

MAS Notice 134

29 December 2023

NOTICE TO INSURERS
MONETARY AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE ACT 1970

RECOVERY AND RESOLUTION PLANNING FOR INSURERS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Notice is issued under section 42 of the Monetary Authority of Singapore Act 1970 (“MAS Act”) and applies to a notified insurer.
- 1.2 Recovery and resolution planning aims to reduce the risks posed by a licensed insurer to the stability of financial system, ensure the continuity of functions that are critical to the economy, and enable a distressed licensed insurer to be restructured or to exit from the market in an orderly manner. This Notice sets out the requirements that a notified insurer has to comply with in its recovery and resolution planning.
- 1.3 This Notice takes effect on 1 January 2025.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 In this Notice –

“critical functions” refer to activities performed by a licensed insurer for third parties where failure would lead to the disruption of services that are vital for the functioning of Singapore’s economy and for financial stability due to the licensed insurer’s size or market share, external and internal interconnectedness, complexity and cross-border activities;

“critical shared services” refer to activities performed within the group or outsourced to third parties, where failure of such service would lead to the inability of the licensed insurer to perform critical functions;

“executive officer”, in relation to a licensed insurer, has the meaning given by section 2 of the Insurance Act 1966;

“group” includes the licensed insurer’s head office or parent company, subsidiaries, affiliates, and any entities (including their subsidiaries, affiliates and special purpose

entities) that the licensed insurer exerts control over or that exerts control over the licensed insurer;

“licensed insurer” means an insurer licensed under section 11 of the Insurance Act 1966;

“notified insurer” means a licensed insurer which has received a direction issued by the Authority under section 43(1) of the MAS Act;

“outsourcing arrangement”, means an arrangement in which a service provider provides a licensed insurer with a service that may currently or potentially be performed by the licensed insurer itself and which includes the following characteristics –

(a) the licensed insurer is dependent on the service on an ongoing basis; and

(b) the service is integral to the provision of a financial service by the licensed insurer or the service is provided to the market by the service provider in the name of the licensed insurer;

“service provider” means a person which provides a service to a licensed insurer, including an entity within the licensed insurer’s group, whether it is located in Singapore or elsewhere.

2.2 Except where defined in this Notice or if the context otherwise requires, the expressions used in this Notice have the same meanings as in the MAS Act.

3. RECOVERY PLANNING

3.1 A recovery plan (“RCP”) serves as a guide to the recovery of a distressed notified insurer, and outlines actions the notified insurer can take to stabilise and restore its financial strength and viability under situations of severe stress.

3.2 For the purposes of recovery planning, the notified insurer must –

(a) prepare an RCP which includes the following:

(i) a framework of recovery triggers that identifies the points at which appropriate recovery options may be taken;

(ii) an escalation process upon the occurrence of a trigger event, to facilitate prompt assessment of the impact and decision on the appropriate course of action;

(iii) a menu of recovery options which are available in situations of severe stress to address capital shortfalls and liquidity pressures; and

- (iv) a communication plan to ensure timely communication with internal and external stakeholders;
 - (b) keep the RCP up-to-date by reviewing it annually and upon the occurrence of an event that could materially impact the RCP; and
 - (c) ensure that the RCP is approved or endorsed by the board of directors for a locally incorporated notified insurer, or the chief executive in Singapore for a non-locally incorporated notified insurer.
- 3.3 For the purposes of establishing an appropriate escalation process under paragraph 3.2(a)(ii), the notified insurer must –
 - (a) outline the escalation process upon the occurrence of a trigger event in the RCP, including the decision-making mechanism governing the process and the roles and responsibilities of key staff involved; and
 - (b) specify the level of authority that is empowered to make decisions in respect of activating the recovery plan and determining the recovery options to be implemented.
- 3.4 When establishing a menu of recovery options under paragraph 3.2(a)(iii), the notified insurer must ensure that the options –
 - (a) are sufficiently diverse so as to deal with a range of stress scenarios covering idiosyncratic and market-wide stresses;
 - (b) substantially enhance the viability of the notified insurer; and
 - (c) are capable of being executed within a reasonable timeframe.
- 3.5 In assessing events that could materially impact its RCP under paragraph 3.2(b), the notified insurer must take into account any changes in circumstances facing the notified insurer, group or the financial system.
- 3.6 The notified insurer must establish a framework to regularly test the feasibility and effectiveness of its RCP.

4. RESOLUTION PLANNING

- 4.1 A resolution plan facilitates the effective use of the Authority's resolution powers. It aims to make feasible the resolution of a notified insurer without severe systemic disruption while protecting systemically important functions.

4.2 For the purposes of resolution planning, the notified insurer must –

- (a) maintain data and information for the purposes of resolution planning, resolvability assessment and the conduct of resolution; and
- (b) submit data and information for the purposes of resolution planning, resolvability assessment and the conduct of resolution, upon request by the Authority.

5. GENERAL

5.1 In addition to the requirements under Parts 3 and 4, the notified insurer shall –

- (a) appoint an executive officer as the key person to oversee the recovery planning process and the maintenance and submission of the required information for resolution planning, and inform the Authority of the appointment;
- (b) immediately inform the Authority if the notified insurer assesses that its viability is, or is potentially, threatened or upon the occurrence of an event that may necessitate the implementation of its RCP;
- (c) maintain management information systems that are able to produce, in a timely manner, information required for recovery and resolution planning, resolvability assessment and the conduct of resolution; and
- (d) put in place adequate measures such that outsourcing arrangements which support critical functions and critical shared services can be maintained in crisis situations and in resolution.