



Frequently Asked Questions for the 2007-09 Data Call

What does 2007-09 data represent?

The 2007-2009 data represents a two policy year study. Companies may submit data using either

1. A policy year basis (policy years beginning in 2005 and ending in 2006 as well as for policy years beginning in 2006 and ending in 2007), or
2. A calendar year basis (2006 and 2007 data, as well as 2005 data if not submitted)

What format should be used for data submissions?

You should use the data format that you have used in prior data submissions.

How Are Minimal Mortality Data Contribution and Minimal Policyholder Behavior Formats Related?

Most companies currently submit using the Minimal Mortality Data Contribution format. This format provide information on issue age, gender, smoking status, risk class rank and plan/policy form code that can be studied in conjunction with policyholder fields in the experience studies.

When is the deadline for submitting data?

To meet the required deadlines, companies need to contribute their data by November 1, 2010.

What about Data Security and Confidentiality?

MIB Solutions has performed data compiling, validation, summarization and analysis for numerous SOA experience studies for over twenty years. Companies that participate in an experience study by contributing data to MIB have strong assurance that their data will not be disclosed in any kind of individually identifiable form. Data contributions will both support the SOA's individual life mortality study and the individual life lapse study of LIMRA.

Only MIB, LIMRA, and SOA staff have knowledge or access to detailed individual company data or identifiable company results. Data contributions will only be used for the purposes for which such data was originally contributed, including procedures which validate data and results, and quality assurance procedures that verify conformance of data and processes to defined requirements.

Are the Questionnaires Required?

The Preferred Class Structure and Mortality Claims Questionnaires are required with your data submission. They can be completed either on the attached pdf or by using our on-line forms found at:

Preferred Class Structure Questionnaire

<http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?EBCFA3B9EBADBDBAEC>

Mortality Claims Questionnaire

<http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B692FEE4B6F0E2E0B2>

The Preferred Class Structure Questionnaire was requested in the ILEC 2005-07 Data Call. If your company submitted this questionnaire with that study, you can either request that we use that form or re-submit a new questionnaire. If you would like to review that Preferred Class Structure Questionnaire that you submitted with ILEC 2005-07, please send your request to Jan Palmbach, jpalmbach@mib.com.

What Are Risk Classes, How Are They Ranked, and Their Relation to Preferred Class Structure?

Risk classes studied range from the most preferred class through the standard/residual standard classes. Within each preferred class structure by smoking status, the risk class rank is “1” for the most preferred class and increases for each next best preferred class through the standard/residual standard class.

Preferred class structure varies by nonsmoker/non-tobacco user or smoker/tobacco user and contains two or more risk classes. A preferred class structure may be limited to certain issue ages, plan types and/or face amount ranges. Further information about preferred class structure and the preferred class structure questionnaire is in the document ‘Preferred Class Structure’ on the CD provided with the Data Call or can be obtained from MIB by contacting Jan Palmbach, jpalmbach@mib.com.

Why is Policy Number Needed?

The policy number is needed to validate data submissions. Without either the policy number or an equivalent unique key, the data record submitted cannot be matched to the actual policy data.

What if I Cannot Submit the Policy Number?

An equivalent unique key could be submitted that your company can use to trace back the submitted data to the actual policy data. An equivalent unique key needs to remain constant over time.

Do I have to Contribute Every Field?

- On the Minimal Data Contribution all of the fields must be provided.
- On the Minimal Policyholder Format:
 - For the 2007-09 contribution, give those elements that are present in your experience study system.
 - For future data calls, determine where the data elements are in your company’s other systems and plan to add them to your experience study system.
- When the Minimal Mortality Data Contribution and Minimal Policyholder Behavior Format are used together, they should appear on the same record.
- There is a significant amount of data requested for each seriatim policy record. Some of the data requested is not applicable to all policies. Other data may not be available on certain contributors’ data bases. The code “0” is often referred to in the detailed data specifications as the appropriate code if numeric information is unknown or blanks if text information is unknown. If Risk Class Rank is coded, either the Smoker or Nonsmoker fields on a single record should be coded and all fields on the alternate smoker type should be left blank.

What Is The Current Experience Study Process?

The current data call continues SOA's delivery of reliable information on overall inter-company experience. Beginning with the 2002-04 data call, the experience study process has greatly improved the ability to provide detailed analysis. The impetus of the improvement was providing the Risk Class information of preferred and standard classes.

The process followed is:

1. **Map to Standard Format** – The Map to Standard Format process harmonizes the data submitted from many companies in different formats into a standard format.
2. **Data Validation** – The Data Validation process does extensive syntax and validity checking to the data.
3. **Reasonability Analysis** – The Reasonability Checking develops initial pivot tables for individual companies to the first review of their data.
4. **Mortality Study** – The Mortality Study phase provides the ability to measure the experience against different mortality tables.

How Do I Send My Data To MIB?

MIB's preferred method of submission is for you to use our encrypted Secure File Transfer Facility. Please contact Jan Palmbach, jpalmbach@mib.com and you will receive a link you can use to download your data to us.

Alternatively, MIB can use your company's FTP site or receive your data on a CD. If you send your data on a CD, we recommend zipping the files with a password and sending the password by email.

What File Formats Can The Data Be Sent In?

MIB expects each file to contain one company and one policy or calendar year. We also need to be able to map the data. Since data can be accepted in several different formats, a guide is necessary to map your data.

MIB can accept the following file formats, which must use the ASCII character set:

- Text (.txt) – fixed column, comma, column, pipe or tab delimited, must be fixed length records
- Comma Separated Values - (.csv) all records must have the same number of fields
- Access (MDB) - must have proper column headings

Contacts

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