Shearman & Sterling



SURVEY: FORTUNE 100 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES DISCLOSURE

23 INDUSTRIES 65 COMPANIES^{*}

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^{*} Covers companies with December 28, 29 or 31 year-end; excludes companies that made no specific reference to critical accounting policies.

Fortune 100 Companies Covered

Aetna Alcoa Allstate American Electric Power American Express American International Group **AOL** Time Warner Aquila AT&T Bank of America Corp. Bank One Corp. BellSouth Boeing **Bristol-Myers Squibb** Caterpillar ChevronTexaco Citigroup Coca-Cola Compaq Computer Conoco CVS Delphi Du Pont Duke Energy Dynegy El Paso **Electronic Data Systems** Exxon Mobil Ford Motor **General Electric General Motors** Georgia-Pacific Hewlett-Packard

Honeywell International IBM Ingram Micro Intel **International Paper** J.P. Morgan Chase Johnson & Johnson Lockheed Martin Marathon Oil Merck Merrill Lynch MetLife Mirant Motorola PepsiCo Pfizer PG&E Corp. **Philip Morris Phillips Petroleum Prudential Financial Reliant Energy** Safeway **SBC** Communications Sears Roebuck Sprint TXU UnitedHealth Group United Parcel Service Verizon Communications Viacom Wachovia Corp. WorldCom

Aerospace & Defense (3 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	1
Revenue Recognition	2
Pensions and other post-retirement/post-employment benefits	2
Employee Stock Options	1
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts/Contingent Liabilities (i.e. litigation)	1
Long-Term Contract and Program Accounting	2
Aircraft Valuation	1

Beverages (2 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	2
Revenue Recognition	1
Accounting for Taxes (deferred and current)	1
Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments	1
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	1
Derivative Instruments and Hedging Transactions	2
Accounting for Business Combinations	1

Chemicals (1 Company)

Critical Accounting Policies Cited

Pensions and other post-retirement/post-employment benefits

Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation and Environmental matters)

Commercial Banks (4 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Fair Value of Financial Instruments	3
Allowances for Credit Losses	4
Derivative Contracts	2
Transfer of Assets and Extinguishments of Liabilities	1
Accounting for Special Purpose Vehicles	1

Computers, Office Equipment, Electronics, Semiconductors, Software (5 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	2
Inventory Valuation	3
Revenue Recognition	3
Accounting for Taxes (deferred and current)	2
Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments	3
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	3
Warranty Liability	1
Allowances for Customer Incentives	2
Single reference to accounting policy note in notes to financial statements [*]	1

Diversified Financials (3 Companies)

^{*} No discussion in MD&A of specific critical accounting policies, simply a general discussion of the use of estimates with a cross-reference to accounting policy footnote in notes to financial statements.

Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Revenue Recognition on Long-Term Agreements	1
Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments	2
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	1
Allowances for Credit Losses	3
Allowances for Customer Incentives	1
Deferred Acquisition Costs	1
Fair Value (valuation of financial instruments)	1
Insurance Liabilities and Reserves	2
Accounting for Securitization	1

Energy/Utilities (9 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Long-lived assets, good will, other intangible assets	7
Revenue Recognition	8
Accounting for Taxes (deferred and current)	1
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	3
Derivative Contracts	4
Wholesale Energy Marketing and Trading Activities	7
Hedge Contract Accounting	5
Financing for Special Purpose Entities	1
Natural Gas and Oil Producing Activities	1
Accounting for Business Combinations	1
Accounting for Rate Regulation	2
Evaluation of Counterparty Credit	1

Entertainment (2 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	2
Revenue Recognition	1
Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments	2
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	2
Accounting for Business Acquisitions/ Mergers	2
Filmed Entertainment Costs & Revenues (production and distribution)	2
Estimates of Useful Lives and Residual Value of Rental Library	1
Allocating among Business segments ("multiple-element arrangements")	1

Food & Drug Stores (including Food Wholesalers and Food Producers) (2 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	1
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts	1
Liability Reserves (i.e. worker's comp and environmental)	1
Single reference to accounting policy note in notes to financial statements	1

Forest and Paper Products (2 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	2
Pensions and other post-retirement/post-employment benefits	1
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation and Environmental matters)	2

General Merchandisers (1 Company)	General Merchandisers (1 Company)
	Critical Accounting Policies Cited

Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets

Inventory Valuation

Revenue Recognition

Restructuring Charges

Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies

Health Care (2 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	2
Revenue Recognition	1
Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments	2
Health Care and Insurance Liabilities	2
Contingent Liabilities (i.e. Litigation)	1
Inflation	1

Industrial & Farm Equipment (1 Company)

Critical Accounting Policies Cited

Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)

Warranty Liability

Allowances for Customer Incentives

Allowances for Credit Losses

Residual Values for Leased Assets

Insurance (4 Companies)	
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy
Accounting for Taxes (deferred and current)	1
Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments	3
Pensions and other post-retirement benefits	1
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	3
Derivative Contracts	2
Reserves for Losses & Expenses	1
Future Policy Benefits Reserves	4
Deferred Policy Acquisition Costs	3
Fair Value with respect to certain assets	1
Reinsurance	1

Mail, Package, Freight Delivery (1 Company)

Critical Accounting Policies Cited

Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets

Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)

Derivative Instruments

Metals (1 Company)

Critical Accounting Policies Cited

Derivative Instruments

Allowances for Environmental Matters

Motor Vehicles & Parts (3 Companies)		
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy	
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	3	
Pensions and other post-retirement benefits	3	
Derivative Contracts	1	
Allowances for Customer Incentives	2	
Warranty Liability	3	
Investments in Operating Leases	2	
Allowances for Credit Losses	2	

Network & Other Communications Equipment/Data Services (2 Companies)		
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy	
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	2	
Inventory Valuation	1	
Revenue Recognition	1	
Accounting for Taxes (deferred and current)	2	
Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments	1	
Pensions and other post-retirement benefits	1	
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	1	
Trade Receivables and Notes Receivable	1	
Long-Term Contract Accounting	2	

Petroleum Refining (5 Companies)		
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy	
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	3	
Inventory Valuation	3	
Revenue Recognition	1	
Accounting for Taxes (deferred and current)	2	
Pensions and other post-retirement benefits	2	
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	3	
Derivative Contracts/Instruments	2	
Estimation of Proved Reserves	5	
Foreign Currency	2	
Site Restoration and Environmental Conservation Costs	4	
Business Acquisitions	1	

Pharmaceuticals (4 Companies)		
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy	
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	2	
Revenue Recognition	2	
Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments	1	
Pensions and other post-retirement benefits	1	
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	2	
Derivative Contracts	1	
Sales Incentives, Discounts & Rebates	2	
Research and Development Expenses	2	

Securities (1 Company)

Critical Accounting Policies Cited

Fair Value (valuation of financial instruments)

Pricing Models and their underlying assumptions

Consolidation & Transactions involving Special Purpose Entities

Telecommunications (6 Companies)		
Critical Accounting Policy	Number of Companies Citing Policy	
Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets	4	
Revenue Recognition	4	
Accounting for Taxes (deferred and current)	3	
Restructuring Charges	1	
Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments	3	
Pensions and other post-retirement benefits	5	
Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)	4	
Derivative Contracts/Instruments	2	
Allocation Policies between divisions of company	2	
Valuation of Accounts Receivable	1	

Tobacco (1 Company)

Critical Accounting Policies Cited

Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets

Revenue Recognition

Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies (i.e. Litigation)

Hedging Instruments

Marketing Costs

Leveraged Leases

Critical Accounting Policies named by at least one company in 3 or more Industries

- 19 Allowances for Doubtful Accounts and other Contingencies
 - Aerospace & Defense
 - Beverages
 - Chemicals
 - Computers, Office Equipment, Electronics, Semiconductors, Software
 - Diversified Financials
 - Energy/Utilities
 - Entertainment
 - Food & Drug Stores
 - Forest & Paper Products
 - General Merchandisers
 - Health Care
 - Industrial & Farm Equipment
 - Insurance
 - Mail, Package, Freight Delivery
 - Network & other Communications Equipment/Data Services
 - Petroleum Refining
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Telecommunications
 - Tobacco

16 Long-lived assets, good will, and other intangible assets

- Aerospace & Defense
- Beverages
- Computers, Office Equipment, Electronics, Semiconductors, Software
- Energy/Utilities
- Entertainment
- Food & Drug Stores
- Forest & Paper Products
- General Merchandisers
- Health Care
- Mail, Package, Freight Delivery
- Motor Vehicles & Parts
- Network & other Communications Equipment/Data Services
- Petroleum Refining
- Pharmaceuticals
- Telecommunications
- Tobacco

- 13 *Revenue Recognition*
 - Aerospace & Defense
 - Beverages
 - Computers, Office Equipment, Electronics, Semiconductors, Software
 - Diversified Financials
 - Energy/Utilities
 - Entertainment
 - General Merchandisers
 - Health Care
 - Network & other Communications Equipment/Data Services
 - Petroleum Refining
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Telecommunications
 - Tobacco

12 Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

- Aerospace & Defense
- Chemicals
- Forest & Paper Products
- General Merchandisers
- Industrial & Farm Equipment
- Insurance
- Motor Vehicles & Parts
- Network & other Communications Equipment/Data Services
- Petroleum Refining
- Pharmaceuticals
- Telecommunications
- Tobacco

11 Derivative Contracts/Instruments

- Beverages
- Commercial Banks
- Energy/Utilities
- Insurance
- Mail, Package, Freight Delivery
- Metals
- Motor Vehicles & Parts
- Petroleum Refining
- Pharmaceuticals
- Telecommunications
- Tobacco

- 9 Other than temporary declines in value of marketable debt and equity securities, and investments
 - Beverages
 - Computers, Office Equipment, Electronics, Semiconductors, Software
 - Diversified Financials
 - Entertainment
 - Health Care
 - Insurance
 - Network & other Communications Equipment/Data Services
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Telecommunications
- 7 Accounting for Taxes (deferred and current)
 - Beverages
 - Computers, Office Equipment, Electronics, Semiconductors, Software
 - Energy/Utilities
 - Insurance
 - Network & other Communications Equipment/Data Services
 - Petroleum Refining
 - Telecommunications
- 5 Allowances for Customer Incentives
 - Computers, Office Equipment, Electronics, Semiconductors, Software
 - Diversified Financials
 - Industrial & Farm Equipment
 - Motor Vehicles & Parts
 - Pharmaceuticals
- 4 Allowances for Credit Losses
 - Commercial Banks
 - Diversified Financials
 - Industrial & Farm Equipment
 - Motor Vehicles & Parts
- 4 Accounting for Business Combinations/ Acquisitions/ Mergers
 - Beverages
 - Energy/Utilities
 - Entertainment
 - Petroleum Refining

- 4 Fair Value of Financial Instruments
 - Commercial Banks
 - Diversified Financials
 - Insurance
 - Securities

4 Inventory Valuation

- Computers, Office Equipment, Electronics, Semiconductors, Software
- General Merchandisers
- Network & other Communications Equipment/Data Services
- Petroleum Refining

3 Accounting for Special Purpose Entities

- Commercial Banks
- Energy/Utilities
- Securities

3 *Warranty Liability*

- Computers, Office Equipment, Electronics, Semiconductors, Software
- Industrial & Farm Equipment
- Motor Vehicles & Parts