
APPENDIX IV

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

This Appendix summarizes certain aspects of PRC laws and regulations which are relevant to our Company’s operations and business. This Appendix also contains a summary of laws and regulatory provisions of the Company Law. For a discussion of laws and regulations governing our Company’s business, please refer to “**Regulatory Overview**” in this document.

THE PRC LEGAL SYSTEM

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND PRC COMPANY LAWS

The Hong Kong laws applicable to a company incorporated in Hong Kong are based on the Companies Ordinance and the Companies (Winding up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance and are supplemented by common law and the rules of equity that apply to Hong Kong. As a joint stock limited company established in the PRC that [REDACTED] on the Stock Exchange, we are governed by the Company Law and all other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the Company Law.

Set out below is a summary of certain material differences between Hong Kong company law applicable to a company incorporated in Hong Kong and the Company Law applicable to a joint stock limited company incorporated and existing in accordance with the Company Law. This summary is, however, not intended to be an exhaustive comparison.

Share Capital

The Company Law does not provide for authorised share capital. Our registered capital is the amount of our issued share capital. Any increase in our registered capital must be approved by our Shareholders’ general meeting and file with the relevant PRC governmental and regulatory authorities. The Hong Kong laws does not provide for authorized share capital either. The share capital of a company incorporated in Hong Kong would be its issued share capital. The full proceeds of a share issue will be credited to share capital and becomes the company’s share capital. The directors of a company incorporated in Hong Kong may, with the prior approval of the shareholders if required, issue new shares of the company.

Under the PRC Securities Law, an application for listing shall comply with the listing rules of the stock exchange. Hong Kong laws do not prescribe any minimum capital requirements for companies incorporated in Hong Kong.

According to the Company Law, shareholders may provide capital contribution in the form of money or non-monetary assets (other than assets not entitled to be used as capital contributions under relevant laws and administrative regulations). For non-monetary assets to be used as capital contributions, appraisals and assets verification must be carried out to ensure no overvaluation or under-valuation of the assets. There is no such restriction on a Hong Kong company under Hong Kong laws.

APPENDIX IV

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

Restrictions on Shareholding and Transfer of Shares

Under the PRC law, the Domestic Unlisted Shares, which are denominated and subscribed for in Renminbi, can only be subscribed for and traded by PRC investors, qualified overseas institutional investors or qualified overseas strategic investors. Overseas listed shares, which are denominated in Renminbi and subscribed for in a foreign currency, may only be subscribed for, and traded by, investors from countries and regions outside the PRC or other qualified PRC institutional investors. If the H Shares are eligible securities under the Southbound Trading Link, they are also available for subscription and trading by domestic investors in the PRC pursuant to the rules and restrictions of Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect or Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect.

According to the Company Law, shares in a joint stock limited company held by its directors and senior management transferred each year during their term of office shall not exceed 25% of the total shares they held in the company, and the shares they held in the company cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares, and also cannot be transferred within half a year after the said personnel has left office. The articles of association of a company may set other restrictive requirements on the transfer of a company’s shares held by, its directors and senior management of the company. There are no such restrictions on shareholdings and transfers of shares under Hong Kong laws apart from the six-month lockup on the company’s issue of shares and the 12-month lockup on controlling shareholders’ disposal of shares, as illustrated by the undertakings given by the Company and our Controlling Shareholders to the Stock Exchange.

Notice of General Meeting

According to the Company Law, notice of annual general meeting must be given not less than 20 days before the meeting, while notice of an extraordinary general meeting must be given not less than 15 days before the meeting. If a company has bearer shares, a public announcement of a general meeting must be made at least 30 days prior to the meeting. For a company incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability, the minimum period of notice of a general meeting is 14 days. Further, where a meeting involves consideration of a resolution requiring special notice, the company must also give its shareholders notice of the resolution at least 14 days before the meeting. The notice period for the annual general meeting is 21 days.

Quorum for General Meetings

The Company Law does not specify any quorum requirement for a general meeting. Under the Hong Kong laws, the quorum for a general meeting is two members unless the articles of association of the company otherwise provide or the company has only one member, in which case the quorum is one.

APPENDIX IV

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

Voting at General Meetings

According to the Company Law, the passing of any resolution requires more than half of the votes held by the shareholders present in person or by proxy. Amendments to the articles of association, change of corporate form, increase or decrease of registered capital and merger, division or dissolution must be approved by shareholders or proxies representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights being present in shareholders’ general meeting. Under the Hong Kong laws, (1) an ordinary resolution is passed by a simple majority of affirmative votes cast by members present in person or by proxy at a shareholders’ general meeting and (2) a special resolution is passed by not less than three-fourths of affirmative votes cast by members present in person or by proxy at a shareholders’ general meeting.

Variation of Class Rights

The Company Law has no special provision relating to variation of class rights. However, the Company Law states that the State Council can promulgate regulations relating to other kinds of shares. Under the Companies Ordinance, no rights attached to any class of shares can be varied except (1) with the passing of a special resolution by the shareholders of the relevant class at a separate meeting sanctioning the variation; (2) with the consent in writing of shareholders of at least three-fourths of the total voting rights of shareholders of the relevant class or (3) if there are provisions in the articles of association relating to the variation of those rights, then in accordance with those provisions.

Directors, Senior Management and Supervisors

The Company Law, unlike the Companies Ordinance, does not contain any requirements relating to the declaration of directors’ interests in material contracts, restrictions on directors’ authority in making major dispositions, restrictions on companies providing certain benefits to directors and guarantees in respect of directors’ liability and prohibitions against compensation for loss of office without shareholders’ approval.

Supervisory Committee

According to the Company Law, a joint stock limited company’s directors and senior management are subject to the supervision of a supervisory committee. There is no mandatory requirement for the establishment of a supervisory committee for a company incorporated in Hong Kong.

Derivative Action by Minority Shareholders

Hong Kong laws permit minority shareholders to initiate a derivative action on behalf of all shareholders against directors who have committed a breach of their fiduciary duties to the company if the directors control a majority of votes at a general meeting, thereby effectively preventing a company from suing the directors in breach of their duties in its own name.

According to the Company Law, if the directors and senior management of a joint stock limited company violate laws, administrative regulations or its articles of association, resulting in losses to the company, shareholders individually or jointly holding over 1% of the shares in the company for more than 180 consecutive days may request in writing the supervisory committee to initiate proceedings in the people’s court. If the supervisors violate the relevant provisions of the Company Law, the above

APPENDIX IV

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

shareholders may request in writing the board of directors to initiate litigation at the people’s court. Upon receipt of such written request from the shareholders, if the supervisory committee or the board of directors refuses to initiate such proceedings, or has not initiated proceedings within 30 days upon receipt of the request, or if under urgent situations, failure of initiating immediate proceeding may cause irremediable damages to the company, the above said shareholders shall, for the benefit of the company’s interests, have the right to initiate proceedings directly to the people’s court in their own name.

Protection of Minorities

The Company Law provides that any shareholders holding 10% or more of the voting rights of all issued shares of a company may request a People’s Court to dissolve the company to the extent that the operation or management of the company experiences any serious difficulties and the company continues to suffer serious losses and no other alternatives can resolve.

Under the Hong Kong laws, a shareholder who complains that the affairs of a company incorporated in Hong Kong are conducted in a manner unfairly prejudicial to his interests may petition to court to either wind up the company or make an appropriate order regulating the affairs of the company. In addition, on the application of a specified number of members, the Financial Secretary of Hong Kong may appoint inspectors who are given extensive statutory powers to investigate the affairs of a company incorporated in Hong Kong.

Financial Disclosure

According to the Company Law, a joint stock limited company is required to make available at the company for inspection by shareholders its financial report 20 days before its shareholders’ general meeting. In addition, a joint stock limited company of which the public offering Shares are offered must publish its financial report. The Hong Kong laws require a company incorporated in Hong Kong to send to every shareholder a copy of its financial report, auditors’ report and directors’ report, which are to be presented before the company in its annual general meeting, not less than 21 days before such meeting.

According to the Company Law, a company shall at the end of each accounting year prepare a financial report which shall be audited by the accounting firm in accordance with the laws.

Information on Directors and Shareholders

The Company Law gives shareholders the right to inspect the articles of association, minutes of the shareholders’ general meetings and financial and accounting reports. Under the Articles of Association, shareholders have the right to inspect certain information on shareholders and on directors similar to that available to shareholders of Hong Kong companies under the Hong Kong laws.

Receiving Agents

According to the Hong Kong laws, dividends once declared by the Board will become debts payable to shareholders. Under the Hong Kong laws, the limitation period for an action to demand repayment of a debt is six years, whereas the Civil Code of the PRC (《中華人民共和國民法典》) provides that the limitation period for an action to be taken is three years.

APPENDIX IV

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

Corporate Reorganization

Corporate reorganization involving a company incorporated in Hong Kong may be effected in a number of ways, such as a transfer of the whole or part of the business or property of the company in the course of voluntary winding up to another company pursuant to Section 237 of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance or a compromise or arrangement between the company and its creditors or between the company and its members pursuant to Section 673 and Section 674 of the Companies Ordinance, which requires the sanction of the court. In addition, subject to the shareholders’ approval, an intra-group wholly-owned subsidiary company may also be amalgamated horizontally or vertically under the Companies Ordinance. According to the Company Law, the merger, demerger, dissolution or change to the forms of a joint stock limited company has to be approved by shareholders at general meeting.

Statutory Deductions

According to the Company Law, a company shall draw 10% of the profits as its statutory reserve fund before it distributes any profits after taxation. When the aggregate amount of the company’s statutory reserve fund reaches 50% of the company’s registered capital, the company may no longer make allocations from the statutory reserve fund. After a company has made an allocation to its statutory reserve fund from its after-tax profit, it may make an allocation to its discretionary reserve fund from its after-tax profit upon a resolution approved at the shareholders’ general meeting. There are no such requirements under Hong Kong laws.

Remedies of Company

According to the Company Law, if a director, supervisor or senior management in carrying out his duties infringes any law, administrative regulation or the articles of association of a company, which results in damage to the company, that director, supervisor or senior management should be responsible to the company for such damages. The Listing Rules require listed companies’ articles of association to provide for remedies of the company similar to those available under Hong Kong laws (including rescission of the relevant contract and recovery of profits from a director, supervisor or senior management).

Dividend

The company has the power in certain circumstances to withhold, and pay to the relevant tax authorities, any tax payable under PRC law on any dividends or other distributions payable to a shareholder. Under Hong Kong laws, the limitation period for an action to recover a debt (including the recovery of declared dividends) is six years, whereas under PRC laws, the relevant limitation period is three years. The company shall not exercise its powers to forfeit any unclaimed dividend after the expiry of the applicable limitation period.

APPENDIX IV

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

Fiduciary Duties

In Hong Kong, there is the common law concept of the fiduciary duty of directors, including the duty not to act in conflict with the company’s interests. Furthermore, the Companies Ordinance has codified the directors’ statutory duty of care. Under the Company Law, directors, supervisors, managers and other senior management personnel of a company have the duty of loyalty and diligence to the company. Such persons shall abide by the articles of association of the company, perform their duties honestly and diligently, safeguard the interests of the company, and shall not use their position and authority in the company for their personal gain.

Closure of Register of Members

The Companies Ordinance requires that the register of shareholders of a company must not generally be closed for the registration of transfers of shares for more than 30 days (extendable to 60 days in certain circumstances) in a year, whereas, as required by the Company Law, share transfers shall not be registered within 20 days before the date of a general meeting or within five days before the base date set for the purpose of distribution of dividends.