opinion paragraph, as required by subpart 2, item F, expressing the appointed actuary's opinion with respect to the adequacy of the supporting assets to mature the liabilities; and

E. one or more additional paragraphs as needed in individual company cases if the appointed actuary:

(1) considers it necessary to state a qualification of the actuary's opinion;

(2) must disclose the method of aggregation for reserves of different products or lines of business for asset adequacy analysis;

(3) must disclose reliance upon any portion of the assets supporting the Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR), Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR), or other mandatory or voluntary statement reserves for asset adequacy analysis;

(4) must disclose an inconsistency in the method of analysis or basis of asset allocation used at the prior opinion date with that used for this opinion;

(5) must disclose whether additional reserves of the prior opinion date are released as of this opinion date, and the extent of the release; or

(6) chooses to add a paragraph briefly describing the assumptions which form the basis for the actuarial opinion.

Subp. 2. **Recommended language.** The following paragraphs are to be included in the statement of actuarial opinion in accordance with this part. The language is that which in typical circumstances should be included in a statement of actuarial opinion. The language may be modified as needed to meet the circumstances of a particular case, but the appointed actuary should use language which clearly expresses the

MINNESOTA RULES 2003

325

ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM 2711.0080

actuary's professional judgment. However, in any event the opinion shall retain all pertinent aspects of the language provided in this part.

A. The opening paragraph should generally indicate the appointed actuary's relationship to the company and the actuary's qualifications to sign the opinion. For a company actuary, the opening paragraph of the actuarial opinion should read as follows:

"I, [name], am [title] of [insurance company name] and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries. I was appointed by, or by the authority of, the board of directors of said insurer to render this opinion as stated in the letter to the commissioner dated [insert date]. I meet the academy qualification standards for rendering the opinion and am familiar with the valuation requirements applicable to life and health insurance companies."

For a consulting actuary, the opening paragraph should contain a sentence such as:

"I, [name], a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, am associated with the firm of [name of consulting firm]. I have been appointed by, or by the authority of, the board of directors of [name of company] to render this opinion as stated in the letter to the commissioner dated [insert date]. I meet the Academy qualification standards for rendering the opinion and am familiar with the valuation requirements applicable to life and health insurance companies."

B. The scope paragraph should include a statement such as the following:

"I have examined the actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods used in determining reserves and related actuarial items listed below, as shown in the annual statement of the company, as prepared for filing with state regulatory officials, as of December 31, Delineated below are those reserves and related actuarial items which have been subjected to asset adequacy analysis."

Reserves and Liabilities

Asset Adequacy Tested Amounts

	Formula Reserves	Additional Actuarial Reserves (a)	Analysis Method (b)	Other Amount	Total Amount (1)+(2) +(3)
Statement Item	(1)	(2)		(3)	(4)

Exhibit 8

- A Life Insurance
- B Annuities
- C Supplementary
Contracts
Involving Life
Contingencies
- D Accidental Death
Benefit
- E Disability -
Active

MINNESOTA RULES 2003

F	Disability - Disabled				
G	Miscellaneous Total (Exhibit 8 Item 1, Page 3)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Exhibit 9					
A	Active Life Reserve				
B	Claim Reserve Total (Exhibit 9 Item 2, Page 3)	_____	_____	_____	_____
Exhibit 10					
1	Premiums and Other Deposit Funds				
1.1	Policyholder Premiums (Page 3, Line 10.1)				
1.2	Guaranteed Interest Contracts (Page 3, Line 10.2)				
1.3	Other Contract Deposit Funds (Page 3, Line 10.3)				
2	Supplementary Contracts Not Involving Life Contingencies (Page 3, Line 3)				
3	Dividend and Coupon Accumulations (Page 3, Line 5)				
	Total Exhibit 10	_____	_____	_____	_____
Exhibit 11 Part 1					
1	Life (Page 3, Line 4.1)				
2	Health (Page 3, Line 4.2)				
	Total Exhibit 11, Part 1	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Separate Accounts (Page 3, Line 27)	_____	_____	_____	_____

MINNESOTA RULES 2003

327

ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM 2711.0080

TOTAL RESERVES _____

IMR (Page ___ Line ___) _____

AVR (Page ___ Line ___) _____(c)

Notes:

(a) The additional actuarial reserves are the reserves established under part 2711.0050, subpart 5, item B or C.

(b) The appointed actuary should indicate the method of analysis, determined in accordance with the standards for asset adequacy analysis referred to in part 2711.0050, subpart 4, by means of symbols which should be defined in footnotes to the table.

(c) Allocated amount.

C. If the appointed actuary has relied on other experts to develop certain portions of the analysis, the reliance paragraph should include a statement such as the following:

“I have relied on [name], [title] for [e.g., anticipated cash flows from currently owned assets, including variations in cash flows according to economic scenarios] and, as certified in the attached statement, . . .”

or

“I have relied on personnel as cited in the supporting memorandum for certain critical aspects of the analysis in reference to the accompanying statement.”

Such a statement of reliance on other experts should be accompanied by a statement by each of such experts of the form prescribed by subpart 5.

D. If the appointed actuary has examined the underlying asset and liability records, the reliance paragraph should also include the following:

“My examination included such review of the actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods and of the underlying basic asset and liability records and such tests of the actuarial calculations as I considered necessary.”

E. If the appointed actuary has not examined the underlying records, but has relied upon listings and summaries of policies in force and/or asset records prepared by the company or a third party, the reliance paragraph should include a sentence such as:

“I have relied upon listings and summaries [of policies and contracts, of asset records] prepared by [name and title of company officer certifying in-force records] as certified in the attached statement. In other respects my examination included such review of the actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods and such tests of the actuarial calculations as I considered necessary.”

or

“I have relied upon [name of accounting firm] for the substantial accuracy of the in-force records inventory and information concerning other liabilities, as certified in the attached statement. In other respects my examination included review of the actuarial assumptions and actuarial methods and tests of the actuarial calculations as I considered necessary.”

Such a section must be accompanied by a statement by each person relied upon of the form prescribed in subpart 5.

F. The opinion paragraph should include the following:

“In my opinion the reserves and related actuarial values concerning the statement items identified above:

(1) are computed in accordance with presently accepted actuarial standards consistently applied and are fairly stated, in accordance with sound actuarial principles;

MINNESOTA RULES 2003

2711.0080 ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM

328

(2) are based on actuarial assumptions which produce reserves at least as great as those called for in any contract provision as to reserve basis and method, and are in accordance with all other contract provisions;

(3) meet the requirements of the insurance law and regulations of the state of [state of domicile] and are at least as great as the minimum aggregate amounts required by the state in which this statement is filed;

(4) are computed on the basis of assumptions consistent with those used in computing the corresponding items in the annual statement of the preceding year-end (with any exceptions noted below); and

(5) include provision for all actuarial reserves and related statement items which ought to be established.

The reserves and related items, when considered in light of the assets held by the company with respect to such reserves and related actuarial items including, but not limited to, the principal repayments and investment earnings from such assets, and the considerations anticipated to be received and retained under such policies and contracts, make adequate provision, according to presently accepted actuarial standards of practice, for the anticipated cash flows required by the contractual obligations and related expenses of the company.

The actuarial methods, considerations, and analyses used in forming my opinion conform to the appropriate standards of practice as promulgated by the Actuarial Standards Board, which standards form the basis of this statement of opinion.

This opinion is updated annually as required by statute. To the best of my knowledge, there have been no material changes from the applicable date of the annual statement to the date of the rendering of this opinion which should be considered in reviewing this opinion.”

or

“The following material change or changes which occurred between the date of the statement for which this opinion is applicable and the date of this opinion should be considered in reviewing this opinion: [Describe the change or changes.]”

Note: Choose one of the above two paragraphs, whichever is applicable.

“The impact of unanticipated events subsequent to the date of this opinion is beyond the scope of this opinion. The analysis of asset adequacy portion of this opinion should be viewed recognizing that the company’s future experience may not follow all the assumptions used in the analysis.

Signature of Appointed Actuary

Address of Appointed Actuary

Telephone Number of Appointed Actuary”

Subp. 3. Assumptions for new issues. The adoption for new issues or new claims or other new liabilities of an actuarial assumption which differs from a corresponding assumption used for prior new issues or new claims or other new liabilities is not a change in actuarial assumptions within the meaning of this part.

Subp. 4. Adverse opinions. If the appointed actuary is unable to form an opinion, then the actuary shall refuse to issue a statement of actuarial opinion. If the appointed actuary’s opinion is adverse or qualified, then the actuary shall issue an adverse or

MINNESOTA RULES 2003

329

ACTUARIAL OPINION AND MEMORANDUM 2711.0090

qualified actuarial opinion explicitly stating the reasons for the opinion. This statement should follow the scope paragraph and precede the opinion paragraph.

Subp. 5. **Reliance on data furnished by other persons.** If the appointed actuary does not express an opinion as to the accuracy and completeness of the listings and summaries of policies in force and/or asset-oriented information, there shall be attached to the opinion the statement of a company officer or accounting firm who prepared the underlying data similar to the following:

“I, [name of officer], [title], of [name of company or accounting firm], hereby affirm that the listings and summaries of policies and contracts in force as of December 31, 19. ., and other liabilities prepared for and submitted to [name of appointed actuary] were prepared under my direction and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, are substantially accurate and complete.

Signature of the Officer of the Company
or Accounting Firm

Address of the Officer of the Company
or Accounting Firm

Telephone Number of the Officer of the
Company or Accounting Firm”

and/or

“I, [name of officer], [title], of [name of company, accounting firm, or security analyst], hereby affirm that the listings, summaries, and analyses relating to data prepared for and submitted to [name of appointed actuary], in support of the asset-oriented aspects of the opinion were prepared under my direction and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, are substantially accurate and complete.

Signature of the Officer of the Company,
Accounting Firm, or the Security Analyst

Address of the Officer of the Company,
Accounting Firm, or the Security Analyst

Telephone Number of the Officer of the
Company, Accounting Firm, or the Security
Analyst”

Statutory Authority: *MS s 45.023; 61A.25*

History: *17 SR 1791; L 1998 c 254 art 1 s 107*

2711.0090 DESCRIPTION OF ACTUARIAL MEMORANDUM INCLUDING AN ASSET ADEQUACY ANALYSIS.

Subpart 1. General.

A. In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 61A.25, subdivisions 2a and 2b, the appointed actuary shall prepare a memorandum to the company describing the analysis done in support of the actuary’s opinion regarding the reserves under a part

2711.0080 opinion. The memorandum shall be made available for examination by the commissioner upon the commissioner's request but shall be returned to the company after the examination and shall not be considered a record of the Department of Commerce or subject to automatic filing with the commissioner.

B. In preparing the memorandum, the appointed actuary may rely on, and include as a part of the actuary's own memorandum, memoranda prepared and signed by other actuaries who are qualified within the meaning of part 2711.0050, subpart 2, with respect to the areas covered in the memoranda, and so state in their memoranda.

C. If the commissioner requests a memorandum and no such memorandum exists or if the commissioner finds that the analysis described in the memorandum fails to meet the standards of the Actuarial Standards Board or the standards and requirements of this chapter, the commissioner may designate a qualified actuary to review the opinion and prepare a supporting memorandum as is required for review. The reasonable and necessary expense of the independent review shall be paid by the company but the review shall be directed and controlled by the commissioner.

D. The reviewing actuary shall have the same status as an examiner for purposes of obtaining data from the company and the work papers and documentation of the reviewing actuary shall be retained by the commissioner. Any information provided by the company to the reviewing actuary and included in the work papers is considered as material provided by the company to the commissioner and shall be kept confidential to the same extent as is prescribed by law with respect to other material provided by the company to the commissioner pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 61A.25, subdivision 2a, clause (j). The reviewing actuary shall not be an employee of a consulting firm involved with the preparation of any prior memorandum or opinion for the insurer pursuant to this chapter for any one of the current year or the preceding three years.

Subp. 2. Details of the memorandum section documenting asset adequacy analysis. When an actuarial opinion under part 2711.0080 is provided, the memorandum must demonstrate that the analysis has been done in accordance with the standards for asset adequacy referred to in part 2711.0050, subpart 4, and any additional standards under this chapter. It must specify:

A. for reserves:

(1) product descriptions including market description, underwriting and other aspects of a risk profile, and the specific risks the appointed actuary deems significant;

(2) source of liability in force;

(3) reserve method and basis;

(4) investment reserves; and

(5) reinsurance arrangements;

B. for assets:

(1) portfolio descriptions, including a risk profile disclosing the quality, distribution, and types of assets;

(2) investment and disinvestment assumptions;

(3) source of asset data; and

(4) asset valuation bases;

C. analysis basis:

(1) methodology;

(2) rationale for inclusion/exclusion of different blocks of business and how pertinent risks were analyzed;

(3) rationale for degree of rigor in analyzing different blocks of business;

(4) criteria for determining asset adequacy; and

(5) effect of federal income taxes, reinsurance, and other relevant factors;

D. summary of results; and

E. conclusions.

Subp. 3. **Conformity to standards of practice.** The memorandum must include the following statement:

“Actuarial methods, considerations, and analyses used in the preparation of this memorandum conform to the appropriate standards of practice as promulgated by the Actuarial Standards Board, which standards form the basis for this memorandum.”

Statutory Authority: *MS s 45.023; 61A.25*

History: *17 SR 1791*

2711.0100 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ANALYSIS.

Subpart 1. **Aggregation.** For the asset adequacy analysis for the statement of actuarial opinion provided in accordance with part 2711.0080, reserves and assets may be aggregated by either of the methods in item A or B.

A. Aggregate the reserves and related actuarial items, and the supporting assets, for different products or lines of business before analyzing the adequacy of the combined assets to mature the combined liabilities. The appointed actuary must be satisfied that the assets held in support of the reserves and related actuarial items so aggregated are managed in such a manner that the cash flows from the aggregated assets are available to help mature the liabilities from the blocks of business that have been aggregated.

B. Aggregate the results of asset adequacy analysis of one or more products or lines of business, the reserves for which prove through analysis to be redundant, with the results of one or more products or lines of business, the reserves for which prove through analysis to be deficient. The appointed actuary must be satisfied that the asset adequacy results for the various products or lines of business for which the results are so aggregated:

- (1) are developed using consistent economic scenarios; or
- (2) are subject to mutually independent risks, for example, the likelihood of events impacting the adequacy of the assets supporting the redundant reserves is completely unrelated to the likelihood of events impacting the adequacy of the assets supporting the deficient reserves.

In the event of any aggregation, the actuary must disclose in the actuary's opinion that the reserves were aggregated on the basis of the method in item A or B, whichever is applicable, and describe the aggregation in the supporting memorandum.

Subp. 2. **Selection of assets for analysis.** The appointed actuary shall analyze only those assets held in support of the reserves which are the subject for specific analysis, hereafter called “specified reserves.” A particular asset or portion thereof supporting a group of specified reserves cannot support any other group of specified reserves. An asset may be allocated over several groups of specified reserves. The annual statement value of the assets held in support of the reserves shall not exceed the annual statement value of the specified reserves, except as provided in subpart 3. If the method of asset allocation is not consistent from year to year, the extent of its inconsistency should be described in the supporting memorandum.

Subp. 3. **Use of assets supporting Interest Maintenance Reserve and Asset Valuation Reserve.** An appropriate allocation of assets in the amount of the Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR), whether positive or negative, must be used in any asset adequacy analysis. Analysis of risks regarding asset default may include an appropriate allocation of assets supporting the Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR); these AVR assets may not be applied for any other risks with respect to reserve adequacy. Analysis of these and other risks may include assets supporting other mandatory or voluntary reserves available to the extent not used for risk analysis and reserve support.

The amount of the assets used for the AVR must be disclosed in the Table of Reserves and Liabilities of the opinion and in the memorandum. The method used for

selecting particular assets or allocated portions of assets must be disclosed in the memorandum.

Subp. 4. **Required interest scenarios.** For the purpose of performing the asset adequacy analysis required by this chapter, the qualified actuary shall follow standards adopted by the Actuarial Standards Board; nevertheless, the appointed actuary must consider in the analysis the effect of at least the following interest rate scenarios:

- A. level with no deviation;
- B. uniformly increasing over ten years at a half percent per year and then level;
- C. uniformly increasing at one percent per year over five years and then uniformly decreasing at one percent per year to the original level at the end of ten years and then level;
- D. an immediate increase of three percent and then level;
- E. uniformly decreasing over ten years at a half percent per year and then level;
- F. uniformly decreasing at one percent per year over five years and then uniformly increasing at one percent per year to the original level at the end of ten years and then level; and
- G. an immediate decrease of three percent and then level.

For these and other scenarios which may be used, projected interest rates for a five-year treasury note need not be reduced beyond the point where such five-year treasury note yield would be at 50 percent of its initial level.

The beginning interest rates may be based on interest rates for new investments as of the valuation date similar to recent investments allocated to support the product being tested or be based on an outside index, such as treasury yields, of assets of the appropriate length on a date close to the valuation date. Whatever method is used to determine the beginning yield curve and associated interest rates should be specifically defined. The beginning yield curve and associated interest rates should be consistent for all interest rate scenarios.

Subp. 5. **Documentation.** The appointed actuary shall retain on file, for at least seven years, sufficient documentation so that it will be possible to determine the procedures followed, the analyses performed, the bases for assumptions, and the results obtained.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 45.023; 61A.25*

History: *17 SR 1791*