Having confidence in the models across your business

Matthew Pearlman, LCP
Michael Hosking, Faraday
Building confidence in models

- Confidence in models
- Consistency of output
- Continuous enhancement
- Better decision making
Why is this important?

- Better allocation of resources for model validation.
  Greater level of validation applied to more material models

- More confidence in models leads to better use of models in decision making

- Better awareness of models and limitations leads to better application of models in decision making

- Consistency between assumptions and presentation of outputs for decision making

- Applying cycle of validation to all models leads to enhanced cycle of identifying and addressing model weakness

- No constraints of regulation so the best aspects of validation can be applied depending on the model

23 October 2018
What the Board thinks it’s getting

- Business plan
- Pricing
- Capital
- Reserving

Assumptions

Data
What the Board is actually getting

[Diagram showing relationships between Business plan, Pricing, Capital, Reserving, Finance, Underwriting, Actuarial, and Data]
What is model risk?

"the potential for adverse consequences from decisions based on incorrect or misused model outputs and reports"


Models are never perfect...and the effort that should be put into improving quality, depend[s] on the situation.

Model risk should be managed like other types of risk.

Even a fundamentally sound model producing accurate outputs consistent with the design objective of the model may exhibit high model risk if it is misapplied or misused.

A guiding principle for managing model risk is "effective challenge" of models, that is, critical analysis by objective, informed parties.
What is the risk?

- Incorrect / inappropriate data
- Incorrect / inappropriate assumptions
- Management don’t appreciate limitations
- Inconsistent decision making
- Non-optimal decisions
- Financial loss
Example: Poor practice

**ORSA Framework**

- ORSA – multi-year planning models
  - Simplicity versus usefulness
  - Ownership of assumptions

- Board assumes validation is as rigorous as capital model
  - Simplicity versus usefulness

- Impact of poor practice
  - Internal credibility
  - External credibility
  - Negative feedback
What is the upside?

- Board confidence in decisions
- Positive effect on model development
- Efficiency of parameterisation
- Central control mechanism
- Single point of contact for queries
- Single source of truth
Good practice

*Capital Allocation*

• Reconcile results between capital modelling and pricing teams

• Assumptions not in line
  – UW year vs Calendar year
  – Different granularity

• Capital loadings to drive correct behaviour
  – Plannable
  – Fair
  – Stable
  – Explainable
Use test

Guideline 11 – Incentive to improve the quality of the internal model

“The insurance or reinsurance undertaking should ensure that the internal model is used in its risk-management system and decision-making processes in a way that creates incentives to improve the quality of the internal model itself.”

Source: Guidelines on the use of internal models EIOPA-BoS-14/180 EN
Where do we start?

- Consider business model and risk appetite
- Identify most material decision making areas
- Leverage from current model validation
- Track progress from current position against future state
Example: Good practice

**Pricing Framework**

- Pricing model applications
  - Data, people, process and statistical methodology
  - Consistency with capital and reserving
  - Capital allocation

- Define benefits of enhanced confidence and consistency
  - Known limitations and weaknesses
  - Resource efficiency

- Extension of current validation
  - Implement and cycle
What do the PRA say?

- A firm should ensure that this activity adheres to its strategic objectives, risk strategy, and governance as set by its governing body.

- The PRA expects the governance framework to define lines of responsibility, including for: reviewing and approving algorithms; assigning ownership for the inventory of algorithms and risk controls; ensuring [they] are accurate

- The PRA expects the firm’s management body to have, and to maintain, an understanding of the [model] and the risk controls viewed as most important to mitigate and contain the risks

- The PRA expects the approval process to be commensurate with the risks the firm could be exposed to
What do the PRA say? (2)

- Prior to approval, the PRA expects each algorithm to have assigned owners, who are accountable for the algorithm’s use and performance.
- …ensuring that the algorithm is appropriately developed, implemented, used as intended and has undergone appropriate testing and deployment.
- The PRA expects…
  - the risk controls to align with the firm’s risk appetite.
  - all algorithms and risk controls to be tested prior to deployment. Testing should assess their design and implementation.
  - a firm periodically to re-validate algorithms and risk controls.
  - all relevant functions (including Front Office, Risk Management and Other Systems and Controls) to ensure that automated risk controls relevant to that function operate as intended.
Core principles to gaining confidence in models

Cycle of improvement

Appropriate allocation of model development resources

Consistency across models

Clarity of ownership

You will run a better business
Questions

Comments

The views expressed in this presentation are those of invited contributors and not necessarily those of the IFoA. The IFoA do not endorse any of the views stated, nor any claims or representations made in this presentation and accept no responsibility or liability to any person for loss or damage suffered as a consequence of their placing reliance upon any view, claim or representation made in this presentation.

The information and expressions of opinion contained in this publication are not intended to be a comprehensive study, nor to provide actuarial advice or advice of any nature and should not be treated as a substitute for specific advice concerning individual situations. On no account may any part of this presentation be reproduced without the written permission of the IFoA [or authors, in the case of non-IFoA research].