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This section sets forth a summary of the most significant rules and regulations that affect our business activities in China.

Regulations Relating to Foreign Investment

Investment activities in the PRC by foreign investors are principally governed by the Catalog of Industries for Encouraging Foreign Investment, or the Encouraging Catalog, and the Special Management Measures (Negative List) for the Access of Foreign Investment, or the Negative List which were promulgated and are amended from time to time by the Ministry of Commerce, or MOFCOM, and the National Development and Reform Commission, or NDRC, and together with the FIL and their respective implementation rules and ancillary regulations. The Encouraging Catalog and the Negative List lay out the basic framework for foreign investment in China, classifying businesses into three categories with regard to foreign investment: “encouraged”, “restricted” and “prohibited”. Industries not listed in the Catalog are generally deemed as falling into a fourth category “permitted” unless specifically restricted by other PRC laws.

On June 30, 2019, MOFCOM and the NDRC released the Catalog of Industries for Encouraging Foreign Investment (2019 Version) (《鼓勵外商投資產業目錄(2019年版)》) and the Special Management Measures (Negative List) for the Access of Foreign Investment (2019 Version) (《外商投資准入特別管理措施(負面清單)(2019年版)》), or the 2019 Negative List, which became effective on July 30, 2019, to replace the previous encouraging catalog and negative list thereunder. Each of Jingdong Century and Shanghai Shengdayuan primarily engages in the online wholesale and retail of products, the development of computer network technology, technical consultancy and technical services, which are in the permitted category.

On March 15, 2019, the National People’s Congress promulgated the FIL, which has become effective on January 1, 2020 and replaced the Outgoing FIE Laws. The FIL, by means of legislation, establishes the basic framework for the access, promotion, protection and administration of foreign investment in view of investment protection and fair competition.

According to the FIL, foreign investment shall enjoy pre-entry national treatment, except for those foreign invested entities that operate in industries deemed to be either “restricted” or “prohibited” in the “negative list.” The FIL provides that foreign invested entities operating in foreign “restricted” or “prohibited” industries will require entry clearance and other approvals. The FIL does not comment on the concept of “de facto control” or contractual arrangements with variable interest entities, however, it has a catch-all provision under definition of “foreign investment” to include investments made by foreign investors in China through means stipulated by laws or administrative regulations or other methods prescribed by the State Council. Therefore, it still leaves leeway for future laws, administrative regulations or provisions to provide for contractual arrangements as a form of foreign investment. See “Risk Factors—Our current corporate structure and business operations may be affected by the 2019 PRC Foreign Investment Law.”

The FIL also provides several protective rules and principles for foreign investors and their investments in the PRC, including, among others, that local governments shall abide by their commitments to the foreign investors; foreign-invested enterprises are allowed to issue stocks and corporate bonds; except for special circumstances, in which case statutory procedures shall be followed and fair and reasonable compensation shall be made in a timely manner, expropriate or requisition the investment of foreign investors is prohibited; mandatory technology transfer is prohibited, allows

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foreign investors' funds to be freely transferred out and into the territory of PRC, which run through the entire lifecycle from the entry to the exit of foreign investment, and provide an all-around and multi-angle system to guarantee fair competition of foreign-invested enterprises in the market economy. In addition, foreign investors or the foreign investment enterprise should be imposed legal liabilities for failing to report investment information in accordance with the requirements. Furthermore, the FIL provides that foreign invested enterprises established according to the existing laws regulating foreign investment may maintain their structure and corporate governance within five years after the implementing of the FIL, which means that foreign invested enterprises may be required to adjust the structure and corporate governance in accordance with the current PRC Company Law (《中華人民共和國公司法》) and other laws and regulations governing the corporate governance.

On December 26, 2019, the State Council promulgated the Implementation Rules to the PRC Foreign Investment Law (《中華人民共和國外商投資法實施條例》), which became effective on January 1, 2020. The implementation rules further clarified that the state encourages and promotes foreign investment, protects the lawful rights and interests of foreign investors, regulates foreign investment administration, continues to optimize foreign investment environment, and advances a higher-level opening.

On December 30, 2019, MOFCOM and the SAMR, jointly promulgated the Measures for Information Reporting on Foreign Investment (《外商投資信息報告辦法》), which became effective on January 1, 2020. Pursuant to the Measures for Information Reporting on Foreign Investment, where a foreign investor carries out investment activities in China directly or indirectly, the foreign investor or the foreign-invested enterprise shall submit the investment information to the competent commerce department.

Foreign Investment in Value-Added Telecommunications Businesses. The Regulations for Administration of Foreign-invested Telecommunications Enterprises (《外商投資電信企業管理規定》) promulgated by the State Council in December 2001 and subsequently amended in September 2008 and February 2016 set forth detailed requirements with respect to capitalization, investor qualifications and application procedures in connection with the establishment of a foreign-invested telecommunications enterprise. These regulations prohibit a foreign entity from owning more than 50% of the total equity interest in any value-added telecommunications service business in China and require the major foreign investor in any value-added telecommunications service business in China have a good and profitable record and operating experience in this industry. However, the 2019 Negative List allows foreign investors to hold more than 50% equity interests in a value-added telecommunications service provider engaging in e-commerce, domestic multiparty communication, storage-and-forward and call center businesses. Since the 2019 Negative List was recently amended, there exist uncertainties with respect to its interpretation and implementation by authorities. Due to these regulations, we operate our *www.jd.com* website through Jingdong 360, one of our consolidated variable interest entities.

In July 2006, the Ministry of Information Industry, the predecessor of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, or the MIIT, issued the Circular on Strengthening the Administration of Foreign Investment in the Operation of Value-added Telecommunications Business (《關於加強外商投資經營增值電信業務管理的通知》), pursuant to which a PRC domestic company that holds an operating license for value-added telecommunications business, which we refer to as a Value-added Telecommunication License, or a VAT License, is prohibited from leasing, transferring or selling the VAT License to foreign investors in any form and from providing any assistance, including resources,

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sites or facilities, to foreign investors that conduct a value-added telecommunications business illegally in the PRC. Further, the domain names and registered trademarks used by an operating company providing value-added telecommunications services must be legally owned by that company or its shareholders. In addition, the company's operational premises and equipment must comply with the approved coverage region on its VAT License, and the company must establish and improve its internal internet and information security policies and standards and emergency management procedures. If a VAT License holder fails to comply with the requirements and also fails to remedy such non-compliance within a specified period of time, the MIIT or its local counterparts have the discretion to take administrative measures against the license holder, including revoking its VAT License. Jingdong 360, the operator of our *www.jd.com* website, owns the relevant domain names and registered trademarks and has the necessary personnel to operate the website.

Licenses and Permits

We are required to hold a variety of licenses and permits in connection with various aspects of our business, including the following:

Value-added Telecommunication License. The Telecommunications Regulations (《電信條例》) promulgated by the State Council and its related implementation rules, including the Catalog of Classification of Telecommunications Business (《電信業務分類目錄》) issued by the MIIT, categorize various types of telecommunications and telecommunications-related activities into basic or value-added telecommunications services, and internet information services, or ICP services, are classified as value-added telecommunications businesses. Under the Telecommunications Regulations, commercial operators of value-added telecommunications services must first obtain a VAT License from the MIIT or its provincial level counterparts. Pursuant to the Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services (《互聯網信息服務管理辦法》) promulgated by the State Council in 2000 and amended in 2011, a commercial ICP service operator must obtain an ICP License from the relevant government authorities before engaging in any commercial ICP service in China. When the ICP service involves areas of news, publication, education, medical treatment, health, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and if required by law or relevant regulations, specific approval from the respective regulatory authorities must be obtained prior to applying for the ICP License from the MIIT or its provincial level counterpart. In 2017, the MIIT replaced the Administrative Measures on Telecommunications Business Operating Licenses (《電信業務經營許可管理辦法》) promulgated in 2009 by promulgating the Administrative Measures on Telecommunications Business Operating Licenses (《電信業務經營許可管理辦法》), which set forth more specific provisions regarding the types of licenses required to operate value-added telecommunications services, the qualifications and procedures for obtaining such licenses and the administration and supervision of such licenses. Jingdong 360, as our ICP operator, holds an ICP License issued by the Beijing Telecommunications Administration for the provision of information services through the internet, a VAT License issued by Beijing Telecommunication Administration for the provision of online data processing and transaction processing services and also a VAT License issued by the MIIT for the provision of information services through a mobile network, the provision of internet data center services, internet access services, cellular mobile communications services provided in the means of resale, content delivery network services and storage-and-forward services.

Internet Publication License/Network Publication Service License. As a result of institutional reform in March 2018, the National Press and Publication Administration was established and assigned to undertake the administration of publication activities in China from the State Administration of

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Press and Publication, Radio, Film and Television, or the SAPPRFT, which was integrated from the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, and the General Administration of Press and Publication in March 2013. In June 2002, the MIIT and the General Administration of Press and Publication jointly promulgated the Tentative Administrative Measures on Internet Publication (《互聯網出版管理暫行規定》), which require internet publishers to obtain a license from the General Administration of Press and Publication to conduct internet publication activities. In February 2016, the SAPPRFT and the MIIT jointly issued the Administrative Measures on Network Publication (《網絡出版服務管理規定》), which took effect in March 2016 and replaced the Tentative Administrative Measures on Internet Publication. The Administrative Measures on Network Publication further strengthened and expanded the supervision and management on the network publication service. Pursuant to the Administrative Measures on Network Publication, entities engaging in the network publication service are required to obtain a network publication service license from a competent administrative authority; the network publishing services refer to the activities of providing network publications to the public through information networks; and the network publications refer to the digitalized works with the publishing features such as editing, producing and processing. The Administrative Measures on Network Publication also provide the detailed qualifications and application procedures for obtaining a Network Publication Service License. Jingdong 360 holds a Network Publication Service License, which will expire in December 2021.

Online Culture Operating Permit. The Provisional Measures on Administration of Internet Culture (《互聯網文化管理暫行規定》), promulgated by the former Ministry of Culture in 2011 (as amended in 2017) and other related rules require entities to obtain an Online Culture Operating Permit from the applicable provincial level culture administrative authority to engage in activities related to “online cultural products.” Cultural products include music, performances, performing arts, works of art, and animation features and cartoons, while “online” includes both products produced for the internet and products converted from offline products and disseminated over the internet. Jingdong 360 holds an Online Culture Operating Permit issued by the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Culture, which will remain valid until December 2020.

Internet Drug Information Service Qualification Certificate. In July 2004, the State Food and Drug Administration, or the SFDA, the predecessor of the National Medical Products Administration, or the NMPA, promulgated the Administrative Measures on Internet Drug Information Service (《互聯網藥品信息服務管理辦法》) (amended in November 2017). In addition, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress further amended the Drug Administration Law (《藥品管理法》) on August 26, 2019, which became effective on December 1, 2019. These laws and measures, together with certain implementing rules and notices promulgated by the SFDA or the NMPA, set out regulations governing the classification, application, approval, content, qualifications and requirements for internet drug information services. An ICP service operator that provides information regarding drugs or medical devices must obtain an Internet Drug Information Service Qualification Certificate from the applicable provincial level administrative authority. Jingdong 360 holds an Internet Drug Information Service Qualification Certificate issued by the Beijing Drug Administration for the provision of internet drug information services, which will remain valid until July 2024.

Courier Service Operation Permit. Pursuant to the PRC Postal Law (《中華人民共和國郵政法》), the Administrative Measures on the Courier Service Market (《快遞市場管理辦法》) and the Administrative Measures on Courier Service Operation Permits (《快遞業務經營許可管理辦法》), any entity engaging in courier services must obtain a Courier Service Operation Permit from the State Post Bureau or its local counterpart and is subject to their supervision and regulation. Entities applying for a

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permit to operate courier services in a certain province should apply to the provincial level post bureau, while an entity applying for a permit to operate courier services across multiple provinces should apply to the State Post Bureau. An entity holding a cross-provincial Courier Service Operation Permit may provide courier services in cities other than its place of registration by establishing new branches at these cities and then filing with the relevant local post bureau for those branches. In addition, pursuant to the Interim Regulations of Courier (《快遞暫行條例》) which came into effect in May 2018 and was further amended in March 2019, express delivery operators and their branches may open express delivery terminal outlets according to their business needs, and shall file with the local postal administrations in the places where such terminal outlets are located within 20 days from the date of opening such terminal outlets. Express delivery terminal outlets are not required to obtain a business license. The courier business must be operated within the permitted scope and valid term of the Courier Service Operation Permit. As of December 31, 2019, Jingbangda had obtained one cross-provincial Courier Service Operation Permit, and its 37 subsidiaries had obtained Courier Service Operation Permits. We are in the process of making filings with local postal administrations for express delivery terminal outlets of Jingbangda and its branches. See “Risk Factors—Risks Related to Our Business and Industry—We are subject to a broad range of laws and regulations. Any lack of requisite approvals, licenses or permits applicable to our business or any failure to comply with applicable laws or regulations may have a material and adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.”

Road Transportation Operation Permit. Under the Regulations on Road Transportation (《道路運輸條例》) promulgated by the State Council in April 2004 and as amended, and the Provisions on Administration of Road Transportation and Stations (Sites) (《道路貨物運輸及站場管理規定》) issued by the Ministry of Transport in June 2005 and as amended, anyone engaging in the business of operating road transportation must obtain a Road Transportation Operation Permit, and each vehicle used for shipping must have a Road Transportation Certificate. As of December 31, 2019, Xi’an Jingdong Xuncheng and its 10 branches and 1 subsidiary, Jingbangda and its 33 subsidiaries had obtained Road Transportation Operation Permits that allow these entities to provide road freight transportation services. See “Risk Factors—We are subject to a broad range of laws and regulations. Any lack of requisite approvals, licenses or permits applicable to our business or any failure to comply with applicable laws or regulations may have a material and adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.”

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Business License. In March 2018, Civil Aviation Administration promulgated the Administrative Measures for Profit-oriented Flight Activities of Civil Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (for Provisional Implementation) (《民用無人駕駛航空器經營性飛行活動管理辦法(暫行)》), pursuant to which an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Business License shall be obtained for the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for commercial flight activities, and no commercial flight activities shall be conducted without an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operation Permit. Two subsidiaries of Xi’an Jingdong Xincheng, have obtained the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operation Permit.

Publication Operation Permit. In May 2016, the Ministry of Commerce and the SAPPRFT jointly promulgated the Administrative Measures for the Publication Market (2016 Version) (《出版物市場管理規定(2016)》), or the Publication Market Measures (2016 Version), which replaced the Administrative Measures for the Publication Market (2011 Version). According to the Publication Market Measures (2016 Version), where an entity or individual is engaged in the distribution of publications via the internet or other information networks, the entity or individual is required to obtain a Publication Operation Permit. Entities and individuals engaged in the wholesale or retail of

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publications are required to carry out the relevant activities within the scope of a Publication Operation Permit. Where an entity or individual has obtained the Publication Operation Permit and is engaged in the distribution of publications via the internet or other information networks within the approved business scope, the entity or individual is required to complete record filing with the publication administrative department within 15 days after launching the online distribution business. We engage in wholesale and retail of books and audio and video products and other publications through Jiangsu Yuanzhou, Beijing Jingdong Century Information Technology Co., Ltd., Guangzhou Jingdong Trading Limited, Shenyang Jingdong Century Trading Co., Ltd. and Shanghai Yuanmai Trading Co., Ltd. Each of them has obtained a Publication Operation Permit.

Food Operation Permit. China has adopted a licensing system for food supply operations under the Food Safety Law (《食品安全法》) and its implementation rules. Entities or individuals that intend to engage in food production, food distribution or food service businesses must obtain licenses or permits for such businesses. Pursuant to the Administrative Measures on Food Operation Licensing (《食品經營許可管理辦法》) issued by the SFDA in August 2015 and amended in November 2017, an enterprise needs to obtain a Food Operation Permit from the local food and drug administration, and the permits already obtained by food business operators prior to the effective date of these new measures will remain valid for their originally approved validity period. We sell food, liquor and nutritional supplements through our mobile apps and websites. Our PRC subsidiaries or their branches engaging in food operation business have obtained Food Operation Permits.

Medical Device Operation Enterprise Permit. The Regulations on Supervision and Administration of Medical Devices (《醫療器械監督管理條例》), issued by the State Council in 2000 and further amended in March 2014 and May 2017, divide medical devices into three types. Enterprises engaging in the sale of Type II medical devices must file with the relevant drug supervision and administration authority while those engaging in the sale of Type III medical devices must obtain a Medical Device Operation Permit from the relevant drug supervision and administrative authority. Beijing Jingdong Century Information Technology Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of Jingdong Century, has obtained a Medical Device Operation Permit for the sale of several types of Type III medical devices, which remains valid until October 2021.

Permit for Production and Operation of Radio and TV Programs. Under the Regulations on the Administration of Production of Radio and Television Programs (《廣播電視節目製作經營管理規定》) issued by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television in July 2004 and amended in August 2015, any entities that engage in the production of radio and television programs are required to apply for a Permit for Production and Operation of Radio and TV Programs from the competent administrative authority. Entities with this permit must conduct their business operations in compliance with the approved scope of production and operation. Furthermore, entities other than radio and TV stations are prohibited from producing consolidated radio and TV programs regarding current political news or similar subjects. Jingdong 360 has obtained a Permit for Production and Operation of Radio and TV Programs, which remains valid until March 2021.

Regulations Relating to E-Commerce

China's e-commerce industry is at a relatively early stage of development and there are few PRC laws or regulations specifically regulating the e-commerce industry. In May 2010, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce adopted the Interim Measures for the Administration of Online Commodities Trading and Relevant Services (《網絡商品交易及有關服務行為管理暫行辦法》),

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which took effective in July 2010. Under these measures, enterprises or other operators which engage in online commodities trading and other services and have been registered with the State Administration of Industry and Commerce or its local branches must make the information stated in their business license available to the public or provide a link to their business license on their website. Online distributors must adopt measures to ensure safe online transactions, protect online shoppers' rights and prevent the sale of counterfeit goods. Information on products and transactions released by online distributors must be authentic, accurate, complete and sufficient.

In January 2014, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce promulgated the Administrative Measures for Online Trading (《網絡交易管理辦法》), which terminated the above interim measures and became effective in March 2014. The Administrative Measures for Online Trading further strengthen the protection of consumers and impose more stringent requirements and obligations on online business operators and third-party online marketplace operators. For example, online business operators are required to issue invoices to consumers for online products and services. Consumers are generally entitled to return products purchased from online business operators within seven days upon receipt, without giving any reason. Online business operators and third-party online marketplace operators are prohibited from collecting any information on consumers and business operators, or disclosing, selling or providing any such information to any third party, or sending commercial electronic messages to consumers, without their consent. Fictitious transactions, deletion of adverse comments and technical attacks on competitors' websites are prohibited as well. In addition, third-party online marketplace operators are required to examine and verify the identifications of the online business operators and set up and keep relevant records for at least two years. Moreover, any third-party online marketplace operator that simultaneously engages in online trading for products and services should clearly distinguish itself from other online business operators on the marketplace platform.

In March 2016, the State Administration of Taxation, the Ministry of Finance and the General Administration of Customs jointly issued the Circular on Tax Policy for Cross-Border E-commerce Retail Imports (《關於跨境電子商務零售進口稅收政策的通知》), which took effect in April 2016. Pursuant to this circular, goods imported through the cross-border e-commerce retail are subject to tariff, import value-added tax, or VAT, and consumption tax based on the types of goods. Individuals purchasing any goods imported through cross-border e-commerce retail are taxpayers, and e-commerce companies, companies operating e-commerce transaction platforms or logistic companies are required to withhold the taxes.

On August 31, 2018, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the E-Commerce Law (《電子商務法》), which became effective on January 1, 2019. Pursuant to the E-Commerce Law, an e-commerce platform operator shall (i) collect, verify and register the truthful information submitted by the third-party merchants that apply to sell products or provide services on its platform, including the identities, addresses, contacts and licenses, establish registration archives and update such information on a regular basis; (ii) submit the identification information of the third-party merchants on its platform to market regulatory administrative department as required and remind the third-party merchants to complete the registration with market regulatory administrative department; (iii) submit identification information and tax-related information to tax authorities as required in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding the administration of tax collection and remind the individual third-party merchants to complete the tax registration; (iv) record and retain the information of the products and services and the transaction information for no less than 3 years; (v) display the platform service agreement and the transaction rules or links to such information on the homepage of

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the platform; (vi) display the noticeable labels regarding the products or services provided by the platform operator itself on its platform, and take liabilities for such products and services; (vii) establish a credit evaluation system, display the credit evaluation rules, provide consumers with accesses to make comments on the products and services provided on its platform, and restrain from deleting such comments; and (viii) establish intellectual property protection rules, and take necessary measures when any intellectual property holder notify the platform operator that his intellectual property rights have been infringed. An e-commerce platform operator shall take joint liabilities with the relevant third-party merchants on its platform and may be subject to warnings and fines up to RMB2,000,000 where (i) it fails to take necessary measures when it knows or should have known that the products or services provided by the third-party merchants on its platform do not meet the personal or property safety requirements or such third-party merchants' other acts may infringe on the lawful rights and interests of the consumers; or (ii) it fails to take necessary measures, such as deleting and blocking information, disconnecting, terminating transactions and services, when it knows or should have known that the third-party merchants on its platform infringe any intellectual property rights of any other third party. With respect to products or services affecting the consumers' life and health, if an e-commerce platform operator fails to verify the third-party merchants' qualification or fails to fulfill its obligations to safeguard the safety of consumers, which results in damages to the consumers, it shall take corresponding liabilities and may be subject to warnings and fines up to RMB2,000,000.

We are subject to these measures as a result of our online retail and online marketplace business.

Regulations Relating to Internet Content and Information Security

The Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services (《互聯網信息服務管理辦法》) specify that internet information services regarding news, publications, education, medical and health care, pharmacy and medical devices, among other things, are to be examined, approved and regulated by the relevant authorities. Internet information providers are prohibited from providing services beyond those included in the scope of their ICP licenses or filings. Furthermore, these measures clearly specify a list of prohibited content. Internet information providers are prohibited from producing, copying, publishing or distributing information that is humiliating or defamatory to others or that infringes the lawful rights and interests of others. Internet information providers that violate the prohibition may face criminal charges or administrative sanctions by the PRC authorities. Internet information providers must monitor and control the information posted on their websites. If any prohibited content is found, they must remove the offending content immediately, keep a record of it and report to the relevant authorities.

Internet information in China is also regulated and restricted from a national security standpoint. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's national legislative body, has enacted the Decisions on Maintaining Internet Security (《關於維護互聯網安全的決定》), which may subject violators to criminal punishment in China for any effort to: (1) gain improper entry into a computer or system of strategic importance; (2) disseminate politically disruptive information; (3) leak state secrets; (4) spread false commercial information; or (5) infringe intellectual property rights. The Ministry of Public Security has promulgated measures that prohibit use of the internet in ways which, among other things, result in a leakage of state secrets or a spread of socially destabilizing content.

In addition, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress promulgated the Cyber Security Law of the People's Republic of China, or the Cyber Security Law (《網絡安全法》),

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effective on June 1, 2017, to protect cyberspace security and order. Pursuant to the Cyber Security Law, any individual or organization using the network must comply with the constitution and the applicable laws, follow the public order and respect social moralities, and must not endanger cyber security, or engage in activities by making use of the network that endanger the national security, honor and interests, or infringe on the fame, privacy, intellectual property and other legitimate rights and interests of others. The Cyber Security Law sets forth various security protection obligations for network operators, which are defined as “owners and administrators of networks and network service providers,” including, among others, complying with a series of requirements of tiered cyber protection systems; verifying users’ real identity; localizing the personal information and important data gathered and produced by key information infrastructure operators during operations within the PRC (where such information and data have to be provided abroad for business purpose, subject to applicable laws and regulations, security assessment shall be conducted); and providing assistance and support to government authorities where necessary for protecting national security and investigating crimes.

Regulations Relating to Internet Privacy

In recent years, PRC government authorities have enacted laws and regulations on internet use to protect personal information from any unauthorized disclosure. The Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services prohibit ICP service operators from insulting or slandering a third party or infringing upon the lawful rights and interests of a third party. Under the Several Provisions on Regulating the Market Order of Internet Information Services (《規範互聯網信息服務市場秩序若干規定》), issued by the MIIT in 2011, an ICP operator may not collect any user personal information or provide any such information to third parties without the consent of a user, unless otherwise stipulated by laws and administrative regulations. An ICP service operator must expressly inform the users of the method, content and purpose of the collection and processing of such user personal information and may only collect such information necessary for the provision of its services. An ICP service operator is also required to properly keep the user personal information, and in case of any leak or likely leak of the user personal information, the ICP service operator must take immediate remedial measures and, in severe circumstances, to make an immediate report to the telecommunications regulatory authority. In addition, pursuant to the Decision on Strengthening the Protection of Online Information (《關於加強網絡信息保護的決定》) issued by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress in December 2012 and the Order for the Protection of Telecommunication and Internet User Personal Information (《電信和互聯網用戶個人信息保護規定》) issued by the MIIT in July 2013, any collection and use of user personal information must be subject to the consent of the user, abide by the principles of legality, rationality and necessity and be within the specified purposes, methods and scopes. An ICP service operator must also keep such information strictly confidential, and is further prohibited from divulging, tampering or destroying of any such information, or selling or proving such information to other parties. Any violation of the above decision or order may subject the ICP service operator to warnings, fines, confiscation of illegal gains, revocation of licenses, cancellation of filings, closedown of websites or even criminal liabilities. Furthermore, in June 2016, the Cyberspace Administration of China issued the Administrative Provisions on Mobile Internet Applications Information Services (《移動互聯網應用程序信息服務管理規定》), which became effect on August 1, 2016, to further strengthen the regulation of the mobile app information services. Pursuant to these provisions, owners or operators of mobile apps that provide information services are required to be responsible for information security management, establish and improve the protective mechanism for user information, observe the principles of legality, rightfulness and necessity, and expressly state the purpose, method and scope of, and obtain user consent to, the collection and use of users’ personal information. In addition, the new Cyber Security Law also requires network operators to strictly keep

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confidential users' personal information that they have collected and to establish and improve user information protective mechanism. On November 28, 2019, the Secretary Bureau of the Cyberspace Administration of China, the General Office of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the General Office of the Ministry of Public Security and the General Office of the SAMR promulgated the Identification Method of Illegal Collection and Use of Personal Information Through App (《APP違法違規收集使用個人信息行為認定方法》), which provides guidance for the regulatory authorities to identify the illegal collection and use of personal information through mobile apps, and for the app operators to conduct self-examination and self-correction and for other participants to voluntarily monitor compliance. We have required our users to consent to our collecting and using their personal information, and established information security systems to protect user's privacy.

Regulations Relating to Product Quality and Consumer Protection

The Product Quality Law (《產品質量法》) applies to all production and sale activities in China. Pursuant to this law, products offered for sale must satisfy relevant quality and safety standards. Enterprises may not produce or sell counterfeit products in any fashion, including forging brand labels or giving false information regarding a product's manufacturer. Violations of state or industrial standards for health and safety and any other related violations may result in civil liabilities and administrative penalties, such as compensation for damages, fines, suspension or shutdown of business, as well as confiscation of products illegally produced and sold and the proceeds from such sales. Severe violations may subject the responsible individual or enterprise to criminal liabilities. Where a defective product causes physical injury to a person or damage to another person's property, the victim may claim compensation from the manufacturer or from the seller of the product. If the seller pays compensation and it is the manufacturer that should bear the liability, the seller has a right of recourse against the manufacturer. Similarly, if the manufacturer pays compensation and it is the seller that should bear the liability, the manufacturer has a right of recourse against the seller.

The Consumer Protection Law (《消費者權益保護法》) sets out the obligations of business operators and the rights and interests of the consumers in China. Pursuant to this law, business operators must guarantee that the commodities they sell satisfy the requirements for personal or property safety, provide consumers with authentic information about the commodities, and guarantee the quality, function, usage and term of validity of the commodities. Failure to comply with the Consumer Protection Law may subject business operators to civil liabilities such as refunding purchase prices, replacement of commodities, repairing, ceasing damages, compensation, and restoring reputation, and even subject the business operators or the responsible individuals to criminal penalties when personal damages are involved or if the circumstances are severe. The Consumer Protection Law was further amended in October 2013 and became effective in March 2014. The amended Consumer Protection Law further strengthen the protection of consumers and impose more stringent requirements and obligations on business operators, especially on the business operators through the internet. For example, the consumers are entitled to return the goods (except for certain specific goods, such as custom-made goods, fresh and perishable goods, digital products (e.g. audio-visual products, computer software downloaded online or unpacked by the consumer), newspapers and periodicals delivered and other goods for which non-return of goods is confirmed by the consumer at the time of purchase based on the characteristics of the goods,) within seven days upon receipt without any reasons when they purchase the goods from business operators on the internet. The consumers whose interests have been damaged due to their purchase of goods or acceptance of services on online marketplace platforms may claim damages from sellers or service providers. Where the providers of the online marketplace platforms are unable to provide the real names, addresses and valid contact details of the sellers or

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service providers, the consumers may also claim damages from the providers of the online marketplace platforms. Providers of online marketplace platforms that know or should have known that sellers or service providers use their platforms to infringe upon the legitimate rights and interests of consumers but fail to take necessary measures must bear joint and several liabilities with the sellers or service providers. Moreover, if business operators deceive consumers or knowingly sell substandard or defective products, they should not only compensate consumers for their losses, but also pay additional damages equal to three times the price of the goods or services.

We are subject to the Product Quality Law and the Consumer Protection Law as an online supplier of commodities and a provider of online marketplace platform and believe that we are currently in compliance with these regulations in all material aspects.

Regulations Relating to Pricing

In China, the prices of a very small number of products and services are guided or fixed by the government. According to the Pricing Law (《價格法》), business operators must, as required by the government departments in charge of pricing, mark the prices explicitly and indicate the name, origin of production, specifications, and other related particulars clearly. Business operators may not sell products at a premium or charge any fees that are not explicitly indicated. Business operators must not commit the specified unlawful pricing activities, such as colluding with others to manipulate the market price, using false or misleading prices to deceive consumers to transact, or conducting price discrimination against other business operators. Failure to comply with the Pricing Law may subject business operators to administrative sanctions such as warning, ceasing unlawful activities, compensation, confiscating illegal gains, fines. The business operators may be ordered to suspend business for rectification, or have their business licenses revoked if the circumstances are severe. We are subject to the Pricing Law as an online retailer and believe that our pricing activities are currently in compliance with the law in all material aspects.

Regulations Relating to Mobile Telecommunications Resale Business

In May 2013, the MIIT issued the Circular regarding the Pilot Work on Implementation of Mobile Telecommunications Resale Business (《關於開展移動通信轉售業務試點工作的通告》), pursuant to which private capital is encouraged to invest in the mobile telecommunications resale business. The resale business refers to the business whereby a reseller purchases mobile telecommunications services (excluding mobile satellite telecommunications service) from a basic telecommunications service provider who owns a mobile network, repackages the services with its private brand and sells the services to end users. Under the circular and the pilot program, the mobile telecommunications resale is categorized as a Class II basic telecommunications business but managed by reference to the value-added telecommunications business. A mobile communications reseller does not build its own wireless network, core network, transmission network and other mobile telecommunications network infrastructures, but must build its customer service system and may build its own business management platform, and billing, business accounting and other business supporting systems as needed. The applicant for the mobile telecommunications resale business must be a private company of which the private capital must account for no less than 50% of the capital and the capital contributed by its largest shareholder must come from private capital. A mobile telecommunications reseller is required to enter into a commercial contract for mobile telecommunications resale business with a basic telecommunications service provider, specifying the number resources of mobile communications users for resale, division of responsibilities for service quality assurance between both

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parties, as well as protection of users' rights and interests and user information. Resellers may pre-charge service fees for up to two years from users on the condition that they provide evidence of their measures to ensure long-term services, and must abide by the Telecommunications Regulations, the Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services and other PRC related laws and regulations. In addition, the MIIT issued the Circular of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on the Official Commercial Use of Mobile Communication Resale Business (《關於移動通信轉售業務正式商用的通告》), pursuant to which the mobile communication resale business will be transferred from the pilot to the formal commercial use, and the enterprise that has already approved to be a pilot to conduct the mobile telecommunications resale business, and intends to continue the business, the commercial contract shall be renewed in accordance with the provisions of this circular and shall apply for a renew its telecommunications business license. Jingdong 360 has been approved to be a pilot to conduct the mobile telecommunications resale business, has renewed the telecommunications business license, and has cooperated with China Telecom in 60 cities and with China Unicom in 105 cities.

Regulations Relating to Leasing

Pursuant to the Law on Administration of Urban Real Estate (《城市房地產管理法》), when leasing premises, the lessor and lessee are required to enter into a written lease contract, containing such provisions as the leasing term, use of the premises, rental and repair liabilities, and other rights and obligations of both parties. Both lessor and lessee are also required to register the lease with the real estate administration department. If the lessor and lessee fail to go through the registration procedures, both lessor and lessee may be subject to fines.

According to the PRC Contract Law (《中華人民共和國合同法》), the lessee may sublease the leased premises to a third party, subject to the consent of the lessor. Where the lessee subleases the premises, the lease contract between the lessee and the lessor remains valid. The lessor is entitled to terminate the lease contract if the lessee subleases the premises without the consent of the lessor. In addition, if the lessor transfers the premises, the lease contract between the lessee and the lessor will still remain valid.

Pursuant to the PRC Property Law (《中華人民共和國物權法》), if a mortgagor leases the mortgaged property before the mortgage contract is executed, the previously established leasehold interest will not be affected by the subsequent mortgage; and where a mortgagor leases the mortgaged property after the creation and registration of the mortgage interest, the leasehold interest will be subordinated to the registered mortgage.

Regulations Relating to Advertising Business

The SAMR is the government agency responsible for regulating advertising activities in the PRC. According to PRC laws and regulations, companies that engage in advertising activities must obtain a business license from the SAMR or its local branches which specifically includes operating an advertising business within its business scope. The business license of an advertising company is valid for the duration of its existence, unless the license is suspended or revoked due to a violation of any relevant law or regulation. PRC advertising laws and regulations set forth certain content requirements for advertisements in the PRC including, among other things, prohibitions on false or misleading content, superlative wording, socially destabilizing content or content involving obscenities, superstition, violence, discrimination or infringement of the public interest. Advertisers, advertising

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agencies, and advertising distributors are required to ensure that the content of the advertisements they prepare or distribute is true and in full compliance with applicable law. In providing advertising services, advertising operators and advertising distributors must review the supporting documents provided by advertisers for advertisements and verify that the content of the advertisements complies with applicable PRC laws and regulations. Prior to distributing advertisements that are subject to government censorship and approval, advertising distributors are obligated to verify that such censorship has been performed and approval has been obtained. The release or delivery of advertisements through the internet must not impair the normal use of the network by users. The advertisements released in pop-up form on a webpage and other forms must show the close flag prominently and ensure one-click close. Violation of these regulations may result in penalties, including fines, confiscation of advertising income, orders to cease dissemination of the advertisements and orders to eliminate the effect of illegal advertisement. In circumstances involving serious violations, the SAMR or its local branches may revoke the violators' licenses or permits for their advertising business operations.

In July 2016, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce issued the Interim Measures for the Administration of Internet Advertising (《互聯網廣告管理暫行辦法》) to regulate internet advertising activities. According to these measures, no advertisement of any medical treatment, medicines, food for special medical purpose, medical devices, pesticides, veterinary medicines, dietary supplement or other special commodities or services subject to examination by an advertising examination authority as stipulated by laws and regulations may be published unless the advertisement has passed such examination. In addition, no entity or individual may publish any advertisement of prescription drugs or tobacco on the internet. An internet advertisement must be identifiable and clearly identified as an "advertisement" to the consumers. Paid search advertisements are required to be clearly distinguished from natural search results. In addition, the following internet advertising activities are prohibited: providing or using any applications or hardware to intercept, filter, cover, fast forward or otherwise restrict any authorized advertisement of other persons; using network pathways, network equipment or applications to disrupt the normal data transmission of advertisements, alter or block authorized advertisements of other persons or load advertisements without authorization; or using fraudulent statistical data, transmission effect or matrices relating to online marketing performance to induce incorrect quotations, seek undue interests or harm the interests of others. Internet advertisement publishers are required to verify relevant supporting documents and check the content of the advertisement and are prohibited from publishing any advertisement with unverified content or without all the necessary qualifications. Internet information service providers that are not involved in internet advertising business activities but simply provide information services are required to block any attempt to publish an illegal advertisement that they are aware of or should reasonably be aware of through their information services.

Regulations Relating to Intellectual Property Rights

The PRC has adopted comprehensive legislation governing intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trademarks and domain names.

Copyright. Copyright in the PRC is principally protected under the Copyright Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國著作權法》) and its implementation rules. Reproducing, distributing, performing, projecting, broadcasting or compiling a work or communicating the same to the public via an information network without permission from the owner of the copyright therein, unless otherwise provided in the Copyright Law of the PRC and related rules and regulations, shall constitute

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infringements of copyrights. The infringer shall, according to the circumstances of the case, undertake to cease the infringement, take remedial action, and offer an apology, pay damages, etc. In addition, the Regulations on the Protection of Rights to Information Network Communication (《信息網絡傳播權保護條例》) promulgated by the State Council on May 18, 2006 (as amended in 2013), provides specific rules on fair use, statutory license, and a safe harbor for use of copyrights and copyright management technology and specifies the liabilities of various entities for violations, including copyright holders, libraries and internet service providers.

Patent. The Patent Law (《專利法》) provides for patentable inventions, utility models and designs, which must meet three conditions: novelty, inventiveness and practical applicability. The National Intellectual Property Administration is responsible for examining and approving patent applications. As of December 31, 2019, we had approximately 2,700 patents granted in China, approximately 160 patents granted outside China, approximately 7,100 patent applications pending in China and approximately 410 patent applications pending outside China.

Trademark. The Trademark Law (《商標法》) and its implementation rules protect registered trademarks. The PRC Trademark Office of National Intellectual Property Administration is responsible for the registration and administration of trademarks throughout the PRC. The Trademark Law has adopted a “first-to-file” principle with respect to trademark registration. As of December 31, 2019, we had approximately 13,600 registered trademarks in different applicable trademark categories and had approximately 4,300 trademark applications in China and approximately 1,700 outside China.

Domain Name. Domain names are protected under the Administrative Measures on the Internet Domain Names (《互聯網域名管理辦法》) promulgated by the MIIT. The MIIT is the major regulatory body responsible for the administration of the PRC internet domain names, under supervision of which the CNNIC is responsible for the daily administration of .cn domain names and Chinese domain names. CNNIC adopts the “first to file” principle with respect to the registration of domain names. In November 2017, the MIIT promulgated the Notice of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Regulating the Use of Domain Names in Providing Internet-based Information Services (《工業和信息化部關於規範互聯網信息服務使用域名的通知》), which became effective on January 1, 2018. Pursuant to the notice, the domain name used by an internet-based information service provider in providing internet-based information services must be registered and owned by such provider in accordance with the law. If the internet-based information service provider is an entity, the domain name registrant must be the entity (or any of the entity’s shareholders), or the entity’s principal or senior manager. We have registered jd.com, 360buy.com, 360buy.cn, 360buy.com.cn and other domain names.

Regulations Relating to Employment

The Labor Contract Law (《勞動合同法》) and its implementation rules provide requirements concerning employment contracts between an employer and its employees. If an employer fails to enter into a written employment contract with an employee within one year from the date on which the employment relationship is established, the employer must rectify the situation by entering into a written employment contract with the employee and pay the employee twice the employee’s salary for the period from the day following the lapse of one month from the date of establishment of the employment relationship to the day prior to the execution of the written employment contract. The Labor Contract Law and its implementation rules also require compensation to be paid upon certain terminations, which significantly affects the cost of reducing workforce for employers. In addition, if

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an employer intends to enforce a non-compete provision with an employee in an employment contract or non-competition agreement, it has to compensate the employee on a monthly basis during the term of the restriction period after the termination or ending of the labor contract. Employers in most cases are also required to provide a severance payment to their employees after their employment relationships are terminated.

Enterprises in China are required by PRC laws and regulations to participate in certain employee benefit plans, including social insurance funds, namely a pension plan, a medical insurance plan, an unemployment insurance plan, a work-related injury insurance plan and a maternity insurance plan, and a housing provident fund, and contribute to the plans or funds in amounts equal to certain percentages of salaries, including bonuses and allowances, of the employees as specified by the local government from time to time at locations where they operate their businesses or where they are located. According to the Social Insurance Law (《社會保險法》), an employer that fails to make social insurance contributions may be ordered to pay the required contributions within a stipulated deadline and be subject to a late fee. If the employer still fails to rectify the failure to make social insurance contributions within the stipulated deadline, it may be subject to a fine ranging from one to three times the amount overdue. According to the Regulations on Management of Housing Fund (《住房公積金管理條例》), an enterprise that fails to make housing fund contributions may be ordered to rectify the noncompliance and pay the required contributions within a stipulated deadline; otherwise, an application may be made to a local court for compulsory enforcement.

Regulations Relating to PRC Value Added Tax

On March 23, 2016, the MOF and the SAT jointly issued the Circular on the Pilot Program for Overall Implementation of the Collection of Value Added Tax Instead of Business Tax (《關於全面推開營業稅改徵增值稅試點的通知》), or Circular 36, which took effect on May 1, 2016. Pursuant to the Circular 36, all of the companies operating in construction, real estate, finance, modern service or other sectors which were required to pay business tax are required to pay VAT, in lieu of business tax. The VAT rate is 6%, except for rate of 11% for real estate sale, land use right transferring and providing service of transportation, postal sector, basic telecommunications, construction, real estate lease; rate of 17% for providing lease service of tangible property; and rate of zero for specific cross-bond activities.

On April 4, 2018, MOF and SAT jointly promulgated the Circular of the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on Adjustment of Value-Added Tax Rates (《財政部、稅務總局關於調整增值稅稅率的通知》), or Circular 32, according to which, (i) for VAT taxable sales or importation of goods originally subject to value-added tax rates of 17% and 11% respectively, such tax rates shall be adjusted to 16% and 10%, respectively; (ii) for purchase of agricultural products originally subject to deduction rate of 11%, such deduction rate shall be adjusted to 10%; (iii) for purchase of agricultural products for the purpose of production and sales or consigned processing of goods subject to tax rate of 16%, the input VAT will be calculated at a 12% deduction rate; (iv) for exported goods originally subject to tax rate of 17% and export tax refund rate of 17%, the export tax refund rate shall be adjusted to 16%; and (v) for exported goods and cross-border taxable acts originally subject to tax rate of 11% and export tax refund rate of 11%, the export tax refund rate shall be adjusted to 10%. Circular 32 became effective on May 1, 2018 and shall supersede any previously existing provisions in the case of any inconsistency.

Further, On March 20, 2019, the MOF, the SAT and the General Administration of Customs jointly issued the Announcement on Policies for Deepening the VAT Reform (《關於深化增值稅改革有

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關政策的公告》), or Announcement 39, to further slash value-added tax rates. According to the Announcement 39, (i) for general VAT payers' sales activities or imports that are subject to VAT at an existing applicable rate of 16% or 10%, the applicable VAT rate is adjusted to 13% or 9% respectively; (ii) for the agricultural products purchased by taxpayers to which an existing 10% deduction rate is applicable, the deduction rate is adjusted to 9%; (iii) for the agricultural products purchased by taxpayers for production or commissioned processing, which are subject to VAT at 13%, the input VAT will be calculated at a 10% deduction rate; (iv) for the exportation of goods or labor services that are subject to VAT at 16%, with the applicable export refund at the same rate, the export refund rate is adjusted to 13%; and (v) for the exportation of goods or cross-border taxable activities that are subject to VAT at 10%, with the export refund at the same rate, the export refund rate is adjusted to 9%. The Announcement 39 came into effect on April 1, 2019 and shall prevail in case of any conflict with existing provisions.

Regulations Relating to Dividend Withholding Tax

Pursuant to the Enterprise Income Tax Law (《企業所得稅法》) and its implementation rules, if a non-resident enterprise has not set up an organization or establishment in the PRC, or has set up an organization or establishment but the income derived has no actual connection with such organization or establishment, it will be subject to a withholding tax on its PRC-sourced income at a rate of 10%. Pursuant to the Arrangement between Mainland China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Tax Evasion on Income (《內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》), the withholding tax rate in respect to the payment of dividends by a PRC enterprise to a Hong Kong enterprise is reduced to 5% from a standard rate of 10% if the Hong Kong enterprise directly holds at least 25% of the PRC enterprise. Pursuant to the Notice of the State Administration of Taxation on the Issues concerning the Application of the Dividend Clauses of Tax Agreements (《國家稅務總局關於執行稅收協定股息條款有關問題的通知》), or Circular 81, if the relevant PRC tax authorities determine, in their discretion, that a company benefits from such reduced income tax rate due to a structure or arrangement that is primarily tax-driven, such PRC tax authorities may adjust the preferential tax treatment. Furthermore, the Administrative Measures for Non-Resident Taxpayer to Enjoy Treatments under Tax Treaties (《非居民納稅人享受稅收協定待遇管理辦法》), or SAT Circular 60, which became effective in November 2015, require that non-resident enterprises which satisfy the criteria for entitlement to tax treaty benefits may, at the time of tax declaration or withholding declaration through a withholding agent, enjoy the tax treaty benefits, and be subject to ongoing administration by the tax authorities. In the case where the non-resident enterprises do not apply to the withholding agent to claim the tax treaty benefits, or the materials and the information stated in the relevant reports and statements provided to the withholding agent do not satisfy the criteria for entitlement to tax treaty benefits, the withholding agent should withhold tax pursuant to the provisions of the PRC tax laws. The SAT issued the Announcement of State Taxation Administration on Promulgation of the Administrative Measures on Non-resident Taxpayers Enjoying Treaty Benefits (國家稅務總局關於發佈《非居民納稅人享受協定待遇管理辦法》的公告), the SAT Circular 35 on October 14, 2019, which became effective on January 1, 2020. The SAT Circular 35 further simplified the procedures for enjoying treaty benefits and replaced the SAT Circular 60. According to the SAT Circular 35, no approvals from the tax authorities are required for a non-resident taxpayer to enjoy treaty benefits, where a non-resident taxpayer self-assesses and concludes that it satisfies the criteria for claiming treaty benefits, it may enjoy treaty benefits at the time of tax declaration or at the time of withholding through the withholding agent, but it shall gather and retain the relevant materials as required for future inspection, and accept follow-up administration by the tax authorities. There are also other conditions for enjoying the reduced withholding tax rate according to

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other relevant tax rules and regulations. According to the Circular on Several Issues regarding the “Beneficial Owner” in Tax Treaties (《關於稅收協定中“受益所有人”有關問題的公告》), or Circular 9, which was issued on February 3, 2018 by the SAT, effective as of April 1, 2018, when determining the applicant’s status of the “beneficial owner” regarding tax treatments in connection with dividends, interests or royalties in the tax treaties, several factors, including without limitation, whether the applicant is obligated to pay more than 50% of its income in twelve months to residents in third country or region, whether the business operated by the applicant constitutes the actual business activities, and whether the counterparty country or region to the tax treaties does not levy any tax or grant tax exemption on relevant incomes or levy tax at an extremely low rate, will be taken into account, and it will be analyzed according to the actual circumstances of the specific cases. This circular further provides that applicants who intend to prove his or her status of the “beneficial owner” shall submit the relevant documents to the relevant tax bureau according to the Administrative Measures for Non-Resident Enterprises to Enjoy Treatments under Tax Treaties. Accordingly, JD.com International Limited, Jingdong E-Commerce (Express) Hong Kong Co., Ltd. and Jingdong E-Commerce (Trade) Hong Kong Corporation Limited may be able to enjoy the 5% withholding tax rate for the dividends they receive from Jingdong Century, Xi’an Jingxundi and Shanghai Shengdayuan, respectively, if they satisfy the conditions prescribed under Circular 81 and other relevant tax rules and regulations, and obtain the approvals as required. However, if the relevant tax authorities consider the transactions or arrangements we have are for the primary purpose of enjoying a favorable tax treatment, the relevant tax authorities may adjust the favorable withholding tax in the future.

Regulations Relating to Foreign Exchange

The principal regulations governing foreign currency exchange in China are the Foreign Exchange Administration Regulations (《外匯管理條例》), amended in August 2008. Under the PRC foreign exchange regulations, payments of current account items, such as profit distributions and trade and service-related foreign exchange transactions, can be made in foreign currencies without prior approval from SAFE by complying with certain procedural requirements. By contrast, approval from or registration with appropriate government authorities is required where RMB is to be converted into foreign currency and remitted out of China to pay capital expenses such as the repayment of foreign currency-denominated loans.

In August 2008, SAFE issued the Circular on the Relevant Operating Issues Concerning the Improvement of the Administration of the Payment and Settlement of Foreign Currency Capital of Foreign-Invested Enterprises (《關於完善外商投資企業外匯資本金支付結匯管理有關業務操作問題的通知》), or SAFE Circular 142, regulating the conversion by a foreign-invested enterprise of foreign currency-registered capital into RMB by restricting how the converted RMB may be used. SAFE Circular 142 provides that the RMB capital converted from foreign currency registered capital of a foreign-invested enterprise may only be used for purposes within the business scope approved by the applicable government authority and may not be used for equity investments within the PRC. SAFE also strengthened its oversight of the flow and use of the RMB capital converted from foreign currency registered capital of foreign-invested enterprises. The use of such RMB capital may not be changed without SAFE’s approval, and such RMB capital may not in any case be used to repay RMB loans if the proceeds of such loans have not been used. In March 2015, SAFE issued SAFE Circular 19, which took effect and replaced SAFE Circular 142 from June 1, 2015. Although SAFE Circular 19 allows for the use of RMB converted from the foreign currency-denominated capital for equity investments in the PRC, the restrictions continue to apply as to foreign-invested enterprises’ use of the converted RMB for purposes beyond the business scope, for entrusted loans or for inter-company RMB loans.

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In November 2012, SAFE promulgated the Circular of Further Improving and Adjusting Foreign Exchange Administration Policies on Foreign Direct Investment (《關於進一步改進和調整直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》) which substantially amends and simplifies the current foreign exchange procedure. Pursuant to this circular, the opening of various special purpose foreign exchange accounts (e.g. pre-establishment expenses account, foreign exchange capital account, guarantee account), the reinvestment of lawful incomes derived by foreign investors in the PRC (e.g. profit, proceeds of equity transfer, capital reduction, liquidation and early repatriation of investment), and purchase and remittance of foreign exchange as a result of capital reduction, liquidation, early repatriation or share transfer in a foreign-invested enterprise no longer require SAFE approval, and multiple capital accounts for the same entity may be opened in different provinces, which was not possible before. In addition, SAFE promulgated the Circular on Printing and Distributing the Provisions on Foreign Exchange Administration over Domestic Direct Investment by Foreign Investors and the Supporting Documents (關於印發《外國投資者境內直接投資外匯管理規定》及配套文件的通知) in May 2013, which specifies that the administration by SAFE or its local branches over direct investment by foreign investors in the PRC shall be conducted by way of registration and banks shall process foreign exchange business relating to the direct investment in the PRC based on the registration information provided by SAFE and its branches.

In February 2015, SAFE promulgated SAFE Circular 13, which took effect on June 1, 2015. SAFE Circular 13 delegates the authority to enforce the foreign exchange registration in connection with the inbound and outbound direct investment under relevant SAFE rules to certain banks and therefore further simplifies the foreign exchange registration procedures for inbound and outbound direct investment.

In October 2019, SAFE issued SAFE Circular 28, pursuant to which all foreign-invested enterprises can make domestic equity investments with their capital funds in accordance with the related laws.