

ROYALE FURNITURE HOLDINGS LIMITED (Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

Stock code: 1198



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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Royale Furniture Holdings Limited (the "Company"), together with its subsidiaries (the "Group"), is pleased to present this Environmental, Social and Governance Report (the "Report") to provide an overview of the Group's management on significant issues affecting the operation, and the performance of the Group in terms of environmental and social aspects. This Report is prepared by the Group with the professional assistance of APAC Compliance Consultancy and Internal Control Services Limited.

Preparation basis and scope

This Report is prepared in accordance with Appendix 27 to the rules governing the listing of securities (the "Listing Rules") on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") – "Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide" and has complied with "comply or explain" provision in the Listing Rules.

This Report summarises the performance of the Group in respect of corporate social responsibility, covering its operating activities which are considered as material by the Group – manufacture and sale of furniture in the People's Republic of China (the "PRC"). With the aim to optimise and improve the disclosure requirements in the Report, the Group has taken initiative to formulate policies, record relevant data, implement and monitor measures. This Report shall be published both in Chinese and English on the website of Stock Exchange. Should there be any discrepancy between the Chinese and the English versions, the English version shall prevail.

Reporting period

This Report demonstrates our sustainability initiatives during the reporting period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

Contact information

The Group welcomes your feedback on this Report for our sustainability initiatives. Please contact us by email to info@chitaly.com.hk.

INTRODUCTION

Established in 1997, with production bases in the heart of Guangdong's Pearl River delta, the Group has been one of the topselling home furniture brands and a nationally recognised brand in the PRC. We specialise in the production of different types of furniture, from panel-based and solid wood products, to sofas, upholstery, hotel furniture and mattresses. We value excellence and endeavour to provide all our business partners with world-class services. In recognition of quality products and excellent services, the Group was awarded with "2017–2018年度廣東家居業工匠精神領軍企業金尖獎" and "2017年度品牌獎影響力品牌" during the reporting period.

Currently, the Group regards sustainability as an important direction for development. The Group is committed to environmental and social responsibilities. The Group acknowledges the importance of responsible operation manner for the environment and community. We strive for excellence to make the right choices to serve the long-term interests of all our stakeholders, from customers, business partners and shareholders, to employees, local communities and society at large. Various policies are established to help us manage and monitor the risks related to environment, employment, operating practices and community. Details of the management approaches to sustainable development of different areas have been illustrated in this Report.

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

The Group recognises that stakeholders, including employees, customers and business partners, are keys to its sustainable development. The Group is committed to establishing a close and caring relationship with stakeholders by continuous communication. The following table provides an overview of the Group's key stakeholders and the various platforms of communication used to respond to their concerns.

Stakeholders	Issues of concern	Engagement channels
Government	 Compliance with laws and regulations Proper tax payment Promote regional economic development and employment 	 On-site inspections and checks Research and discussion through work conferences, work reports preparation and submission for approval Annual reports and other published information on website
Shareholders and Investors	 Return on the investment Transparent disclosure of information Protection of interests and fair treatment of shareholders 	 Annual general meeting and other shareholder meetings Annual report, announcements and other published information Meeting with investors and analysts
Employees	 Safeguard the rights and interests of employees Career development opportunities Health and safety 	 Conference Training, seminars and briefing sessions Cultural and sport activities Intranet and emails
Customers	 Safe and high-quality products Stable relationship Information transparency Business ethics After-sales services 	 Website, brochures and annual reports Email and customer service hotline Customer feedback forms Regular meetings
Suppliers/ Business Partners	 Long-term partnership Honest cooperation Fair, open tendering process Risk reduction 	 Business meetings, supplier conferences, phone calls and interviews Regular meeting Review and assessment Tendering process
Peers/Industry associations	Experience sharing and cooperationFair competition	Industry conferenceSite visits
Public and communities	 Community involvement Social responsibilities 	 Volunteering Charity and social investment

Emissions

As a manufacturer, the Group recognises that it has obligation to reduce the operation impact on environment. The Group is committed to continuously improving the environmental sustainability and ensuring environmental consideration remains one of the top priorities in the operation. The Group has established a set of management system on environmental protection, including "Environmental Facilities Operation and Management System" to monitor all the emissions, including air pollutants, solid wastes and wastewater. Our environmental management system meets regulatory requirements and has ISO 14001:2015 environmental management system accreditation.

The Group is subject to various environmental laws and regulations set by the PRC national, provincial and municipal governments. These include regulations on air and noise pollutions and discharge of waste and water. Compliance procedures are in place to ensure adherence to applicable laws, rules and regulations. For example, the Group has obtained emission permit from Guangdong Environmental Protection Department (廣東省污染物排放許可証) for legal air pollutants, noise and wastewater emissions. During the reporting period, the Group had no non-compliance regarding environmental issues, including air and noise emissions and waste discharge.

Air pollutants emission

Air pollutants emission control is essential to mitigate the impact on environment and to protect employees' health. Our major air pollutants are generated from furniture manufacturing process. All the exhaust gas emission must comply with "Emission limits of air pollutants (DB44/27-2001)"《大氣污染物排放標準》(DB44/27-2001) and "Emission standard of volatile organic compounds for furniture manufacturing operations (DB44/814-2010)"《家居製造行業揮發性有機化合物排放標準》(DB44/814-2010).

The Group has taken initiatives to formulate plans to remediate air pollutants emission. For example, the Group has engaged qualified environmental testing company to carry out regular testing to ensure the air pollutants emission complies with relevant national standards. Dust collectors are installed to reduce dust emission during wood cutting and drilling. To reduce the emission of volatile organic compounds ("VOCs"), water curtain spraying booth is adopted. VOCs are treated with activated carbon before emission.

The air pollutants emission during the reporting period is as follows:

Air Pollutants	Unit	Total
Nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	kg	4,182.77
Sulfur dioxide (SO ₂)	kg	91.37
Particulate matter (PM)	kg	471.98

Greenhouse gas ("GHG") emission

The Group recognises that climate change can pose a risk to its business and it is committed to mitigating the effects of climate change. GHG is considered as one of the major contributors to climate change. The Group has a large greenery area to increase oxygen content and mitigate carbon dioxide emission. Besides, as the majority of GHG emission of the Group comes from energy consumption, the Group tackles its carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption. Policies and procedures (as mentioned in the section "Use of Resources") to encourage energy saving are incorporated throughout the manufacturing process in order to reduce the GHG emission.

The GHG emission during the reporting period is as follows:

GHG Emission	Unit	Total
Scope 1 ¹	tonnes of $\rm CO_2$ -e	763.70
Scope 2 ²	tonnes of $\rm CO_2$ -e	7,028.38
Total GHG emission	tonnes of CO ₂ -e	7,792.08
GHG intensity	tonnes of CO ₂ -e/unit of production	0.02

¹ Scope 1: Direct emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the Group.

² Scope 2: Indirect emissions from the purchased electricity consumed by the Group.

Solid waste management

Wastes generated are classified and handled with care to mitigate environmental impact. Wastes are categorised into hazardous waste, production waste and domestic waste by the Group. Each type of waste has specific handling procedure.

For hazardous waste, it is handled according to "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste" 《中華人民共和國固體廢物污染環境防治法》. The Group has engaged a qualified waste collector to handle and collect the hazardous waste produced so as to minimise the impact on environment.

For production wastes, they are mainly the wood and packaging materials generated from the production process. Almost all of them are recycled or sold to recycling company.

For domestic waste, it is the waste generated from staff quarters and offices. The Group promotes waste sorting. Domestic wastes are collected and handled by the local environment and hygiene department.

During the reporting period, the wastes generated by the Group are as follows:

Wastes	Unit	Total
Hazardous waste		
Residual paint waste	tonnes	0.1
Waste iron container for paints (18 litres size)	tonnes	0.1
Waste light tube	tonnes	0.0075
Total hazardous waste	tonnes	0.2075
Hazardous waste intensity	kg/unit of production	0.0005
Non-hazardous waste		
Production waste	tonnes	9.00
Domestic waste	tonnes	43.00
Total non-hazardous waste	tonnes	52.00
Non-hazardous waste intensity	kg/unit of production	0.13

Wastewater

The Group has wastewater treatment facility to ensure the wastewater discharged complies with "Discharge Limits of Water Pollutants (DB44/26-2001)"《水污染物排放限值》(DB44/26-2001). The Group has engaged qualified environmental testing company to carry out regular testing on the wastewater discharged. Wastewater is strictly forbidden to be mixed with rainwater. Wastewater discharge and rainwater collection systems are separately managed.

Noise

During furniture manufacture process, noise and vibration are inevitably generated by the use of machines. We strive to minimise noise produced and disturbances to the nearby through sound insulation, sound absorption and vibration reduction. For example, we choose to use low-noise equipment. All the noise emission must comply with "Emission standard for industrial enterprises noise at boundary (GB12348-2008)"《工業企業廠界環境噪聲排放標準》(GB12348-2008).

Use of resources

The Group has adopted a set of guidelines to achieve efficient use of energy, water and other materials for long-term sustainability.

Energy

To manage energy use and reduce energy consumption, the Group has established "Energy Resources Control Procedure" (能源 資源控制程序). The Group believes that increasing environmental awareness is the basis for energy reduction initiative. The Group carries out educational activities in order to enhance employees' energy-saving awareness. Every employee has the responsibility to save energy, they are encouraged to switch off all the electronic appliances when leaving the office.

Besides, we explore energy-saving measure in production process by choosing energy-saving equipment. Energy efficiency performance of the machines is one of the key considerations for procurement department when buying new equipment. We will consistently seek ways to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption in our operation in future. For example, low-efficient equipment will be phased out gradually.

During the reporting period, the energy consumption of the Group is as follows:

Energy	Unit	Total
Purchased electricity	MWh	10,453.32
Petrol	MWh	998.12
Diesel	MWh	1,409.80
Total energy consumption	MWh	12,861.24
Energy intensity	MWh/unit of production	0.03

Water

Water is another important natural resource. For saving water, water taps should be turned off right after using. Running, dripping and long-flowing water are avoided. Water pipes are checked regularly to identify any cracks or leakage to prevent water wastage.

During the reporting period, the water consumption of the Group is as follows:

Water	Unit	Total
Total water consumption	m ³	101,931.60
Water intensity	m³/unit of production	0.25

Packaging materials

The major packaging materials used in our furniture manufacturing business are expanded polystyrene foam, expanded polyethylene foam and paper box. The consumption of these materials by the Group is summarised as below.

Packaging Materials	Unit	Total
Expanded polystyrene foam	tonnes	120.00
Expanded polyethylene foam	tonnes	60.00
Paper box	tonnes	170.00
Total packaging materials	tonnes	350.00
Intensity	kg/unit of production	0.88

The environment and natural resources

As a furniture manufacturer, our manufacturing activities involve the consumption of valuable natural resource which is wood. To show our commitment in protecting forest and mitigating environmental impacts, the Group has obtained Chain of Custody Certification from Forest Stewardship Council. This certification demonstrates that our forest-based materials and products are originated from well-managed forests, controlled sources and reclaimed materials.

Apart from Chain of Custody Certification, our products are also certified with China Environmental Labelling (中國環境標誌) and China Ecolabelling (中國環保產品認証). These certifications show that our products meet the specific national requirement of environmental protection during production process. They have environmental advantage of low toxicity, low harm and saving resources when comparing with other similar products.

Employment and labour practices

Employment

The Group recognises that employee is the most important asset. Hence, we are committed to establishing a close relationship with our employees and providing a favourable working environment where our employees can thrive. We have established a set of human resources management policies in order to comply with relevant labour laws and regulations including Labour Law of the PRC. During the reporting period, no non-compliance regarding employment was noted.

Equal Opportunities

The Group strives to create a diverse and equitable workplace where all individuals are treated equally in every aspect of their employment. For example, our hiring process is unbiased. The candidates are selected solely based on their performance, experience and skills. We have zero tolerance to any discriminatory act or harassment based on gender, age, nationality, race, religion, marital status and physical ability, etc.

Competitive Employment Terms

The Group is committed to offering competitive remuneration and benefits in attracting, retaining and motivating high performing employees. The Group's remuneration policies are in line with local market practices where the Group operates and are normally reviewed on an annual basis. In addition to salary payments, there are other staff benefits including provident fund, medical insurance and performance related bonus. Share options may also be granted to eligible employees or persons of the Group.

Work-life Balance

The Group recognises that a proper balance between work and rest can help employees to release their full potential. Hence, the Group is dedicated to help employees to maintain a work-life balance through reasonable contractual working hours and vacation entitlements. Employees are entitled to statutory holidays, paid annual leave, marriage leave and maternity leave, etc. to balance their work and life.

As at 31 December 2017, the total number of employees of the Group was 2,268 (2016: 2,561). Below is the detailed breakdown of the number of employees by gender, age group, employment category and geographical region.



Number of Employees by Employment Category



Number of Employees by Age Group





Turnover Rate	Unit	2017	2016
By gender			
• Male	%	28	16
• Female	%	14	18
By age group			
• Age 30 or below	%	31	28
• Age 31-40	%	24	16
• Age 41-50	%	12	8
Age 51 or above	%	26	8
By geographical region			
The PRC	%	23	17
• Hong Kong	%	-	-
Overall	%	23	17

The employees turnover rate during the reporting year by gender, age group and geographical region are as follows:

Health and safety

Upholding the belief that safety is the first priority in our workplace, we are committed to providing a healthy and safe working environment for all our employees by establishing a comprehensive "Safety Production and Occupational Health Working System" (安全生產與職業衞生工作制度). Our safety management system for furniture production meets regulatory requirements and has received OHSAS 18001:2007 occupational health and safety management accreditation. The Group complies with related health and safety laws and regulations such as "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Occupational Diseases". During the reporting period, the Group was not aware of any non-compliance with laws and regulations related to health and safety.

Cares for employees

The Group cares about employees' health and safety. We believe that safety education is essential to ensure employees are wellequipped with knowledge and skills to handle the machineries. For example, safety training is arranged for every new employee to raise their awareness of emergency responses and procedures. Apart from training, all employees are informed with the potential occupational hazards in workplace by signing "Occupational Hazards Notification" (職業危害因素告知書) before working with us.

We provide employees with necessary protective equipment such as helmets, masks, gloves, safety shoes, goggles, etc to minimise the risks of work-related injuries during operation. The protective equipment and machineries are checked regularly for maintenance to prevent deterioration that may lead to incident. We also arrange pre-placement body checks for new employees and annual body checks for existing employees. Occupational hazards assessment is conducted regularly by qualified third party to detect and evaluate the occupational hazards in workplace.

During the reporting period, there were 47 (2016: 15) employees injured and 653 (2016: 451) lost days due to work-related injuries. There was no fatality case (2016: nil). The Group will continue to improve the safety management system in order to protect employees' health and safety in workplace.

Development and training

The Group considers the development of employees as a key contributor to the success of sustainable growth of the Group. We recognise changes take place in the market and industry which necessitate continuous learning of employees. The Group's "Training Management System" (培訓管理制度) is in place to provide training for employees to improve their knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour. In general, internal and external trainings are provided for employees. Internal training includes orientation training for new employees and on-the-job training for existing employees conducted by human resources department and individual department. For external training, the Group arranges trainings for employees in professional institutions based on operation and management needs. The trainings are provided through different means, including lectures, media and site visits.

During the reporting period, we have launched a series of training programmes for our employees as below:

- Warehouse planning and management training was provided for staff working in warehouse.
- Orientation training for new employees was organised to help them to understand the corporate culture and their job duties.

Assessment is conducted after the training for the Group to understand the effectiveness of the training and performance of the employees. The Group's human resources department is responsible for formulating annual training plan in accordance with the Group's development objectives and employees' needs. The plan is reviewed regularly with reference to the employees' feedback and assessment to ensure continuous improvement. All employees have equal access to training and development opportunities. The detailed breakdown of the percentage of employees trained and the average training hours by gender and employee category during the reporting period are as follows:

Employees trained	Unit	2017	2016
By gender			
• Male	%	94	99
• Female	%	97	97
By employee category			
Senior management	%	63	100
Middle management	%	58	95
• General	%	100	98

Average training hours	Unit	2017	2016
By gender			
• Male	hours per employee	20.43	94.55
• Female	hours per employee	23.24	93.47
By employee category			
Senior management	hours per employee	15.20	96.00
Middle management	hours per employee	14.06	91.20
• General	hours per employee	22.32	94.32

Labour standards

The Group respects human rights and strives to prohibit the use of child and forced labour in its operation. According to "Recruitment Management" (聘用管理) section in the staff handbook, only candidates aged 18 or above are provided with equal employment opportunities. Candidates are required to give identity proof for verification to prevent child labour recruitment. Apart from prohibition of child labour, the Group also upholds the elimination of forced labour. All works should be performed voluntarily and shall not involve forced labour. Our suppliers and other business partners are expected to follow the same standard of labour practices when working with us.

The Group strictly complies with Labour Law of the PRC and Labour Contract Law of the PRC. During the reporting period, the Group was not aware of any non-compliance in relation to child and forced labour in its operation.

Operating practices

Supply chain management

The Group relies on suppliers to supply different raw materials for furniture manufacture, including woods, paints, etc. We are aware of the potential environmental and social risks associated with our supply chain. In order to manage and mitigate these risks, the Group has implemented "Procurement Department Management System" (採購部管理制度). We select suppliers carefully and maintain stable relationship with qualified suppliers through strict selection criteria and supplier assessment.

Selection criteria

The Group chooses suppliers based on a list of criteria, including compliance and raw material price. On-site inspection is carried out during the selection process to assess the scale of production, production management, productivity and quality control of suppliers. We also strive to work with suppliers with environmental, quality and social certifications, such as ISO 14001 environmental management and ISO 9001 quality management. Suppliers with the highest performance-to-price ratio and the best overall performance would be selected.

Every supplier needs to sign an environmental quality commitment (環保質量承諾書) on taking environmental responsibility before starting the cooperation with us. This is to ensure that the raw materials supplied should meet relevant national standards to reduce the impact on the environment and our customers.

Supplier assessment

The Group undertakes regular review on supply chain to ensure the product quality and environmental performance of suppliers meet our expected standards. Annual assessment is carried out to evaluate the suppliers' performances on supply stability, product quality and after-sales services. The Group maintains a long-term relationship with suppliers based on the results of annual assessment.

Product responsibility

As one of the top-selling home furniture brands in the PRC, maintaining a high-quality product standard is the utmost importance for the Group's sustainable growth. Apart from pursuing product quality, the Group understands that our consumers are increasingly concerned with choosing products that are responsibly sourced and made. The Group and its products have attained the following certifications and awards which recognised our effort in achieving product environmental and social responsibility while upholding product quality during the reporting period.

- 2017中國家居業質量提升行動質量品牌5A級示範企業-全國工商聯家具裝飾業商會
- Product Quality Verification (品質驗証) China Quality Testing Alliance (中檢華納(比京)質量技術中心)
- Ergonomics Product Certification (人類工效學產品認証) China Quality Mark Certification Group (方圓標誌認証集團)
- Chain of Custody Certification Forest Stewardship Council
- China Ecolabelling (中國環保產品認証) China Quality Certification Centre (中國質量認証中心)
- China Environmental Labelling (中國環境標誌) China Environmental United (Beijing) Certification Center (中環聯合(北京)認 証中心)

The Group is in strict compliance with the laws and regulations related to product responsibility, including Product Quality Law of the PRC, Trademark Law of the PRC and Advertising Law of the PRC. During the reporting period, we had no violation record on relevant laws and regulations that had significant impact on the Group relating to product responsibility issues.

Quality Management

The Group has established "Quality Control Process Management Procedure" (品質控制過程管理程序) to maintain product quality. Our product quality management system for furniture production meets regulatory requirements and has ISO 9001:2015 quality management system certification. Inspections are carried out in different stages of the production line, including the testing on raw materials, semi-finished products and finished products to ensure high product quality. Procedures for control of nonconforming products (不合格品控制程序) shall apply to protect our customers against safety risks for any products which are inspected to be unqualified. Analysis are carried out for quality improvement.

Complaint Handling

The Group adheres to stringent customer compliant operational procedures as stipulated in "Customer (Distributor) Complaint Handling System" (客戶(經銷商)問題處理制度) to ensure the customers' opinions are handled and responded. All customers' complaints are considered and carefully followed up by responsible departments within a reasonable timeframe. Relevant investigation is taken and improvement measure is implemented to improve the product and service quality and customer experience. During the reporting period, there were 3 (2016: 2) complaints received. The Group believes that complaints are valuable opportunities to obtain feedback from customers so as to identify the need for quality and policy improvements.

Customer Data Protection

The Group takes privacy issues seriously. According to the staff handbook, we have established "Confidentiality System" (保密制度) in order to demonstrate our firm commitment to privacy issue. The system provides guidance to employees on data control and usage. We limit the collection and use of personal information to that which is necessary to administer our business, and the collected data are accessible by authorised personnel only. Documents containing confidential information are required to be kept with the strictest standards of security and confidentiality. During the reporting period, no substantial complaints regarding breaches of customer data and privacy were received.

Anti-corruption

The Group operates with a high standard of integrity and ethics. Our commitment to preventing any forms of corruption is stipulated in the "Integrity System" (廉政制度), which can be found in our staff handbook. The Group strictly prohibits employees to solicit and accept advantages without prior approval by the Group. Every employee is required and has the responsibility to adhere to this system. We take disciplinary actions to combat against any violation of this system. Our customers and suppliers are expected to follow the same standards when working with us.

The Group strictly complies with laws and regulations related to anti-corruption, including Criminal Law of the PRC and Customs Law of the PRC. During the reporting period, there was no legal case regarding corrupt practices brought against the Group or its employees.

Community

Community investment

As a socially responsible company, the Group is committed to supporting the community by implementing related policies and participating in different community activities. Contribution to and maintaining harmonious relationship with the community in the region of operation are crucial for the sustainable development of the Group. We believe that this can nurture great corporate culture and practices in the Group. During the reporting period, we actively and continually took part in community activities and encouraged our employees to participate in these activities.

Serving the Underprivileged Students

At the beginning of year 2017, the Group partnered with a service group in Jinan University (暨南大學旭日青年志願者服務隊), which focuses on serving the schools in underprivileged areas of the PRC, to serve in Ruoguo school (篛過小學). We sent materials to improve the learning environment in the school and provided the students with teaching assistance services in subjects including art, music and sports. We strive to support our next generation by strengthening the operation between schools and enterprises.

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