Statutory Issue Paper No. 86

Securitization

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This issue paper may not be directly related to the current authoritative statement.

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SUMMARY OF ISSUE

1. An asset securitization is the process of converting assets which would normally serve as collateral for a loan into securities. The largest category of securitized assets is real estate mortgage loans which serve as collateral for mortgage-backed securities.


3. In June 1996 the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued FASB Statement No. 125, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities (FAS 125). This standard supersedes FASB Statement No. 77, Reporting by Transferors for Transfers of Receivables with Recourse, (FAS 77) and FASB Technical Bulletin 85-2, Accounting for Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs) (FTB 85-2). The types of transactions contemplated in the statement recognize recent innovations in the financial markets. It addresses transfers accomplished through securitizations as well as other types of transfers.

4. The purpose of this issue paper is to establish statutory accounting principles for asset securitizations and securitizations of policy acquisition costs that are consistent with the Statutory Accounting Principles Statement of Concepts and Statutory Hierarchy (Statement of Concepts). This issue paper is not intended to address transfers accomplished by means other than securitization.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION

Accounting for Securitizations of Financial Assets

5. As used in this issue paper a financial asset shall be defined as cash, evidence of an ownership interest in an entity, or a contract that conveys both

   a. Imposes on one entity a contractual obligation (i) to deliver cash or another financial instrument to a second entity or (ii) to exchange other financial instruments on potentially unfavorable terms with a second entity; and

   b. Conveys to that second entity a contractual right (i) to receive cash or another financial instrument from the first entity or (ii) to exchange other financial instruments on potentially favorable terms with the first entity.
6. A securitization in which the transferor surrenders control over the financial asset transferred shall be accounted for as a sale, with recognition of proceeds and measurement of a gain or loss only to the extent that consideration other than beneficial interests in the transferred assets is received in exchange. The portion of the securitization for which beneficial interests in the transferred assets are received shall not be accounted for as a sale, but shall be treated as an exchange of assets with no measurement of a gain or loss. All other securitizations shall be accounted for as secured borrowings in accordance with paragraph 13.

7. The transferor has surrendered control if, and only if, all of the following conditions are met:
   a. The transferred assets have been isolated from the transferor—put presumptively beyond the reach of the transferor and its creditors, even in bankruptcy or other receivership.
   b. The transferee is a qualifying special-purpose entity and the holders of beneficial interests in that entity have the right—free of transferor-imposed conditions that constrain them from taking advantage of that right—to pledge or exchange those interests.
   c. The transferor does not maintain effective control over the transferred assets through (1) an agreement that entitles and obligates the transferor to repurchase or redeem them before their maturity or (2) an agreement that entitles the transferor to repurchase or redeem transferred assets that are not readily obtainable.

8. A beneficial interest shall be defined as the right to receive all or portions of specified cash inflows to a trust or other entity, including senior and subordinated shares of interest or principal inflows to be “passed through” or “paid through,” premiums due guarantors, and residual interests. Residual interests are interests in the cash flows of the trust or other entity, after the cash flows of structured securities issued by the trust are met.

9. Upon completion of the securitization of financial assets meeting the criteria for sales treatment required by paragraph 7, the transferor shall:
   a. Eliminate the transferred assets from the statement of financial position.
   b. Allocate the previous carrying amount of the transferred assets to the securities representing beneficial interests retained by the reporting entity, if any, and the securities representing beneficial interests not retained, if any, based on the relative fair values of the transferred assets at the date of transfer.
   c. Record in its statement of financial position, the allocated carrying value of the securities representing retained beneficial interests in the assets (e.g., loan-backed securities).
   d. Recognize all additional assets obtained (i.e., other than the securities representing retained beneficial interests which are recorded in accordance with 9.c.) and liabilities incurred in consideration as proceeds of the sale.
   e. Initially measure such additional assets obtained and liabilities incurred in the sale at fair value.
   f. For reporting entities required to maintain an Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR), the accounting for realized capital gains and losses shall be in accordance with Issue Paper No. 7—Asset Valuation Reserve and Interest Maintenance Reserve. For reporting entities not required to maintain an IMR, realized gains and losses shall be reported as net realized capital gains or losses in the Investment Income section of the Underwriting and Investment Exhibit.
10. The successor (transferee) shall recognize all assets obtained and any liabilities incurred and initially measure them at fair value.

11. A qualifying special-purpose entity (including CMO special-purpose entities) as used in this issue paper must meet all of the following conditions:

   a. It is a trust, corporation, or other legal vehicle whose activities are permanently limited by the legal documents establishing the special-purpose entity to:

      1. Holding title to transferred financial assets
      2. Issuing beneficial interests (If some of the beneficial interests are in the form of debt securities or equity securities, the transfer of assets is a securitization.)
      3. Collecting cash proceeds from assets held, reinvesting proceeds in financial instruments pending distribution to holders of beneficial interests, and otherwise servicing the assets held
      4. Distributing proceeds to the holders of its beneficial interests.

   b. It has a standing at law distinct from the transferor. Having standing at law depends in part on the nature of the special-purpose entity. For example, generally, under U.S. law, if a transferor of assets to a special-purpose trust holds all of the beneficial interests, it can unilaterally dissolve the trust, and thereby resume control over the individual assets held in the trust, and the transferor can effectively assign its interest and its creditors can reach it. In that circumstance, the trust has no standing at law, is not distinct, and thus is not a qualified special-purpose entity. A special-purpose entity that has distinct standing at law may still be an affiliate of the transferor.

**Investments in Special-Purpose Entities**

12. Reporting entities that have qualifying special-purpose entities as affiliates shall carry their investment in such entity at its underlying statutory book value in accordance with Issue Paper No. 46—Accounting for Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities. Additionally, transactions entered involving affiliated qualifying special-purpose entities are subject to the provisions of Issue Paper No. 25—Accounting for and Disclosures about Transactions with Affiliates and Other Related Parties.

**Secured Obligations and Collateral**

13. Securitizations of financial assets that do not meet the criteria for sale treatment set forth in paragraph 7 shall be presumed to be secured borrowings and shall be recorded as follows. Financial assets shall remain on the reporting entity’s books and a liability shall be recorded to reflect the proceeds from the issuance of any type of certificate. Non-cash proceeds shall be recorded as a contra liability and netted against the liability. The liability shall be reduced as the obligation to holders of beneficial interests is repaid. Financial assets pledged as collateral shall not be offset against the liability reflecting the proceeds of the transaction.

**Recognition of Servicing Rights**

14. Servicing rights become a distinct asset or liability only when contractually separated from the underlying assets by sale or securitization of the assets with servicing retained or separate purchase or assumption of the servicing. If distinct servicing rights to transferred assets exist and are retained by the reporting entity, the reporting entity shall recognize a servicing asset or liability. When the servicing fees to be received exceed the cost of servicing the transferred assets, a servicing asset is recognized and nonadmitted. When the cost of servicing the transferred assets is greater than the servicing fees to be received, a liability shall be recorded for the excess to recognize this obligation. A corresponding loss shall be recorded through the income statement. The servicing asset or liability shall be amortized into income in proportion to, and over the period of estimated servicing income (if an asset) or estimated...
servicing loss (if a liability). The servicing asset or liability shall be measured in a manner consistent with paragraphs 13 and 35-38 of FAS 125.

Sales of Future Revenues
15. In addition to securitization of assets, some reporting entities have entered into transactions characterized as a sale of future revenues. These transactions are sometimes referred to as securitizations and are sometimes characterized as selling deferred acquisition costs. A sale of future revenues by a reporting entity shall not result in the immediate recognition of income or surplus. The proceeds of any such sale shall be established as a liability and shall be reduced as the proceeds are repaid.

DISCUSSION

16. The conclusions reached in this issue paper are consistent with the statutory guidance set forth in the minutes of the March 26, 1990 meeting of the Emerging Accounting Issues Working Group of the Accounting Practices and Procedures (EX4) Task Force (Emerging Accounting Issues Working Group) which address securitization of mortgage loans and mortgage-backed securities except that the gain on sale shall be recognized immediately rather than deferred and amortized over the life of the retained interests. This issue paper is also consistent with the minutes of the February 21, 1992 meeting of the Emerging Accounting Issues Working Group which addressed financings secured by mortgage loans which have related repurchase agreements.

17. This issue paper adopts FAS 125, with the following modifications:

a. This issue paper requires servicing rights assets to be nonadmitted.

b. This issue paper does not permit sales treatment for transactions where recourse provisions exist or where “call” or “put” options exist on the transferred assets whereas GAAP would permit the recognition of the transfer as a sale under some circumstances.

c. This issue paper requires debtors to provide disclosure when a secured party is permitted to sell or pledge financial assets transferred as collateral whereas FAS 125 requires the encumbered assets to be reported separately from unencumbered assets.

d. This issue paper does not address transfers of financial assets accomplished in a manner other than through securitizations whereas FAS 125 does address such transfers.

e. Paragraph 14 is rejected as it is not applicable.

18. With respect to securitizations meeting the criteria of paragraph 7, statutory and GAAP do not recognize as a sale, any portion of the transfer for which securities representing beneficial interests in the transferred assets (e.g., CMOs) are obtained by the transferor. Statutory and GAAP do recognize that the securitized assets (e.g., mortgages) are no longer assets of the reporting entity and that the reporting entity has essentially replaced the transferred assets with securities representing a beneficial interest in the transferred assets.

19. This paper is consistent with GAAP in that the securities representing the retained beneficial interests are recorded by the reporting entity in the statement of financial position at their allocated carrying value, since the securities represent a continuing control over a previous asset, albeit in a different form. Thus, no gain or loss is recognized on the retained beneficial interest.
20. The guidance set forth in this issue paper with respect to reporting pledged collateral and the related liability for the proceeds received from transactions not recognized as sales on a gross basis and not offsetting those amounts is consistent with the guidance set forth in Issue Paper No. 76—Offsetting and Netting of Assets and Liabilities.

21. This issue paper is consistent with the current statutory guidance provided in the Life/A&H Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual. Recording the proceeds received currently for future revenue as a liability is consistent with the concepts of conservatism and recognition in the Statement of Concepts.

22. While servicing rights meet the definition of an asset, they do not meet the definition of an admitted asset. The conclusion to nonadmit the asset is consistent with the concept of conservatism in the Statement of Concepts.

**Drafting Notes/Comments**
- Extinguishment of debt is addressed in Issue Paper No. 80—Debt.
- Levelized commissions are addressed in Issue Paper No. 71—Policy Acquisition Costs and Commissions.

**RELEVANT STATUTORY ACCOUNTING AND GAAP GUIDANCE**

**Statutory Accounting**

23. The Life/A&H Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual, Chapter 17, Other Liabilities, provides the following guidance with respect to the sale of future revenue.

**Sale of Future Revenues**

The immediate recognition of proceeds from certain transactions characterized as “sale” of future revenues in income and/or surplus has been determined to be inappropriate for purposes of statutory reporting. These transactions are sometimes referred to as “securitization” and are sometimes characterized as selling “deferred acquisition costs”. Accordingly, a liability should be established for the amount of proceeds, which shall be reduced as the proceeds are repaid.

24. The Minutes of the March 26, 1990 meeting of the Emerging Accounting Issues Working Group provide the following guidance.

**Accounting for Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits (REMIC’s)**

The subject of accounting for REMIC’s (Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits) has been discussed or deferred at a number of meetings of the working group. It was discussed briefly at the October 13, 1988 meeting (EI 88–4) and in greater detail at subsequent meetings. An issue summary prepared by Norris Clark (Attachment A) was used as the initial basis for discussion.

Under the Tax Reform Act of 1986, mortgages may be placed in trust and certificates, junior and senior, may be issued. Certificate holders are entitled to receive a proportionate share of the payments made on the underlying pool of mortgages. This mortgage pass–through may be treated as a Real Estate Mortgage Investment conduit (REMIC) under the act. Generally an insurer will transfer a pool of mortgages to the trust and receive the Senior Certificates (seniors) and Junior Certificates (juniors). The seniors are then offered to the public at a somewhat lower interest rate than the pool will produce. The insurer will retain the juniors, at least initially. Rights to receive payment on the juniors will be subordinate to the rights of the seniors. A third type of instrument, a residual instrument, may also be part of the REMIC. This part may be very small.
At its June 5, 1989 meeting (EI 89–2), the working group reached conclusions on the following two issues relating to REMIC’s:

1. If an insurer holds a junior, how should it report its holdings, as a bond or equity or some other form of security?

   It was the consensus of the working group that the holding of a junior should be reported as a bond.

2. If a junior is a bond, how should it be valued?

   The consensus of the working group was that it should be valued in accordance with procedures established by the NAIC Securities Valuation Office. (However, this conclusion was modified by the group during its March 26, 1990 meeting. See Number 3. below.)

A third issue was also discussed at the June 5, 1989 meeting (EI 89–2) and at subsequent meetings of the working group. At the December 4, 1989 meeting (EI 89–4) the working group reviewed a paper (Attachment B) in the form of an issue summary prepared by Ransom Jones of Goldman, Sachs. Mr. Jones and Katherine Mason agreed to illustrate a transaction for the March 1990 meeting (Attachment C). Mr. Clark also provided an illustration (Attachment D) of the transaction which had been the impetus for his original issue summary.

Following a discussion of the material provided, the working group reached the following conclusions on accounting for these transactions:

1. How should the allocated basis of each of the layers or tranches be determined?

   The consensus of the working group was that fair market value should be used in determining the allocated basis for each tranche.

2. Should the exchange of mortgages and the issuing of securities be considered a sale and should a gain or loss be recognized?

   The group agreed that the transaction should be considered a sale. It further agreed that any gain or loss arising from the sale of the senior tranche should be recognized. The working group concluded loss, if any, should be recognized immediately. A gain on the sale should be deferred and amortized over the life of the juniors and residuals but in no event faster than the risk retained by the insurer is eliminated.

3. At what value should the juniors and/or residuals be carried by the insurer?

   It was the consensus of the working group that juniors and residuals should initially be carried at their allocated book value. They should be amortized as cash is received and should be periodically assessed as to realizability and valued downward.

25. The minutes of the February 21, 1992, meeting of the Emerging Accounting Issues Working Group provide the following guidance.

Accounting for Financing Secured by Mortgage Loans

This issue was previously discussed under the caption “Secured Borrowing” during the September 16, 1991 and December 9, 1991 meetings (EI 91-3 and EI 91-4). An issue summary was prepared for this meeting but was revised, particularly with respect to the accounting issues, during the meeting (See Attachment D).

This is an arrangement that creates participation interests in a block of existing mortgage loans for the purposes of utilizing such interests as collateralization for obtaining temporary financing.
Specifically, an insurer (the “transferor”) transfers a designated portion of its portfolio of mortgage loans to a grantor trust. In exchange, the transferor receives mortgage pass-through certificates evidencing one hundred percent beneficial ownership of the trust and the underlying mortgage loans. This phase of the transaction is effected by a pooling and servicing agreement between the transferor and the transferee.

The transaction utilizes a senior/subordinated structure for the transferee. One or more classes of certificates has a senior or first priority lien on the mortgage loan cash flows. One or more classes of subordinated certificates has a subordinated lien on the assets of the trust. The creation of the subordinated certificates may allow the senior certificates to obtain an investment grade rating from various rating agencies.

In the second phase of the transaction, the transferor enters into a reverse repurchase facility with a financier providing cash for liquidity. This facility is initially in place for one year (with an option by the transferor for an additional year) and will allow the transferor to enter into discrete repurchase transactions for the sale to the financier and subsequent repurchase by the transferor of the higher rated certificates held by the transferor pursuant to the first phase.

An individual repurchase transaction, as drawn on the line of credit provided by the financier, may be for a term as short as overnight or as long as two years. Each transaction is required to be over-collateralized by an amount which will vary relative to the length of the term of the particular sale/repurchase. The certificates that are transferred and serve as collateral remain registered in the name of the transferor, and principal and interest payments thereon shall, absent foreclosure, be for the account of the transferor. At such times as the transferor has satisfied its obligation to the financier under the repurchase facility, the transferor holds the certificates free and clear of any liens.

In the event that the transferor fails to make a required payment of the repurchase price or if the transferor is the subject of insolvency proceedings, then an event of default occurs which enables the financier to foreclose on the collateral and pay itself back the amount of such borrowings. Any collateral remaining would be returned to the transferor.

Preliminary, the working group identified the following issues and reached the following conclusions:

1. **Is the transfer of mortgages to the trust a non-economic event?**

   Yes. The transaction would be non-economic because an economic event requires a permanent transfer of the risks and rewards of ownership as defined by FAS 77.

2. **How should the ownership of the mortgages be accounted for on the balance sheet of the transferor?**

   The mortgages should continue to be reported on the balance sheet at the transferor's carrying value, continue to be amortized, and continue to be reported on Schedule B with disclosure in the Notes to the Financial Statements. Each mortgage which has been transferred to the trust should be denoted with a ‘c’ to indicate its use as collateral as described on page 2-1 of the NAIC Annual Statement Instructions for Life, Accident and Health Insurance Companies and the Instructions for Fire and Casualty Insurance Companies.

   Disclosure in the Notes to the Financial Statements should include the number and dollar amounts of mortgages transferred to the trust by type, dollar amounts of the senior and junior certificates, and the life of the trust. Appropriate disclosure should also be made, as applicable, in the General Interrogatories of the Annual Statement. Since the mortgages continue on the books of the insurer/transferor under their previous classifications, no assets or liabilities are shown by the company for the trust.
3. How should an insurance company account for borrowings under this type of arrangement?

The borrowing transaction would result in an increase in cash or cash equivalents, and a like increase in the liability, borrowed money.

A disclosure should be made in the Notes to the Financial Statement as required for “Borrowed Money”.

Because of the interest of and certain concerns raised by industry observers at the meeting, the chairman agreed to expose the foregoing preliminary conclusions through these minutes. Final adoption of conclusions by the working group will be made at the June 1992 meeting.

In addition, proposed Accounting Manual language was developed by the working group. The proposed language (for exposure) is attached as Attachment E.

**Generally Accepted Accounting Principles**

26. FASB Statement No. 125, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities provides the following guidance:

**Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets**

9. A transfer of financial assets (or all or a portion of a financial asset) in which the transferor surrenders control over those financial assets shall be accounted for as a sale to the extent that consideration other than beneficial interests in the transferred assets is received in exchange. The transferor has surrendered control over transferred assets if and only if all of the following conditions are met:

   a. The transferred assets have been isolated from the transferor—put presumptively beyond the reach of the transferor and its creditors, even in bankruptcy or other receivership (paragraphs 23 and 24).

   b. Either (1) each transferee obtains the right—free of conditions that constrain it from taking advantage of that right (paragraph 25)—to pledge or exchange the transferred assets or (2) the transferee is a qualifying special-purpose entity (paragraph 26) and the holders of beneficial interests in that entity have the right—free of conditions that constrain them from taking advantage of that right (paragraph 25)—to pledge or exchange those interests.

   c. The transferor does not maintain effective control over the transferred assets through (1) an agreement that both entitles and obligates the transferor to repurchase or redeem them before their maturity (paragraphs 27-29) or (2) an agreement that entitles the transferor to repurchase or redeem transferred assets that are not readily obtainable (paragraph 30).

10. Upon completion of any transfer of financial assets, the transferor shall:

   a. Continue to carry in its statement of financial position any retained interest in the transferred assets, including, if applicable, servicing assets (paragraphs 35-41), beneficial interests in assets transferred to a qualifying special-purpose entity in a securitization (paragraphs 47-58), and retained undivided interests (paragraph 33)

   b. Allocate the previous carrying amount between the assets sold, if any, and the retained interests, if any, based on their relative fair values at the date of transfer (paragraphs 31-34).

11. Upon completion of a transfer of assets that satisfies the conditions to be accounted for as a sale (paragraph 9), the transferor (seller) shall:

   a. Derecognize all assets sold

   b. Recognize all assets obtained and liabilities incurred in consideration as proceeds of the sale, including cash, put or call options held or written (for
example, guarantee or recourse obligations), forward commitments (for example, commitments to deliver additional receivables during the revolving periods of some securitizations), swaps (for example, provisions that convert interest rates from fixed to variable), and servicing liabilities, if applicable (paragraphs 31, 32, and 35-41)

c. Initially measure at fair value assets obtained and liabilities incurred in a sale (paragraphs 42-44) or, if it is not practicable to estimate the fair value of an asset or a liability, apply alternative measures (paragraphs 45 and 46)
d. Recognize in earnings any gain or loss on the sale.

The transferee shall recognize all assets obtained and any liabilities incurred and initially measure them at fair value (in aggregate, presumptively the price paid).

3 Although a transfer of securities may not be considered to have reached completion until the settlement date, this Statement does not modify other generally accepted accounting principles, including FASB Statement No. 35, Accounting and Reporting by Defined Benefit Pension Plans, and AICPA Statements of Position and audit and accounting Guides for certain industries, that require accounting at the trade date for certain contracts to purchase or sell securities.

12. If a transfer of financial assets in exchange for cash or other consideration (other than beneficial interests in the transferred assets) does not meet the criteria for a sale in paragraph 9, the transferor and transferee shall account for the transfer as a secured borrowing with pledge of collateral (paragraph 15).

Recognition and Measurement of Servicing Assets and Liabilities

13. Each time an entity undertakes an obligation to service financial assets it shall recognize either a servicing asset or a servicing liability for that servicing contract, unless it securitizes the assets, retains all of the resulting securities, and classifies them as debt securities held-to-maturity in accordance with FASB Statement No. 115, Accounting for Certain Investments in Debt and Equity Securities. If the servicing asset or liability was purchased or assumed rather than undertaken in a sale or securitization of the financial assets being serviced, it shall be measured initially at its fair value, presumptively the price paid. A servicing asset or liability shall be amortized in proportion to and over the period of estimated net servicing income (if servicing revenues exceed servicing costs) or net servicing loss (if servicing costs exceed servicing revenues). A servicing asset or liability shall be assessed for impairment or increased obligation based on its fair value (paragraphs 35-38).

Financial Assets Subject to Prepayment

14. Interest-only strips, loans, other receivables, or retained interests in securitizations that can contractually be prepaid or otherwise settled in such a way that the holder would not recover substantially all of its recorded investment shall be subsequently measured like investments in debt securities classified as available-for-sale or trading under Statement 115, as amended by this Statement (paragraph 233).4

4 As a result of that amendment to Statement 115, securities that were previously classified as held-to-maturity may need to be reclassified. Reclassifications of interest-only strips or other securities from held-to-maturity to available-for-sale required to initially apply this Statement would not call into question an entity’s intent to hold other debt securities to maturity in the future.
Secured Borrowings and Collateral

15. A debtor may grant a security interest in certain assets to a lender (the secured party) to serve as collateral for its obligation under a borrowing, with or without recourse to other assets of the debtor. An obligor under other kinds of current or potential obligations, for example, interest rate swaps, also may grant a security interest in certain assets to a secured party. If collateral is transferred to the secured party, the custodial arrangement is commonly referred to as a pledge. Secured parties sometimes are permitted to sell or repledge (or otherwise transfer) collateral held under a pledge. The same relationships occur, under different names, in transfers documented as sales that are accounted for as secured borrowings (paragraph 12). The accounting for collateral by the debtor (or obligor) and the secured party depends on whether the secured party has taken control over the collateral and on the rights and obligations that result from the collateral arrangement:

a. If (1) the secured party is permitted by contract or custom to sell or repledge the collateral and (2) the debtor does not have the right and ability to redeem the collateral on short notice, for example, by substituting other collateral or terminating the contract, then
   (i) The debtor shall reclassify that asset and report that asset in its statement of financial position separately (for example, as securities receivable from broker) from other assets not so encumbered.
   (ii) The secured party shall recognize that collateral as its asset, initially measure it at fair value, and also recognize its obligation to return it.

b. If the secured party sells or repledges collateral on terms that do not give it the right and ability to repurchase or redeem the collateral from the transferee on short notice and thus may impair the debtor’s right to redeem it, the secured party shall recognize the proceeds from the sale or the asset repledged and its obligation to return the asset to the extent that it has not already recognized them. The sale or repledging of the asset is a transfer subject to the provisions of this Statement.

c. If the debtor defaults under the terms of the secured contract and is no longer entitled to redeem the collateral, it shall derecognize the collateral, and the secured party shall recognize the collateral as its asset to the extent it has not already recognized it and initially measure it at fair value.

d. Otherwise, the debtor shall continue to carry the collateral as its asset, and the secured party shall not recognize the pledged asset.

Extinguishments of Liabilities

16. A debtor shall derecognize a liability if and only if it has been extinguished. A liability has been extinguished if either of the following conditions is met:

a. The debtor pays the creditor and is relieved of its obligation for the liability. Paying the creditor includes delivery of cash, other financial assets, goods, or services or reacquisition by the debtor of its outstanding debt securities whether the securities are canceled or held as so-called treasury bonds.

b. The debtor is legally released from being the primary obligor under the liability, either judicially or by the creditor.

Disclosures

17. An entity shall disclose the following:

a. If the entity has entered into repurchase agreements or securities lending transactions, its policy for requiring collateral or other security

b. If debt was considered to be extinguished by in-substance defeasance under the provisions of FASB Statement No. 76, Extinguishment of Debt, prior to the
effective date of this Statement, a general description of the transaction and the amount of debt that is considered extinguished at the end of the period so long as that debt remains outstanding.

c. If assets are set aside after the effective date of this Statement solely for satisfying scheduled payments of a specific obligation, a description of the nature of restrictions placed on those assets.

d. If it is not practicable to estimate the fair value of certain assets obtained or liabilities incurred in transfers of financial assets during the period, a description of those items and the reasons why it is not practicable to estimate their fair value.

e. For all servicing assets and servicing liabilities:
   (1) The amounts of servicing assets or liabilities recognized and amortized during the period.
   (2) The fair value of recognized servicing assets and liabilities for which it is practicable to estimate that value and the method and significant assumptions used to estimate the fair value.
   (3) The risk characteristics of the underlying financial assets used to stratify recognized servicing assets for purposes of measuring impairment in accordance with paragraph 37.
   (4) The activity in any valuation allowance for impairment of recognized servicing assets—including beginning and ending balances, aggregate additions charged and reductions credited to operations, and aggregate direct write-downs charged against the allowances—for each period for which results of operations are presented.

Isolation beyond the Reach of the Transferor and Its Creditors

23. The nature and extent of supporting evidence required for an assertion in financial statements that transferred financial assets have been isolated—put presumptively beyond the reach of the transferor and its creditors, either by a single transaction or a series of transactions taken as a whole—depend on the facts and circumstances. All available evidence that either supports or questions an assertion shall be considered. That consideration includes making judgments about whether the contract or circumstances permit the transferor to revoke the transfer. It also may include making judgments about the kind of bankruptcy or other receivership into which a transferor or special-purpose entity might be placed, whether a transfer of financial assets would likely be deemed a true sale at law, whether the transferor is affiliated with the transferee, and other factors pertinent under applicable law. Derecognition of transferred assets is appropriate only if the available evidence provides reasonable assurance that the transferred assets would be beyond the reach of the powers of a bankruptcy trustee or other receiver for the transferor or any of its affiliates, except for an affiliate that is a qualifying special-purpose entity designed to make remote the possibility that it would enter bankruptcy or other receivership (paragraph 57.c.).

24. Whether securitizations isolate transferred assets may depend on such factors as whether the securitization is accomplished in one step or two steps (paragraphs 54-58). Many common financial transactions, for example, typical repurchase agreements and securities lending transactions, isolate transferred assets from the transferor, although they may not meet the other criteria for surrender of control.

Conditions That Constrain a Transferee

25. Many transferor-imposed or other conditions on a transferee's contractual right to pledge or exchange a transferred asset constrain a transferee from taking advantage of that right. However, a transferor's right of first refusal on a bona fide offer from a third party, a requirement to obtain the transferor's permission to sell or pledge that shall not be unreasonably withheld, or a prohibition on sale to the transferor's competitor generally does not constrain a transferee from pledging or exchanging the asset and, therefore, presumptively does not preclude a transfer containing such a condition from being accounted for as a sale. For example, a prohibition on...
sale to the transferor’s competitor would not constrain the transferee if it were able to sell the
transferred assets to a number of other parties; however, it would be a constraint if that
competitor were the only potential willing buyer.

Qualifying Special-Purpose Entity

26. A qualifying special-purpose entity\(^7\) must meet both of the following conditions:
a. It is a trust, corporation, or other legal vehicle whose activities are permanently
limited by the legal documents establishing the special-purpose entity to:
   (1) Holding title to transferred financial assets
   (2) Issuing beneficial interests (If some of the beneficial interests are in the
       form of debt securities or equity securities, the transfer of assets is a
       securitization.)
   (3) Collecting cash proceeds from assets held, reinvesting proceeds in
       financial instruments pending distribution to holders of beneficial
       interests, and otherwise servicing the assets held
   (4) Distributing proceeds to the holders of its beneficial interests.
b. It has standing at law distinct from the transferor. Having standing at law
depends in part on the nature of the special-purpose entity. For example,
generally, under U.S. law, if a transferor of assets to a special-purpose trust
holds all of the beneficial interests, it can unilaterally dissolve the trust and
thereby reassume control over the individual assets held in the trust, and the
transferor “can effectively assign his interest and his creditors can reach it.”\(^8\) In
that circumstance, the trust has no standing at law, is not distinct, and thus is not
a qualifying special-purpose entity.

\(^7\) The description of a special-purpose entity is restrictive. The accounting for transfers of financial
assets to special-purpose entities should not be extended to any entity that does not satisfy all of the
conditions articulated in this paragraph.

\(^8\) Scott’s Abridgment of the Law on Trusts, §156 (Little, Brown and Company, 1960), 296.

Agreements That Maintain Effective Control over Transferred Assets

27. An agreement that both entitles and obligates the transferor to repurchase or redeem
transferred assets from the transferee maintains the transferor’s effective control over those
assets, and the transfer is therefore to be accounted for as a secured borrowing, if and only if all
of the following conditions are met:
a. The assets to be repurchased or redeemed are the same or substantially the
   same as those transferred (paragraph 28).
b. The transferor is able to repurchase or redeem them on substantially the agreed
   terms, even in the event of default by the transferee (paragraph 29).
c. The agreement is to repurchase or redeem them before maturity, at a fixed or
determinable price.
d. The agreement is entered into concurrently with the transfer.

28. To be substantially the same,\(^9\) the asset that was transferred and the asset that is to be
repurchased or redeemed need to have all of the following characteristics:

\(^9\) In this Statement, the term substantially the same is used consistently with the usage of that term in the
AICPA Statement of Position 90-3, Definition of the Term Substantially the Same for Holders of Debt
Instruments, as Used in Certain Audit Guides and a Statement of Position.
a. The same primary obligor (except for debt guaranteed by a sovereign government, central bank, government-sponsored enterprise or agency thereof, in which case the guarantor and the terms of the guarantee must be the same)
b. Identical form and type so as to provide the same risks and rights
c. The same maturity (or in the case of mortgage-backed pass-through and pay-through securities have similar remaining weighted-average maturities that result in approximately the same market yield)
d. Identical contractual interest rates
e. Similar assets as collateral
f. The same aggregate unpaid principal amount or principal amounts within accepted "good delivery" standards for the type of security involved.

29. To be able to repurchase or redeem assets on substantially the agreed terms, even in the event of default by the transferee, a transferor must at all times during the contract term have obtained cash or other collateral sufficient to fund substantially all of the cost of purchasing replacement assets from others.

30. A call option or forward contract that entitles the transferor to repurchase, prior to maturity, transferred assets not readily obtainable elsewhere maintains the transferor's effective control, because it would constrain the transferee from exchanging those assets, unless it is only a cleanup call.

Measurement of Interests Held after a Transfer of Financial Assets

Assets Obtained and Liabilities Incurred as Proceeds

31. The proceeds from a sale of financial assets consist of the cash and any other assets obtained in the transfer less any liabilities incurred. Any asset obtained that is not an interest in the transferred asset is part of the proceeds from the sale. Any liability incurred, even if it is related to the transferred assets, is a reduction of the proceeds. Any derivative financial instrument entered into concurrently with a transfer of financial assets is either an asset obtained or a liability incurred and part of the proceeds received in the transfer. All proceeds and reductions of proceeds from a sale shall be initially measured at fair value, if practicable.

Retained Interests

33. Other interests in transferred assets—that are not part of the proceeds of the transfer—are retained interests over which the transferor has not relinquished control. They shall be measured at the date of the transfer by allocating the previous carrying amount between the assets sold, if any, and the retained interests, based on their relative fair values. That procedure shall be applied to all transfers in which interests are retained, even those that do not qualify as sales. Examples of retained interests include securities backed by the transferred assets, undivided interests, servicing assets, and cash reserve accounts and residual interests in securitization trusts. If a transferor cannot determine whether an asset is a retained interest or proceeds from the sale, the asset shall be treated as proceeds from the sale and accounted for in accordance with paragraph 31.

Servicing Assets and Liabilities

35. Servicing of mortgage loans, credit card receivables, or other financial assets includes, but is not limited to, collecting principal, interest, and escrow payments from borrowers; paying taxes and insurance from escrowed funds; monitoring delinquencies; executing foreclosure if necessary; temporarily investing funds pending distribution; remitting fees to guarantors, trustees, and others providing services; and accounting for and remitting principal and interest payments to the holders of beneficial interests in the financial assets. Servicing is inherent in all financial assets; it becomes a distinct asset or liability only when contractually separated from the underlying assets by sale or securitization of the assets with servicing retained or separate purchase or assumption of the servicing.
36. An entity that undertakes a contract to service financial assets shall recognize either a servicing asset or a servicing liability, unless the transferor securitizes the assets, retains all of the resulting securities, and classifies them as debt securities held-to-maturity in accordance with Statement 115, in which case the servicing asset or liability may be reported together with the asset being serviced. Each sale or securitization with servicing retained or separate purchase or assumption of servicing results in a servicing contract. A servicer of financial assets commonly receives the benefits of servicing—revenues from contractually specified servicing fees, late charges, and other ancillary sources, including "float," all of which it is entitled to receive only if it performs the servicing—and incurs the costs of servicing the assets. Each servicing contract results in a servicing asset or servicing liability. Typically, the benefits of servicing are expected to be more than adequate compensation to the servicer for performing the servicing, and the contract results in a servicing asset. However, if the benefits of servicing are not expected to adequately compensate the servicer for performing the servicing, the contract results in a servicing liability.

37. A servicer that recognizes a servicing asset or servicing liability shall account for the contract to service financial assets separately from those assets, as follows:

a. Report servicing assets separately from servicing liabilities in the statement of financial position (paragraph 13).

b. Initially measure servicing assets retained in a sale or securitization of the assets being serviced at their allocated previous carrying amount based on relative fair values, if practicable, at the date of the sale or securitization (paragraphs 10, 33, 34, and 42-46).

c. Initially measure servicing assets purchased or servicing liabilities assumed at fair value (paragraph 13).

d. Initially measure servicing liabilities undertaken in a sale or securitization at fair value, if practicable (paragraphs 11.b., 11.c., and 42-46).

e. Account separately for rights to future interest income from the serviced assets that exceeds contractually specified servicing fees. Those rights are not servicing assets; they are financial assets, effectively interest-only strips to be accounted for in accordance with paragraph 14 of this Statement.

f. Subsequently measure servicing assets by amortizing the amount recognized in proportion to and over the period of estimated net servicing income—the excess of servicing revenues over servicing costs (paragraph 13).

g. Subsequently evaluate and measure impairment of servicing assets as follows:

(1) Stratify servicing assets based on one or more of the predominant risk characteristics of the underlying financial assets. Those characteristics may include financial asset type, size, interest rate, date of origination, term, and geographic location.

10 For example, for mortgage loans, financial asset type refers to the various conventional or government guaranteed or insured mortgage loans and adjustable-rate or fixed-rate mortgage loans.

(2) Recognize impairment through a valuation allowance for an individual stratum. The amount of impairment recognized shall be the amount by which the carrying amount of servicing assets for a stratum exceeds their fair value. The fair value of servicing assets that have not been recognized shall not be used in the evaluation of impairment.

(3) Adjust the valuation allowance to reflect changes in the measurement of impairment subsequent to the initial measurement of impairment. Fair value in excess of the carrying amount of servicing assets for that stratum, however, shall not be recognized. This Statement does not address when an entity should record a direct write-down of recognized servicing assets (paragraph 13).
h. Subsequently measure servicing liabilities by amortizing the amount recognized in proportion to and over the period of estimated net servicing loss—the excess of servicing costs over servicing revenues. However, if subsequent events have increased the fair value of the liability above the carrying amount, for example, because of significant changes in the amount or timing of actual or expected future cash flows from the cash flows previously projected, the servicer shall revise its earlier estimates and recognize the increased obligation as a loss in earnings (paragraph 13).

38. As indicated above, transferors sometimes agree to take on servicing responsibilities when the future benefits of servicing are not expected to adequately compensate them for performing that servicing. In that circumstance, the result is a servicing liability rather than a servicing asset.

Fair Value

42. The fair value of an asset (or liability) is the amount at which that asset (or liability) could be bought (or incurred) or sold (or settled) in a current transaction between willing parties, that is, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. Quoted market prices in active markets are the best evidence of fair value and shall be used as the basis for the measurement, if available. If a quoted market price is available, the fair value is the product of the number of trading units times market price.

43. If quoted market prices are not available, the estimate of fair value shall be based on the best information available in the circumstances. The estimate of fair value shall consider prices for similar assets and liabilities and the results of valuation techniques to the extent available in the circumstances. Examples of valuation techniques include the present value of estimated expected future cash flows using a discount rate commensurate with the risks involved, option-pricing models, matrix pricing, option-adjusted spread models, and fundamental analysis. Valuation techniques for measuring financial assets and liabilities and servicing assets and liabilities shall be consistent with the objective of measuring fair value. Those techniques shall incorporate assumptions that market participants would use in their estimates of values, future revenues, and future expenses, including assumptions about interest rates, default, prepayment, and volatility. In measuring financial liabilities and servicing liabilities at fair value by discounting estimated future cash flows, an objective is to use discount rates at which those liabilities could be settled in an arm's-length transaction.

44. Estimates of expected future cash flows, if used to estimate fair value, shall be the best estimate based on reasonable and supportable assumptions and projections. All available evidence shall be considered in developing estimates of expected future cash flows. The weight given to the evidence shall be commensurate with the extent to which the evidence can be verified objectively. If a range is estimated for either the amount or timing of possible cash flows, the likelihood of possible outcomes shall be considered in determining the best estimate of future cash flows.

If It Is Not Practicable to Estimate Fair Value

45. If it is not practicable to estimate the fair values of assets, the transferor shall record those assets at zero. If it is not practicable to estimate the fair values of liabilities, the transferor shall recognize no gain on the transaction and shall record those liabilities at the greater of:
   a. The excess, if any, of (1) the fair values of assets obtained less the fair values of other liabilities incurred, over (2) the sum of the carrying values of the assets transferred.
   b. The amount that would be recognized in accordance with FASB Statement No. 5, Accounting for Contingencies, as interpreted by FASB Interpretation No. 14, Reasonable Estimation of the Amount of a Loss.
Securitizations

47. Financial assets such as mortgage loans, automobile loans, trade receivables, credit card receivables, and other revolving charge accounts are assets commonly transferred in securitizations. Securitizations of mortgage loans may include pools of single-family residential mortgages or other types of real estate mortgage loans, for example, multifamily residential mortgages and commercial property mortgages. Securitizations of loans secured by chattel mortgages on automotive vehicles as well as other equipment (including direct financing or sales-type leases) also are common. Both financial and nonfinancial assets can be securitized; life insurance policy loans, patent and copyright royalties, and even taxi medallions also have been securitized. But securitizations of nonfinancial assets are outside the scope of this Statement.

48. An originator of a typical securitization (the transferor) transfers a portfolio of financial assets to a special-purpose entity, commonly a trust. In “pass-through” and “pay-through” securitizations, receivables are transferred to the special-purpose entity at the inception of the securitization, and no further transfers are made; all cash collections are paid to the holders of beneficial interests in the special-purpose entity. In “revolving-period” securitizations, receivables are transferred at the inception and also periodically (daily or monthly) thereafter for a defined period (commonly three to eight years), referred to as the revolving period. During the revolving period, the special-purpose entity uses most of the cash collections to purchase additional receivables from the transferor on prearranged terms.

49. Beneficial interests in the qualifying special-purpose entity are sold to investors and the proceeds are used to pay the transferor for the assets transferred. Those beneficial interests may comprise either a single class having equity characteristics or multiple classes of interests, some having debt characteristics and others having equity characteristics. The cash collected from the portfolio is distributed to the investors and others as specified by the legal documents that established the qualifying special-purpose entity.

50. Pass-through, pay-through, and revolving-period securitizations that meet the criteria in paragraph 9 qualify for sale accounting under this Statement. All financial assets obtained or retained and liabilities incurred by the originator of a securitization that qualifies as a sale shall be recognized and measured as provided in paragraph 11; that includes the implicit forward contract to sell new receivables during a revolving period, which may become valuable or onerous to the transferor as interest rates and other market conditions change.

Revolving-Period Securitizations

51. The value of the forward contract implicit in a revolving-period securitization arises from the difference between the agreed-upon rate of return to investors on their beneficial interests in the trust and current market rates of return on similar investments. For example, if the agreed-upon annual rate of return to investors in a trust is 6 percent, and later market rates of return for those investments increased to 7 percent, the forward contract’s value to the transferor (and burden to the investors) would approximate the present value of 1 percent of the amount of the investment for each year remaining in the revolving structure after the receivables already transferred have been collected. If a forward contract to sell receivables is entered into at the market rate, its value at inception may be zero. Changes in the fair value of the forward contract are likely to be greater if the investors receive a fixed rate than if the investors receive a rate that varies based on changes in market rates.

52. Gain or loss recognition for revolving-period receivables sold to a securitization trust is limited to receivables that exist and have been sold. Recognition of servicing assets or liabilities for revolving-period receivables is similarly limited to the servicing for the receivables that exist and have been transferred. As new receivables are sold, rights to service them become assets or liabilities and are recognized.

53. Revolving-period securitizations may use either a discrete trust, used for a single securitization, or a master trust, used for many securitizations. To achieve another securitization
using an existing master trust, a transferor first transfers additional receivables to the trust and then sells additional ownership interests in the trust to investors. Adding receivables to a master trust, in itself, is neither a sale nor a secured borrowing under paragraph 9, because that transfer only increases the transferor's beneficial interest in the trust's assets. A sale does not occur until the transferor receives consideration other than beneficial interests in the transferred assets. Transfers that result in an exchange of cash, that is, either transfers that in essence replace previously transferred receivables that have been collected or sales of beneficial interests to outside investors, are transfers in exchange for consideration other than beneficial interests in the transferred assets and thus are accounted for as sales (if they satisfy all the criteria in paragraph 9) or as secured borrowings.

Isolation of Transferred Assets in Securitizations

54. A securitization, carried out in one transfer or a series of transfers, may or may not isolate the transferred assets beyond the reach of the transferor and its creditors. Whether it does depends on the structure of the securitization transaction taken as a whole, considering such factors as the type and extent of further involvement in arrangements to protect investors from credit and interest rate risks, the availability of other assets, and the powers of bankruptcy courts or other receivers.

55. In certain securitizations, a corporation that, if it failed, would be subject to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code transfers financial assets to a special-purpose trust in exchange for cash. The trust raises that cash by issuing to investors beneficial interests that pass through all cash received from the financial assets, and the transferor has no further involvement with the trust or the transferred assets. The Board understands that those securitizations generally would be judged as having isolated the assets, because in the absence of any continuing involvement there would be reasonable assurance that the transfer would be found to be a true sale at law that places the assets beyond the reach of the transferor and its creditors, even in bankruptcy or other receivership.

56. In other securitizations, a similar corporation transfers financial assets to a special-purpose entity in exchange for cash and beneficial interests in the transferred assets. That entity raises the cash by issuing to investors commercial paper that gives them a senior interest in cash received from the financial assets. The beneficial interests retained by the transferring corporation represent a junior interest to be reduced by any credit losses on the financial assets in trust. The commercial paper interests are highly rated by credit rating agencies largely because the transferor is highly rated. Depending on facts and circumstances, the Board understands that those “single-step” securitizations often would be judged in the United States as not having isolated the assets, because the nature of the continuing involvement may make it difficult to obtain reasonable assurance that the transfer would be found to be a true sale at law that places the assets beyond the reach of the transferor and its creditors in U.S. bankruptcy (paragraph 83). If the transferor fell into bankruptcy and the transfer was found not to be a true sale at law, investors in the transferred assets might be subjected to an automatic stay that would delay payments due them, and they might have to share in bankruptcy expenses and suffer further losses if the transfer was recharacterized as a secured loan.

57. Still other securitizations use two transfers intended to isolate transferred assets beyond the reach of the transferor and its creditors, even in bankruptcy. In those “two-step” structures:

a. First, the corporation transfers financial assets to a special-purpose corporation that, although wholly owned, is so designed that the possibility that the transferor or its creditors could reclaim the assets is remote. This first transfer is designed to be judged to be a true sale at law, in part because the transferor does not provide “excessive” credit or yield protection to the special-purpose corporation, and the Board understands that transferred assets are likely to be judged beyond the reach of the transferor or the transferor's creditors even in bankruptcy.

b. Second, the special-purpose corporation transfers the assets to a trust, with a sufficient increase in the credit or yield protection on the second transfer (provided by a junior retained beneficial interest or other means) to merit the high
credit rating sought by third-party investors who buy senior beneficial interests in the trust. Because of that aspect of its design, that second transfer might not be judged to be a true sale at law and, thus, the transferred assets could at least in theory be reached by a bankruptcy trustee for the special-purpose corporation.

c. However, the special-purpose corporation is designed to make remote the possibility that it would enter bankruptcy, either by itself or by substantive consolidation into a bankruptcy of its parent should that occur. For example, its charter forbids it from undertaking any other business or incurring any liabilities, so that there can be no creditors to petition to place it in bankruptcy. Furthermore, its dedication to a single purpose is intended to make it extremely unlikely, even if it somehow entered bankruptcy, that a receiver under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code could reclaim the transferred assets because it has no other assets to substitute for the transferred assets.

The Board understands that the “two-step” securitizations described above, taken as a whole, generally would be judged under present U.S. law as having isolated the assets beyond the reach of the transferor and its creditors, even in bankruptcy or other receivership.

58. A securitization by an entity subject to a possible receivership under procedures different from the U.S. Bankruptcy Code may isolate transferred assets from the transferor and its creditors even though it uses only one transfer directly to a special-purpose entity that issues beneficial interests to investors and the transferor provides credit or yield protection. For example, the Board understands that assets transferred by a U.S. bank are not subject to an automatic stay under Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) receivership and could only be obtained by the receiver if it makes the investors completely whole, that is, the investors must be paid compensation equivalent to all the economic benefits contained in the transferred assets, including bargained-for yield, before the FDIC could obtain those assets. Those limited powers appear insufficient to place the transferred assets within reach of the receiver. The powers of other receivers for entities not subject to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, and of bankruptcy trustees in other jurisdictions, vary considerably, and therefore some receivers may be able to reach transferred financial assets, and others may not.

RELEVANT LITERATURE

Statutory Accounting
- Statutory Accounting Principles Statement of Concepts and Statutory Hierarchy
- Issue Paper No. 1—Consolidation of Majority-Owned Subsidiaries
- Issue Paper No. 7—Asset Valuation Reserve and Interest Maintenance Reserve
- Issue Paper No. 25—Accounting for and Disclosures about Transactions with Affiliates and Other Related Parties
- Issue Paper No. 46—Accounting for Investments in Subsidiary, Controlled and Affiliated Entities
- Issue Paper No. 42—Sale of Premium Receivables
- Issue Paper No. 76—Offsetting and Netting of Assets and Liabilities
- Accounting Practices and Procedures Manual for Life and Accident and Health Insurance Companies
- Minutes of the March 26, 1990, meeting of the Emerging Accounting Issues Working Group of the Accounting Practices and Procedures (EX4) Task Force

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
- FASB Statement No. 125, Accounting for Transfers and Servicing of Financial Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities

State Regulations
- No additional guidance obtained from state statutes or regulations.