RLC Program’s Key Tasks for 2008

Ongoing Tasks

- Continue to implement and promote granular level of certification of all implementers via the ACORD Testing and Certification Facility (TCF) (Placing, Accounting and Settlement – complete; Claims to follow as part of Claims working group)
- Manage and facilitate the ACORD Club (formerly the IT Club)
- Continue to work with other standards bodies (e.g. Polaris, Origo, GDV etc.)
- Develop and promote London Market-specific ACORD guidance and advice
- Provide guidance and assistance for RLC implementations including rollout for: placing; accounting and settlement; claims; exposure reporting (all on-going) including market-specific support e.g. issues relating to the London Market Repository, e-endorsements, Global Placing Document and e-forms
- Communicate with the industry through events, ACORD TV, blogs (launched) and other media

Other Scheduled Tasks

- Upgrade the Testing and Certification Facility (TCF) for further work on Digital Signatures (complete) and Self-Service (complete)
- Develop and implement electronic forms (e-forms) for the London market (in analysis, scheduled for completion by Q4)
- Continue work on Exposures reporting and Binding Authority standards (end Q4)
- Hold ACORD Awareness and Implementation Focus Groups for Continental Europe and North America (Planning meetings held; work continues with the Rüschlikon initiative in Europe and plans being developed for USA focus groups)
- Update ACORD RLC Implementation Guides for: Placing (initially complete); Accounting and Settlement (complete); Global Placing Document (initially complete, will be updated in conjunction with future Market Reform Contract updates and endorsements requirements); Exposure Reporting (in progress, scheduled end Q4) and Document Repository Interface (complete; new guidance issued on managing large documents)

New Tasks

- Update ACORD RLC Implementation Guides for: Placing (further work now started) and Claims (further work now started)
Communicate!

The ACORD Implementation Forum

The ACORD Implementation Forum in October is a new event on the ACORD calendar and is aimed at helping you, our members to share and learn from implementation experience. The event is free to attend and runs from October 15-17 at the Harbor Beach Marriott Resort and Spa in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

Many of the topics are applicable to all domains, not just individual RLC, PCS and LAH. They include how to get started with standards, how to get trading partners interested, how to get help and assistance. Learn more about AIF at http://acord.org/aif/index.aspx.

Social Networking

Commentators tell us that communication is evolving ever faster. Email? SMS? Old hat. The latest phenomenon in communication is social networking. ACORD depends on communication; collaboration on working groups, suggestions for new deliverables and changes, requests for support, the list goes on. ACORD is now investigating how we can leverage Social Networking technologies to get the combined knowledge from the industry. Have you ever used a professional social networking site? If so, what did you think was useful? Use the comments option on the ACORD London Blog (www.acordlondon.org) to let us know – we won’t LOL.

RLC Brochure

What are the RLC standards? Why should I use them? What messages do I implement? What if I can’t implement the whole message? How do I convince my business partner to trade electronically with me? Where can I find implementation guidance?

The answers to all these questions, and more, can be found in the newly developed RLC Brochure. The brochure will be posted online soon, but if you would like to get hold of a copy, please contact Mike Smith.

Overheard in EC3

We’ve made the point repeatedly, but communication is a vital part of what we do at ACORD. We’re big believers that two ears and one mouth should be used in the same proportion. What we heard recently from brokers and carriers: Brokers are struggling to get underwriters to accept their eMRCE (electronic Market Reform Contract Endorsement) submissions. Underwriters say they aren’t getting any eMRCE submissions. ACORD can’t solve this particular chicken and egg conundrum, but Rob Gillies of the LMA would like to hear from you if you are having difficulties in getting eMRCE to happen.

Rüschlikon Initiative Gets Go-Ahead

The participants of the Rüschlikon Initiative formally signed up for their on-going involvement in the project on 17 September 2008 in Vienna. The participants of the initiative are: Allianz, Aon, Benfield, Munich Re, Scor, Swiss Re, Willis, ACORD and SWIFT. In late 2007, a group of global reinsurers and brokers started the Rüschlikon Initiative with the aim of developing a shared industry utility for electronic data transmission, using ACORD XML data standards. SWIFT joined the initiative in January 2008 to provide platform and network for premium and claims accounting transaction, using the ACORD “eBOT” specification.

Peter Arbenz, Project Leader on behalf of Swiss Re, said “SWIFT has a track record of successfully reducing transaction costs for the banking industry. Together with ACORD’s insurance data standards and the clout of six leading reinsurers and brokers, we have all the ingredients it takes to offer our clients attractive solutions for their reinsurance administration.”

Andrew Muir of SWIFT is speaking at the September ACORD Club on 25 September, 2008 at Balls Brothers, Minster Court, London. If you would like to attend, or to find out more, please link to
If you are reading this after the event, you can find a copy of Andrew's presentation at [http://acord.org/events/itclub_events_listing.aspx](http://acord.org/events/itclub_events_listing.aspx).

**RLC v2008-1 is on its way**

The ACORD membership is currently cogitating and pontificating over 19 proposed changes ("maintenance requests") to the RLC standards. ACORD standards are developed and agreed by the industry. If you are an ACORD member and want to take part in the standards setting process, the following dates are worth noting.

- October 6, 2008: Reinsurance & Large Commercial Lines Plenary Session
- October 7, 2008: Cross Domain Plenary Session
- October 21-31, 2008: Voting Period
- October 31, 2008: Voting Deadline
- November 17 to December 6, 2008: Administrative Review Period
- December 12, 2008: Final Spec Release

If you would like to get involved with the standards setting process, please contact Mike Smith. The deadline for submitting new MRs to this review cycle has now passed.

The maintenance requests break down as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Type of Change</th>
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<td>Code changes, 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>XML/Schema changes, 7</td>
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<td>Documentation changes, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fast-tracked code changes, 2</td>
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Forthcoming events

**LMBC/ACORD Broker committee**
September 25, 1000-1200 BST
ACORD London Office, Suite 1/3, LUC, 3 Minster Court, London, UK

**ACORD Implementation Forum**
This is a new event, focused on the practicalities of implementation, with tracks for technically-focused and business-focused attendees.
October 15-17 2008
Harbour Beach Marriott Resort, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

For more complete details, please see [http://acord.org/aif/index.aspx](http://acord.org/aif/index.aspx)
Note: Plenary sessions for the MR process will take place outside this event.