## The Insurance Captives

A key solution for managing Corporate insurance risks.

Focus on their use for Employee Benefits risks

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# Agenda

#### Section 1 – Insurance Captives

- 1. WHAT is Reinsurance?
- 2. WHAT is an Insurance Captive?
- 3. Some data on the Captives Market
- 4. WHY an Insurance Captive?
- 5. Types of Insurance Captive
- 6. Captives and Regulations
- 7. WHERE are Insurance Captives located?

#### Section 2 – Deep Dive - Employee Benefits Captives

- 1. WHAT is Employee Benefits (EB)?
- 2. Defined Benefits and Defined Contribution
- 3. HOW EB Captives were born?
- 4. WHAT is an EB Captive?
- 5. Some data about the EB Captive Market
- 6. WHY including EB in a captive program?
- 7. WHEN an EB Captive is advantageous?
- 8. Collateral Requirements
- 9. Health and Wellness (H&W)
- 10. COVID-19 impact on EB
- 11. Conclusion

## **Insurance Captives**

Section - 1



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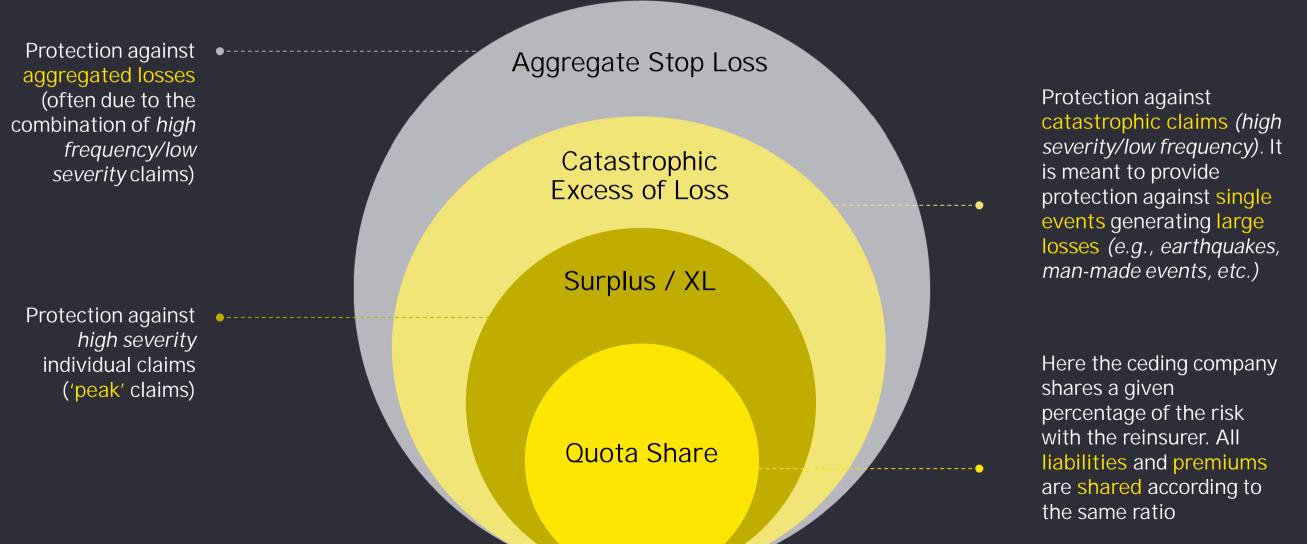
### WHAT is Reinsurance?



#### Reinsurance



Let's explore four key reinsurance protection solutions that empower insurers to navigate the complexities of the risk landscape effectively:

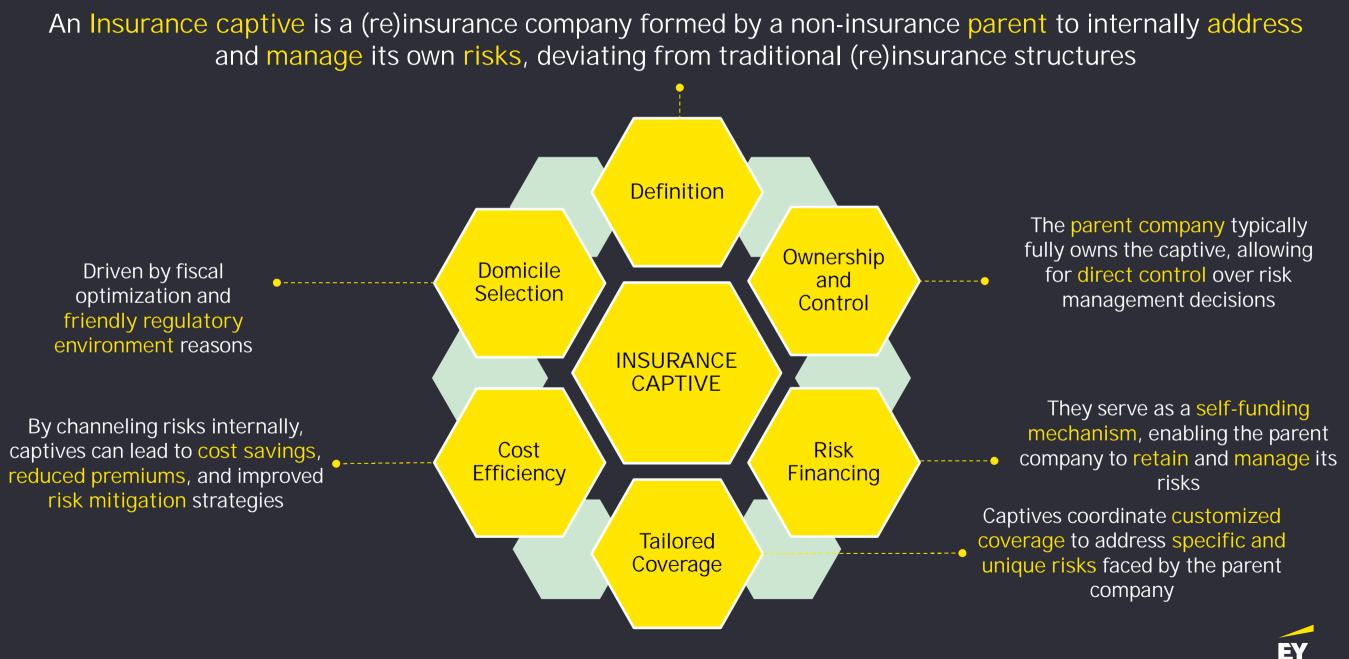




# WHAT is an Insurance Captive?



#### What is a Insurance Captive?



#### Some figures on the Captive market...



- Among the 6.000 captive companies, about 30% are established in the traditional domiciles of Bermuda, Cayman Islands and Vermont
- Single-parent (37%) captives still represent the largest share in terms of captive structure, multi-owner captives (32%) and other risk retention groups (22%) have progressively grown
- 1. Source: https://captivereview.com/features/igp-captives-and-employee-benefits/
- 2. Source: https://www.captiveinsurancetimes.com/countryfocus/country.php?country\_id=166&navigationaction=countryprofiles&page=&newssection=countryprofiles

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#### Main Insurance Captive domiciles

#### This map highlights the locations of 25 of the top captive domiciles around the globe<sup>1</sup>



Domicile	Captive count
Bermuda	670
Cayman Islands	661
Vermont	620
Utah	384
Delaware	313
Luxembourg	192

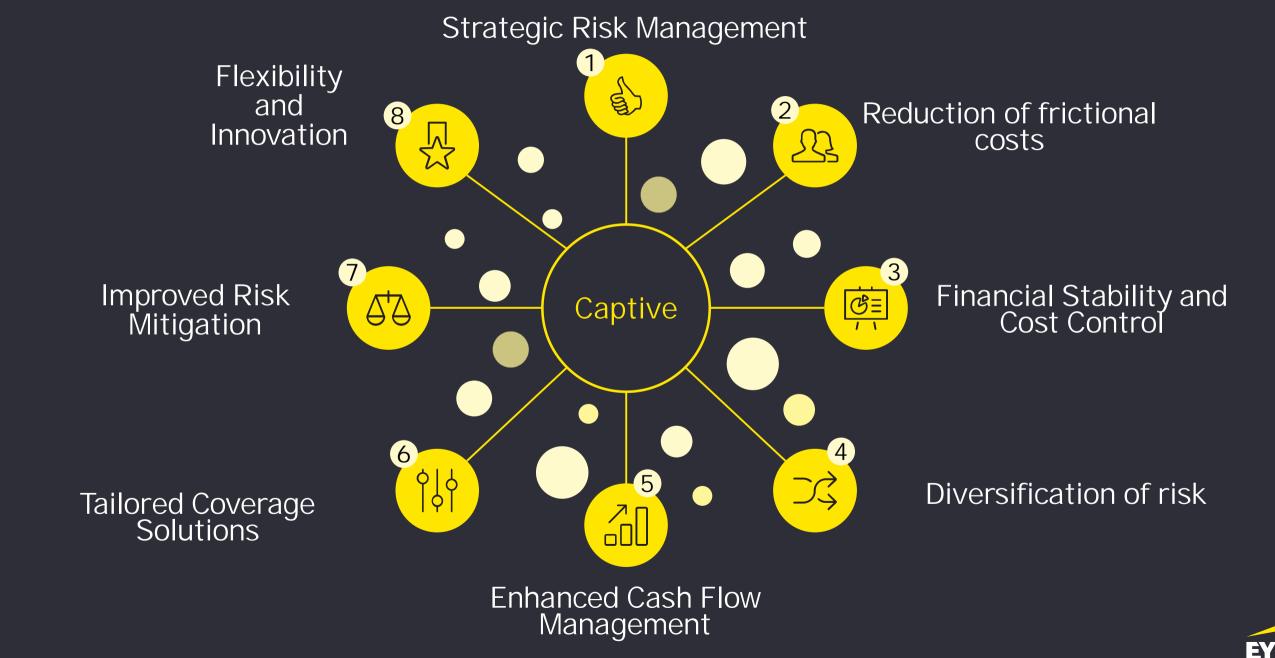
. Source: Allianz; Report: Captive numbers compiled by Business Insurance, Captive Insurance Special Report. March 2022 edition. Ranked by the number of captive licenses at year-end 2021. Numbers do not include microcaptives, series captives, or individual cells or cell members in protected cell companies.



#### WHY an Insurance Captive?



### High level Objectives of an Insurance Captive



### Captive Structures and Frameworks

	Owned Captives	Cell Captives
Definition	Owned captives are independent insurance entities wholly owned by the parent company	Cell captives are structures where multiple businesses, often unrelated, share a single captive through segregated cells
Characteristics	<ul> <li>Direct Ownership: The parent company owns the entire captive, maintaining complete control</li> <li>Tailored Solutions: Offers high customization for insurance coverage based on the specific needs of the parent organization</li> <li>Financial Independence: Operates as a standalone entity with its own capitalization and financial structure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Shared Structure: Multiple businesses utilize the same captive platform but maintain separation through individual cells</li> <li>Risk Segregation: Risks and financial obligations of each participant are distinct and do not impact others</li> <li>Cost Sharing: Participants benefit from shared administrative costs, making it a more cost-effective solution for smaller entities</li> </ul>
Key Considerations	Ideal for larger companies seeking full control and customization	Suited for smaller entities or businesses seeking cost-effective risk management with shared infrastructure



### Captives and regulations

Regulations play a crucial role in ensuring the stability, solvency, and fair operation of captives. Let's explore key regulatory aspects that captives must contend with:



- Solvency Regulation: Captives, like traditional insurers, are subject to solvency requirements to ensure they have adequate financial resources to cover potential liabilities
- Risk-Based Capital (RBC): Regulatory authorities impose risk-based capital frameworks, aligning capital requirements with the specific risks undertaken by captives

#### **Proportionality Rules**

- Definition: Proportionality rules in captives aim to tailor regulatory requirements based on the size, complexity, and risks undertaken by the captive
- Regulatory Flexibility: Smaller captives may benefit from proportionality, facing less stringent regulations compared to larger counterparts
- Compliance Adaptability: Proportionality allows regulatory requirements to be proportionate to the scale and nature of the captive's operations



#### **Collateral**

- Collateral Requirements: Ceding companies may impose collateral requirements to limit their counterparty risk and ensure the adequate protection of their financial interests
- Types of Collateral: Collateral can take various forms, including letters of credit, trusts, or cash deposits, providing a financial cushion in case of unexpected claims
- Impact on Capital Structure: Understanding collateral landscape is essential as it can influence the capital structure and financial flexibility of captives

### Captives and regulations – Key Takeaways

**Insurance** Captives

Regulations play a crucial role in ensuring the stability, solvency, and fair operation of captives. Let's explore key regulatory aspects that captives must contend with:



Deep Dive Employee Benefits Captives

Section - 2

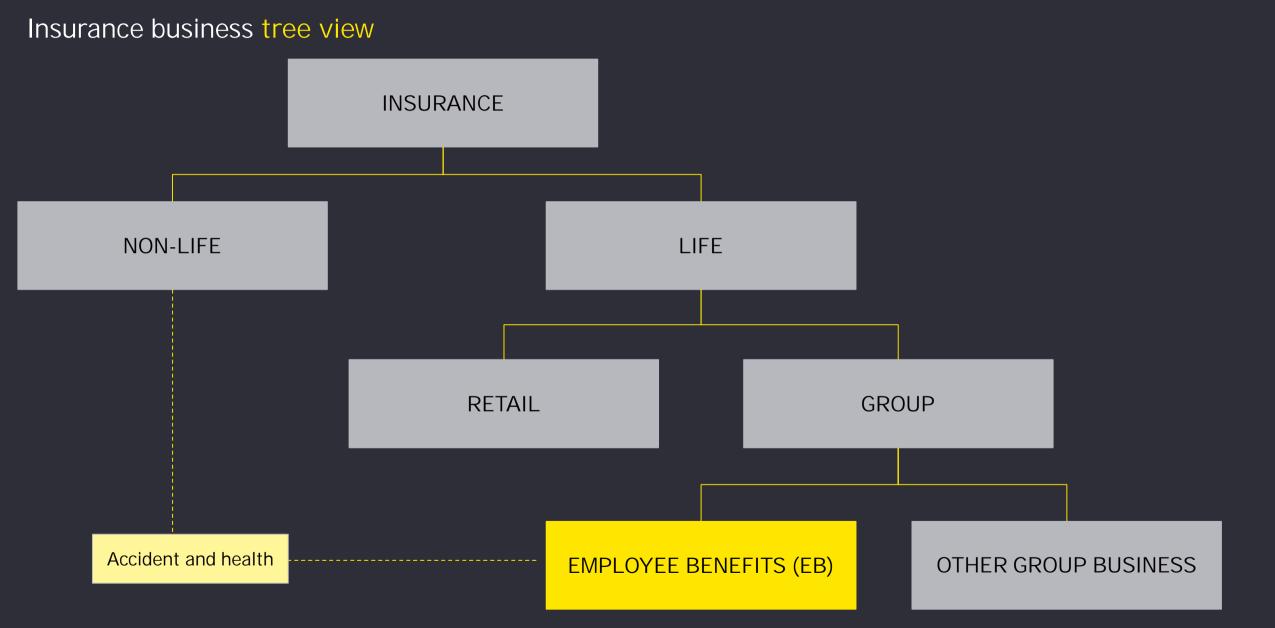


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#### WHAT is Employee Benefits (EB)?



#### What is... Employee Benefits (EB)





Within employment contracts, employers provide insurance promises tied to specific employees lifecycle events



Disease, Accident, Illness, Death

These benefits, typically linked to events like disease, accidents, illness, and death, are integral components of the remuneration package Honoring Employment Promises

Employers very often engage with Life Insurers to externalize these promises through dedicated group insurance contracts The internal option

In some cases, EB "promises" are totally or partially self-insured. This create the need of having "book reserves" in the Balance Sheet of employers



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#### The two sides of the EB coin

#### The EB realm can be divided into two areas

Risk benefits

Insurance benefits aimed at protecting the employee against the financial impact (also due to loss of income) deriving from events linked with the human lifecycle (death, disability, health..)



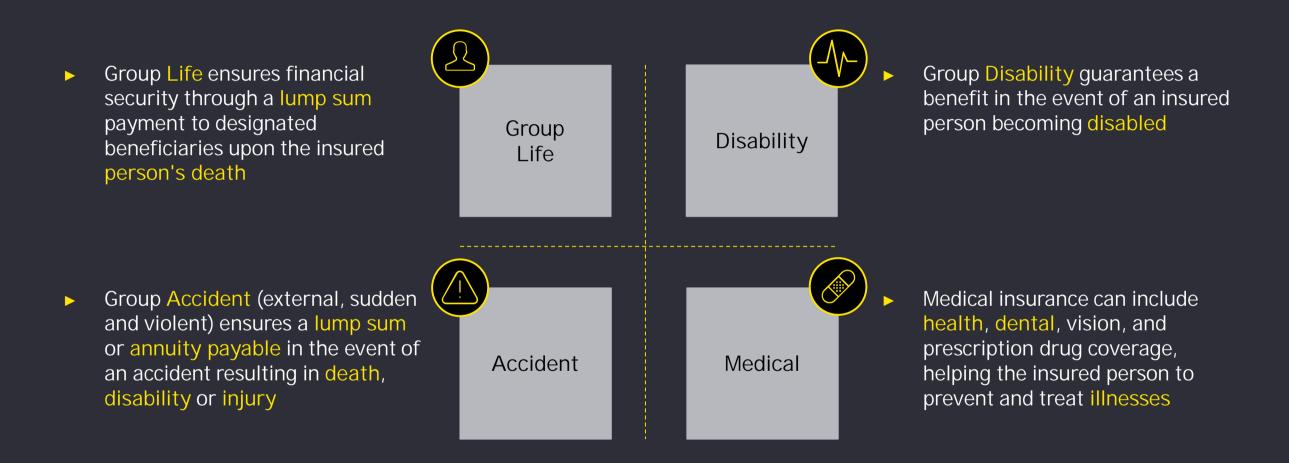
#### **Retirement benefits**

 Insurance benefits aimed at supporting the employees after retirement, guaranteeing an adequate replacement income



#### EB – Risk Benefits

The main lines of business in the context of Employee Benefits are four:



### EB – Retirement Benefits

Defined-Benefit Plans provide ensure lifelong predictable income offloading the risk on employers, while Defined-Contribution Plans empower employees with funding control, investment choices, and flexibility

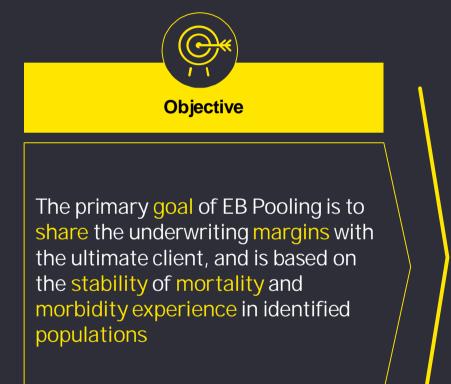
Defined Benefit	Defined Contribution
<ul> <li>Guaranteed income for life upon retirement</li> <li>Retirement benefit based on salary and years of service</li> <li>Limited employee control until retirement (employer manages investments)</li> <li>Employer bears the risk if investment returns don't cover benefits</li> <li>Involves complex actuarial projections and high administration costs</li> <li>Offers annuity or lump-sum payment options for retirees</li> <li>It is being discontinued, usually replaced by defined-contribution plans</li> <li>Very high level of unpredictability and cost impact for sponsors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Employee-funded, common examples like 401(k) plans</li> <li>Employer may match contributions, but no obligation for account performance</li> <li>Employees manage contributions and choose from various investments</li> <li>Contributions grow tax-deferred until withdrawal in retirement</li> <li>Annual contribution limits set for employees, with catch-up options</li> <li>Includes variations (e.g., 403(b)) for non-profit and educational sectors</li> <li>Lower administration costs and lower employer risk</li> <li>Provides flexibility and choice for employees in investment options</li> </ul>

#### The EB Global Plans



### EB pooling

EB Pooling is a financial solution aimed at sharing the local EB contracts underwriting margins, with the multinational parent owning the local companies who are the policyholders of the local policies











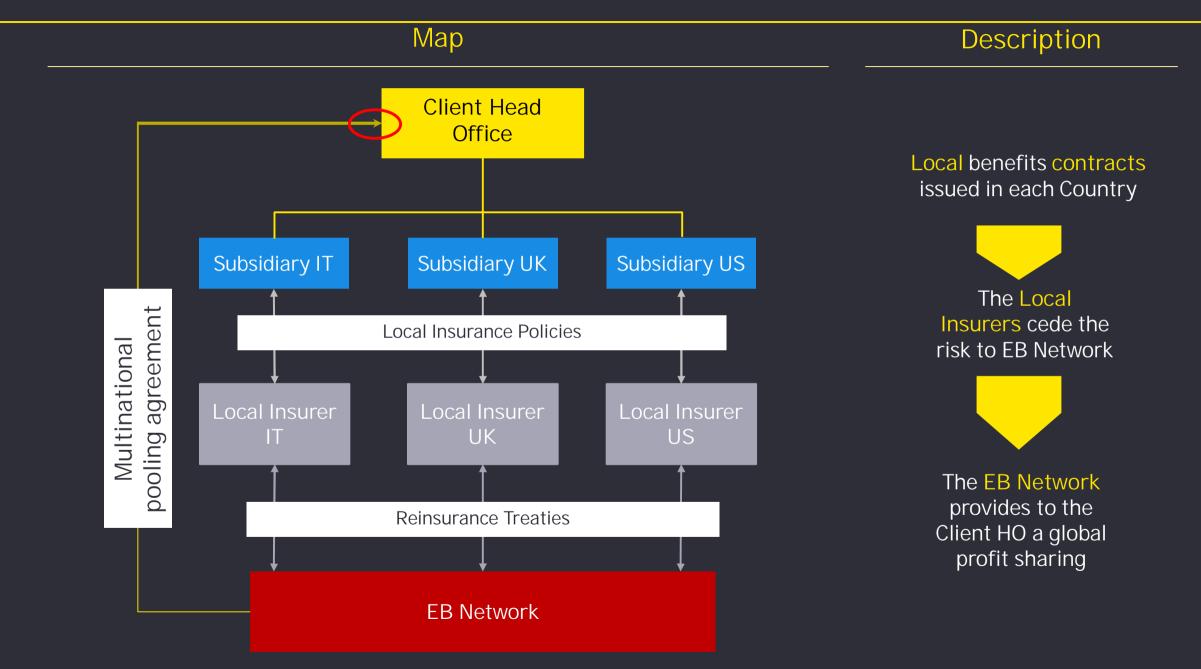
#### **Main Benefits**

- Large numbers: EB Pooling is enabled by the convergence of mortality/morbidity/medical utilization ratios towards a stability level, in large populations
- Risk Diversification: By pooling UW results, EB Pooling achieves risk diversification, spreading the impact of large claims across a broader base, reducing the financial volatility
- Control: leveraging on the financial vested interest owned by the pooling clients, the entities participating in EB Pooling can (partially) increase the level of control over local insurance schemes
- Reporting: through advanced reporting, pooling clients gain insights into their EB schemes performance, fostering an increased level of awareness and enabling effective risk mitigation and decision-making processes

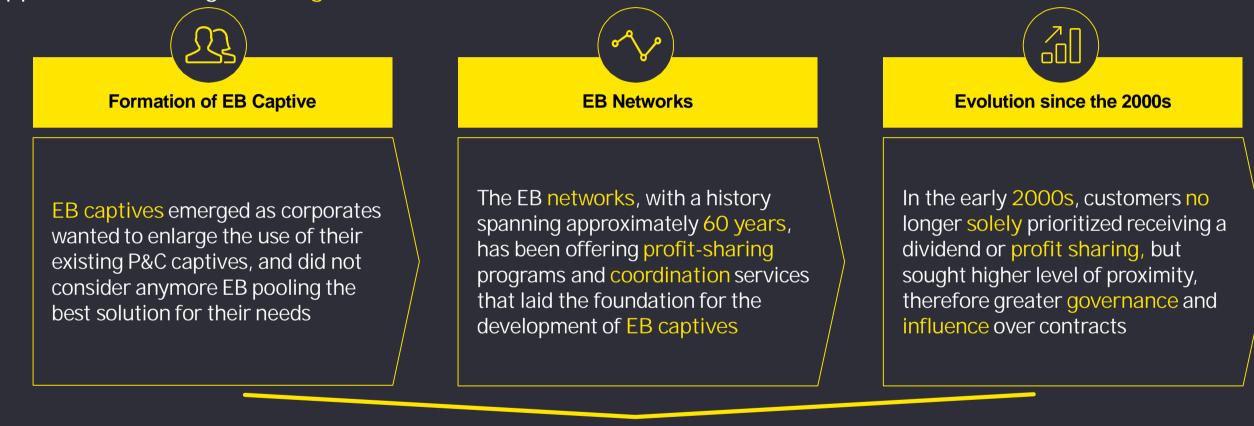


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### EB pooling programs



Understanding the transition from *Pool* to *EB Captives*, where clients switched interest from margin-centric approaches to heightened governance



Insurer Network Collaboration To achieve this, companies leveraged existing EB networks and requested agreements or programs at a higher level of sophistication that included retroceding the EB benefits towards their captive

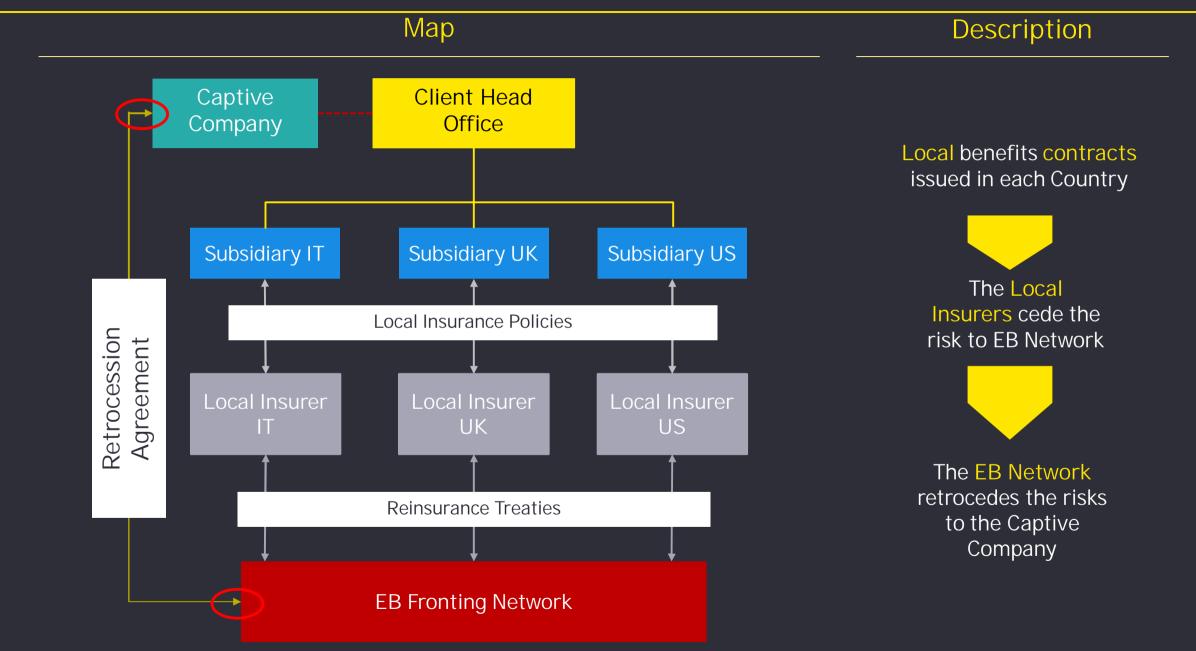
### What is an EB Captive?



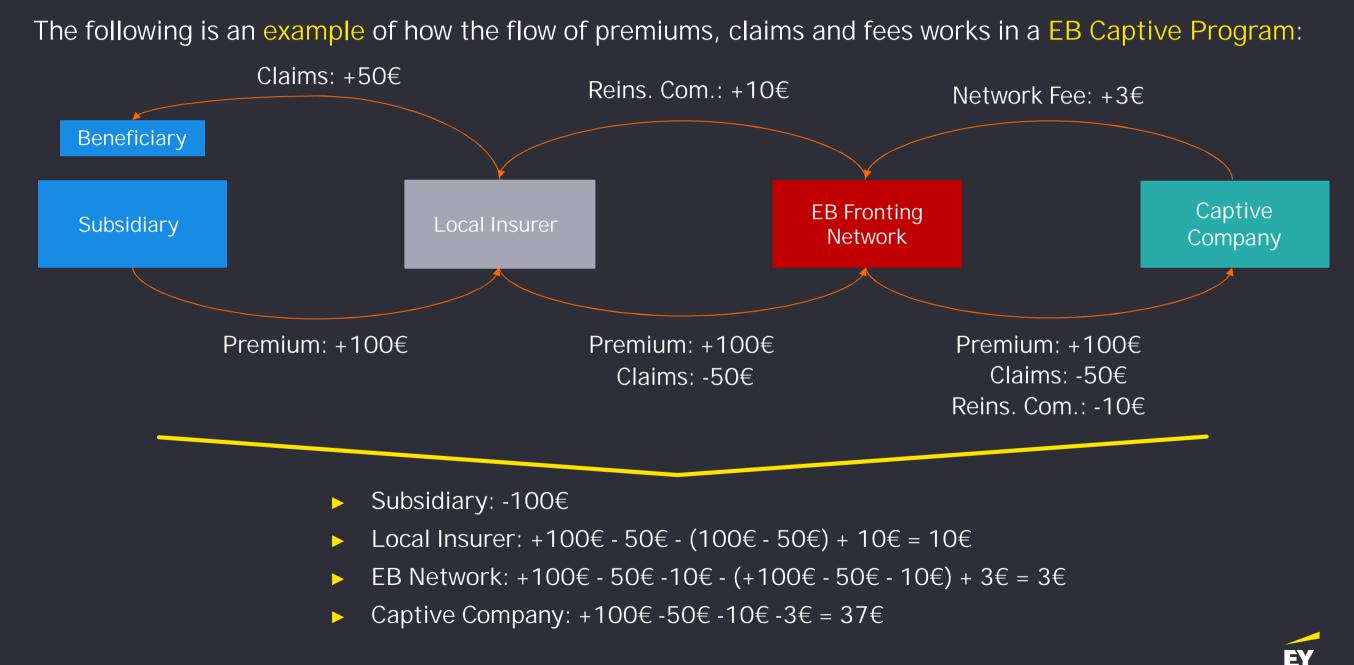
#### DESCRIPTION

- Employee Benefits (EB) Captives are specialized (re)insurance vehicles created by corporates to manage and finance employee benefit programs, providing a strategic alternative to traditional insurance arrangements
- Customization and Control: EB captives empower companies with a high level of flexibility, efficiency and control over employee benefit programs, allowing tailored designs to suit organizational needs
- Cost Efficiency: By reinsuring the EB contracts and therefore retaining the associated margins, reducing also the administrative expenses, EB captives offer a pathway to enhanced cost efficiency
- Comprehensive Coverage: Within the captive framework, diverse insurance programs, including Group Life, Group Disability, and Group Accident and Group Medical, can be seamlessly integrated to address various aspects of employees well-being
- Holistic Approach: EB captives go beyond traditional cost containment, contributing also to an holistic employee benefits strategy that aligns with organizational objectives, enhances risk control, and fosters a positive workplace culture

#### Captive programs overview

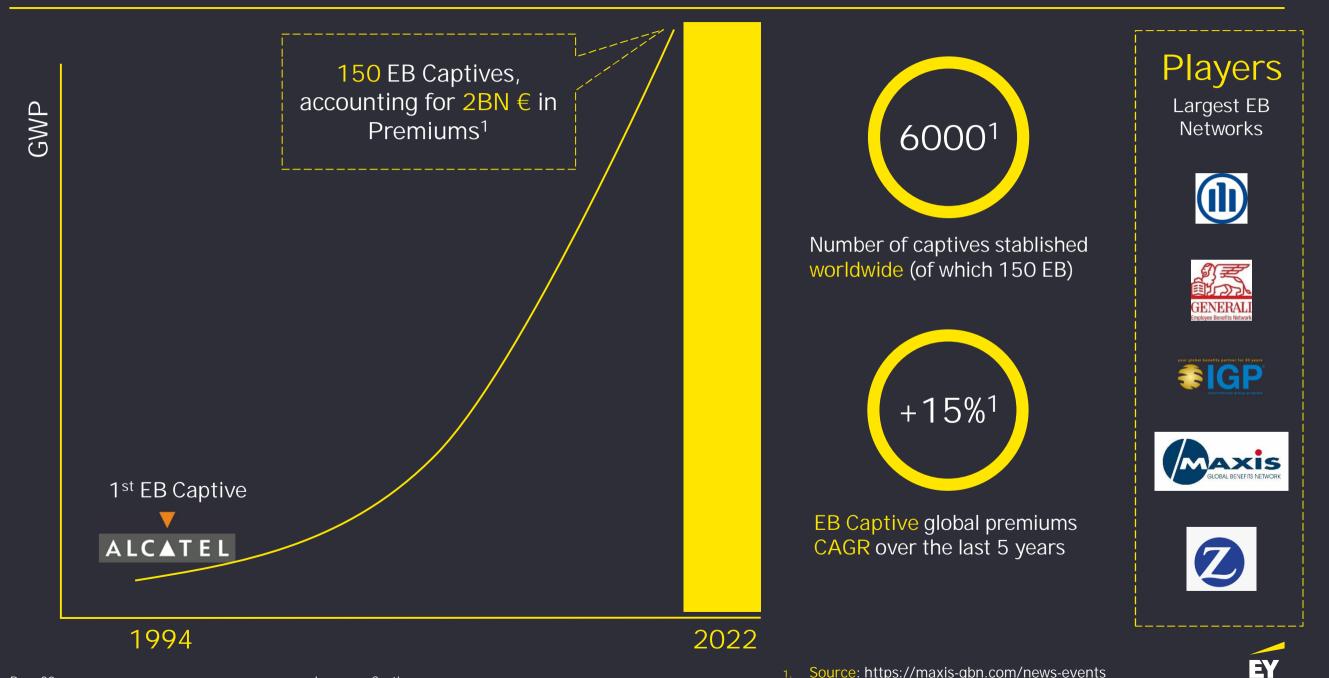


#### The economic model



**Insurance** Captives

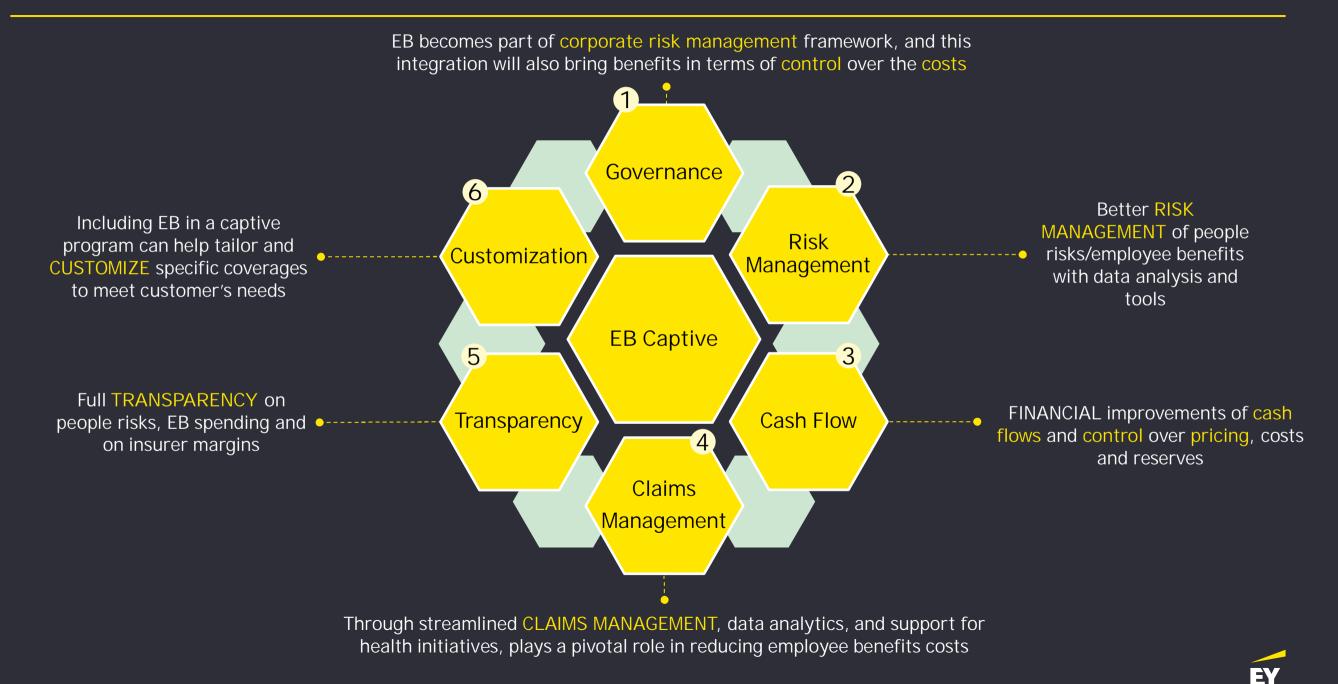
#### The EB captive market and EB captive network landscape



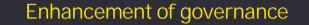
#### WHY including EB in a captive program?



### Why including EB in a captive program?



### Deep dive on each component [1/3]



2

- By including Employee Benefits in the Captive, the Company can have greater control over costs and reduce the impact of market fluctuations
- Greater control over costs can lead to more stable and predictable expenses for the Company, which can improve overall financial performance
- This can be achieved through a combination of risk management techniques

#### Improved Risk Management

- The captive can help identify and manage risks associated with Employee Benefits, such as health and wellness programs, which can lead to cost savings and improved employee satisfaction
- Effective risk management can help reduce the likelihood of unexpected claims, which can disrupt business operations and strain financial resources
- EB captives provide a integrated systems for enhanced predictability and stability in managing risks. By strategically addressing potential challenges, organizations can navigate uncertainties more effectively, leading to a stable and predictable financial landscape.

Governance

**Risk** 

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### Deep dive on each component [2/3]



4

3

Increased

**Cash Flow** 

Claims

Managemen

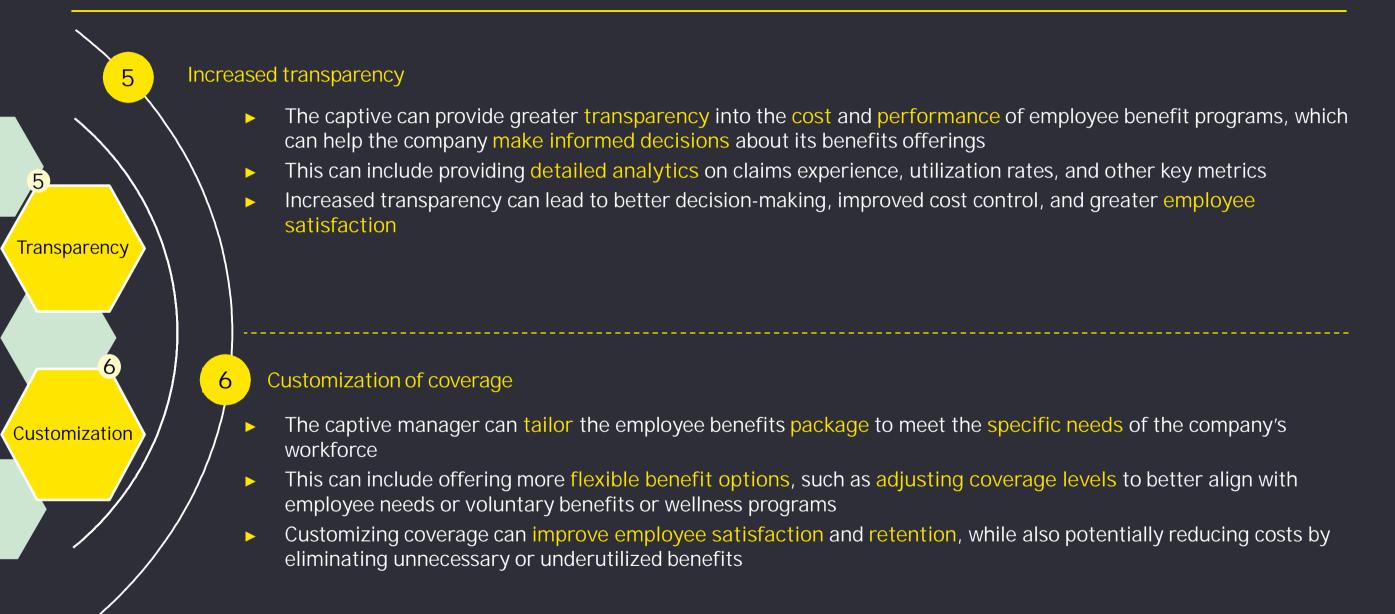
# In a traditional insurance arrangement, companies pay premiums to external insurers, often upfront or in regular installments. With an EB Captive, the company retains control over premium payments, allowing for more flexible payment schedules and potentially lowering the immediate cash outflow

- Captives often invest the funds they hold to cover potential claims. Any investment income generated contributes to the overall financial health of the captive. This income, when realized, can be used to support the company's cash flow needs
- Increased cash flow can improve the financial position of the company, making it more resilient to economic or business disruptions

#### Improved claims management

- The captive manager can provide more effective claims management services, which can help reduce costs associated with employee benefits
- By streamlining the claims process and leveraging data analytics, the captive manager can identify opportunities for cost savings and more efficient claims handling
- In addition the company can support claims data to lead health initiatives to improve employee wellbeing

### Deep dive on each component [3/3]



#### WHEN an EB Captive is advantageous?

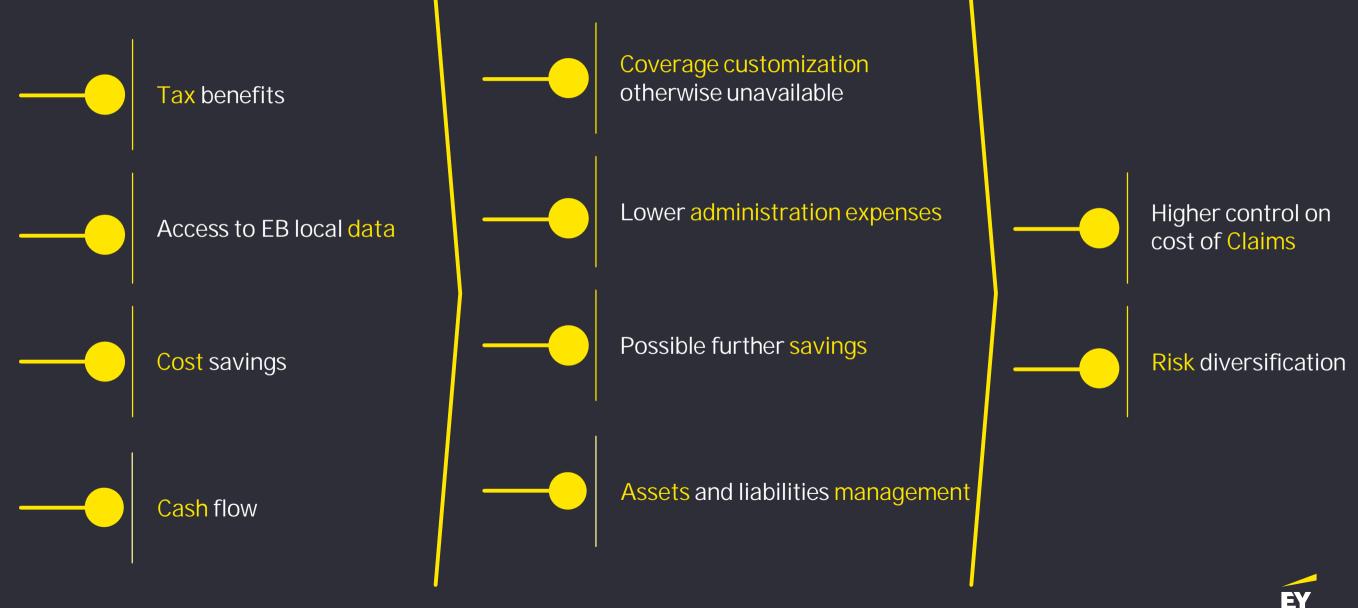


## Which questions should a corporate ask itself in evaluating an EB captive program?

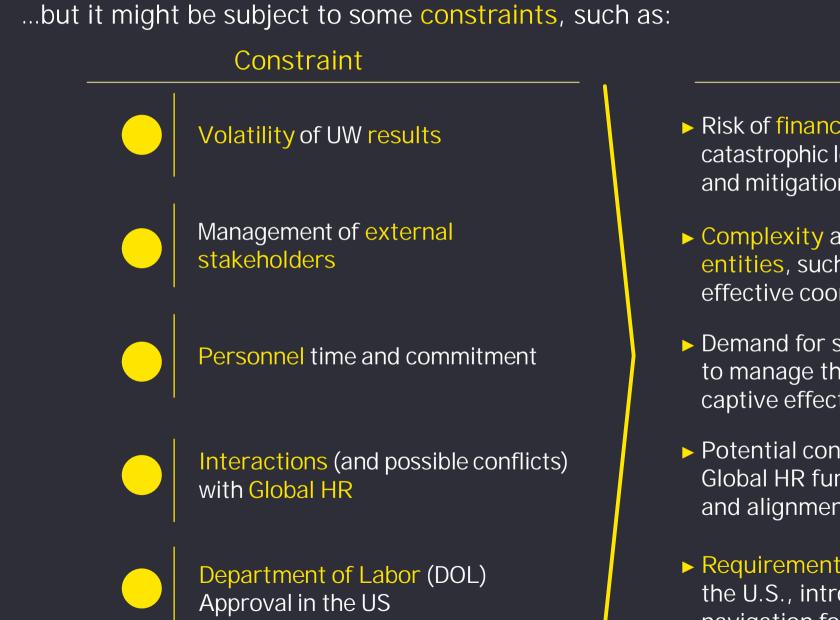
Торіс	Question to be asked			
1 Central Control on Local EB Schemes	What level of central control the Corporate can exert on local subsidiaries?			
2 Pricing Strategy	What pricing strategy will be employed for local schemes? Break-even or profit margins to be transferred to the captive?			
3 Direct Steering on Pricing	To what extent will direct steering be applied to pricing? Will it be managed internally, through a consultant, or via the Network?			
4 Specific Objectives for EB Inclusion	What specific objectives do you aim to achieve by including EB business in the captive? (e.g., Diversification, Top-line Growth, Profit Injection, Wellness Initiative			
5 Regulatory Considerations	Do you possess the necessary licenses to transact? Have you ensured the choice of the right domicile?			
6 Stakeholder Engagement	Have you obtained internal stakeholder buy-in, especially from HR, to ensure smooth implementation?			
7 Best practice access	Have you engaged with peers who have experience with captive programs to gather insights and best practices?			
8 Critical mass analysis	Considering the size of your EB portfolio, does it justify the efforts and resources required for implementing a captive program?			
Page 37 Insurar	nce Captives			

# Usual Advantages

As it has been explained before, having an EB captive can lead to multiple benefits, for example:



# **Usual Constraints**



## Description

- Risk of financial exposure in the event of unexpected or catastrophic losses, necessitating careful risk assessment and mitigation measures
- Complexity arising from involvement with external entities, such as consultants or reinsurers, requiring effective coordination and management
- Demand for significant personnel time and commitment to manage the complexities of an Employee Benefits (EB) captive effectively
- Potential conflicts and coordination challenges with Global HR functions, necessitating clear communication and alignment of objectives
- Requirement for Department of Labor (DOL) approval in the U.S., introducing regulatory hurdles that need careful navigation for successful implementation



## **Collateral Requirements**

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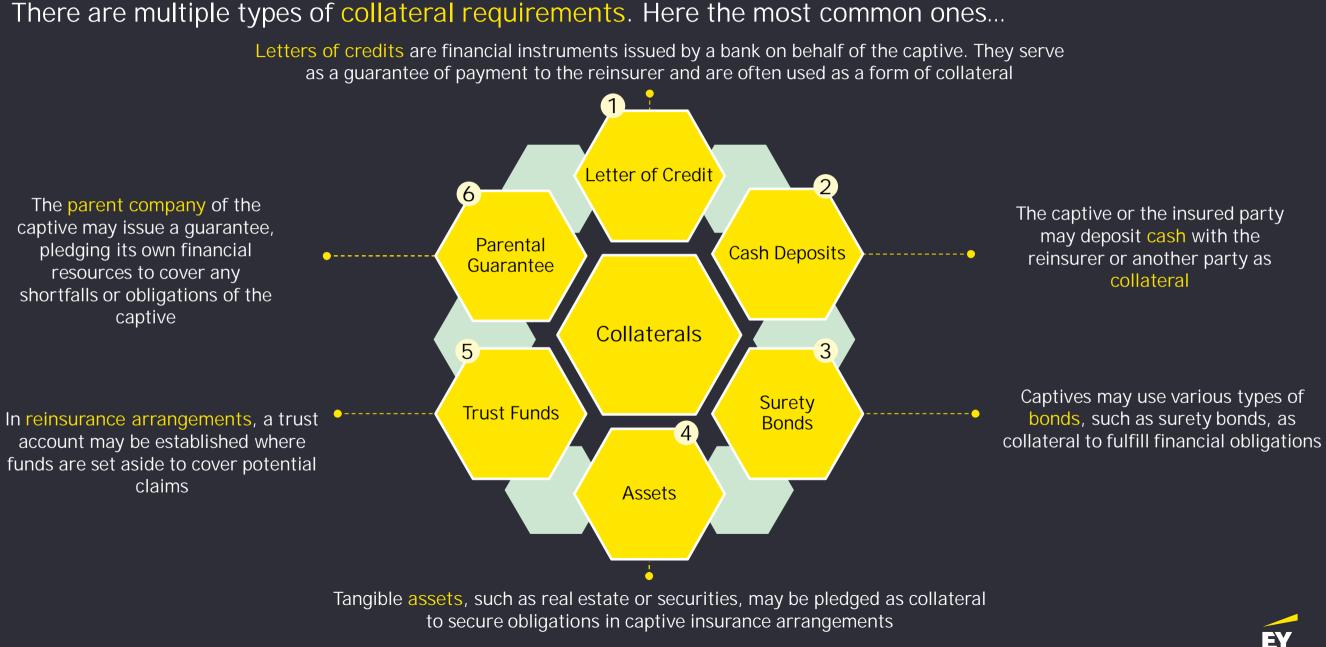
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## **Collateral Requirements**



# Types of Collateral Requirements

**Insurance** Captives



# Deep dive on each component [1/3]

#### Letter of Credit (LOC)

- Financial Instrument: LoC is a financial instrument issued by a bank, providing a guarantee that the issuing bank will pay a specified amount to the beneficiary (e.g., reinsurer) if the conditions outlined in the LoC are met.
- Security in Captives: Commonly used in captive insurance, a LoC serves as collateral, assuring the reinsurer that funds are available to cover potential losses, enhancing the captive's credibility.
- Flexibility: LoCs offer flexibility as they can be drawn upon when needed, providing a cost-effective alternative to tying up immediate cash reserves.

#### Cash Deposits

2

- Immediate Liquidity: Captives may deposit cash with reinsurers, providing immediate liquidity to cover potential claims without relying on external sources.
- Security Mechanism: Cash deposits serve as a direct and tangible form of collateral, offering reassurance to reinsurers regarding the captive's ability to fulfill its obligations.
- Control and Stability: Cash deposits give captives greater control over their financial commitments and contribute to financial stability by having liquid assets readily available.

Letter of

Credit

Cash

**Deposits** 

# Deep dive on each component [2/3]



3

Surety Bond

**Assets** 

- Financial Guarantee: Surety bonds are a form of financial guarantee provided by a surety company. In the context of captives, they assure the reinsurer or other parties that the captive will meet its obligations.
- Third-Party Assurance: These bonds involve a three-party arrangement: the surety company issues the bond, the captive is the principal, and the reinsurer is the obligee. If the captive fails to fulfill its commitments, the surety company steps in to cover the losses.
- Risk Mitigation: Surety bonds provide an alternative to traditional collateral, allowing captives to demonstrate financial responsibility without tying up cash reserves.

#### Assets

4

- Tangible Pledges: Assets, such as real estate, securities, or other valuable holdings, can be pledged as collateral to secure the captive's obligations.
- Diversified Collateral: Using assets as collateral provides a diversified approach, allowing captives to leverage their existing resources to meet financial commitments.
- Balance Sheet Impact: Pledging assets demonstrates financial strength and stability, potentially positively impacting the captive's balance sheet and overall credibility.

# Deep dive on each component [3/3]



6

5

**Trust Funds** 

Parental Guarantee

6

#### Custodial Arrangement: Trust funds in captive insurance involve a custodial arrangement where funds are set aside in a trust account to cover potential claims or obligations.

Trigger-Based Release: Trust funds often operate on trigger-based mechanisms, releasing funds to the reinsurer or other beneficiaries when specific conditions, such as the occurrence of covered losses, are met.

Third-Party Oversight: Establishing a trust involves a third-party trustee, adding a layer of oversight to ensure proper management and disbursement of funds according to the agreed-upon terms.

#### Parental Guarantee

- Parent Company Assurance: A parental guarantee is a commitment by the parent company of the captive to support and fulfill the financial obligations of the captive in case of any shortfalls or default.
- Financial Backing: This form of collateral provides additional financial backing and support, reinforcing the captive's ability to meet its obligations and enhancing its overall financial strength.
- Risk Mitigation: A parental guarantee serves as a risk mitigation tool, particularly when the captive may face challenges in meeting its commitments, offering an extra layer of assurance to reinsurers and other stakeholders.

## Health and Wellness (H&W)

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# Health and wellness: going beyond traditional cost containment

In an era where talent retention and performance are critical, companies that go beyond traditional cost containment by investing in health and wellness are better positioned to attract, retain, and empower top talent

### **WHY**

- Strategic Talent Attraction: Prioritizing health and wellness initiatives goes beyond the standard benefits package, positioning companies as employers of choice. At the same time, this not only reduces turnover but fosters a sense of loyalty among employees, contributing to a more stable and dedicated workforce
- Cost containment: The cost of insuring health benefits has been growing very fast in the last 10-20 years, due to more expensive treatments and increased awareness. Wellness initiatives are crucial to mitigate this increase in costs.
- Empowerment for Optimal Performance: A healthy and supported workforce is more likely to perform at its best. By investing in the well-being of employees, companies empower their teams to excel, fostering a positive work environment that directly contributes to improved overall performance and productivity

#### HOW

- Corporate Demand: Multinational corporations are actively seeking support from networks to develop comprehensive wellness solutions for their employees, particularly focusing on populations whose risks are encompassed within the captive
- Strategic Imperative: The primary goal is to implement strategies aimed at reducing the overall loss ratio, with a specific emphasis on optimizing medical utilization
- Employee Wellbeing: These initiatives underscore a commitment to employee wellbeing, aligning organizational goals with proactive measures to address health-related risks within the captive framework (e.g. ESG)

## Health and wellness: strategic roll-out

A holistic approach to helping employers manage cost, improve quality and customize the best solution that fits the specific employer's need. The design process is the following



## Health and wellness: bringing EB captives to a new level – Deep dive



**Insurance** Captives

## How H&W Programs Help Employees



- Wellness Initiatives: Implement fitness challenges, nutrition programs, and mental health workshops for a holistic approach to employee well-being
- Preventive Care: Encourage regular health check-ups, vaccinations, and screenings to identify health issues early and promote preventive care
- Health Education: Provide resources on stress management, sleep hygiene, and healthy habits to empower employees with knowledge for sustained well-being.

- Rehabilitation Support: Offer programs aiding recovery, including physical therapy, counseling, and return-to-work initiatives
- Case Management: Use programs for effective case management, facilitating a smooth return to work after illness or injury
- Mental Health Support: Implement mental health programs to address psychological aspects of recovery, promoting resilience (EAP Programs)

- Personalized Care Plans: H&W
   Programs tailor interventions to
   individual needs, offering personalized
   care plans for employees managing
   chronic illnesses
- Focused prevention plans: These programs go beyond reactive measures, emphasizing proactive strategies for chronic disease prevention
- Awareness: Provide resources on stress management, sleep hygiene, and healthy habits to empower employees with knowledge for sustained well-being.

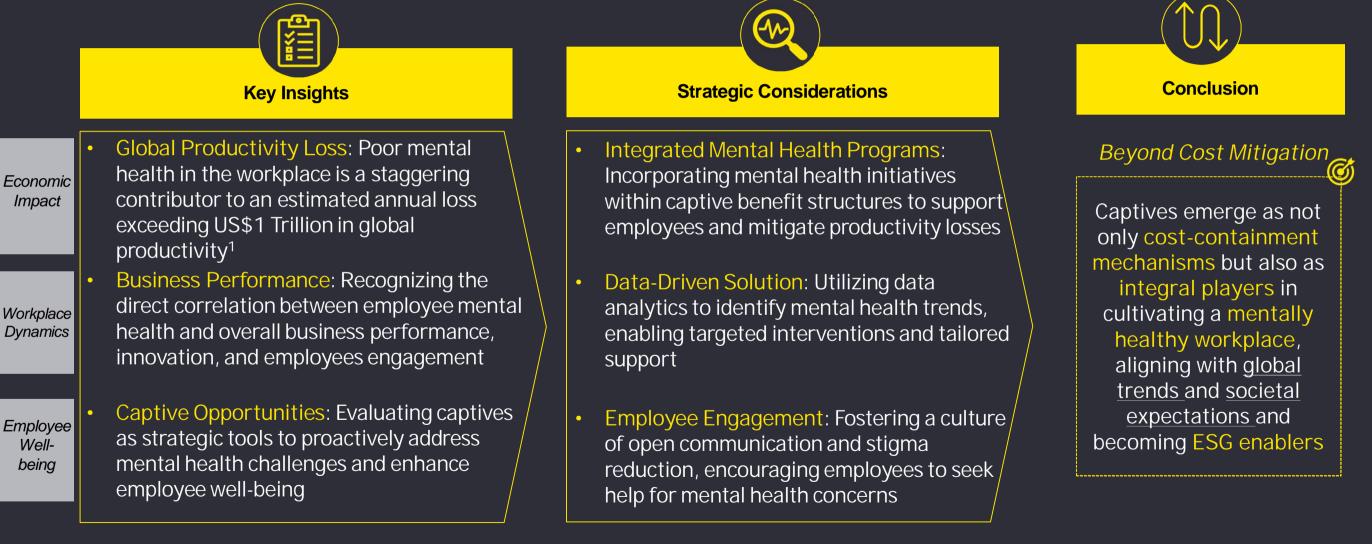


The impact of poor mental health in the workplace is significant, causing an estimated loss in global productivity valued at more than US\$1 Trillion per year<sup>1</sup>

1. Source: Mental health in the workplace, World Health Organisation (WHO), May 2019 https://www.who.int/mental\_health/in\_the\_workplace/en/

# Captive role in enhancing the employees wellness & well-being

Unveiling the compelling business case for captives in addressing the profound impact of poor mental health on a global scale



1. Source: Mental health in the workplace, World Health Organisation (WHO), May 2019 https://www.who.int/mental\_health/in\_the\_workplace/en/

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## COVID-19 impact on EB



The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped the landscape of employee benefits, presenting both challenges and opportunities for captive insurance programs

1		Challenges		Opportunities	
Remote Work Dynamics	•	Addressing the impact of widespread remote work on employee benefits, including healthcare access and mental health support	•	Redefining benefits to accommodate a more flexible and remote workforce	
2 Health and Wellness Emphasis	•	Increased focus on employee well-being due to the pandemic's health concerns	•	Integrating enhanced health and wellness programs within captives to support employee resilience and adaptability	
3 Telemedicine Adoption	•	Navigating the accelerated adoption of telemedicine and its implications for healthcare coverage	•	Incorporating telemedicine into captive benefits for cost- effective and accessible healthcare solutions	
4 Representing a tool for adapting local T&Cs	•	Pandemic exclusions in many EB local contracts, represented a key concern for many employers WWide	•	Using the captive as final risk taker to enable exclusions management and ex-gratia claims proved to be key	

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# Conclusion

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- ✓ Captives are a tool for large multinational companies to manage their internal risks
- They enable an advanced and flexible way to bridge between the corporates risk management needs, and the global insurance markets
- As captives are a B2B player, and do not provide coverage to the retail market, regulators tend to be more lenient and flexible
- Even if captives "fly below the radar", they represent a significant share of the worldwide (re)insurance market
- ✓ The economic model of captives tend to be significantly different from the one of typical reinsurers
- Reinsuring EB via captives has become a key pillar of the captives development and strategic positioning within corporates
- The use of EB captives is shifting from pure financial optimization vehicles, to risk strategy enablers, and ESG tools

# Q&A Time



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