



# China Industrial Securities International Financial Group Limited

興證國際金融集團有限公司

*(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)*

**(the “Company”)**

## TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

### 1 Membership

- (a) The audit committee (the “**Committee**”) shall be appointed by the board of Directors (the “**Board**”) from amongst the non-executive directors of the Company and shall consist of not less than three members, a majority of whom should be independent non-executive directors (the “**INEDs**”). At least one of the members must be an INED with appropriate professional qualifications or accounting or related financial management expertise as required under Rule 5.05(2) of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Growth Enterprises Market of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “**GEM Listing Rules**”). The constitution of the Committee shall comply with the requirements of the GEM Listing Rules from time to time.
- (b) The chairman of the Committee shall be an INED and a member of the Committee appointed by the Board.
- (c) A former partner of the Company’s existing auditing firm should be prohibited from acting as a member of the Committee for a period of one year from the date of his/her ceasing:
- (i) to be a partner of the firm; or
  - (ii) to have any financial interest in the firm,
- whichever is the later.

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### 2 Attendance at Meetings

- (a) Unless otherwise stated herein, the meetings of the Committee are governed by the provisions contained in the Company’s articles of association for regulating the meetings and proceedings of directors.
- (b) The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be two members, both of whom must be INEDs.
- (c) Subject to paragraph 4 below, the chairman of the Board, the chief financial officer and the head of internal audit and compliance (the “**IAC**”) of the Company shall normally attend meetings of the Committee. A representative of the external auditors shall be invited to attend the Committee meetings where appropriate. Other staff who have specific responsibility for an area under review may also be invited to attend.
- (d) The company secretary shall be the secretary of the Committee who should attend all meetings of the Committee.

- (e) Members of the Committee may participate in a meeting of the Committee by means of telephone conference or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other and participation in a meeting pursuant to this provision shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

### **3 Frequency of Meetings**

Meetings shall be held not less than four times a year. The external auditors or any members of the Committee may request a meeting if they consider that one is necessary and upon the receipt of such request, the secretary of the Committee shall convene such a meeting as soon as reasonably practicable and having regard to the convenience of all members with priority given to the INEDs.

### **4 Private Meetings**

The Committee may hold separate private meeting(s) with the internal auditors and/or the external auditors with no executive directors or senior management present whenever they think fit and appropriate.

### **5 Committee's Resolutions**

A resolution in writing signed by all the members of the Committee shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Committee and may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more of the members of Committee. Such resolution may be signed and circulated by fax or other electronic communications. This provision is without prejudice to any requirement under the GEM Listing Rules for a Board or Committee meeting to be held.

### **6 Authorities**

- (a) The Committee is authorised by the Board to investigate any activity within its terms of reference. It is authorised to seek any information it requires from any employee or executive director and such persons are directed to co-operate with any request made by the Committee.
- (b) The Committee is authorised by the Board, and at the reasonable expense of the Company, to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary.
- (c) The head of IAC of the Company shall report to the Committee in such form as is specified by the Committee.
- (d) The Committee shall report to the Board any suspected frauds or irregularities, failures of internal control or suspected infringements of laws, rules and regulations which come to its attention and are of sufficient importance to warrant the attention of the Board.

- (e) Where the Board disagrees with the Committee’s view on the selection, appointment, resignation or dismissal of the external auditors, the Company should include in the Corporate Governance Report of the Company a statement from the Committee explaining its recommendation and also the reasons why the Board has taken a different view.
- (f) The Committee is to be provided with sufficient resources to perform its duties.

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## 7 General Responsibilities

- (a) The Committee is to serve as a focal point for communication between other directors, the external auditors and the internal auditors as regards their duties relating to financial and other reporting, internal controls, external and internal audits and such other matters as the Board determines from time to time.
- (b) The Committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities by providing an independent review and supervision of financial reporting, by satisfying themselves as to the effectiveness of the internal controls of the Company and its subsidiaries (the “**Group**”), and as to the adequacy of the external and internal audits.
- (c) The Committee shall fulfill other responsibilities as required by the GEM Listing Rules from time to time.

## 8 Duties

The duties of the Committee shall be:

### Relationship with the Company’s auditors

- (a) to be primarily responsible for making recommendation to the Board on the appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditors, and to approve the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external auditors, and any questions of its resignation or dismissal;
- (b) to consider the plan for each year’s audit submitted by the external auditors and discuss the same at a meeting if necessary;
- (c) to review and monitor the external auditors’ independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process in accordance with the applicable standard. In this connection, the Committee shall:
  - (i) obtain from the external auditors annually, information about policies and processes for maintaining independence and monitoring compliance with relevant requirements, including those for rotation of audit partners and staff;
  - (ii) consider all relationships between the Company and the external auditors and in particular, to conduct annual review of all non-audit services performed by the external auditors and the related fee levels, and to ensure that such services do not impair the independence of the external auditors;

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Note 1(ii)

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Note 1(i)

- (iii) meet with the external auditors, at least annually, in the absence of management, to discuss matters relating to its audit fees, any issues arising from the audit and any other matters the external auditors may wish to raise; GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.3 Note 1(iii)
- (iv) consider the policies on hiring of employees or former employees of the external auditors, monitor the application of these policies and consider whether there has been or appears to be any impairment, of the auditors' judgment or independence for the audit; and GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.3 Note 2
- (v) ensure that an external auditor's provision of non-audit services does not impair its independence or objectivity. When assessing the external auditor's independence or objectivity in relation to non-audit services, the Committee shall consider: GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.3 Note 3
  - (i) whether the skills and experience of the audit firm make it a suitable supplier of non-audit services;
  - (ii) whether there are safeguards in place to ensure that there is no threat to the objectivity and independence of the audit because the external auditor provides non-audit services;
  - (iii) the nature of the non-audit services, the related fee levels and fee levels individually and in total relative to the audit firm; and
  - (iv) criteria for the compensation of the individuals performing the audit.
- (d) to discuss with the auditors the nature and scope of the audit and reporting obligations before the audit commences; GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.3 (b)
- (e) to develop and implement policy on engaging the external auditors to supply non-audit services. For this purpose, external auditors include any entity that is under common control, ownership or management with the audit firm or any entity that a reasonable and informed third party knowing all relevant information would reasonably conclude to be part of the audit firm nationally or internationally. The Committee should report to the Board, identifying and making recommendations on any matters where action or improvement is needed; GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.3(c)

Review of the Company's financial information

- (f) to monitor integrity of the Company's financial statements and annual report and accounts, half-year report and quarterly reports, and to review significant financial reporting judgments contained in them. In reviewing these reports before submission to the Board, the Committee should focus particularly on: GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.3(d)
  - (i) any changes in accounting policies and practices;
  - (ii) major judgmental areas;
  - (iii) significant adjustments resulting from audit;
  - (iv) the going concern assumptions and any qualifications;

- (v) compliance with accounting standards; and
- (vi) compliance with requirements under the GEM Listing Rules and other regulatory and legal requirements in relation to financial reporting.
- (g) regarding (f) above:
  - (i) members of the Committee should liaise with the Board and senior management and the Committee must meet, at least twice a year, with the Company's external auditors; and
  - (ii) the Committee should consider any significant or unusual items that are, or may need to be, reflected in the report and accounts and should give due consideration to any matters that have been raised by the Company's staff responsible for the accounting and financial reporting function, compliance officer or auditors;

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*Oversight of the Company's financial reporting system, risk management and internal control systems*

- (h) to review the Company's financial controls, and unless expressly addressed by a separate board risk committee, or by the board itself, to review the company's risk management and internal control systems;
- (i) to discuss the risk management and internal control systems with management to ensure that management has performed its duty to have an effective systems. This discussion should include the adequacy of resources, staff qualifications and experience, training programmes and budget of the Company's accounting and financial reporting function;
- (j) to consider major investigation findings on risk management and internal control matters as delegated by the Board or on its own initiative and management's response to these findings;
- (k) to ensure co-ordination between the internal and external auditors, and to ensure that the internal audit function is adequately resourced and has appropriate standing within the Company, and to review and monitor its effectiveness;
- (l) to review the Group's financial and accounting policies and practices;
- (m) to discuss any problems and reservations arising from the interim and final audits, and any matters the external auditors may wish to discuss (in the absence of management where necessary) and to assist in the resolution of any disagreements or difference between the external auditors and management;
- (n) to review the external auditors' management letter, any material queries raised by the auditor to management about accounting records, financial accounts or systems of control and management's response;
- (o) to ensure that the Board will provide a timely response to the issues raised in the external auditors' management letter;

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- (p) to report to the Board on the above matters; GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.3(m)
- (q) to review arrangements employees of the Company can use, in confidence, to raise concerns about possible improprieties in financial reporting, internal control or other matters; and to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for fair and independent investigation of these matters and for appropriate follow-up action; GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.7(a)
- (r) to act as the key representative body for overseeing the Company's relations with the external auditor; GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.7(b)
- (s) to establish a whistleblowing policy and system for employees and those who deal with the Company (e.g. customers and suppliers) to raise concerns, in confidence, with the Committee about possible improprieties in any matter related to the Company; GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 Recommended Best Practice C.3.8
- (t) to consider other topics, as defined by the Board; and GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.3(n)
- (u) ensure the chairman of the Committee, or in the absence of the chairman, another member of the Committee or failing this his duly appointed delegate, to be available to answer questions at the annual meeting of the Company. GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 E.1.2

## 9 Reporting Procedures

- (a) The Committee shall report to the Board. At the next meeting of the Board following a meeting of the Committee, the Chairman of the Committee shall report the findings and recommendations of the Committee to the Board.
- (b) Full minutes of Committee meetings shall be kept by the secretary of the Committee. Draft and final versions of minutes of the meetings shall be sent to all Committee members for their comment and records within a reasonable time after the meeting. GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.1
- (c) Copies of the minutes of meetings of the Committee shall be provided to the Board at its meetings.

## 10 Availability and Update of the Terms of Reference

These terms of reference shall be updated and revised as and when necessary in light of changes in circumstances and changes in regulatory requirements (e.g. the GEM Listing Rules) in Hong Kong. These terms of reference shall be made available to the public by including the information on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited's GEM website and the Company's website. GEM Listing Rules Appendix 15 C.3.4