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## REGULATIONS

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

### Regulations on Foreign Investment

On January 1, 2020, the Foreign Investment Law and the Regulations for Implementation of the Foreign Investment Law (《中華人民共和國外商投資法實施條例》) (the “**Implementation Regulations**”) came into effect and became the principal laws and regulations governing foreign investment in the PRC, replacing the trio of prior laws regulating foreign investment in the PRC, namely, the Sino-foreign Equity Joint Venture Enterprise Law (《中華人民共和國中外合資經營企業法》), the Sino-foreign Cooperative Joint Venture Enterprise Law (《中華人民共和國中外合作經營企業法》) and the Wholly Foreign-invested Enterprise Law (《中華人民共和國外資企業法》), together with their implementation rules and ancillary regulations.

According to the Foreign Investment Law, “foreign investment” refers to the investment activities conducted directly or indirectly by foreign individuals, enterprises or other entities in the PRC, including the following circumstances: (i) the establishment of foreign-invested enterprises in the PRC by foreign investors solely or jointly with other investors, (ii) a foreign investors’ acquisition of shares, equity interests, property portions or other similar rights and interests of enterprises in the PRC, (iii) investment in new projects in the PRC by foreign investors solely or jointly with other investors, and (iv) investments made by foreign investors through means stipulated in laws or administrative regulations or other methods prescribed by the State Council.

Pursuant to the Foreign Investment Law, the PRC has adopted a reformed system with respect to foreign investment administration, under which the Chinese government applies national treatment to foreign investors in terms of investment entry and the foreign investor needs to comply with the requirements as provided in the negative list for foreign investment. The negative list will be issued by, amended or released upon approval by the State Council, from time to time. The negative list will consist of a list of industries in which foreign investments are prohibited and a list of industries in which foreign investments are restricted. Foreign investors will be prohibited from making investments in prohibited industries, while foreign investments must satisfy certain conditions stipulated in the negative list for investments in restricted industries. Foreign investments and domestic investments in industries outside the scope of the prohibited industries and restricted industries stipulated in the negative list will be treated equally. Any foreign-invested enterprise established prior to the effectiveness of the Foreign Investment Law may maintain its original corporate forms for a period of five years after January 1, 2020.

The Implementation Regulations restates certain principles of the Foreign Investment Law and further provides that, among others, (1) if a foreign-invested enterprise established prior to the effective date of the Foreign Investment Law fails to adjust its legal form or governance structure to comply with the provisions of the Companies Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國公司法》) or the Partnership Enterprises Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國合夥企業法》) as applicable and complete amendment registration before January 1, 2025, the enterprise registration authority will not process other registration matters of the foreign-invested enterprise and may publicize such non-compliance thereafter; (2) the provisions regarding equity interest transfer and distribution of profits and remaining assets as stipulated in the contracts among the joint venture parties of a foreign-invested enterprise established before the effective date of the Foreign Investment Law may, after adjustment of the legal form and governing structure of such foreign-invested enterprise, remain binding upon the parties.

## REGULATIONS

On December 31, 2019, the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC (the “**MOFCOM**”) and the State Administration of Market Regulation (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, where a foreign investor directly or indirectly carries out investment activities in China, the foreign investor or the foreign-invested enterprise must submit the investment information to the competent commerce department for further handling.

In December 2020, the NDRC and the MOFCOM promulgated the Measures for the Security Review of Foreign Investment (《外商投資安全審查辦法》), which came into effect on January 18, 2021. The NDRC and the MOFCOM will establish a working mechanism office in charge of the security review of foreign investment. Such measures define foreign investment as direct or indirect investment by foreign investors in the PRC, which includes (i) investment in new onshore projects or establishment of wholly foreign owned onshore companies or joint ventures with foreign investors; (ii) acquiring equity or asset of onshore companies by merger and acquisition; and (iii) onshore investment by and through any other means. Investment in certain key areas with bearing on national security, such as important cultural products and services, important information technology and internet services and products, key technologies and other important areas with bearing on national security which results in the acquisition of de facto control of investee companies, shall be filed with a specifically established office before such investment is carried out. What may constitute “onshore investment by and through any other means” or “de facto control” could be broadly interpreted under such measures. It is likely that control through contractual arrangement be regarded as de facto control based on provisions applied to security review of foreign investment in the free trade zone. Failure to make such filing may subject such foreign investor to rectification within prescribed period, and will be recorded as negative credit information of such foreign investor in the relevant national credit information system, which would then subject such investors to joint punishment as provided by relevant rules. If such investor fails to or refuses to undertake such rectification, it would be ordered to dispose of the equity or asset and to take any other necessary measures so as to return to the status quo and to erase the impact to national security.

### ***Regulations on Value-Added Telecommunications Services and Internet Content Services***

#### *Regulations on Value-added telecommunications services and Internet content services*

The Telecommunications Regulations of the PRC (《中華人民共和國電信條例》) (the “**Telecommunications Regulations**”) promulgated by the PRC State Council in September 2000, which were most recently amended in February 2016, categorize all telecommunication businesses in the PRC as either basic or value-added. Pursuant to the Telecommunications Regulations, commercial operators of value-added telecommunications services must first obtain a Value-Added Telecommunication Business Operating License from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the PRC (the “**MIIT**”) or its provincial level counterparts. The Administrative Measures for Telecommunication Business Operating License (《電信業務經營許可管理辦法》), promulgated by the MIIT with latest amendments becoming effective in September 2017, set forth the types of licenses required for value-added telecommunications services and the qualifications and procedures for obtaining such licenses. For example, a value-added telecommunications service operator providing commercial value-added services in multiple provinces is required to obtain an inter-regional license, whereas a value-added telecommunications service operator providing the same services in one province is required to obtain a local license.

Internet content services, or ICP services, are classified as one of the value-added telecommunication businesses. The Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services (《互聯網信息服務管理辦

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## REGULATIONS

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法》), promulgated by the PRC State Council in September 2000 and amended in January 2011, require companies engaged in the provision of commercial internet content services to obtain a Value-added Telecommunication Business Operation Permit for ICP services, or an ICP license from the relevant government authorities before providing any commercial internet content services within the PRC. “Commercial internet content services” generally refer to provision of information service through public telecommunication network or internet for a fee. The Catalog of Classification of Telecommunications Services (《電信業務分類目錄》) (the “**Catalog of Telecommunication Businesses**”) promulgated by the MIIT in December 2015 and amended in June 2019 further divides ICP services into information publication platform and delivery services, information search and inquiry services, information communities platform services, instant message services, and information security and management services.

In June 2020, MIIT promulgated the Notice regarding Strengthening the Management of Call Center Business (《關於加強呼叫中心業務管理的通知》), which has strengthening the management on the admittance, codes, accessing, operation activities and certain other items.

### *Regulations on Content*

National security considerations are an important factor in the regulation of internet content in the PRC. The National People’s Congress, the PRC’s national legislature, has enacted laws with respect to maintaining the security of internet operation and internet content. Under these laws and applicable regulations, violators may be subject to penalties, including criminal sanctions, for internet content that:

- opposes the fundamental principles stated in the PRC constitution;
- compromises national security, divulges state secrets, subverts state power or damages national unity;
- harms the dignity or interests of the state;
- incites ethnic hatred or racial discrimination or damages inter-ethnic unity;
- undermines the PRC’s religious policy or propagates heretical teachings or feudal superstitions;
- disseminates rumors, disturbs social order or disrupts social stability;
- disseminates obscenity or pornography, encourages gambling, violence, murder or fear or incites the commission of a crime;
- insults or slanders a third party or infringes upon the lawful rights and interests of a third party; or
- is otherwise prohibited by law or administrative regulations.

ICP operators are required to monitor their websites, including electronic bulletin boards. They may not post or disseminate any content that falls within the prohibited categories and must remove any such content from their websites. The PRC government may shut down the websites of ICP license holders that violate any of the above-mentioned content restrictions and revoke their ICP licenses. For instance, in 2017, the CAC, issued a series of regulatory documents providing that an ICP operator is obligated to monitor contents displayed and disseminated by users on its platform. These regulations apply to online services, including (i) online forum and community service, which allows users to publish information and interact with other users on an online forum, post bar or other form of online communities, (ii) online follow-up comment service, which allows users to post threads, reply to original content, leave messages and engage in live commenting with texts, symbols, expressions, pictures, audio/video on a website, mobile app or other forms of interactive platform; (iii) online group

## REGULATIONS

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chat information service, which allows users to communicate and exchange information in a cyberspace created by the users on an online platform; (iv) online official account information service, which allows users to post texts, pictures, audio/video and other information in the form of an official account registered by the user on a website, mobile app or other network platform. Pursuant to these regulations, a service provider is required to, among others, (x) register and verify the identity information of each user, and (y) in the case of publication or dissemination of prohibited contents on the platform, take prompt rectification measures, including removing and terminating transmission of the illegal content, restricting the user right of the offender, banning the user account and shutting down the relevant forum or channel, and report to the regulatory authority.

In addition, in November 2018, the CAC issued a notice to require ICP operators to conduct security assessments on their Internet information services if their services include forums, blogs, microblogs, chat rooms, communication groups, public accounts, short videos, online live-streaming, information sharing, mini programs or such other functions that provide channels for the public to express opinions or have the capability of mobilizing the public to engage in specific activities. ICP operators must conduct self-assessment on, among others, the legality of new technology involved in the services and the effectiveness of security risk prevention measures, and file the assessment report to local competent Internet information office and public security authority. At the end of 2019, the CAC issued the Provisions on the Management of Network Information Content Ecology (《網絡信息內容生態治理規定》), or the CAC Order No.5, which became effective on March 1, 2020, to further strengthen the regulation and management of network information content. Pursuant to the CAC Order No.5, each network information content service platform is required, among others, (i) not to disseminate any information prohibited by laws and regulations, such as information jeopardizing national security; (ii) to strengthen the examination of advertisements published on such network information content service platform; (iii) to promulgate management rules and platform convention and improve user agreement, such that such network information content service platform could clarify users' rights and obligations and perform management responsibilities required by laws, regulations, rules and convention; (iv) to establish convenient means for complaints and reports; and (v) to prepare annual work report regarding its management of network information content ecology. In addition, a network information content service platform must not, among others, (i) utilize new technologies such as deep-learning and virtual reality to engage in activities prohibited by laws and regulations; (ii) engage in online traffic fraud, malicious traffic rerouting and other activities related to fraudulent account, illegal transaction account or maneuver of users' account; or (iii) infringe a third party's legitimate rights or seek illegal interests by way of interfering with information display.

### *Restrictions on Foreign Ownership in Value-Added Telecommunications Services*

Pursuant to the Provisions on Administration of Foreign-Invested Telecommunications Enterprises (《外商投資電信企業管理規定》), promulgated by the PRC State Council with the latest amendments becoming effective in February 2016, the ultimate foreign equity ownership in a value-added telecommunications service provider must not exceed 50%. However, the MIIT released an announcement in June 2015 to remove the restriction on foreign equity for “online data processing and transaction processing businesses (operational E-commerce)” as provided in the Catalog of Telecommunication Businesses promulgated by the MIIT. The Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for Foreign Investment Access (《外商投資准入特別管理措施(負面清單)(2020年版)》) issued in 2020 allow a foreign investor to own more than 50% of the total equity interest in an e-commerce business, a domestic multi-party communication business, an information storage and re-transmission business and a call center business. In order to acquire any equity interest in a value-added telecommunication business in the PRC, a foreign investor must satisfy a number of stringent performance and operational experience requirements, including demonstrating a good track record

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## REGULATIONS

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and experience in operating a value-added telecommunication business overseas. Foreign investors that meet these requirements must obtain approvals from the MIIT and the MOFCOM (or the MOFCOM’s authorized local counterparts), which retain considerable discretion in granting approvals. According to publicly available information, the PRC government has issued telecommunication business operating licenses to only a limited number of foreign-invested companies.

A Notice on Intensifying the Administration of Foreign Investment in Value-Added Telecommunications Services (《信息產業部關於加強外商投資經營增值電信業務管理的通知》), issued by the MIIT in July 2006, prohibits domestic telecommunication service providers from leasing, transferring or selling Telecommunication Business Operating Licenses to any foreign investor in any form, or providing any resources, sites or facilities to any foreign investor for their illegal operation of a telecommunication business in the PRC. Pursuant to this notice, either the holder of a Value-Added Telecommunication Business Operating License or its shareholders must directly own the domain names and trademarks used by such license holder in its provision of value-added telecommunications services. The notice further requires each license holder to have the necessary facilities, including servers, for its approved business operations and to maintain the facilities in the regions covered by its license. If a license holder fails to comply with the requirements in the notice or cure any non-compliance, the MIIT or its local counterparts have the discretion to take measures against the license holder, including revoking its Value-added Telecommunication Business Operating License. Based on the Notice regarding the Strengthening of Ongoing and Post Administration of Foreign Investment Telecommunication Enterprises (《關於加強外商投資電信企業事中事後監管的通知》) issued by MIIT in October 2020, the MIIT will not issue Examination Letter for Foreign Investment in Telecommunication Business (《外商投資企業電信業務審定意見書》). Foreign invested enterprises would need to submit relevant foreign investment materials to MIIT for the establishment or change of telecommunication operating permits.

### *Regulations on Mobile Internet Applications*

In June 2016, the CAC promulgated the Administrative Provisions on Mobile Internet Application Information Services (《移動互聯網應用程序信息服務管理規定》) (the “**Mobile Application Administrative Provisions**”), which became effective on August 1, 2016. Pursuant to the Mobile Application Administrative Provisions, a mobile internet app refers to an app software that runs on mobile smart devices providing information services after being pre-installed, downloaded or embedded through other means. Mobile internet app providers refer to the owners or operators of mobile internet apps. Internet app stores refer to platforms which provide services related to online browsing, searching and downloading of app software and releasing of development tools and products through the internet.

Pursuant to the Mobile Application Administrative Provisions, an internet app program provider must verify a user’s mobile phone number and other identity information under the principle of mandatory real name registration at the back-office end and voluntary real name display at the front-office end. An internet app provider must not enable functions that can collect a user’s geographical location information, access user’s contact list, activate the camera or recorder of the user’s mobile smart device or other functions irrelevant to its services, nor is it allowed to conduct bundle installations of irrelevant app programs, unless it has clearly indicated to the user and obtained the user’s consent on such functions and app programs. In respect of an internet app store service provider, the Mobile Application Administrative Provisions require that, among others, it must file a record with the local authority within 30 days after it rolls out the internet app store service online. It must also examine the authenticity, security and legality of internet app providers on its platform, establish a system to monitor app providers’ credit and file a record of such information with relevant governmental

## REGULATIONS

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authorities. If an app provider violates the regulations, the internet app store service provider must take measures to stop the violations, including giving a warning, suspension of release, withdrawal of the app from the platform, keeping a record of the incident and reporting the incident to the relevant governmental authorities.

In December 2016, the MIIT promulgated the Interim Measures on the Administration of Pre-Installation and Distribution of Applications for Mobile Smart Terminals (《移動智能終端應用軟件預置和分發管理暫行規定》) (the “**Interim Measures**”), which came into effect on July 1, 2017. The Interim Measures aim to enhance the administration of mobile apps, and require, among others, that mobile phone manufacturers and internet information service providers must ensure that a mobile app, as well as its ancillary resource files, configuration files and user data can be uninstalled by a user on a convenient basis, unless it is a basic function software, which refers to a software that supports the normal functioning of the hardware and operating system of a mobile smart device.

### *Regulations on Internet Information Search Service*

In June 2016, the CAC promulgated the Administrative Provisions on Internet Information Search Services (《互聯網信息搜索服務管理規定》) (the “**Search Services Administrative Provisions**”), which took effect on August 1, 2016. Pursuant to the Search Services Administrative Provisions, internet information search service refers to the service whereby users can search for information that is collected from the internet and processed by computer technology. The Search Services Administrative Provisions require that an internet information search service provider must not publish any information or contents prohibited by law in the form of links, abstracts, snapshots, associative words, related search or recommendations or otherwise. If an internet information search service provider identifies any search results that contain any information, website or app that is prohibited by law, it must stop displaying the search results, record the infraction and report it to the relevant governmental authority. In addition, an internet information search service provider is prohibited from seeking illegitimate interest by means of unauthorized disconnection of links, or provision of search results containing false information. If an internet information search service provider engages in paid search services, it must examine and verify the qualifications of its customers of the paid search services, specify the maximum percentage of search results as paid search results on a webpage, clearly distinguish paid search results from natural search results, and notably identify the paid search information item by item.

### *Regulations on News Display*

Displaying news on a website and disseminating news through the internet are highly regulated in the PRC. The Provisional Measures for Administrating Internet Websites Carrying on the News Displaying Business (《互聯網站從事登載新聞業務管理暫行規定》), jointly promulgated by the State Council News Office and the MIIT in November 2000, require an ICP operator (other than a government authorized news unit) to obtain an approval from the State Council News Office to post news on its website or disseminate news through the internet. Furthermore, the disseminated news must come from government-approved sources pursuant to contracts between the ICP operator and the sources, copies of which must be filed with the relevant government authorities.

In May 2017, the CAC issued the Provisions on the Administration of Internet News Information Services (《互聯網新聞信息服務管理規定》) (the “**Internet News Regulation**”), and its implementing rules, which became effective on June 1, 2017. Pursuant to the Internet News Regulation and its implementing rules, if an entity intends to provide internet news information service, it is required to obtain an approval from the State Council News Office and receive an Internet News Information

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## REGULATIONS

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Service License. Internet news information service refers to editing, publishing and reprinting and the dissemination platform service of internet news through internet websites, mobile apps, forums, blogs, micro-blogs, official accounts, instant message tools, live-streaming and other similar means. Pursuant to the Internet News Regulation, no internet news information service organizations may take the form of a foreign-invested enterprise, whether a joint venture or a wholly foreign-owned enterprise, and no cooperation between internet news information service organizations and foreign-invested enterprises is allowed prior to the security evaluation by the CAC.

### *Regulations on Internet Drug Information Services*

According to the Provisions on the Administration of Internet Drug Information Services (《互聯網藥品信息服務管理辦法》), which was promulgated by the State Food and Drug Administration and most recently amended in November 2017, an enterprise publishing drug-related information must obtain a qualification certificate from the provincial-level food and drug administration before it applies for the ICP license or files with the MIIT or its local provincial-level counterpart. 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. An ICP service operator that provides information regarding drugs or medical devices must obtain an Internet Drug Information Service Qualification Certificate (互聯網藥品信息服務許可證) from the applicable provincial level administrative authority.

### *Regulations on Internet Culture Activities*

The Provisional Measures for the Internet Culture Administration (《互聯網文化管理暫行規定》), promulgated by the Ministry of Culture and with the latest amendment becoming effective in December 2017, require ICP operators engaging in “internet culture activities” to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Culture. The “internet culture activities” include, among other things, online dissemination of internet cultural products and the production, reproduction, importation, distribution and broadcasting of internet cultural products. In May 2019, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism issued the Circular regarding Adjusting the Scope of Approval of Internet Culture Business Permit and Further Regulating Approval Matters (《關於調整<網絡文化經營許可證>審批範圍進一步規範審批工作的通知》) to adjust the applicable scope of the Internet Culture Business Permit. Pursuant to the circular, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism will no longer be the authority supervising the online game industry and therefore the business scope of an Internet Culture Business Permit issued by it and its local counterparts will only cover internet cultural products including online music, online plays or programs, online performance, online works of art, online cartoon and exhibition and online matches, but exclude online games. Imported internet cultural products are subject to content review by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism before they are disseminated online, while domestic internet cultural products must be filed with the local branch of the Ministry of Culture within 30 days following the online dissemination. Service providers are also required to conduct self-review of the content of internet cultural products before they are put on the internet or submitted to the Ministry of Culture for approvals or filings.

The Several Suggestions on the Development and Administration of Internet Music (《文化部關於網絡音樂發展和管理的若干意見》), issued by the Ministry of Culture and becoming effective in November 2006, reiterate the requirement for an internet service provider to obtain the Internet Culture Business Permit to carry on any business of internet music products. In addition, foreign investors are prohibited from engaging in the internet culture business operation.

In October 2015, the Ministry of Culture promulgated a notice, which took effect on January 1, 2016, to further strengthen its regulation over online music, including requiring online platforms that allow

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## REGULATIONS

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users to upload self-created or performed music to set up real-time monitoring systems and requiring online music service providers to make quarterly filings of information related to their content self-review with the local counterpart of the Ministry of Culture from April 1, 2016.

The Regulations for the Administration of Audio and Video Products (《音像製品管理條例》), as released by the State Council in December 2001 and last amended in November 2020, require that the publication, production, duplication, importation, wholesale, retail and renting of audio and video products are subject to a license issued by competent authorities.

### ***Regulations on Publication and Internet Publishing***

In February 2016, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television (currently known as the National Press and Publication Administration, the “NPPA”), and the MIIT jointly issued the Administrative Provisions on Internet Publishing Service (《網絡出版服務管理規定》) (the “**Internet Publishing Regulation**”), which took effect on March 10, 2016, and replaced the Interim Provisions for the Administration of Internet Publishing (《互聯網出版管理暫行規定》) promulgated in 2002. The Internet Publishing Regulation requires that any entity engaged in the provision of online publications to the public via information networks obtain an Internet Publication License from the NPPA. Online publications refer to digital works with editing, production, processing and other publishing features, provided to the public via information networks, which mainly include: (i) informative and thoughtful text, pictures, maps, games, animation, audio and video digitizing books and other original digital works in fields such as literature, art and science, (ii) digital works consistent with the content of published books, newspapers, periodicals, audio-visual products and electronic publications, (iii) the network literature database or other digital works formed through aforementioned works by selecting, organizing, compiling and other means, and (iv) other types of digital works determined by the NPPA. The servers and storage facilities used by internet publishers must be located within the territory of the PRC. The Internet Publishing Regulation also provides that when an internet service provider provides manual intervention search ranking, advertising, promotion and other services to customers that provide internet publishing services, it is required to check and examine the Internet Publication Licenses obtained by the customers and the business scope of such licenses.

### ***Regulations on Production and Operation of Audio/Video 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 SAFRT in July 2004 and recently partly amended in October 2020, 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 (廣播電視節目製作經營許可證) from the competent administrative authority. Entities with this permit must conduct their business operations in compliance with the approved scope of production and operation.

On March 17, 2010, the SARFT issued the Internet Audio/Video Program Services Categories (Provisional) (《互聯網視聽節目服務業務分類目錄(試行)》), or the Provisional Categories, which were amended on March 10, 2017. The amended Provisional Categories classified Internet audio/video programs into four categories, which are further divided into seventeen sub-categories.

### ***Regulations on Broadcasting Audio/Video Programs through the Internet***

In December 2007, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, or the “SARFT” (currently known as NRTA) and the MIIT jointly promulgated the Rules for the Administration of Internet Audio and Video Program Services (《互聯網視聽節目服務管理規定》), commonly known as “Document



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## REGULATIONS

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56,” which took effect on January 31, 2008 and was further amended on August 28, 2015. Pursuant to Document 56, an online audio/video service provider must obtain an Online Audio/Video Program Transmission License, which has a term of three years, and operate in accordance with the scope of the business as stipulated in the license. Furthermore, Document 56 requires all online audio/video service providers to be either wholly state-owned or state-controlled. According to some official answers to press inquiries published on the SARFT’s website in February 2008, officials from the SARFT and the MIIT clarified that online audio/video service providers that already had been operating lawfully prior to the issuance of Document 56 may re-register and continue to operate without becoming state-owned or controlled, provided that the providers have not engaged in any unlawful activities. This exemption will not be granted to online audio/video service providers established after Document 56 was issued. In addition, foreign-invested enterprises are not allowed to engage in the above-mentioned businesses. On March 16, 2018, the NRTA issued the Notice on Further Regulating the Transmission Orders of Internet Audio and Video Program (《關於進一步規範網絡視聽節目傳播秩序的通知》), pursuant to which, among others, (i) online streaming platforms shall not illegally capture, edit, or reprogram audio-video programs, (ii) the movie clips and prevue broadcasted on the platform shall come from the licensed broadcasting and television programs; and (iii) the platform shall verify qualifications of sponsors for programs on the platform and shall refrain from accepting sponsorship or advertising from or cooperating in any other form with any unlicensed online audio/video service providers.

According to Document 56 and other relevant laws and regulations, audio-video programs provided by the entities supplying Internet audio-video program services shall not contain any illegal content or other content prohibited by the laws and regulations, such as any content against the basic principles in the PRC Constitution, any content that damages the sovereignty of the country or national security, and any content that disturbs social order or undermine social stability. An audio-video program that has already been broadcast shall be retained in full for at least 60 days. Movies, television programs and other media content used as Internet audio-video programs shall comply with relevant administrative regulations on programs broadcasts through radio, movie and television channels. Entities providing services related to Internet audio-video programs shall immediately delete the audio-video programs violating laws and regulations, keep relevant records, report relevant authorities and implement other regulatory requirements.

On October 31, 2018, the NRTA issued the Notice on Further Strengthening the Management of Radio and Television and Network Audiovisual Cultural Programs (《關於進一步加強廣播電視和網絡視聽文藝節目管理的通知》), or Notice 60. According to Notice 60, all radio and television broadcasting institutes, network audiovisual program service institutes and program production institutes shall stick to the right political direction and strengthen value guidance; pursue people-centered creative orientation to curb bad tendencies such as pursuing celebrities, pan-entertainment and so on; persist in providing high-quality content, constantly innovate programs, and strictly control the remuneration of guests; and strengthen the governance of TV series, network series (including network movies) to promote the benign development of the industry; shall strengthen the use and management of ratings (click-through rate) survey data and resolutely crack down on ratings (click-through rate) forgeries, etc.

On May 27, 2016, SAPPRFT issued the Notice on Relevant Issues concerning Implementing the Approval Works of Upgrading Mobile Internet Audio-Video Program Service (《關於做好移動互聯網視聽節目服務增項審核工作有關問題的通知》), the “**Mobile Audio-Video Program Notice**”). The Mobile Audio-Video Program Notice provides that the mobile Internet audio-video program services shall be deemed Internet audio-video program service. Entities which have obtained the approvals to provide the Internet audio-video program services may use mobile WAP websites or mobile applications to provide audio-video program services. Entities with regulatory approvals may operate mobile applications to provide the audio-video program services. The types of the programs shall be

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## REGULATIONS

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within the permitted scope as provided in the licenses and such mobile applications shall be filed with the NRTA and/or SFB.

The PRC government has also promulgated a series of special regulatory measures governing live-streaming services. In November 2016, the CAC promulgated the Administrative Provisions on Internet Live-streaming Service (《互聯網直播服務管理規定》), which took effect on December 1, 2016. Pursuant to the Administrative Provisions, internet live-streaming service refers to continuous publishing of real-time information to the public on internet by means of video, audio, graphics, text or other forms, and an internet live-streaming service provider refers to an operator of the platform providing internet live-streaming service. In accordance with the administrative provisions, an internet live-streaming service provider must verify and register the identity information of publishers of live-streaming programs and users on its platform, and file the identity information of the publishers with the local governmental authority for record. Any internet live-streaming service provider engaging in news service must obtain internet news information service qualification and operate within the permitted scope of such qualification. In September 2016, the SAPPRFT issued the Circular on Strengthening Administration of Live-streaming Service of Network Audio/Video Programs (《關於加強網絡視聽節目直播服務管理有關問題的通知》). Pursuant to the circular, any entity that intends to engage in live audio/video broadcasting of major political, military, economic, social, cultural or sport events or activities, or live audio/video broadcasting of general social or cultural group activities, general sporting events or other organizational events, must obtain an Online Audio/Video Program Transmission License with a permitted operation scope covering the above business activities. Any entity or individual without qualification is prohibited from broadcasting live audio/radio programs involving news, variety shows, sports, interviews, commentary or other forms of programs through any online live-streaming platform or online live broadcasting booth, nor are they permitted to start a live broadcasting channel for any audio or radio programs. In addition, no entity or individual other than licensed radio stations or television stations are allowed to use "radio station," "television station," "broadcasting station," "TV" or other descriptive terms exclusive to television and radio broadcasting organizations to engage in any business on the internet without approval. Furthermore, the CAC issued a notice in July 2017 which requires operators of internet news and information reproduction and broadcasting services, including commercial website apps that contain live-streaming features, and other internet live-streaming services, to file with the local CAC starting from July 15, 2017. The Circular on Tightening the Administration of Internet Live-Streaming Services (《關於加強網絡直播服務管理工作的通知》) jointly issued jointly by the MIIT, the CAC and several other government agencies in August 2018 reiterates the license requirements for online-streaming service providers and requires the operator to file with the local public security authority within 30 days after it commences the service online.

On March 29, 2019, the Administrative Provisions on Minor-oriented Programs (《未成年人節目管理規定》) was issued by the NRTA and has become effective since April 30, 2019. According to these provisions, network audio-visual programs with minors as their main participants or recipients shall not contain any contents which are harmful to the minors, such as violence, pornography, heresy, superstition, drug taking and other illegal contents. On November 18, 2019, the CAC, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the NRTA jointly issued the Administrative Provisions on Online Audio-visual Information Services (《網絡音視頻信息服務管理規定》), or Circular No.3, which took effective on January 1, 2020. According to the Circular No.3, Online Audio-visual Information Services refer to the services of producing, publishing and disseminating audio-visual information offered to the public via Internet platforms, such as websites and application programs. Circular No.3 requires that no individual or entity is allowed to (i) use the online audio-visual information services or related technologies to engage in any activities which may jeopardize national security, undermine social

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## REGULATIONS

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stability or infringe legitimate right of others; (ii) produce, publish or disseminate any audio-visual information prohibited by the laws and regulations, such as Internet rumors. A provider of audio-visual information services must establish, maintain and optimize a rumors refuting regime, under which once it identifies that any user of audio-visual information services produces, publishes or disseminates any rumor by virtue of the technology of producing forged pictures or audio-visual information based on deep-learning or virtual reality, such provider must take measures to refute such rumors in a timely manner and file such situations with the competent authorities governing Internet information, culture and tourism, and radio and television.

### *Regulations on Internet Map Services*

According to the Administrative Rules of Surveying Qualification Certificate (《測繪資質管理規定》), as most recently amended by the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geo-information (a.k.a. the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping) in August 2014, the provision of internet map services by any non-surveying and mapping enterprise is subject to the approval of the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geo-information and requires a Surveying and Mapping Qualification Certificate. Internet maps refer to maps called or transmitted through the internet. Pursuant to the Notice on Further Strengthening the Administration of Internet Map Services Qualification (《關於進一步加強互聯網地圖服務資質管理工作的通知》) issued by the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geo-information in December 2011, any entity without a Surveying and Mapping Qualification Certificate for internet map services is prohibited from providing any internet map services. According to the Provisions on the Administration of Examination of Maps (《地圖審核管理規定》) most recently amended on July 24, 2019, subject to limited exceptions, an enterprise must first apply for an approval by the relevant regulatory authority, if it intends to engage in any of the following activities: (i) publication, display, production, posting, import or export of a map or a product attached with a map, (ii) re-publication, re-display, re-production, re-posting, re-import or re-export of a map the content of which has been changed after it is approved, or other commercial products attached with such a map, and (iii) publication or display of a map or a product attached with a map overseas. The operator of an approved internet map is required to file the updated contents of the map with the relevant regulatory authority semi-annually, and re-apply for a new approval of the map when the two-year term of the existing approval expires.

### *Regulations on Online Games*

Pursuant to the Internet Publishing Regulation and the Circular on Mobile Game Publishing Service (《關於移動遊戲出版服務管理的通知》), the online games services provided on websites by online game operator partners may be deemed as a type of “online publication service”, and may be required to obtain an Internet Publication License from the NPPA.

In September 2009, the General Administration of Press and Publication (currently known as the NPPA) together with several other government agencies issued Notice Regarding the Consistent Implementation of the “Measures on Three Provisions” of the State Council and the Relevant Interpretations of the State Commission Office for Public Sector Reform and the Further Strengthening of the Administration of Examination and Approval of Online Games and the Examination and Approval of Imported Online Games (《關於貫徹落實國務院<“三定”規定>和中央編辦有關解釋，進一步加強網絡遊戲前置審批和進口網絡遊戲審批管理的通知》), or the Circular 13, which explicitly prohibits foreign investors from participating in online game operating businesses through wholly-owned enterprises, equity joint ventures or cooperative joint ventures in the PRC. Circular 13 expressly prohibits foreign investors from gaining control over or participating in PRC operating companies’ online game operations through indirect means, such as establishing joint venture companies, entering

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## REGULATIONS

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into contractual arrangements with or providing technical support to the operating companies, or through a disguised form, such as incorporating user registration, user account management or payment through game cards into online game platforms that are ultimately controlled or owned by foreign investors. Certain foreign companies offer online games provided by their game operator partners on websites or through smartphone app distribution platforms which are owned and operated by their consolidated affiliated entities under contractual agreements. If such contractual arrangements were deemed to be “indirect means” or “disguised form” under Circular 13, such relevant contractual arrangements may be challenged by the NPPA or other governmental authorities.

In October 2019, the NPPA promulgated the Circular on Preventing Minors from Developing Online Game Addictions (《關於防止未成年人沉迷網絡遊戲的通知》), which mandates that online game operators take, among others, the following measures to prevent minors from being addicted to online games: (i) the operator shall ensure that its online game users use valid and true identity information to register their game accounts; (ii) the operator shall strictly control the time slot and duration allowed for minors to log in and play online games to the extent that it shall not provide any game service for the minors in any form from 10:00 PM each day to 8:00 AM the next day, and the length of time a minor spends in playing its online games must not exceed three hours accumulatively on each statutory holiday and one and a half hours on each business day; and (iii) the online game operator shall not offer any paid services to minors that are not suitable for their civil capacity. According to such circular, these requirements are pre-conditions for an operator to publish and operate any online game.

### *Regulations on Online Game Virtual Currency*

The Interim Administration Measures of Online Games (《網絡遊戲管理暫行辦法》), which has been repealed on July 10, 2019 while no other regulation has been issued or promulgated as of the Latest Practicable Date to replace this regulation) require companies that (i) issue online game virtual currency (including prepaid cards and/or pre-payment or prepaid card points) or (ii) offer online game virtual currency transaction services to apply for the Internet Culture Business Permit from provincial branches of the Ministry of Culture. The regulations prohibit companies that issue online game virtual currency from providing services that would enable the trading of such virtual currency. Any company that fails to submit the requisite application will be subject to sanctions, including but not limited to termination of operation, confiscation of incomes and fines. The regulations also prohibit online game operators from allocating virtual items or virtual currency to players based on random selection through lucky draw, wager or lottery that involve cash or virtual currency directly paid by the players. In addition, companies that issue online game virtual currency must comply with certain specific requirements. For example, online games virtual currency can only be used for products and services related to the issuance company’s own online games. Pursuant to the Circular on Regulating Online Game Operation and Strengthening Interim and Ex Post Supervision (《關於規範網絡遊戲運營加強事中事後監管工作的通知》) issued by the Ministry of Culture in December 2016, which took effect on May 1, 2017 and repealed on August 19, 2019, an online game operator must not allow online game virtual currency to exchange for legal currency or items, except in the case of termination of online game operation where the online game operator may refund the balance of online game virtual currency to players in the form of legal currency or in other means acceptable to the players. Moreover, pursuant to the circular, regulations applicable to online game virtual currency also apply to such other virtual items where the virtual items are issued by the online game operator, can be exchangeable for other virtual items or value-added services related to the games, and can be purchased with legal currency or online game virtual currency or exchanged for online game virtual currency. As of the Latest Practicable Date, no government authority has issued or promulgated any provisions to replace the above-mentioned regulations.

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## REGULATIONS

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### *Regulations on Advertisements and Online Advertising*

The PRC Advertising Law (《中華人民共和國廣告法》), as most recently amended in October 2018, outlines the regulatory framework for the advertising industry, and allows foreign investors to own up to all equity interests in PRC advertising companies.

Advertisers, advertising operators and advertising distributors are required by PRC advertising laws and regulations to ensure that the contents of the advertisements they prepare or distribute are true and in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations. For example, pursuant to PRC Advertising Law, advertisements must not contain, among other prohibited contents, terms such as “the state-level,” “the highest grade,” “the best” or other similar words. In addition, where a special government review is required for certain categories of advertisements before publishing, the advertisers, advertising operators and advertising distributors are obligated to confirm that such review has been performed and the relevant approval has been obtained. Pursuant to the PRC Advertising Law, the use of the internet to distribute advertisements shall not affect the normal use of the internet by users. Particularly, advertisements distributed on internet pages such as pop-up advertisements shall be indicated with a conspicuous mark for “close” to ensure the close of such advertisements by one click. Where internet information service providers know or should know that illegal advertisements are being distributed using their services, they shall prevent such advertisements from being distributed.

In addition to the above regulations, the Interim Administration Measures of Internet Advertising (《互聯網廣告管理暫行辦法》), the “**Internet Advertising Measures**”) which was promulgated by the then State Administration for Industry and Commerce (currently known as the SAMR) and became effective on September 1, 2016 also set forth certain compliance requirements for online advertising businesses. For example, search engine service providers must indicate paid search results as an advertisement and distinguish paid search results from natural search results on their websites. Advertising operators and distributors of internet advertisements must examine, verify and record identity information, such as name, address and contact information, of advertisers, and maintain an updated verification record on a regular basis. Moreover, advertising operators and advertising distributors must examine supporting documentation provided by advertisers and verify the contents of the advertisements against supporting documents before publishing. If the contents of advertisements are inconsistent with the supporting documentation, or the supporting documentation is incomplete, advertising operators and distributors must refrain from providing design, production, agency or publishing services. The Internet Advertising Measures also prohibit the following activities: (i) providing or using apps and hardware to block, filter, skip over, tamper with, or cover up lawful advertisements; (ii) using network access, network equipment and apps to disrupt the normal transmission of lawful advertisements or adding or uploading advertisements without authorization; and (iii) harming the interests of a third party by using fake statistics or traffic data.

The SAMR has promulgated the Guidance regarding Strengthening the Supervision over Marketing Activities by Internet Live-Streaming (《關於加強網絡直播營銷活動監管的指導意見》) in November 2020 to further regulated marketing activities by Internet live-streaming. The NRTA also issued a circular on the Strengthening Management of Live-Streaming of Internet Shows and Electronic Commerce (《關於加強網絡秀場直播和電商直播管理的通知》) in November 2020 to provide instruction to online marketing activities through live-streaming. Platforms providing live-streaming of Internet show or electronic commerce shall register with National Internet Video-audio Platform Information Management System no later than November 30, 2020. The overall ratio of front-line content reviewers to live-streaming rooms on such platforms shall be no less than 1:50. The training for content reviewers shall be strengthened and content reviewers who have passed the training shall be registered in the Reviewer Information Management System. A platform shall report the number of its

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## REGULATIONS

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live-streaming rooms, streamers and content reviewers to the provincial branch of the NRTA on a quarterly basis. Internet show live-streaming platforms shall tag content of live-streaming rooms and corresponding streamers by category. A streamer cannot change the category of the programs tagged in his or her live-streaming room without prior approval from the platform. Users that are minors or without real-name registration are prohibited from virtual tipping, and platforms shall cap the amount of virtual tipping per time, per day, and per month. When the virtual tipping by a user reaches half of the daily/monthly limit, a consumption notification from the platform and a confirmation from the user by text messages or other means are required before the processing the next transaction. When the amount of virtual tipping by a user reaches the daily/monthly limit, the platform shall suspend the virtual tipping function for such user for that day or month. To host any electronic commerce promotion events such as E-commerce Festival, E-commerce Day or Promotion Day in the forms of live-streaming rooms, live performances, live variety shows and other live programs, the platforms shall register the information of guests, streamers, content and settings with the local branch of NRTA 14 business days in advance. Internet electronic commerce live-streaming platforms shall conduct relevant qualification examination and real-name authentication on businesses and individuals providing live-streaming marketing services and keep complete examination and authentication records, and shall not enable imposters or businesses or individuals without qualification or real-name registration to conduct live-streaming marketing services.

Violation of these regulations may result in penalties, including fines, confiscation of advertising income, orders to cease dissemination of the advertisements and orders to publish an advertisement correcting the misleading information. In the case of serious violations, the SAMR or its local branches may force the violator to terminate its advertising operation or even revoke its business license. Furthermore, advertisers, advertising operators or advertising distributors may be subject to civil liability if they infringe on the legal rights and interests of third parties.

### ***Regulations on Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Driving Vehicles***

The Chinese government has issued a series of guidelines to encourage and support the research and development of AI technology, such as the Three-Year Implementing Plan for Internet Plus Artificial Intelligence (《“互聯網+”人工智能三年行動實施方案》) issued in May 2016 and the Development Planning on the New Generation of Artificial Intelligence (《關於印發新一代人工智能發展規劃的通知》) issued in July 2017. In particular, the MIIT, the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Transport, issued the Circular on the Norms on Administration of Road Testing of Autonomous Driving Vehicles (Trial Implementation) (《智能網聯汽車道路測試管理規範(試行)》) in April 2018, which became effective from May 1, 2018 and is the primary regulation governing protocol of road testing of autonomous driving vehicles in the PRC. Pursuant to this circular, any entity intending to conduct a road testing of autonomous driving vehicles must apply for and obtain a road-testing certificate and a temporary license plate for each tested car. To qualify for these required licenses, an applicant entity must satisfy, among others, the following requirements: (i) it must be an independent legal person registered under PRC law with the capacity to conduct manufacturing, technological research or testing of automobiles and automobile parts, which has established protocol to test and assess the performance of autonomous driving system and is capable of conducting real-time remote monitor of the tested cars; (ii) the vehicle under road testing must be equipped with a driving system that can switch between autonomous pilot model and human driving model in a safe, quick and simple manner and allows human driver to take control of the vehicle any time immediately when necessary; (iii) the tested vehicle must be equipped with the function of recording, storing and real-time monitoring the condition of the vehicle and is able to transmit real-time data of the vehicle, such as the driving model, location and speed; (iv) the applicant entity must sign an employment contract or a labor service contract with the driver of the tested vehicle, who must be a licensed driver with more

## REGULATIONS

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than three years’ driving experience and a track record of safe driving and is familiar with the testing protocol for autonomous driving system and proficient in operating the system; (v) the applicant entity must insure each tested vehicle for at least RMB5 million against car accidents or provide a letter of guarantee covering the same. During testing, the testing entity should post a noticeable identification logo for autonomous driving test on each tested car and should not use autonomous driving model unless in the permitted testing areas specified in the road-testing certificate. If the testing entity intends to conduct road testing in the region beyond the administrative territory of the certificate issuing authority, it must apply for a separate road-testing certificate and a separate temporary license plate from the relevant authority supervising the road-testing of autonomous cars in that region. In addition, the testing entity is required to submit to the road-testing certificate issuing authority a periodical testing report every six months and a final testing report within one month after completion of the road testing. In the case of a car accident causing severe injury or death of personnel or vehicle damage, the testing entity must report the accident to the road-testing certificate issuing authority within 24 hours and submit a comprehensive analysis report in writing covering cause analysis, final liability allocation results, etc. within five working days after the traffic enforcement agency determines the liability for the accident. Some local governments, such as Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Hunan and Tianjin, have issued local rules and regulations to regulate road testing of autonomous driving cars accordingly.

### *Regulation on Product Quality*

Products made in mainland China shall be subject to the Product Quality Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國產品質量法》) (the “**Product Quality Law**”), which was promulgated on February 22, 1993 and most recently amended on December 29, 2018. According to the Product Quality Law, a seller of a product shall be responsible for repairing, replacing or returning the product with any of the following defects, and shall compensate for the damages incurred by consumers who bought such defective product: (i) the product does not have the usability which such product should have and there are no prior indications about such situation; (ii) the actual quality of such product fails to comply with the standards specified on such product or the package of such product; and (iii) the actual quality of such product fails to meet the quality status specified by way of product specifications and samples. After the seller performs its obligation of repairing, replacing and returning the defective product and/or compensating for the customers’ damages, such seller is entitled to seek reimbursement from the manufacturer of such product, if it could be proved that the defect is caused by the manufacturer. According to the Product Quality Law, a manufacturer of a product shall be responsible to compensate for the damages to any person caused by the defect of such product, unless the manufacturer is able to prove that: (i) it did not circulate the product; (ii) the defect did not exist at the time when the product was circulated; or (iii) scientific or technologic knowledge at the time when such product was circulated was not such that it allowed the defect to be discovered.

### *Regulations on Tort Liability*

In accordance with the Tort Liability Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國侵權責任法》) (the “**Tort Liability Law**”), which became effective in July 2010, internet users and internet service providers bear tortious liabilities in the event that they infringe upon other persons’ rights and interests through the internet. Where an internet user conducts tortious acts through internet services, the infringed person has the right to request the internet service provider take necessary actions such as deleting contents, screening and de-linking. Failing to take necessary actions after being informed, the internet service provider will be subject to joint and several liabilities with the internet user with regard to the additional damages incurred. Where an internet service provider knows that an internet user is infringing upon other persons’ rights and interests through its internet service but fails to take necessary actions, it is jointly and severally liable with the internet user. In addition, in accordance

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## REGULATIONS

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with the Tort Liability Law, in the event of any damage arising from a defective product, the infringed person may seek compensation from either the manufacturer or the seller of such product. If the manufacturer has compensated the infringed person but the defect is caused by the fault of the seller, the manufacturer is entitled to seek reimbursement from the seller. If the seller has compensated the infringed person but the defect is caused by the manufacturer, the seller is entitled to seek reimbursement from the manufacturer. The National People’s Congress adopted the Civil Code of the PRC (《中華人民共和國民法典》), the “**Civil Code**”) on May 28, 2020, which came into effect on January 1, 2021 and revoked the Tort Liability Law. The Civil Code has further revised the Internet tort liability as originally provided in the Tort Liability Law. It has further elaborated on “safe harbor” rule with respect to an internet service provider from both the aspects of notice and counter notice, including (i) upon receiving notice from the right holder, promptly adopting necessary protective measures such as deletion, screening or disconnection of hyperlinks and reefing right holder’s notice to disputed internet user; and (ii) upon receiving counter-notice from the disputed internet user, referring such counter-notice to the claiming right holder and informing him/her to take other corresponding measures such as filing complaint with competent authorities or suit with courts. The Civil Code has also provides that where the internet service provider knew or should have known the infringing acts of the internet user, it shall be severally liable with such internet user. As for product liability, the Civil Code provides additional mitigation measures such as stop selling of defective products and stipulated that the seller and manufacturer shall also be liable for expanded damages caused by such defective products if no mitigation measures are provided or not sufficient. If a recall of defective product is required, the seller and the manufacturer shall be responsible to undertake fees paid by infringed users.

### ***Regulations on Intellectual Property Rights***

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

*Patent.* The Patent Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國專利法》) provides for patentable inventions, utility models and designs, which must meet three conditions: novelty, inventiveness and practical applicability. The State Intellectual Property Office under the State Council is responsible for examining and approving patent applications. A patent is valid for a term of twenty years in the case of an invention and a term of ten years in the case of utility models and designs.

*Copyright.* The Copyright Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國著作權法》), the “**Copyright Law**”) and its implementation rules extend copyright protection to products disseminated over the internet and computer software. There is a voluntary registration system administered by the China Copyright Protection Center. Creators of protected works enjoy personal and property rights, including, among others, the right of disseminating the works through information networks.

Pursuant to the relevant PRC regulations, rules and interpretations, ICP operators will be jointly liable with the infringer if they (a) participate in, assist in or abet infringing activities committed by any other person through the internet, (b) are or should be aware of the infringing activities committed by their website users through the internet, or (c) fail to remove infringing content or take other action to eliminate infringing consequences after receiving a warning with evidence of such infringing activities from the copyright holder. The court will determine whether an internet service provider should have known of their internet users’ infringing activities based on how obvious the infringing activities are by taking into consideration a number of factors, including (i) the information management capabilities that the provider should have based on the possibility that the services provided by it may trigger infringing acts, (ii) the degree of obviousness of the infringing content, (iii) whether it has taken the initiative to select, edit, modify or recommend the contents involved, (iv) whether it has taken positive



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## REGULATIONS

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and reasonable measures against infringing acts, and (v) whether it has set up convenient programs to receive notices of infringement and made timely and reasonable responses to the notices. Where an internet service provider has directly obtained economic benefits from any contents made available by an internet user, it shall have a higher duty of care with respect to the internet user’s act of infringement of others’ copyrights. Advertisements placed for or other benefits particularly connected with specific contents may be deemed as direct economic benefits from such contents, but general advertising fees or service fees charged by an internet service provider for its internet services will not be included. In addition, where an ICP operator is clearly aware of the infringement of certain content against another’s copyright through the internet, or fails to take measures to remove relevant contents upon receipt of the copyright holder’s notice, and as a result, it damages the public interest, the ICP operator could be ordered to stop the tortious act and be subject to other administrative penalties such as confiscation of illegal income and fines. An ICP operator is also required to retain all infringement notices for a minimum of six months and to record the content, display time and IP addresses or the domain names related to the infringement for a minimum of 60 days.

Pursuant to the Copyright Law and its implementation rules, creators of protected works enjoy personal and property rights such as the right of disseminating the works through information networks. In addition, the Regulations for the Protection of Information Network Transmission Right (《信息網絡傳播權保護條例》) promulgated by the State Council on May 18, 2006, and amended on January 30, 2013, specify the rules on a safe harbor for use of copyrights and copyright management technology. An internet service provider may be exempted from liabilities for providing links to infringing or illegal content or providing other internet services which are used by its users to infringe others’ copyright, if it does not know and does not have constructive knowledge that such content is infringing upon other parties’ rights or is illegal. However, if the legitimate owner of the content notifies the internet service provider and requests removal of the links to the infringing content, the internet service provider would be deemed to have constructive knowledge upon receipt of such notification, but would be exempted from liabilities if it removes or disconnects the links to the infringing content at the request of the legitimate owner. At the request of the alleged infringer, the internet service provider should immediately restore links to content previously disconnected upon receipt of initial non-infringing evidence.

*Software Products.* The Regulation for the Protection of Computer Software (《計算機軟件保護條例》) promulgated by the State Council on December 20, 2001 and last amended on January 30, 2013. To further implementing this regulation, the Computer Software Copyright Registration Measures (《計算機軟件著作權登記辦法》) promulgated by the China Copyright Office on February 20, 2002, regulates software copyright registration, exclusive licensing contracts of software copyright and transfer agreements. Although such registration is not mandatory under PRC law, software copyright owners are encouraged to go through the registration process and registered software may receive better protection.

*Trademark.* The Trademark Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國商標法》) and its implementation rules protect registered trademarks. The Trademark Office of National Intellectual Property Administration under the SAMR handles trademark registrations and grants a term of ten years to registered trademarks. Trademark license agreements must be filed with the Trademark Office of National Intellectual Property Administration for record.

*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 in August 2017, which became effective in November 2017. The MIIT is the major regulatory body responsible for the administration of the PRC internet domain names, and under the supervision of the MIIT, the China Internet Network

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## REGULATIONS

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Information Center, or CNNIC, is responsible for the daily administration of “.cn” domain names and Chinese domain names. According to the Circular on Administration of the Use of Domain Names for Internet Information Services (《關於規範互聯網信息服務使用域名的通知》) issued by the MIIT in November 2017, only the internet information service provider itself or the shareholder(s), principal or senior management officer(s) of the internet information service provider are eligible to register the domain names used for the internet information services.

### *Regulations on Information Security*

The National People’s Congress has enacted legislation that prohibits use of the internet that breaches the public security, disseminates socially destabilizing content or leaks state secrets. Breach of public security includes breach of national security and infringement on legal rights and interests of the state, society or citizens. Socially destabilizing content includes any content that incites defiance or violations of PRC laws or regulations or subversion of the PRC government or its political system, spreads socially disruptive rumors or involves cult activities, superstition, obscenities, pornography, gambling or violence. State secrets are defined broadly to include information concerning PRC national defense, state affairs and other matters as determined by the PRC authorities.

Pursuant to applicable regulations, ICP operators must complete mandatory security filing procedures and regularly update information security and monitoring systems for their websites with local public security authorities, and must also report any public dissemination of prohibited content.

In December 2015, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress promulgated the Anti-Terrorism Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國反恐怖主義法》, the “**Anti-Terrorism Law**”), which took effect on January 1, 2016 and was amended on April 27, 2018. According to the Anti-Terrorism Law, telecommunication service operators or internet service providers shall (i) carry out pertinent anti-terrorism publicity and education to society; (ii) provide technical interfaces, decryption and other technical support and assistance for the competent departments to prevent and investigate terrorist activities; (iii) implement network security and information monitoring systems as well as safety and technical prevention measures to avoid the dissemination of terrorism information, delete the terrorism information, immediately halt its dissemination, keep relevant records and report to the competent departments once the terrorism information is discovered; and (iv) examine customer identities before providing services. Any violation of the Anti-Terrorism Law may result in severe penalties, including substantial fines.

In November 2016, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress promulgated the Cyber Security Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國網絡安全法》, the “**Cyber Security Law**”), which took effect on June 1, 2017. In accordance with the Cyber Security Law, network operators must comply with applicable laws and regulations and fulfill their obligations to safeguard network security in conducting business and providing services. Network service providers must take technical and other necessary measures as required by laws, regulations and mandatory requirements to safeguard the operation of networks, respond to network security effectively, prevent illegal and criminal activities, and maintain the integrity, confidentiality and usability of network data.

In addition, the State Secrecy Bureau has issued provisions authorizing the blocking of access to any website it deems to be leaking state secrets or failing to comply with the relevant legislation regarding the protection of state secrets during online information distribution. Specifically, internet companies in the PRC with bulletin boards, chat rooms or similar services must apply for specific approval prior to operating such services.

## REGULATIONS

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Furthermore, the Provisions on Technological Measures for Internet Security Protection (《互聯網安全保護技術措施規定》), promulgated by the Ministry of Public Security and became effective in March 2006, require all ICP operators to keep records of certain information about its users (including user registration information, log-in and log-out time, IP address, content and time of posts by users) for at least 60 days and submit the above information as required by laws and regulations. The Decision on Strengthening Network Information Protection (《關於加強網絡信息保護的決定》), the “**Network Information Protection Decision**”, which was promulgated by the PRC National People’s Congress in December 2012, states that ICP operators must request identity information from users when ICP operators provide information publication services to the users. If ICP operators come across prohibited information, they must immediately cease the transmission of such information, delete the information, keep relevant records, and report to relevant government authorities.

On October 21, 2019, the Supreme People’s Court and the Supreme People’s Procuratorate of the PRC jointly issued the Interpretations on Certain Issues Regarding the Applicable of Law in the Handling of Criminal Case Involving Illegal Use of Information Networks and Assisting Committing Internet Crimes (《最高人民法院、最高人民檢察院關於辦理非法利用信息網絡、幫助信息網絡犯罪活動等刑事案件適用法律若干問題的解釋》), which came into effect on November 1, 2019, and further clarifies the meaning of Internet service provider and the severe situations of the relevant crimes.

### *Regulations on Internet Privacy*

The PRC Constitution (《中華人民共和國憲法》) states that PRC law protects the freedom and privacy of communications of citizens and prohibits infringement of these rights. In recent years, PRC government authorities have enacted legislation on internet use to protect personal information from any unauthorized disclosure. The Network Information Protection Decision provides that electronic information that identifies a citizen or involves privacy of any citizen is protected by law and must not be unlawfully collected or provided to others. ICP operators collecting or using personal electronic information of citizens must specify the purposes, manners and scopes of information collection and uses, obtain consent of the relevant citizens, and keep the collected personal information confidential. ICP operators are prohibited from disclosing, tampering with, damaging, selling or illegally providing others with, collected personal information. ICP operators are required to take technical and other measures to prevent the collected personal information from any unauthorized disclosure, damage or loss. The Administrative Measures on Internet Information Services prohibit an ICP operator from insulting or slandering a third party or infringing upon the lawful rights and interests of a third party. According to the Provisions on Protection of Personal Information of Telecommunication and Internet Users (《電信和互聯網用戶個人信息保護規定》), which was promulgated by MIIT and became effective in September 2013, telecommunication business operators and ICP operators are responsible for the security of the personal information of users they collect or use in the course of their provision of services. Without obtaining the consent from the users, telecommunication business operators and ICP operators may not collect or use the users’ personal information. The personal information collected or used in the course of provision of services by the telecommunication business operators or ICP operators must be kept in strict confidence, and may not be divulged, tampered with or damaged, and may not be sold or illegally provided to others. The ICP operators are required to take certain measures to prevent any divulgence of, damage to, tampering with or loss of users’ personal information. In accordance with the Cyber Security Law, network operators are required to collect and use personal information in compliance with the principles of legitimacy, properness and necessity, and strictly within the scope of authorization by the subject of personal information unless otherwise prescribed by laws or regulations. In the event of any unauthorized disclosure, damage or loss of collected personal information, network operators must take immediate remedial measures, notify the affected users and report the incidents to the relevant authorities in a timely manner. If any user knows

## REGULATIONS

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that a network operator illegally collects and uses his or her personal information in violation of laws, regulations or any agreement with the user, or the collected and stored personal information is inaccurate or wrong, the user has the right to request the network operator to delete or correct the relevant collected personal information.

The relevant telecommunications authorities are further authorized to order ICP operators to rectify unauthorized disclosure. ICP operators are subject to legal liability, including warnings, fines, confiscation of illegal gains, revocation of licenses or filings, closing of the relevant websites, administrative punishment, criminal liabilities, or civil liabilities, if they violate relevant provisions on internet privacy. Pursuant to the Ninth Amendment to the Criminal Law (《中華人民共和國刑法修正案(九)》) issued by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress in August 2015 and becoming effective in November 2015, the standards of crime of infringing citizens’ personal information were amended accordingly and the criminal culpability of unlawful collection, transaction, and provision of personal information has been reinforced. In addition, any ICP provider that fails to fulfill the obligations related to internet information security administration as required by applicable laws and refuses to rectify upon orders, will be subject to criminal liability for (i) any dissemination of illegal information in large scale; (ii) any severe effect due to the leakage of the client’s information; (iii) any serious loss of evidence of criminal activities; or (iv) other severe situations, and any individual or entity that (x) sells or provides personal information to others unlawfully, or (y) steals or illegally obtains any personal information, will be subject to criminal liability in severe situations. In addition, the Interpretations of the Supreme People’s Court and the Supreme People’s Procuratorate of the PRC on Several Issues Concerning the Application of Law in Handling Criminal Cases of Infringing Personal Information (《最高人民法院、最高人民檢察院關於辦理侵犯公民個人信息刑事案件適用法律若干問題的解釋》), effective in June 2017, have clarified certain standards for the conviction and sentencing in relation to personal information infringement. The PRC government has the power and authority to order ICP operators to turn over personal information if an internet user posts any prohibited content or engages in illegal activities on the internet. The Civil Code further provides in a stand-alone chapter of right of personality and reiterate that the personal information of a natural person shall be protected by the law. Any organization or individual shall legitimately obtain such personal information of others in due course on a need-to-know basis and ensure the safety and privacy of such information, and refrain from excessively handling or using such information.

With respect to the security of information collected and used by mobile apps, pursuant to the Announcement of Conducting Special Supervision against the Illegal Collection and Use of Personal Information by Apps (《關於開展APP違法違規收集使用個人信息專項治理的公告》), which was issued on January 23, 2019, app operators should collect and use personal information in compliance with the Cyber Security Law and should be responsible for the security of personal information obtained from users and take effective measures to strengthen the personal information protection. Furthermore, app operators should not force their users to make authorization by means of bundling, suspending installation or in other default forms and should not collect personal information in violation of laws, regulations or breach of user agreements. Such regulatory requirements were emphasized by the Notice on the Special Rectification of Apps Infringing upon User’s Personal Rights and Interests (《關於開展APP侵害用戶權益專項整治工作的通知》), which was issued by MIIT on October 31, 2019. On November 28, 2019, the CAC, the MIIT, the Ministry of Public Security and the SMAR jointly issued the Methods of Identifying Illegal Acts of Apps to Collect and Use Personal Information (《App違法違規收集使用個人信息行為認定方法》). This regulation further illustrates certain commonly-seen illegal practices of apps operators in terms of personal information protection, including “failure to publicize rules for collecting and using personal information”, “failure to expressly state the purpose, manner and scope of collecting and using personal information”, “collection and use of personal information

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## REGULATIONS

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without consent of users of such App”, “collecting personal information irrelevant to the services provided by such app in violation of the principle of necessity”, “provision of personal information to others without users’ consent”, “failure to provide the function of deleting or correcting personal information as required by laws” and “failure to publish information such as methods for complaints and reporting”. Among others, any of the following acts of an app operator will constitute “collection and use of personal information without consent of users”: (i) collecting an user’s personal information or activating the permission for collecting any user’s personal information without obtaining such user’s consent; (ii) collecting personal information or activating the permission for collecting the personal information of any user who explicitly refuses such collection, or repeatedly seeking for user’s consent such that the user’s normal use of such app is disturbed; (iii) any user’s personal information which has been actually collected by the app operator or the permission for collecting any user’s personal information activated by the app operator is beyond the scope of personal information which such user authorizes such app operator to collect; (iv) seeking for any user’s consent in a non-explicit manner; (v) modifying any user’s settings for activating the permission for collecting any personal information without such user’s consent; (vi) using users’ personal information and any algorithms to directionally push any information, without providing the option of non-directed pushing such information; (vii) misleading users to permit collecting their personal information or activating the permission for collecting such users’ personal information by improper methods such as fraud and deception; (viii) failing to provide users with the means and methods to withdraw their permission of collecting personal information; and (ix) collecting and using personal information in violation of the rules for collecting and using personal information promulgated by such app operator.

On August 22, 2019, the CAC promulgated the Children Information Protection Provisions (《兒童個人信息網絡保護規定》), which took effect on October 1, 2019, requiring that before collecting, using, transferring or disclosing the personal information of a child, the Internet service operator should inform the child’s guardians in a noticeable and clear manner and obtain their consents. Meanwhile, Internet service operators should take measures like encryption when storing children’s personal information.

In October 2020, the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress issued the Draft Personal Information Protection Law (《個人信息保護法(草案)》) for public comments. The Draft Personal Information Protection Law integrates provisions from several rules with respect to personal information rights and privacy protection. According to the Draft Personal Information Protection Law, personal information refers to information related to identified or identifiable natural persons which is recorded by electronic or other means (excluding the anonymized information). The Draft Personal Information Protection Law provides the circumstances under which a personal information processor could process personal information, such as where the consent of the individual concerned is obtained and where it is necessary for the conclusion or performance of a contract to which such individual is a party to such contract. It also stipulates certain specific provisions with respect to the obligations of a personal information processor. As of the date of this document, the Draft Personal Information Protection Law has not come into effect.

### ***Regulations on Anti-Monopoly Matters related to Internet Platform Companies.***

The PRC Anti-monopoly Law (《中華人民共和國反壟斷法》), which took effect on August 1, 2008, prohibits monopolistic conduct such as entering into monopoly agreements, abusing market dominance and concentration of undertakings that may have the effect of eliminating or restricting competition. On February 7, 2021, the Anti-monopoly Commission of the State Council officially promulgated the Guidelines to Anti-Monopoly in the Field of Internet Platforms (《關於平台經濟領域的反壟斷指南》), or the Anti-Monopoly Guidelines for Internet Platforms. Pursuant to an official interpretation from the

## REGULATIONS

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Anti-monopoly Commission of the State Council, the Anti-Monopoly Guidelines for Internet Platforms mainly covers five aspects, including general provisions, monopoly agreements, abusing market dominance, concentration of undertakings, and abusing of administrative powers eliminating or restricting competition. The Anti-Monopoly Guidelines for Internet Platforms prohibits certain monopolistic acts of internet platforms so as to protect market competition and safeguard interests of users and undertakings participating in internet platform economy, including without limitation, prohibiting platforms with dominant position from abusing their market dominance (such as discriminating customers in terms of pricing and other transactional conditions using big data and analytics, coercing counterparties into exclusivity arrangements, using technology means to block competitors’ interface, favourable positioning in search results of goods displays, using bundle services to sell services or products, compulsory collection of unnecessary user data). In addition, the Anti-Monopoly Guidelines for Internet Platforms also reinforces antitrust merger review for internet platform related transactions to safeguard market competition.

### *Regulations on Foreign Exchange*

#### *Foreign Currency Exchange*

Pursuant to the Foreign Currency Administration Rules (《外匯管理條例》), as most recently amended in 2008, and various regulations issued by SAFE and other relevant PRC government authorities, RMB is freely convertible to the extent of current account items, such as trade related receipts and payments, interest and dividends. Capital account items, such as direct equity investments, loans and repatriation of investment, unless expressly exempted by laws and regulations, still require prior approval from SAFE or its provincial branch for conversion of RMB into a foreign currency, such as U.S. dollars, and remittance of the foreign currency outside of the PRC.

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告》), 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. In addition, SAFE promulgated Circular 45 on November 9, 2011 in order to clarify the application of SAFE Circular 142. Under SAFE Circular 142 and Circular 45, 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 administrative authority and may not be used for equity investments within the PRC. In addition, SAFE strengthened its oversight of the flow and use of RMB capital converted from foreign currency registered capital of foreign-invested enterprises. The use of RMB capital may not be changed without SAFE’s approval, and RMB capital may not in any case be used to repay RMB loans if the proceeds of the loans have not been used.

To further reform the foreign exchange administration system in order to satisfy and facilitate the business and capital operations of foreign-invested enterprises, SAFE issued the Circular on the Relevant Issues Concerning the Launch of Reforming Trial of the Administration Model of the Settlement of Foreign Currency Capital of Foreign-Invested Enterprises in Certain Areas (《關於在部分地區開展外商投資企業外匯資本金結匯管理方式改革試點有關問題的通知》) in July 2014, which became effective on August 4, 2014. This circular suspends the application of SAFE Circular 142 in certain areas and allows a foreign-invested enterprise registered in these areas with a business scope including “investment” to use the RMB capital converted from foreign currency registered capital for equity investments within the PRC. SAFE released the Notice on the Reform of the Administration Method for the Settlement of Foreign Exchange Capital of Foreign-invested Enterprises (《關於改革

## REGULATIONS

外商投資企業外匯資金結匯管理方式的通知》) or SAFE Circular 19, in March 2015, which came into force and superseded SAFE Circular 142 on June 1, 2015. Circular 19 allows foreign-invested enterprises to settle their foreign exchange capital on a discretionary basis according to the actual needs of their business operation and provides the procedures for foreign-invested companies to use Renminbi converted from foreign currency-denominated capital for equity investment. Nevertheless, Circular 19 also reiterates the principle that Renminbi converted from foreign currency-denominated capital of a foreign-invested company may not be directly or indirectly used for purposes beyond its business scope.

In June 2016, SAFE issued the Circular on Reforming and Regulating Policies on the Control over Foreign Exchange Settlement of Capital Accounts (《關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》), or Circular 16, which took effect on the same day. Compared to Circular 19, Circular 16 provides that discretionary foreign exchange settlement applies to foreign exchange capital, foreign debt offering proceeds and remitted foreign listing proceeds, and the corresponding Renminbi obtained from foreign exchange settlement are not restricted from extending loans to related parties or repaying the inter-company loans (including advances by third parties). However, there still exist substantial uncertainties with respect to the interpretation and implementation of Circular 16 in practice.

In November 2012, SAFE promulgated the Circular of Further Improving and Adjusting Foreign Exchange Administration Policies on 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》), as amended, which substantially amends and simplifies the foreign exchange procedure. Pursuant to this circular, the opening of various special purpose foreign exchange accounts, such as pre-establishment expenses accounts, foreign exchange capital accounts and guarantee accounts, the reinvestment of RMB proceeds by foreign investors in the PRC, and remittance of foreign exchange profits and dividends by a foreign-invested enterprise to its foreign shareholders no longer require the approval or verification of SAFE, and multiple capital accounts for the same entity may be opened in different provinces, which was not possible previously. 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, as amended, 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.

After a Notice on Further Simplifying and Improving Foreign Exchange Administration Policy on Direct Investment (《關於進一步簡化和改進直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》), or SAFE Notice 13, became effective on June 1, 2015, instead of applying for approvals regarding foreign exchange registrations of foreign direct investment and overseas direct investment from SAFE, entities and individuals will be required to apply for such foreign exchange registrations from qualified banks. The qualified banks, under the supervision of SAFE, directly examine the applications and conduct the registration.

On October 23, 2019, SAFE issued the Circular on Further Promoting Cross-border Trade and Investment Facilitation (《關於進一步促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》), or SAFE Circular 28. Among others, SAFE Circular 28 relaxes the prior restrictions and allows the foreign-invested enterprises without equity investment as in their approved business scope to use their capital obtained from foreign exchange settlement to make domestic equity investment as long as the investments are real and in compliance with the foreign investment-related laws and regulations. In addition, SAFE Circular 28 stipulates that qualified enterprises in certain pilot areas may use their capital income from registered capital, foreign debt and overseas listing, for the purpose of domestic payments without providing

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## REGULATIONS

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authenticity certifications to the relevant banks in advance for those domestic payments. Payments for transactions that take place within the PRC must be made in RMB. Foreign currency revenues received by PRC companies may be repatriated into the PRC or retained outside of the PRC in accordance with requirements and terms specified by SAFE.

### *Dividend Distribution*

Wholly foreign-owned enterprises and Sino-foreign equity joint ventures in the PRC may pay dividends only out of their accumulated profits, if any, as determined in accordance with PRC accounting standards and regulations. Additionally, these foreign-invested enterprises may not pay dividends unless they set aside at least 10% of their respective accumulated profits after tax each year, if any, to fund certain reserve funds, until such time as the accumulative amount of such fund reaches 50% of the enterprise’s registered capital. In addition, these companies also may allocate a portion of their after-tax profits based on PRC accounting standards to employee welfare and bonus funds at their discretion. These reserves are not distributable as cash dividends.

Regulations governing abovementioned dividend distribution arrangements have been replaced by the Foreign Investment Law and its implantation rules, which do not provide specific dividend distribution rules for foreign invested enterprises. However, the Foreign Investment Law and its implementation rules provide that after the conversion from a wholly foreign-owned enterprise or sino-foreign equity joint venture to a foreign invested enterprise under the Foreign Investment Law, distribution method of gains agreed in the joint venture agreements may continue to apply.

### *Foreign Exchange Registration of Offshore Investment by PRC Residents*

Pursuant to SAFE’s Notice on Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Administration for PRC Residents to Engage in Financing and Inbound Investment via Overseas Special Purpose Vehicles (《關於境內居民通過境外特殊目的公司融資及返程投資外匯管理有關問題的通知》), or SAFE Circular No. 75, issued in October 2005, and a series of implementation rules and guidance, including the circular relating to operating procedures that came into effect in July 2011 (《關於印發境內居民通過境外特殊目的公司融資及返程投資外匯管理操作規程的通知》), PRC residents, including PRC resident natural persons or PRC companies, must register with local branches of SAFE in connection with their direct or indirect offshore investment in an overseas special purpose vehicle, or SPV, for the purposes of overseas equity financing activities, and to update such registration in the event of any significant changes with respect to that offshore company. SAFE promulgated the Circular on Relevant Issues Concerning Foreign Exchange Control on Domestic Residents’ Offshore Investment and Financing and Roundtrip Investment through Special Purpose Vehicles (《關於境內居民通過特殊目的公司境外投融資及返程投資外匯管理有關問題的通知》), or SAFE Circular No. 37, on July 4, 2014, which replaced SAFE Circular No. 75. SAFE Circular No. 37 requires PRC residents to register with local branches of SAFE in connection with their direct establishment or indirect control of an offshore entity, for the purpose of overseas investment and financing, with such PRC residents’ legally owned assets or equity interests in domestic enterprises or offshore assets or interests, referred to in SAFE Circular No. 37 as a “special purpose vehicle.” The term “control” under SAFE Circular No. 37 is broadly defined as the operation rights, beneficiary rights or decision-making rights acquired by the PRC residents in the offshore special purpose vehicles or PRC companies by such means as acquisition, trust, proxy, voting rights, repurchase, convertible bonds or other arrangements. SAFE Circular No. 37 further requires amendment to the registration in the event of any changes with respect to the basic information of the special purpose vehicle, such as changes in a PRC resident individual shareholder, name or operation period; or any significant changes with respect to the special purpose vehicle, such as an increase or decrease of capital contributed by PRC individuals, a share transfer or exchange, merger, division or



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## REGULATIONS

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other material event. If the shareholders of the offshore holding company who are PRC residents do not complete their registration with the local SAFE branches, the PRC subsidiaries may be prohibited from distributing their profits and proceeds from any reduction in capital, share transfer or liquidation to the offshore company, and the offshore company may be restricted in its ability to contribute additional capital to its PRC subsidiaries. Moreover, failure to comply with the SAFE registration and amendment requirements described above could result in liability under PRC law for evasion of applicable foreign exchange restrictions. After SAFE Notice 13 became effective on June 1, 2015, entities and individuals are required to apply for foreign exchange registration of foreign direct investment and overseas direct investment, including those required under SAFE Circular No. 37, with qualified banks, instead of SAFE. The qualified banks, under the supervision of SAFE, directly examine the applications and conduct the registration.

Under the Administration Measures on Individual Foreign Exchange Control (《個人外匯管理辦法》) issued by the People’s Bank of China, or the PBOC, in December 2006 and its implementation rules issued in January 2007 and revised in May 2016, all foreign exchange matters involved in employee share ownership plans and share option plans in which PRC citizens participate require approval from SAFE or its authorized branch. In February 2012, SAFE promulgated the Notices on Issues Concerning the Foreign Exchange Administration for Domestic Individuals Participating in Stock Incentive Plans of Overseas Publicly-Listed Companies (《關於境內個人參與境外上市公司股權激勵計劃外匯管理有關問題的通知》), or the Stock Option Rule, replacing the earlier rules promulgated in March 2007. Under the Stock Option Rule, PRC residents who are granted stock options by an overseas publicly listed company are required, through a PRC agent or PRC subsidiary of such overseas publicly listed company, to register with SAFE and complete certain other procedures. Failure of the option holders to complete their SAFE registrations may subject these PRC employees to fines and legal sanctions and may also limit the ability of the overseas publicly listed company to contribute additional capital into its PRC subsidiary and limit the PRC subsidiary’s ability to distribute dividends.

### *Regulations on Labor*

The Labor Contract Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法》, the “**Labor Contract Law**”), which became effective in January 2008 and last amended in December 2012, and its implementation rules, impose more restrictions on employers and have been deemed to increase labor costs for employers, compared to the Labor Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動法》, the “**Labor Law**”), which became effective in January 1995. For example, pursuant to the Labor Contract Law, an employer is obliged to sign a labor contract with an unlimited term with an employee if the employer continues to hire the employee after the expiration of two consecutive fixed-term labor contracts. The employer has to compensate the employee upon the expiration of a fixed-term labor contract, unless the employee refuses to renew such contract on terms the same as or more favorable to the employee than those contained in the expired contract. The employer also has to indemnify an employee if the employer terminates a labor contract without a cause permitted by law. In addition, under the Regulations on Paid Annual Leave for Employees (《職工帶薪年休假條例》), which became effective in January 2008, employees who have served more than one year for an employer are entitled to a paid vacation ranging from 5 to 15 days per year, depending on their length of service. Employees who waive such vacation time at the request of employers must be compensated for three times their regular salaries for each waived vacation day.

In addition, according to the PRC Social Insurance Law (《中華人民共和國社會保險法》) and the Regulations on the Administration of Housing Provident Funds (《住房公積金管理條例》), employers in China must provide employees with welfare schemes covering pension insurance, unemployment

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## REGULATIONS

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insurance, maternity insurance, work-related injury insurance, medical insurance and housing provident funds.

### *Regulations on Taxation*

#### *Enterprise Income Tax*

Effective from January 1, 2008 and last amended on December 29, 2018, the PRC’s statutory enterprise income tax, or EIT, rate is 25%. An enterprise may benefit from a preferential tax rate of 15% under the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》), the “**EIT Law**”) if it qualifies as a “High and New Technology Enterprise” strongly supported by the state. Pursuant to the Administrative Measures on the Recognition of High and New Technology Enterprises (《高新技術企業認定管理辦法》), the “**Recognition Measures**”), as amended in January 2016, the provincial counterparts of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation make joint determination on whether an enterprise is qualified as a “High and New Technology Enterprise” under the EIT Law. In making such determination, these government agencies consider, among other factors, ownership of core technology, whether the key technology supporting the core products or services falls within the scope of high and new technology strongly supported by the state as specified in the Recognition Measures, the ratios of research and development personnel to total personnel, the ratio of research and development expenditures to annual sales revenues, the ratio of revenues attributed to high and new technology products or services to total revenues, and other measures set forth in relevant guidance. A “High and New Technology Enterprise” certificate is effective for a period of three years.

An enterprise may benefit from a preferential tax rate of 10% under the EIT law if it qualifies as a “Key Software Enterprise”. Enterprises wishing to enjoy the “Key Software Enterprise” status will be subject to relevant governmental authorities’ assessment each year as to whether they are entitled to the preferential tax rate of 10%. Prior to May 2016, a “Key Software Enterprise” used to be designated jointly by the NDRC, the MIIT, the MOFCOM, the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation. In May 2016, the four PRC governmental authorities jointly issued a notice, pursuant to which an enterprise may be entitled to the preferential income tax rate of 10% by filing with the local tax authority with supporting documentation proving its qualifications to be a “Key Software Enterprise” during its annual income tax filing process. In December 2020, the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation, the NDRC, and the MIIT jointly issued a circular which has repealed the original preferential tax treatment applicable to the “Key Software Enterprise.” Such circular provides that the Key Software Enterprise’s EIT would be waived for five years since its first year of making profit and it may benefit from a preferential tax rate of 10% for the following years.

#### *Withholding Tax*

Under the EIT Law and its implementation rules, dividends, interests, rent or royalties payable by a foreign-invested enterprise to any of its non-resident enterprise investors, and proceeds from any such non-resident enterprise investor’s disposition of assets (after deducting the net value of such assets) are subject to the EIT at the rate of 10%, namely withholding tax, unless the non-resident enterprise investor’s jurisdiction of incorporation has a tax treaty or arrangement with the PRC that provides for a reduced withholding tax rate or an exemption from withholding tax. The Notice on Several Preferential Policies regarding Enterprise Income Tax Law (《關於企業所得稅若干優惠政策的通知》) jointly promulgated by the Ministry of Finance and State Administration of Taxation in February 2008, clarifies that undistributed profits earned by foreign-invested enterprises prior to January 1, 2008 will be exempted from any withholding tax.

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## REGULATIONS

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Hong Kong has a tax arrangement with PRC that provides for a lower withholding tax rate of 5% on dividends subject to certain conditions and requirements, such as the requirement that the Hong Kong resident enterprise own at least 25% of the PRC enterprise distributing the dividend at all times within the 12-month period immediately preceding the distribution of dividends and be a “beneficial owner” of the dividends. However, pursuant to Circular on Issues Concerning Implementing Dividend Clauses of Tax Treaties (《關於執行稅收協定股息條款有關問題的通知》), or SAT Circular 81, issued by the State Administration of Taxation in February 2009, if the relevant PRC tax authorities determine, in their discretion, that a company benefits from the reduced withholding tax rate on dividends due to a structure or arrangement designed for the primary purpose of obtaining favorable tax treatment, the PRC tax authorities may adjust the preferential tax treatment. Moreover, pursuant to 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 SAT Circular 9, issued by the State Administration of Taxation in February 2018, which became effective from April 1, 2018 and superseded the SAT Circular 601 issued by the State Administration of Taxation in October 2009, a resident of a contracting state will not qualify for the benefits under the tax treaties or arrangements, if it is not the “beneficial owner” of the dividend, interest and royalty income. According to SAT Circular 9, a “beneficial owner” is required to have ownership and the right to dispose of the income or the rights and properties giving rise to the income, and generally engage in substantive business activities. An agent or conduit company will not be regarded as a “beneficial owner” and, therefore, will not qualify for treaty benefits. A conduit company normally refers to a company that is set up primarily for the purpose of evading or reducing taxes or transferring or accumulating profits. In addition, pursuant to Bulletin on Administrative Measures on Treaties Benefit for Non-resident Taxpayers (《非居民納稅人享受協定待遇管理辦法》), or SAT Circular 35, issued by the State Administration of Taxation in October 2019, non-resident enterprises are not required to obtain pre-approval from the relevant tax authority in order to enjoy the reduced withholding tax rate. Instead, non-resident enterprises may, if they determine by self-assessment that the prescribed criteria to enjoy the tax treaty benefits are met, directly apply for the reduced withholding tax rate, and file necessary forms and supporting documents when performing tax filings, which will be subject to post-filing examinations by the relevant tax authorities.

### *Tax Residence*

Under the EIT Law and its implementation rules, an enterprise established outside of the PRC with “de facto management body” within the PRC is considered a resident enterprise and will be subject to the EIT at the rate of 25% on its worldwide income. The term “de facto management body” refers to “the establishment that exercises substantial and overall management and control over the production, business, personnel, accounts and properties of an enterprise.”

Pursuant to SAT Circular 82, issued by the State Administration of Taxation in April 2009, an overseas registered enterprise controlled by a PRC company or a PRC company group will be classified as a “resident enterprise” with its “de facto management body” located within the PRC if the following requirements are satisfied: (i) the senior management and core management departments in charge of its daily operations are mainly located in the PRC; (ii) its financial and human resources decisions are subject to determination or approval by persons or bodies located in the PRC; (iii) its major assets, accounting books, company seals, and minutes and files of its board and shareholders’ meetings are located or kept in the PRC; and (iv) no less than half of the enterprise’s directors or senior management with voting rights reside in the PRC. The State Administration of Taxation issued additional rules to provide more guidance on the implementation of SAT Circular 82 in July 2011, and issued an amendment to SAT Circular 82 delegating the authority to its provincial branches to determine whether a Chinese-controlled overseas-incorporated enterprise should be considered a PRC resident enterprise, in January 2014. Although the SAT Circular 82, the additional guidance and its amendment only apply

## REGULATIONS

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to overseas registered enterprises controlled by PRC enterprises and not those controlled by PRC individuals or foreigners, the determining criteria set forth in the circular may reflect the State Administration of Taxation’s general position on how the “de facto management body” test should be applied in determining the tax resident status of offshore enterprises, regardless of whether they are controlled by PRC enterprises, individuals or foreigners.

### *PRC VAT in Lieu of Business Tax*

In November 2011, the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation jointly issued two circulars setting forth the details of the pilot VAT reform program, which change the charge of sales tax from business tax to VAT for certain pilot industries. The VAT reform program initially applied only to the pilot industries in Shanghai, and was expanded to eight additional regions, including, among others, Beijing and Guangdong province, in 2012. In August 2013, the program was further expanded nationwide. In May 2016, the pilot program was extended to cover additional industry sectors such as construction, real estate, finance and consumer services.

### *PRC Urban Maintenance and Construction Tax and Education Surcharge*

Any entity, foreign-invested or purely domestic, or individual that is subject to consumption tax, VAT and business tax is also required to pay PRC urban maintenance and construction tax. The rates of urban maintenance and construction tax are 7%, 5% or 1% of the amount of consumption tax, VAT and business tax actually paid depending on where the taxpayer is located. All entities and individuals who pay consumption tax, VAT and business tax are also required to pay education surcharge at a rate of 3%, and local education surcharges at a rate of 2%, of the amount of VAT, business tax and consumption tax actually paid.