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## REGULATORY OVERVIEW

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### REGULATIONS RELATING TO FOOD SALE AND SAFETY

#### Licensing system for food production and trading

Pursuant to the Food Safety Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國食品安全法》) (the “Food Safety Law”), which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (the “SCNPC”) on February 28, 2009, took effective on June 1, 2009 and last amended on April 29, 2021 and entering into force since the same day and the Implementing Regulations on the Food Safety Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國食品安全法實施條例》) (the “Implementing Regulations on the Food Safety Law”), which was promulgated by the State Council on July 20, 2009 and amended on February 6, 2016 and October 11, 2019 with effect from December 1, 2019, the state adopts a licensing system for food production and trading. To engage in food production and selling/catering services, the food production license for food production and food operation license for food selling and catering services shall be obtained in accordance with the law. However, the license is not required for sale of edible agricultural and if only pre-packaged food is sold. If only pre-packaged food is sold, it should be filed for the record to the food safety supervision and administration department of the local People’s Government at or above the county level.

On August 31, 2015, China Food and Drug Administration (the “CFDA”) promulgated the Administrative Measures for Food Operation Licensing (《食品經營許可管理辦法》), which was amended on November 17, 2017. According to the Administrative Measures for Food Operation Licensing, a person or entity that engages in food selling and catering services within mainland China (herein after referred to in general as “food operator”) shall obtain a food operation license in accordance with the law. Food and drug administrative authorities shall implement classified licensing for food operation according to food operators’ types of operation and the degree of risk of their operation projects.

On June 15, 2023, the SAMR promulgated the Administrative Measures for Food Operation Licensing and Filing (《食品經營許可和備案管理辦法》), which will become effective on December 1, 2023. According to the Administrative Measures for Food Operation Licensing and Filing, a food business license is not required in the case of the sales of edible agricultural products, only prepackaged food, specific total nutrient formula food within the scope of the food for special medical purposes by medical institutions or drug retailers, or food produced by food producers which have obtained food production licenses in their production and processing locations or through the network, but any food operator which falls under any of the above circumstances and simultaneously carries out other food operation projects shall obtain a food operation license in accordance with the law. The sales of only prepackaged food shall be reported to the local department for market regulation at or above the county level in the place where the food seller is located for filing and medical institutions or drug retailers are not required to file for selling specific total nutrient formula food within the scope of the food for special medical purposes, but operators engaging in selling specific total nutrient formula food to medical institutions or drug retailers shall obtain a food operation license or file for the sale. Any food operator engaging in food operation in different operation sites shall respectively obtain food operation licenses or file for operation in accordance with the law.

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Those food operators which engage in food operation through automatic equipment or which only engage in food operation may carry out business activities within the scope of the obtained license or completed filing in other operation sites within the corresponding provincial administrative region immediately upon obtaining a food operation license for or making a filing for the operation site.

### **Food safety mechanism**

#### *Personnel health management system*

In accordance with the Food Safety Law as well as the Implementing Rules on the Food Safety Law, food producers and traders shall establish and implement a personnel health management system. The personnel suffering from diseases that affect food safety according to the regulations of the health administrative department under the State Council shall not engage in work that involves contact with ready-to-eat food. The personnel who engage in work that involves contact with ready-to-eat food shall have physical check-up each year and shall obtain healthy certificates prior to working.

#### *The packages of pre-packed food*

According to the Food Safety Law and Administrative Provisions on Food Labelling (《食品標識管理規定》), which was promulgated by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine on August 27, 2007 and amended on October 22, 2009 and entered into force on the same day, the packages of pre-packed food shall bear labels. The labels shall state the following matters, such as name, specifications, net content and date of production; list of ingredients or components; producer’s name, address and contact details; shelf life; product standard code; storage conditions; the general name of the food additives used under the national standards; serial number of food production license; and other items that must be indicated according to laws, regulations or food safety standards. The labels of the staple and supplementary food exclusively for infants and babies and other designated groups shall also indicate the principal nutritional ingredients and their contents.

#### *Purchase acceptance system*

According to the Food Safety Law, food traders purchasing food shall check the supplier’s permit and food ex-factory inspection certificate or other qualification proof. Food trade enterprise shall establish an inspection records system for inspection of purchased food, truthfully record the description, specifications, quantity, date of manufacture or production batch, shelf life and date of purchase of food, as well as the name, address and contact details of the supplier etc., and retain the relevant documentation. The records and documentation shall be kept at least six months upon expiry of the product’s shelf life; where the shelf life is not specified, the records and documentation shall be kept at least for two years. Food trade enterprises implementing unified distribution may arrange for the head office of the enterprise to implement unified inspection of the permits of suppliers and product quality certificates of food and to keep inspection records for purchases of food.

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### *Self-inspection System*

According to the Food Safety Law, food producers and traders shall establish a food safety self-inspection system, and conduct inspection and assessment of food safety conditions on a regular basis. Where there is any change in producing and business operation conditions and the food producers or traders no longer comply with food safety requirements, the food producers or traders shall forthwith adopt rectification measures; in the event of a food safety incident with potential risks, the food producers or traders shall forthwith cease food producing or food business operations immediately, and report to the food safety supervision and administration department of the county People’s Government at the locality.

### *Food recall system*

Also under the Food Safety Law as well as the Implementing Rules on the Food Safety Law, the Administrative Measures for Food Recall (《食品召回管理辦法》) was promulgated by the CFDA on March 11, 2015 and entered into force on September 1, 2015, and last amended on October 23, 2020. The Administrative Measures for Food Recall provides the detailed rules on the food recall system. Where a food trader finds that the food traded by it does not comply with the food safety standards, it shall immediately stop the trading, notify the relevant producers and traders, as well as consumers and record the cessation of trading and the notification. Where the food traders fail to recall or stop trading of the food failing to comply with the food safety standards in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety Law as well as the Implementing Regulations on the Food Safety Law, the market supervision and administration at or above the county level shall order them to recall or stop trading.

### *Food Storage*

According to the Food Safety Law and the Implementing Rules on the Food Safety Law, food traders shall store food pursuant to the requirements of ensuring food safety, inspect food inventory on a regular basis, and promptly dispose deteriorated food or food with expired shelf life. Food traders storing bulk food shall indicate the description, date of manufacture or production batch, shelf life of food, the name and contact details of manufacturer at the place of storage. For storage and transportation of food which have special requirements for temperature and humidity, heat preservation, cold storage or freezing equipment and facilities shall be available, and effective operation thereof shall be maintained.

### *Quality Control*

On October 8, 2022, the SAMR released the Interim Measures for the Supervision and Management of Food-related Product Quality and Safety (《食品相關產品質量安全監督管理暫行辦法》), or the Interim Measures of Food-related Product, which took effect on March 1, 2023. The Interim Measures of Food-related Product specify the responsibilities of producers and sellers of food-related products as well as the specific requirements for the control of the whole production process. In addition, the Interim Measures of Food-related Product establish a strict legal liability system for food-related products to define the legal liabilities of food-related products.

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### REGULATIONS RELATING TO IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF GOODS

According to the Circular of the Ministry of Commerce on Relevant Issues Concerning the Record Keeping and Registration of the Right to Foreign Trade by Foreign-funded Enterprises (《商務部關於外商投資企業外貿權備案登記有關問題的通知》), which was promulgated by the Ministry of Commerce (the “MOFCOM”) and with effect from August 17, 2004, where foreign-funded enterprises duly established before July 1, 2004 apply for the addition of any import/export business to their approved scope of business, they must, in accordance with the Measures for the Record-keeping and Registration by Foreign Trade Dealers (《對外貿易經營者備案登記辦法》), passed by the MOFCOM on June 25, 2004, took effect on July 1, 2004, and was last amended on May 10, 2021, complete the formalities of adding business items to the enterprises’ business licenses and shall, in accordance with the relevant procedures, complete the formalities of record-keeping and registration (note: no formalities of change are required in regard to the approval certificate for its establishment) on the strength of the approval certificate for its establishment, business license with the business addition made, and any other documents as required under the Measures for the Record-keeping and Registration by Foreign Trade Dealers. The registration authorities shall affix a stamp indicating “business of distribution of import goods excluded” on the registration form. Pursuant to the Administrative Provisions of the Customs of the PRC on Record-filing of Customs Declaration Entities (《中華人民共和國海關報關單位備案管理規定》) which was promulgated on November 19, 2021 and took effect on January 1, 2022, consignors or consignees of imported or exported goods or customs declaration enterprises that apply for record-filing shall obtain market entity qualifications; in the case of consignors or consignees of imported or exported goods applying for record-filing, they shall also complete the record-filing formalities for foreign trade dealers.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF MEDICAL DEVICES

Pursuant to the Administrative Measures for Operation of Medical Devices (《醫療器械經營監督管理辦法》), promulgated by the CFDA on March 10, 2022, and became effective on May 1, 2022, an entity engaging in the operation of medical devices of Class II shall file for record with the CFDA at city level where such entity is located. Any entity shall not sell or use medical devices which are not properly registered or filed with the CFDA or its local counterparts. In addition, according to the Administrative Measures for Operation of Medical Devices, a medical device operator shall establish and maintain a record system of incoming quality control.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO PRODUCT LIABILITY

The principal legal provisions governing product liability are set out in 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 by the SCNPC on February 22, 1993 and last amended on December 29, 2018 with effect from the same day.

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The Product Quality Law is applicable to all activities of production and sale of any product within the territory of mainland China, and the producers and sellers shall be liable for product quality in accordance with the Product Quality Law. According to the Product Quality Law, producers and sellers shall establish a sound internal product quality management system and strictly adhere to a job responsibility system in relation to quality standards and quality liabilities together with implementing corresponding examination and inspection measures. Sellers shall also establish and implement an examination and acceptance system for purchased stock to examine product quality certificates and other marks.

According to the Product Quality Law, consumers or other victims who suffer personal injury or property losses due to product defects may demand compensation from the producer as well as the seller. Where the responsibility for product defects lies with the producer, the seller shall have the right to recover such compensation from the producer if they take the responsibility and make a compensation, and vice versa. Violations of the Product Quality Law may result in the imposition of fines. In addition, the seller or producer may be ordered to suspend operation and its business license may be revoked. Criminal liability may be incurred in serious cases.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMPETITION

#### Consumer protection

The principal legal provisions for the protection of consumer interests are set out in the Consumer Protection Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國消費者權益保護法》) (the “Consumer Protection Law”), which was promulgated by the SCNPC on October 31, 1993, took effect from January 1, 1994 and was amended on August 27, 2009 and October 25, 2013. According to the Consumer Protection Law, the rights and interests of the consumers who buy or use commodities or receive services for the purposes of daily consumption are protected and all manufacturers and distributors involved must ensure that the products and services they provide will not cause damage to the safety of consumers and their properties. Violations of the Consumer Protection Law may result in the imposition of fines. In addition, the operator will be ordered to suspend operations and its business license will be revoked. Criminal liability may be incurred in serious cases.

According to the Part VII tort liability of the Civil Code of the PRC (《中華人民共和國民法典》) promulgated by the National People’s Congress on May 28, 2020 and became effective on January 1, 2021, in the event of an injury caused by a defective product, either the manufacturer or seller of such product, as a tortfeasor, may be subject to tortious liability and relevant remedies seeking by the consumers. If the product defect is caused by the manufacturer, the manufacturer shall be held responsible and the seller, if having made the compensation, shall be entitled to seek reimbursement from the manufacturer. If, on the other hand, the defects of the products are caused by the fault of the seller, the seller shall be held responsible and the manufacturer, if having made the compensation, shall be entitled to seek reimbursement from the seller.

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### Competition law

Competitions among the business operators are generally governed by the Law of the PRC for Anti-Unfair Competition (《中華人民共和國反不正當競爭法》) (the “Anti-Unfair Competition Law”), which was promulgated by the SCNPC on September 2, 1993, took effect from December 1, 1993 and was amended on November 4, 2017 and April 23, 2019. According to the Anti-Unfair Competition Law, when trading in the market, operators should abide by the principles of voluntariness, equality, fairness, honesty, and credibility, and abide by laws and recognized business ethics. An operator, in violation of the Anti-Unfair Competition Law, disrupting the competition order, and infringing the legitimate rights and interests of other operators or consumers, constitutes unfair competition. When the legitimate rights and interests of an operator are damaged by unfair competition, it may start a lawsuit in the people’s court. In contrast, if an operator violates the provisions of the Anti-Unfair Competition Law, engages in unfair competition and causes damage to another operator, it shall be liable for damages. If the damage suffered by the injured operator is difficult to assess, the amount of damages shall be the profit obtained by the infringer through the infringement. The infringer shall also bear all reasonable expenses paid by the infringed operator to stop the infringement.

### Price law

According to the Price Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國價格法》) (the “Price Law”) promulgated by the SCNPC on December 29, 1997 and took effect from May 1, 1998, operators should observe the following principles when determining prices: fairness, lawfulness and good faith. The production and operation costs and the market supply and demand situation should be the fundamental basis for the operator to determine the price. When selling or purchasing goods and providing services, the operator shall clearly indicate the price and indicate the name, origin of production, specifications, grade, valuation unit and price of a commodity, or service item, charging standards and other related particulars in accordance with the requirements of the competent government price department. Operators shall not sell the goods at a price beyond the marked price or charge unspecified fees on the top of price indicated. In addition, operators may not take illegitimate pricing actions, such as colluding with others to manipulate market prices and damaging the legitimate rights and interests of other operators or consumers. Any operator engaged in the act of illegitimate pricing stipulated by the Price Law shall be ordered to make corrections, have the illegal income be confiscated, and may be imposed a fine of no more than five times of its illegal income; if the circumstances are serious, the business combination shall be ordered to suspend for rectification, or the administrative department for industry and commerce shall revoke the business license. In addition, any operator who causes consumers or other operators to pay higher prices due to illegal pricing acts should refund the overpaid portion; if damage is caused, it shall be liable for compensation according to law. Any operator who violates the clearly marked price shall be ordered to make corrections, have the illegal income be confiscated, and may be imposed a fine of no more than RMB5,000.



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### REGULATIONS RELATING TO ONLINE TRADING AND E-COMMERCE

The SCNPC enacted the E-Commerce Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國電子商務法》) (the “E-Commerce Law”) on August 31, 2018, which became effective on January 1, 2019. Under the E-Commerce Law, e-commerce refers to a natural person, a legal person or an unincorporated association that operates activities of selling goods or providing services through the internet or other information networks. The E-Commerce Law generally applies to: (i) Platform Operators, which refer to legal persons or unincorporated organizations that provide network places of business, transaction matching, information release and other services to enable the transaction parties to carry out independent transaction activities; (ii) Operators on the platform, which refer to e-commerce Operators that sell goods or provide services to customers through e-commerce platforms; and (iii) other e-commerce Operators that sell goods or provide services through self-established websites or other network services. The E-commerce Law also provides rules in relation to e-commerce contracts, dispute settlements, e-commerce development as well as legal liabilities involved in e-commerce. An e-commerce Business Operator shall make market participant registration and obtain relevant administrative licensing according to the law.

In accordance with the Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Online Trading (《網絡交易監督管理辦法》) (the “Online Trading Measures”), promulgated by the State Administration for Market Regulation (the “SAMR”) on March 15, 2021, which came into effect on May 1, 2021, any business activity of selling goods or providing services through the Internet within mainland China shall abide by the PRC Law and the provisions of the Online Trading Measures. Persons engaged in operation of online goods trading (the “Online Trading Operators”) are required to make an industrial and commercial registration in accordance with laws. In selling goods or providing services to consumers, Online Trading Operators must observe the Consumer Protection Law, the Product Quality Law, and provisions of other laws, regulations and rules.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO MOBILE APPS

In June 2016, the Cyberspace Administration of China (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, and mobile internet app providers refer to the owners or operators of mobile internet apps. 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.

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On June 14, 2022, the CAC amended 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》), or the revised version of Mobile Application Administrative Provisions, which came into effect on August 1, 2022, which further emphasizes that mobile internet app providers shall not compel users to agree to personal information processing out of any reason, and are prohibited from banning users from their basic functional services due to the users refusal of providing non-essential personal information. The revised version of Mobile Application Administrative Provisions shall apply to whoever provide application information services and engage in the internet application stores and other application distribution services, clarifying that engaging in the Internet application stores and other application distribution services refers to the activities of providing users with application publishing, downloading, dynamic loading and other services through the Internet, including application stores, fast application centers, Internet applet platforms, browser plug-ins and other types of platform distribution services. If mobile internet app providers violate relevant laws and regulations and service agreement with the mobile application distribution platforms, mobile app stores through which it distributes its apps may issue warnings, suspend services, or terminate the distribution of its apps, and report the violations to governmental authorities.

In December 2016, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the PRC (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.

The Announcement of Conducting Special Supervision against the Illegal Collection and Use of Personal Information by App (《關於開展App違法違規收集使用個人信息專項治理的公告》) jointly issued by the CAC, MIIT, the Ministry of Public Security and the SAMR on January 23, 2019 provides that (i) application operators are prohibited from collecting any personal information irrelevant to the services provided by such operator; (ii) information collection and usage policy should be presented in a simple and clear way, and such policy should be consented by the users voluntarily; (iii) authorization from users should not be obtained by coercing users with default or bundling clauses or making consent a condition of a service. App operators violating such rules can be ordered by authorities to correct its incompliance within a given period of time, be reported in public; or even suspend its operation for rectification or revoke its business license or operational permits.

The MIIT issued the Notice on the Further Special Rectification of App Infringing upon Users’ Personal Rights and Interests (《關於開展縱深推進App侵害用戶權益專項整治行動的通知》) (the “Further Rectification Notice”), on July 22, 2020. The Further Rectification Notice requires that certain conducts of app service providers should be inspected, including,



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among others, (i) collecting or using personal information without the user’s consent, collecting or using personal information beyond the necessary scope of providing services, and forcing users to receive advertisements; (ii) requesting user’s permission in a compulsory and frequent manner, or frequently launching third parties apps; and (iii) deceiving and misleading users into downloading apps or providing personal information. The Further Rectification Notice also set forth that the period for the regulatory specific inspection on apps and that the MIIT will order the non-compliant entities to modify their business within five business days, or otherwise the MIIT will make public announcement, remove the apps from the app stores or impose other administrative penalties.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO ADVERTISING

The Advertising Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國廣告法》), which was promulgated by the SCNPC, as most recently amended on April 29, 2021, outlines the regulatory framework for the advertising industry. Advertisers, advertising operators and advertising distributors are required by PRC Law in relation to advertising 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 the 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 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 SAMR promulgated the Administrative Measures for Internet Advertising (《互聯網廣告管理辦法》) (the “Internet Advertising Measures”) on February 25, 2023, which came into effect and replaced the Interim Administration Measures of Internet Advertising (《互聯網廣告管理暫行辦法》) on May 1, 2023, also set forth certain compliance requirements for online advertising businesses. For example, advertising operators and distributors of internet advertisements must examine, verify and record identity information, such as real identity, 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 set out, among other things, the following requirements for Internet advertising activities: Online advertisements for prescription medicine or tobacco are not allowed, while

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advertisements for special commodities or services such as medical treatment, pharmaceuticals, food for special medical purposes, medical instruments, agrochemicals, veterinary medicine and other health foods must be reviewed by competent authorities before online publication; Internet advertisements must be visibly marked as “advertisement”, while paid search results must be obviously distinguished from natural search results; and Internet advertisements must not affect users’ normal use of the Internet; “pop-up ads” must be clearly marked with a “close” sign and be closable with one click; and no deceptive or misleading means may be used to lure users into clicking or browsing an advertisement.

### **REGULATIONS RELATING TO MINI-KARAOKE**

According to the Notice of the Ministry of Culture on Guiding the Healthy Development of the Mini-Karaoke Market (《文化部關於引導迷你歌詠亭市場健康發展的通知》) which was promulgated on July 18, 2017, mini-karaoke platform operators shall file the record with the Ministry of Culture (which has been replaced by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism), before the end of the month when they start operation. The Ministry of Culture will distribute the record information of the mini-karaoke to the cultural administration departments and cultural market comprehensive law enforcement agencies of each province as a unit, and will develop a system for online filing and inquiries in a timely manner. Provincial cultural administrative departments and cultural market comprehensive law enforcement agencies are responsible for coordinating the management of mini-karaoke within the province, and implementing territorial management responsibilities level by level in accordance with the actual operating location of the mini-karaoke.

### **REGULATIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION SECURITY AND PRIVACY PROTECTION**

According to the Civil Code of the PRC, the personal information of a natural person shall be protected by the law. Any organization or individual that need to obtain personal information of others shall obtain such information legally and ensure the security of such information, and shall not illegally collect, use, process or transmit personal information of others, or illegally purchase, sell, provide or make public personal information of others.

The Administration Measures on the Security Protection of Computer Information Network with International Connections (《計算機信息網絡國際聯網安全保護管理辦法》), promulgated by the Ministry of Public Security on December 16, 1997, as amended by the State Council and became effective on January 8, 2011, prohibit using the internet which could threaten national security, cause leakages of state secrets, impair state, public or collective interests or the lawful rights of citizens or commit a criminal crime. If the internet operators do not fulfil the responsibilities stipulated in measures, the relevant Telecommunications Operating License may be revoked and the websites shall be shut down, while a fine not more than RMB15,000 shall be imposed to the unit.

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The Decisions on Protection of Internet Security (《關於維護互聯網安全的決定》) enacted by the SCNPC on December 28, 2000, as amended in August 2009, provides that, among other things, the following activities conducted through the internet, if constituted a crime according to PRC Law, are subject to criminal punishment: (i) intrusion into a strategically significant computer or system; (ii) intentionally inventing and disseminating destructive programs, such as computer viruses, to attack the computer system and the communications network, thereby destroying the computer system and the communications networks; (iii) violating national regulations, suspending the computer networks or the communication services without authorization; (iv) leaking state secrets; (v) spreading false commercial information; or (vi) infringing intellectual property rights through internet.

On 22 June 2007, the Ministry of Public Security, State Secrecy Bureau, State Cryptography Administration and the Information Office of the State Council jointly promulgated the Administrative Measures for the Multi-level Protection of Information Security (《信息安全等級保護管理辦法》), under which the security protection grade of an information system may be classified into five grades. Companies operating and using information systems shall protect the information systems and any system equal to or above level II as determined in accordance with these measures, a record-filing with the competent authority is required.

On November 7, 2016, the SCNPC promulgated the Cyber Security Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國網絡安全法》), which became effective on June 1, 2017. Pursuant to the Cyber Security Law, network operators shall comply with laws and regulations and fulfil their obligations to safeguard security of the network when conducting business and providing services. Those who provide services through networks shall take technical measures and other necessary measures in accordance with laws, regulations and compulsory national requirements to safeguard the safe and stable operation of the networks, respond to network security incidents effectively, prevent illegal and criminal activities and maintain the integrity, confidentiality and usability of network data. Network operators shall not collect the personal information irrelevant to the services they provide or collect or use the personal information in violation of the provisions of laws or agreements between both parties, and network operators of key information infrastructure shall store all the personal information and important data collected and produced within the territory of mainland China. Their purchases of network products and services that may affect national security shall be subject to national cyber security review. The network operators who violate the aforesaid regulations may be ordered by the competent authority to make corrections, be given a warning, or be imposed a fine with different amounts.

On June 10, 2021, the SCNPC promulgated the PRC Data Security Law (《中華人民共和國數據安全法》), which took effect in September 1, 2021. The Data Security Law introduces a data classification and hierarchical protection system based on the materiality of data in economic and social development, as well as the degree of harm it will cause to national security, public interests, or legitimate rights and interests of persons or entities when such data is tampered with, destroyed, divulged, or illegally acquired or used. It also provides for a security review procedure for the data activities which may affect national security.

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On December 28, 2021, the CAC and certain other PRC regulatory authorities published the Measures for Cybersecurity Review (《網絡安全審查辦法》), which became effective on February 15, 2022, replacing the Measures for Cybersecurity Review in 2020. Pursuant to the new measures, critical information infrastructure operators that purchase network products and services and network platform operators engaging in data processing activities that affect or may affect national security must be subject to the cybersecurity review. A network platform operator that has the personal information of more than one million users must apply for a cybersecurity review when it seeks to list in a foreign country. The Measures for Cybersecurity Review further elaborates the factors to be considered when assessing the national security risks of the relevant activities, including, among others: (i) the risk of core data, important data, or a large amount of personal information being stolen, leaked, destroyed, and illegally used or exited the country, and (ii) the risk of critical information infrastructure, core data, important data, or a large amount of personal information being affected, controlled, or maliciously used by foreign governments after listing abroad.

Pursuant to the Measures on Security Assessment of Cross-border Data Transfer (《數據出境安全評估辦法》), which were promulgated on July 7, 2022, and came into effect on September 1, 2022 by the CAC, to provide data abroad, a data processor falling under any of the following circumstances shall, through the local cyberspace administration at the provincial level, apply to CAC for security assessment of outbound data: (i) where a data processor provides critical data abroad; (ii) where a key information infrastructure operator or a data processor processing the personal information of more than one million individuals provides personal information abroad; (iii) where a data processor has provided personal information of 100,000 individuals or sensitive personal information of 10,000 individuals in total abroad since January 1 of the previous year; and (iv) other circumstances prescribed by the CAC for which declaration for security assessment for outbound data transfers is required.

On November 14, 2021, the CAC issued the Administration Governing the Cyber Data Security (Draft for Comments) (《網絡數據安全管理條例(徵求意見稿)》), the “**Draft Cyber Data Security Regulations**”). The Draft Cyber Data Security Regulations have set out requirements on matters such as the protection of personal information, security of important data, security management of cross-border data transfer, application for cybersecurity review and obligations of internet platform operators. Pursuant to the Draft Cyber Data Security Regulations, data processors carrying out the following activities must, in accordance with the relevant national regulations, apply for a cybersecurity review: (i) the merger, reorganization or spin-off of Internet platform operators that possess a large number of data resources related to national security, economic development and public interests that affects or may affect national security; (ii) listing in a foreign country of any data processors that process the personal information of more than one (1) million users; (iii) listing in Hong Kong of data processors, which affects or may affect national security; and (iv) other data processing activities that affect or may affect national security. The Draft Cyber Data Security Regulations did not define the scope of and threshold for determining what “affects or may affect national security.” The term “national security” is defined as “the status of National regime, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, people’s well-being, sustainable economic and social development, and other major national interests that are relatively safe and free from

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internal and external threats, as well as the ability to ensure continuous security” in the National Security Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國國家安全法》). In the absence of further explanation or interpretation, the PRC government authorities may have wide discretion in the interpretation of “affects or may affect national security.” As of the Latest Practicable Date, the Draft Cyber Data Security Regulations has not come into effect.

On August 20, 2021, the SCNPC issued the PRC Personal Information Protection Law (《中華人民共和國個人信息保護法》), which took effect on November 1, 2021. It integrates the scattered rules with respect to personal information rights and privacy protection and aims at protecting the personal information rights and interests, regulating the processing of personal information, ensuring the orderly and free flow of personal information in accordance with the law, and promoting the reasonable use of personal information. Personal information, as defined in the Personal Information Protection Law, refers to information related to identified or identifiable natural persons and recorded by electronic or other means, but excluding the anonymized information. The Personal Information Protection Law provides the circumstances under which a personal information processor could process personal information, which include but not limited to, where the consent of the individual concerned is obtained or where it is necessary for the conclusion or performance of a contract to which the individual is a contractual party. It also stipulates certain specific rules with respect to the obligations of a personal information processor, such as to inform the purpose and method of processing to the individuals, and the obligations of the third party who has access to the personal information by way of co-processing or delegation.

On December 28, 2012, the SCNPC promulgated the Decision on Strengthening Network Information Protection (《關於加強網絡信息保護的決定》) to enhance the legal protection of information security and privacy on the internet. The network services providers shall strengthen the management of the information published by their users, and shall immediately cease transmitting any information forbidden to be published or transmitted by the laws and regulations, take such measures as elimination, preserve relevant records, and report the same to relevant competent departments. On July 16, 2013, the MIIT promulgated 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 became effective on September 1, 2013, to regulate the collection and use of personal information of users in the provision of telecommunication service and internet information service in mainland China. The personal information of users collected or used in the course of provision of service by the telecommunication Business Operators, internet information service providers and their personnel shall be kept in strict confidence, and may not be divulged, tampered with or damaged, and may not be sold or illegally provided to others.

On December 29, 2011, the MIIT promulgated the Several Provisions on Regulation of the Order of Internet Information Service Market (《規範互聯網信息服務市場秩序若干規定》) (the “Internet Information Service Market Provisions”), which became effective on March 15, 2012. The Internet Information Service Market Provisions stipulate that without the consent of users, internet information service providers shall not collect information relevant to the users that can lead to the recognition of the identity of the users independently or in



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combination with other information (the “personal information of users”), nor shall they provide personal information of users to others, unless otherwise provided by laws and administrative regulations. The Internet Information Service Market Provisions also require that internet information service providers shall properly preserve the personal information of users. If internet information service providers violate the foregoing regulations, the telecommunications management department shall issue a warning, and may also impose a fine of not less than RMB10,000 but not more than RMB30,000, and announce to the public.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITIES

#### Employment

The major PRC Law that govern employment relationship are the Labor Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動法》) (the “Labor Law”), which was issued by the SCNPC on July 5, 1994, came into effect on January 1, 1995 and revised on August 27, 2009 and December 29, 2018, the Labor Contract Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法》) (the “Labor Contract Law”), which was promulgated by the SCNPC on June 29, 2007 and became effective on January 1, 2008, and then amended on December 28, 2012 and became effective on July 1, 2013, and the Implementation Rules of the Labor Contract Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國勞動合同法實施條例》), which was issued by the State Council on September 18, 2008 and came into effect on the same day. According to the aforementioned laws and regulations, labor relationships between employers and employees must be executed in written form. The laws and regulations above impose stringent requirements on the employers in relation to entering into fixed-term employment contracts, hiring of temporary employees and dismissal of employees. As prescribed under the laws and regulations, employers shall ensure its employees have the right to rest and the right to receive wages no lower than the local minimum wages. Employers must establish a system for labor safety and sanitation that strictly abide by state standards and provide relevant education to its employees. Violations of the Labor Contract Law and the Labor Law may result in the imposition of fines and other administrative liabilities and/or incur criminal liabilities in the case of serious violations.

#### Social Securities

According to the Social Insurance Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國社會保險法》), which issued by the SCNPC on October 28, 2010 and came into effect on July 1, 2011 and was newly revised on December 29, 2018, enterprises and institutions in mainland China shall provide their employees with welfare schemes covering pension insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity insurance, occupational injury insurance, medical insurance and other welfare plans. The employer shall apply to the local social insurance agency for social insurance registration within 30 days from the date of its formation. And it shall, within 30 days from the date of employment, apply to the social insurance agency for social insurance registration for the employee. Any employer who violates the regulations above shall be ordered to make correction within a prescribed time limit; if the employer fails to rectify within the time limit, the employer and its directly liable person will be fined. Meanwhile, the Interim



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Regulation on the Collection and Payment of Social Insurance Premiums (《社會保險費徵繳暫行條例》), which was issued by the State Council on January 22, 1999 and came into effect on the same day and was recently revised on March 24, 2019, prescribes the details concerning the social securities.

Apart from the general provisions about social insurance, specific provisions on various types of insurance are set out in the Regulation on Work-Related Injury Insurance (《工傷保險條例》), which was issued by the State Council on April 27, 2003, came into effect on January 1, 2004 and revised on December 20, 2010, the Regulations on Unemployment Insurance (《失業保險條例》), which was issued by the State Council on January 22, 1999 and came into effect on the same day, the Trial Measures on Employee Maternity Insurance of Enterprises (《企業職工生育保險試行辦法》), which was issued by the Ministry of Labor on December 14, 1994 and came into effect on January 1, 1995. Enterprises subject to these regulations shall provide their employees with the corresponding insurance.

### Housing Provident Fund

According to the Regulation Concerning the Administration of Housing Provident Fund (《住房公積金管理條例》), implemented since April 3, 1999 and amended on March 24, 2002 and March 24, 2019, any newly established entity shall make deposit registration at the housing provident fund management center within 30 days as of its establishment. After that, the entity shall open a housing accumulation fund account for its employees in an entrusted bank. Within 30 days as of the date an employee is recruited, the entity shall make deposit registration at the housing provident fund management center and seal up the employee's housing accumulation fund account in the bank mentioned above within 30 days from termination of the employment relationship. Any entity that fails to make deposit registration of the housing accumulation fund or fails to open a housing accumulation fund account for its employees shall be ordered to complete the relevant procedures within a prescribed time limit. Any entity failing to complete the relevant procedure within the time limit will be fined RMB10,000 to RMB50,000. Any entity fails to make payment of housing provident fund within the time limit or has shortfall in payment of housing provident fund will be ordered to make the payment or make up the shortfall within the prescribed time limit, otherwise, housing provident fund management center is entitled to apply for compulsory enforcement with the People's Court.

## REGULATIONS RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIES

### Patents

Patents are protected by the Patent Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國專利法》) (the "Patent Law"), which was issued by the SCNPC on March 12, 1984, came into effect on April 1, 1985 and revised on September 4, 1992, August 25, 2000, December 27, 2008 and October 17, 2020 and became effective on June 1, 2021, as well as by the Implementation Regulations for the Patent Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國專利法實施細則》) issued by the State Council on June 15, 2001, came into effect on July 1, 2001 and revised on December 28, 2002 and January 9, 2010. The patent administrative departments are responsible for managing

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patent work. According to the Patent Law, inventions refer to inventions, utility models and designs. An invention or utility model for which patent rights are granted shall reach the standards of novelty, creativity and practicability. The protection period is 20 years for an invention patent, 10 years for a utility model patent and 15 years for a design patent, all counted from the date of application. Others may use the patent after obtaining the permit of the patent holder, otherwise such behavior will constitute an infringing act of the patent right.

### Trademarks

Pursuant to the Trademark Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國商標法》) which was promulgated on August 23, 1982 and last amended on April 23, 2019 and came into effect on November 1, 2019, and the Implementation Regulations of the Trademark Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國商標法實施條例》) which was issued on August 3, 2002 and amended on April 29, 2014, the Trademark Office under the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of the PRC (the “Trademark Office”) shall handle trademark registrations and grant a term of ten years to registered trademarks, which may be renewed for additional ten year period upon request from the trademark owner. The Trademark Law of the PRC has adopted a “first-to-file” principle with respect to trademark registration. Where an application for trademark for which application for registration has been made is identical or similar to another trademark which has already been registered or is under preliminary examination and approval for use on the same kind of or similar commodities or services, the application for registration of such trademark may be rejected. Any person applying for the registration of a trademark may not prejudice the existing right of others, nor may any person register in advance a trademark that has already been used by another party and has already gained a “sufficient degree of reputation” through such party’s use. A trademark registrant may, by entering into a trademark licensing contract, license another party to use its registered trademark. Where another party is licensed to use a registered trademark, the licensor shall report the license to the Trademark Office for recordation, and the Trademark Office shall publish it. An unrecorded license may not be used as a defense against a third party in good faith.

### Copyright and Computer Software

China is a signatory to some major international conventions on protection of copyright and became a member of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works in October, 1992, the Universal Copyright Convention in October, 1992, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights upon its accession to the World Trade Organization in December 2001. The Copyright Law of the PRC (《中國人民共和國著作權法》) (the “Copyright Law”), which was promulgated by the SCNPC on September 7, 1990, as amended on October 27, 2001 and last amended on November 11, 2020, and became effective on June 1, 2021, provides that Chinese citizens, legal persons, or other organizations shall, whether published or not, enjoy copyright in their works, which include, among others, works of literature, art, natural science, social science, engineering technology and computer software. The purpose of the Copyright Law is to encourage the creation and dissemination of works which is beneficial to the construction of socialist spiritual civilization and material civilization and promote the development and prosperity of Chinese culture. Unless otherwise

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stipulated in the Copyright Law, anyone that wishes to use another’s work shall conclude a licensing contract with the copyright owner of the work. A licensing contract shall include: the type(s) of right(s) being licensed; whether the license is exclusive or non-exclusive; the geographic scope and term of the license; the amount and method of remuneration; liability for breach of contract; and other details which the parties consider necessary. Where the right licensed is an exclusive licensing right, the contracts shall be made in writing, except in cases where works are to be published by newspapers and periodicals according to the Implementing Regulations of the Copyright Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國著作權法實施條例》), which was promulgated by State Council on August 2, 2002, last amended on January 30, 2013 and became effective on March 1, 2013. Any person, who concludes an exclusive licensing contract or assignment contract with a copyright owner, may submit, for filing, the contractual documents to the copyright administrative department.

The Computer Software Copyright Registration Measures (《計算機軟件著作權登記辦法》) (the “Software Copyright Measures”), promulgated by the National Copyright Administration and became effective on February 20, 2002, regulate registrations of software copyright, exclusive licensing contracts for software copyright and transfer contracts. The National Copyright Administration shall be the competent governmental authority for the nationwide administration of software copyright registration and the Copyright Protection Center of China (the “CPCC”) is designated as the software registration authority. The CPCC shall grant registration certificates to the Computer Software Copyrights applicants which conforms to the provisions of both the Software Copyright Measures and the Computer Software Protection Regulations (《計算機軟件保護條例》).

Provisions of the Supreme People’s Court on Certain Issues Related to the Application of Law in the Trial of Civil Cases Involving Disputes over Infringement of the Right of Dissemination through Information Networks (《最高人民法院關於審理侵害信息網絡傳播權民事糾紛案件適用法律若干問題的規定》), which became effective on January 1, 2021, provide that any network user or network service supplier provides without permission works, performance, sound or visual recordings to which the right holder has information network transmission right, the people’s courts shall hold that said user or service supplier has infringed upon the information network transmission right, unless otherwise provided for by laws and administrative regulations.

### **Domain Names**

In accordance with the Measures for the Administration of Internet Domain Names (《互聯網域名管理辦法》) which was issued by the Ministry of Information Industry on August 24, 2017 and came into effect on November 1, 2017, the Ministry of Information Industry is responsible for supervision and administration of domain name services in mainland China. Communication administrative bureaus at provincial levels shall conduct supervision and administration of the domain name services within their respective administrative jurisdictions. Domain name registration services shall, in principle, be subject to the principle of “first apply, first register.” A domain name registrar shall, in the process of providing domain name

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registration services, ask the applicant for which the registration is made to provide authentic, accurate and complete identity information on the holder of the domain name and other domain name registration related information.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT

#### Foreign Investment

The Provisions on Guiding Foreign Investment Direction (《指導外商投資方向規定》), which was promulgated by the State Council on February 11, 2002 and came into effect on April 1, 2002, classify all foreign investment projects into four categories: (i) encouraged projects, (ii) permitted projects, (iii) restricted projects, and (iv) prohibited projects. Investment activities in mainland China by foreign investors were principally governed by the Catalogue of Industries for Guiding Foreign Investment (《外商投資產業指導目錄》) (the “Catalogue”), which was promulgated by the MOFCOM and the National Development and Reform Commission (the “NDRC”), and was abolished by the Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for Access of Foreign Investment (2021 version) (《外商投資准入特別管理措施(負面清單)(2021年版)》) (the “Negative List”) and Catalogue of Industries for Encouraging Foreign Investment (2022 version) (《鼓勵外商投資產業目錄(2022年版)》) (the “Encouraging List”). The Negative List, which came into effect on January 1, 2022, sets out special administrative measures in respect of the access of foreign investments in a centralized manner, and the Encouraging List which came into effect on January 1, 2023, sets out the encouraged industries for foreign investment.

#### Foreign-Invested Enterprises

On December 29, 1993, the SCNPC issued the Company Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國公司法》) (the “Company Law”), which was last amended on October 26, 2018. The Company Law regulates the establishment, operation and management of corporate entities in mainland China and classifies companies into limited liability companies and limited companies by shares.

According to the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外商投資法》) promulgated by the SCNPC on March 15, 2019 and came into effect as of January 1, 2020, the state shall implement the management systems of pre-establishment national treatment and negative list for foreign investment, and shall give national treatment to foreign investment beyond the negative list. Simultaneously, Sino-foreign Equity Joint Ventures of the PRC (《中華人民共和國中外合資經營企業法》), the Wholly Foreign-owned Enterprises Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外資企業法》) and Sino-foreign Cooperative Joint Ventures of the PRC (《中華人民共和國中外合作經營企業法》) have been repealed since January 1, 2020.

In December 26, 2019, the State Council promulgated the Regulations on Implementing the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外商投資法實施條例》), which came into effect in January 1, 2020. After the Regulations on Implementing the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC came into effect, the Regulation on Implementing the Sino-Foreign

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Equity Joint Venture of the PRC (《中華人民共和國中外合資經營企業法實施條例》), Provisional Regulations on the Duration of Sino-Foreign Equity Joint Venture (《中外合資經營企業合營期限暫行規定》), the Regulations on Implementing the Wholly Foreign-owned Enterprise Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外資企業法實施細則》) and the Regulations on Implementing the Sino-foreign Cooperative Joint Venture of the PRC (《中華人民共和國中外合作經營企業法實施細則》) have been repealed simultaneously.

On December 30, 2019, the MOFCOM and the SAMR issued the Measures for the Reporting of Foreign Investment Information (《外商投資信息報告辦法》), which came into effect on January 1, 2020 and replaced the Interim Measures for the Recordation Administration of the Incorporation and Change of Foreign-Invested Enterprises (《外商投資企業設立及變更備案管理暫行辦法》), for carrying out investment activities directly or indirectly in mainland China, the foreign investors or foreign-invested enterprises shall submit investment information to the commerce authorities pursuant to these measures.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO OVERSEAS LISTING

On February 17, 2023, the CSRC released the Trial Measures for Administration of the Overseas Securities Offering and Listing by Domestic Enterprises (《境內企業境外發行證券和上市管理試行辦法》), and five supporting guidelines (the “**Trial Measures**”), which took effect on March 31, 2023. According to the Trial Measures, mainland China-based companies that seek to offer or list securities overseas, both directly and indirectly, should fulfill the filing procedure and report relevant information to the CSRC. If a mainland China-based company fails to complete the filing procedure, conceals any material fact or falsifies any major content in its filing documents, such domestic company may be subject to administrative penalties, such as order to rectify, warnings, fines, and its controlling shareholders, actual controllers, the person directly in charge and other directly liable persons may also be subject to administrative penalties, such as warnings and fines. According to the Trail Measures, no overseas offering and listing shall be made under any of the following circumstances: (1) where such securities offering and listing is explicitly prohibited by provisions in laws, administrative regulations and relevant state rules; (2) where the intended securities offering and listing may endanger national security as reviewed and determined by competent authorities under the State Council in accordance with law; (3) where the domestic company intending to make the securities offering and listing, or its controlling shareholders and the actual controllers, have committed crimes such as corruption, bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation of property or undermining the order of the socialist market economy during the latest three years; (4) where the domestic company intending to make the securities offering and listing is suspected of committing crimes or major violations of laws and regulations, and is under investigation according to law, and no conclusion has yet been made thereof; and (5) where there are material ownership disputes over equity held by the domestic company’s controlling shareholders or by other shareholders that are controlled by the controlling shareholders and/or actual controllers.



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On February 24, 2023, the CSRC, jointly with other relevant governmental authorities, promulgated the Provisions on Strengthening Confidentiality and Archives Management of Overseas Securities Issuance and Listing by Domestic Enterprises (《關於加強境內企業境外發行證券和上市相關保密和檔案管理工作的規定》) (the “**Confidentiality and Archives Management Provisions**”), which took effect on March 31, 2023. According to the Confidentiality and Archives Management Provisions, mainland China-based companies, whether offering and listing securities overseas directly or indirectly, must strictly abide the applicable laws and regulations when providing or publicly disclosing, either directly or through their overseas listed entities, documents and materials to securities services providers such as securities companies and accounting firms or overseas regulators in the process of their overseas offering and listing. If such documents or materials contain any state secrets or government authorities work secrets, the domestic companies must obtain the approval from competent governmental authorities according to the applicable laws, and file with the secrecy administrative department at the same level with the approving governmental authority. Furthermore, the Confidentiality and Archives Management Provisions also provide that securities companies and securities service providers shall also fulfill the applicable legal procedures when providing overseas regulatory institutions and other relevant institutions and individuals with documents or materials containing any state secrets or government authorities work secrets or other documents or materials that, if divulged, will jeopardize national security or public interest. Since the Confidentiality and Archives Management Provisions were promulgated recently, substantial uncertainties still exist with respect to the interpretation and implementation of such provisions and how they will affect us.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE H SHARE FULL CIRCULATION

“Full circulation” means listing and circulating on the Stock Exchange of the domestic unlisted shares of an H-share listed company (the “H-share listed company”), including unlisted domestic shares held by domestic shareholders prior to overseas listing, unlisted domestic shares additionally issued after overseas listing, and unlisted shares held by foreign shareholders. On November 14, 2019, the CSRC announced the Guidelines for the “Full Circulation” Program for Domestic Unlisted Shares of H-share Listed Companies (Announcement of the CSRC [2019] No. 22) (《H股公司境內未上市股份申請“全流通”業務指引》(中國證券監督管理委員會公告[2019]22號)) (the “Guidelines for the ‘Full Circulation’”).

According to the Guidelines for the “Full Circulation”, shareholders of domestic unlisted shares may determine by themselves through consultation the amount and proportion of shares, for which an application will be filed for circulation, provided that the requirements laid down in the relevant laws and regulations and set out in the policies for state-owned asset administration, foreign investment and industry regulation are met, and the corresponding H-share listed company may be entrusted to file the said application for “full circulation.” To file an application for “full circulation”, an H-share listed company shall file the application with the CSRC according to the administrative licensing procedures necessary for the “examination and approval of public issuance and listing (including additional issuance) of shares overseas by a joint stock company.”



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On December 31, 2019, CSDC and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange (the “SZSE”) jointly announced the Measures for Implementation of H-share “Full Circulation” Business (《H股“全流通”業務實施細則》) (the “Measures for Implementation”). The businesses of cross-border transfer registration, maintenance of deposit and holding details, transaction entrustment and instruction transmission, settlement, management of settlement participants, services of nominal holders, etc. in relation to the H-share “full circulation business”, are subject to the Measures for Implementation.

In order to fully promote the reform of H-shares “full circulation” and clarify the business arrangement and procedures for the relevant shares’ registration, custody, settlement and delivery, CSDC has promulgated the Circular on Issuing the Guide to the Program for Full Circulation of H-shares (《關於發佈〈H股“全流通”業務指南〉的通知》) in February 2020, which specified the business preparation, account arrangement, cross-border share transfer registration and overseas centralized custody, etc. In February 2020, China Securities Depository and Clearing (Hong Kong) Co., Ltd. (the “CSDC (Hong Kong)”) also promulgated the Guide to the Program for Full Circulation of H-shares (《中國證券登記結算(香港)有限公司H股“全流通”業務指南》) to specify the relevant escrow, custody, agent service of CSDC (Hong Kong), arrangement for settlement and delivery and other relevant matters.

According to the Trial Measures, the H-shares “full circulation” should comply with the relevant regulations of the CSRC, and the domestic company should be entrusted to file with the CSRC.

### REGULATIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE

On January 29, 1996, the State Council promulgated the Administrative Regulations on Foreign Exchange of the PRC (《中華人民共和國外匯管理條例》) which became effective on April 1, 1996 and was amended on January 14, 1997 and August 5, 2008. Foreign exchange payments under current account items shall, pursuant to the administrative provisions of the foreign exchange control department of the State Council on payments of foreign currencies and purchase of foreign currencies, be made using self-owned foreign currency or foreign currency purchased from financial institutions engaging in conversion and sale of foreign currencies by presenting the valid document. Domestic entities and domestic individuals making overseas direct investments or engaging in issuance and trading of overseas securities and derivatives shall process registration formalities pursuant to the provisions of the foreign exchange control department of the State Council.

On November 19, 2012, the SAFE issued the Circular of Further Improving and Adjusting Foreign Exchange Administration Policies on Foreign Direct Investment (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步改進和調整直接投資外匯管理政策的通知》) (the “SAFE Circular 59”), which came into effect on December 17, 2012 and was revised on May 4, 2015, October 10, 2018 and partially abolished on December 30, 2019. The SAFE Circular 59 aims to simplify the foreign exchange procedure and promote the facilitation of investment and trade. According to the SAFE Circular 59, the opening of various special purpose foreign exchange accounts, such as pre-establishment expenses accounts, foreign exchange capital accounts and guarantee

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accounts, the reinvestment of RMB proceeds derived by foreign investors in mainland China, 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, as well multiple capital accounts for the same entity may be opened in different provinces. Later, the SAFE promulgated the Circular on Further Simplifying and Improving Foreign Exchange Administration Policies in Respect of 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》) in February 2015 (the “SAFE Circular 13”), which was partially abolished in December 2019 and prescribed that the bank instead of SAFE can directly handle the foreign exchange registration and approval under foreign direct investment while SAFE and its branches indirectly supervise the foreign exchange registration and approval under foreign direct investment through the bank.

On May 11, 2013, the SAFE issued the Administrative Provisions on Foreign Exchange in Domestic Direct Investment by Foreign Investors (《外國投資者境內直接投資外匯管理規定》) (the “SAFE Circular 21”), which became effective on May 13, 2013, amended on October 10, 2018 and partially abolished on December 30, 2019. The SAFE Circular 21 specifies that the administration by SAFE or its local branches over direct investment by foreign investors in mainland China must be conducted by way of registration and banks must process foreign exchange business relating to the direct investment in mainland China based on the registration information provided by SAFE and its branches.

According to the Notice on Relevant Issue Concerning the Administration of Foreign Exchange for Overseas Listing (《關於境外上市外匯管理有關問題的通知》) issued by the SAFE on December 26, 2014, the domestic companies in mainland China shall register the overseas listed with the foreign exchange control bureau located at its registered address in 15 working days after completion of the overseas listing and issuance. The funds raised by the domestic companies in mainland China through overseas listing may be repatriated to mainland China or deposited overseas, provided that the intended use of the fund shall be consistent with the contents of the document and other public disclosure documents.

According to the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Reforming the Management Mode of Foreign Exchange Capital Settlement of Foreign Investment Enterprises (《國家外匯管理局關於改革外商投資企業外匯資本金結匯管理方式的通知》) (the “SAFE Circular 19”) promulgated on March 30, 2015, coming effective on June 1, 2015 and partially abolished on December 30, 2019 and March 23, 2023, foreign-invested enterprises (the “FIE”) may choose to convert any amount of foreign exchange in their capital account into Renminbi according to their actual business needs. The converted Renminbi will be kept in a designated account and if an FIE needs to make further payment from such account, it still needs to provide supporting documents and go through the review process with the banks. FIEs are still required to use the converted Renminbi within their approved business scope.

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On June 9, 2016, SAFE issued the Notice of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange on Reforming and Standardizing the Foreign Exchange Settlement Management Policy of Capital Account (《國家外匯管理局關於改革和規範資本項目結匯管理政策的通知》) (the “SAFE Circular 16”), which came into effect on the same day. The SAFE 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 RMB capital converted from foreign exchange may be used to extend loans to related parties or repay inter-company loans (including advances by third parties). However, there remain substantial uncertainties with respect to SAFE Circular 16’s interpretation and implementation in practice.

On October 23, 2019, SAFE promulgated the Notice on Further Facilitating Cross-Board Trade and Investment (《國家外匯管理局關於進一步促進跨境貿易投資便利化的通知》), which became effective on the same date (except for Article 8.2, which became effective on January 1, 2020). The notice cancelled restrictions on domestic equity investments made with capital funds by non-investing foreign-funded enterprises. In addition, restrictions on the use of funds for foreign exchange settlement of domestic accounts for the realization of assets have been removed and restrictions on the use and foreign exchange settlement of foreign investors’ security deposits have been relaxed. Eligible enterprises in the pilot area are also allowed to use revenues under capital accounts, such as capital funds, foreign debts and overseas listing revenues for domestic payments without providing materials to the bank in advance for authenticity verification on an item by item basis, while the use of funds should be true, in compliance with applicable rules and conforming to the current capital revenue management regulations.

On April 10, 2020, SAFE promulgated Circular on Optimizing Administration of Foreign Exchange to Support the Development of Foreign-related Business (《國家外匯管理局關於優化外匯管理支持涉外業務發展的通知》), which came into effect on the same day. The notice provides that eligible enterprises are allowed to make domestic payments by using their capital, foreign credits and the income under capital accounts of overseas listing, without the need to provide the evidential materials concerning authenticity of such capital to banks in advance, provided that their utilized capital shall be authentic and in line with provisions, and conform to the prevailing administrative regulations related to the use of income under capital accounts. The concerned bank shall conduct spot checks in accordance with the relevant requirements.

### REGULATIONS ON OVERSEAS DIRECT INVESTMENT REGISTRATION

Pursuant to the Regulations on the Foreign Exchange Administration of the Overseas Direct Investment of Domestic Institutions (《境內機構境外直接投資外匯管理規定》) issued by the SAFE on July 13, 2009 and took effect on August 1, 2009, upon obtaining approval for overseas investment, an enterprise in mainland China shall apply for foreign exchange registration for its overseas direct investments. According to the SAFE Circular 13, the administrative approval for foreign exchange registration approval under overseas direct investment has been canceled, and the banks are entitled to review and carry out foreign exchange registration under overseas direct investment directly.

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Pursuant to the Measures for the Administration of Overseas Investment (《境外投資管理辦法》) which was issued by the MOFCOM on September 6, 2014 and became effective on October 6, 2014, the MOFCOM and the commerce departments at provincial levels shall subject the overseas investment of enterprises to recordation or confirmation management, depending on the actual circumstances of investment. Overseas investment involving any sensitive country or region, or any sensitive industry shall be subject to confirmation management. Overseas investment under other circumstances shall be subject to recordation management.

Pursuant to the Administrative Measures for Outbound Investment by Enterprises (《企業境外投資管理辦法》) promulgated by the NDRC on December 26, 2017 and took effect on March 1, 2018, the investing activities of enterprises in mainland China such as acquiring overseas ownerships, controlling rights, operating and management rights and other relevant interests by way of investing assets and interests or providing financing and guarantees to control its overseas enterprises, either directly or indirectly, are required to obtain approval or filing with the NDRC in accordance with the relevant conditions of the overseas investment projects. Outbound investment projects that involve sensitive countries and regions or sensitive industries shall be subject to administration of verification and approval by the NDRC and non-sensitive outbound investment projects shall be subject to administration by record-filing. For non-sensitive projects of US\$300 million or above invested by local enterprise in mainland China or carried out by overseas enterprises controlled by them, the investors shall file with the NDRC and non-sensitive outbound investment projects, of which the investment amount of investors in mainland China is less than US\$300 million (exclusive) shall file with the provincial counterpart of the NDRC.

The principal laws, rules and regulations governing dividend distribution by companies in mainland China are the PRC Company Law, most recently amended by the SCNPC on October 26, 2018, which applies to both domestic companies and foreign-invested companies in mainland China, and the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC and the Regulations on Implementing the Foreign Investment Law of the PRC apply to foreign-invested companies. Under these laws, regulations and rules, both domestic companies and foreign-invested companies in mainland China are required to set aside as general reserves at least 10% of their after-tax profit, until the cumulative amount of their reserves reaches 50% of their registered capital. Companies in mainland China are not permitted to distribute any profits until any losses from prior fiscal years have been offset. Profits retained from prior fiscal years may be distributed together with distributable profits from the current fiscal year.

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### REGULATIONS RELATING TO TAXATION

#### Enterprise Income Tax

The Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法》) (the “EIT Law”), promulgated by the National People’s Congress on March 16, 2007, came into effect on January 1, 2008 and amended on February 24, 2017 and December 29, 2018, as well as the Implementation Rules of the EIT Law (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》) (the “Implementation Rules”), promulgated by the State Council on December 6, 2007, came into force on January 1, 2008 and amended on April 23, 2019, are the principal law and regulation governing enterprise income tax in mainland China. According to the EIT Law and its Implementation Rules, enterprises are classified into resident enterprises and non-resident enterprises. Resident enterprises refer to enterprises that are legally established in mainland China, or are established under foreign laws but whose actual management bodies are located in mainland China. And non-resident enterprises refer to enterprises that are legally established under foreign laws and have set up institutions or sites in mainland China but with no actual management body in mainland China, or enterprises that have not set up institutions or sites in mainland China but have derived incomes from mainland China. A uniform income tax rate of 25% applies to all resident enterprises and non-resident enterprises that have set up institutions or sites in mainland China to the extent that such incomes are derived from their set-up institutions or sites in mainland China, or such income are obtained outside mainland China but have an actual connection with the set-up institutions or sites. And non-resident enterprises that have not set up institutions or sites in mainland China or have set up institutions or sites but the incomes obtained by the said enterprises have no actual connection with the set-up institutions or sites, shall pay enterprise income tax at the rate of 10% in relation to their income sources from mainland China.

#### Value-Added Tax

The major PRC Law governing value-added tax are the Interim Regulations on Value-added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例》) issued on December 13, 1993 by the State Council, came into effect on January 1, 1994, and revised on November 10, 2008, February 6, 2016 and November 19, 2017, as well as the Implementation Rules for the Interim Regulations on Value-Added Tax of the PRC (《中華人民共和國增值稅暫行條例實施細則》) issued on December 25, 1993 by the Ministry of Finance (the “MOF”), came into effect on the same day and revised on December 15, 2008 and October 28, 2011, any entities and individuals engaged in the sale of goods, supply of processing, repair and replacement services, and import of goods within the territory of mainland China are taxpayers of VAT and shall pay the VAT in accordance with the law and regulation. The rate of VAT for sale of goods is 17% unless otherwise specified, such as the rate of VAT for sale of transportation is 11%. With the VAT reforms in mainland China, the rate of VAT has been changed several times. The MOF and the State Taxation Administration (the “STA”) issued the Notice of on Adjusting VAT Rates (《關於調整增值稅稅率的通知》) on April 4, 2018 to adjust the tax rates of 17% and 11% applicable to any taxpayer’s VAT taxable sale or import of goods to 16% and 10%, respectively, this adjustment became effect on May 1, 2018. Subsequently, the MOF, the STA



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and the General Administration of Customs jointly issued the Announcement on Relevant Policies for Deepening the VAT Reform (《關於深化增值稅改革有關政策的公告》) on March 20, 2019 to make a further adjustment, which came into effect on April 1, 2019. The tax rate of 16% applicable to the VAT taxable sale or import of goods shall be adjusted to 13%, and the tax rate of 10% applicable thereto shall be adjusted to 9%.

### **Taxation on Dividends**

#### *Individual Investors*

Pursuant to the Individual Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法》) (the "IIT Law"), which was last amended on August 31, 2018 by the SCNPC, which came into effect on January 1, 2019, and the Regulations on Implementation of the Individual Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國個人所得稅法實施條例》), which was last amended on December 18, 2018 by the State Council and came into effect on January 1, 2019, dividends paid by PRC enterprises are subject to individual income tax levied at a flat rate of 20%. For a foreign individual who is not a resident of the PRC, the receipt of dividends from a PRC enterprise in the PRC is normally subject to individual income tax of 20% unless specifically exempted by the tax authority of the State Council or reduced by an applicable tax treaty.

Pursuant to the Notice of the SAT on Issues Concerning Taxation and Administration of Individual Income Tax After the Repeal of the Document Guoshui Fa [1993] No. 45) (《國家稅務總局關於國稅發[1993]045號文件廢止後有關個人所得稅徵管問題的通知》) (Guoshui Han [2011] No. 348) issued by the SAT on June 28, 2011, which came into effect on the same day, domestic non-foreign-invested enterprises issuing shares in Hong Kong may, when distributing dividends, withhold individual income tax at the rate of 10%. For the individual holders of H Shares receiving dividends who are citizens of countries that have entered into a tax treaty with the PRC with tax rate of lower than 10%, non-foreign-invested enterprises listed in Hong Kong may apply on behalf of such holders for enjoying the lower preferential tax treatments, and, upon approval by the tax authorities, the excessive withholding amount will be refunded. For the individual holders of H Shares receiving dividends who are citizens of countries that have entered into a tax treaty with the PRC with tax rate of higher than 10% but lower than 20%, the non-foreign-invested enterprise is required to withhold the tax at the agreed rate under the treaties, and no application procedures will be necessary. For the individual holders of H Shares receiving dividends who are citizens of countries without taxation treaties with the PRC or are under other situations, the non-foreign-invested enterprise is required to withhold the tax at a rate of 20%.

Pursuant to the Circular on Certain Issues Concerning the Policies of Individual Income Tax (《關於個人所得稅若干政策問題的通知》) (Caishui Zi [1994] No. 20) promulgated by the MOF and the SAT on May 13, 1994 and came into effect on the same day, overseas individuals are exempted from the individual income tax for dividends and bonuses received from foreign-invested enterprises.



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### *Enterprise Investors*

According to the EIT Law, which was latest amended by the SCNPC and implemented on December 29, 2018, and the Implementation Rules for the Enterprise Income Tax Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國企業所得稅法實施條例》) enacted on December 6, 2007 by the State Council and became effective on January 1, 2008, and amended on April 23, 2019, a non-resident enterprise is generally subject to a 10% enterprise income tax on PRC-sourced income (including dividends received from a PRC resident enterprise that issues shares in Hong Kong), if it does not have an establishment or premise in the PRC or has an establishment or premise in the PRC but its PRC-sourced income has no real connection with such establishment or premise. The aforesaid income tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise.

The Circular of on Issues Relating to the Withholding and Remitting of Enterprise Income Tax by PRC Resident Enterprises on Dividends Distributed to Overseas Non-Resident Enterprise Shareholders of H Shares (《關於中國居民企業向境外H股非居民企業股東派發股息代扣代繳企業所得稅有關問題的通知》) (Guoshui [2008] No. 897), which was issued and implemented by the SAT on November 6, 2008, further clarified that a PRC-resident enterprise must withhold enterprise income tax at a rate of 10% on the dividends of 2008 and onwards that it distributes to overseas non-resident enterprise shareholders of H Shares. In addition, the Response to Questions on Levying Corporate Income Tax on Dividends Derived by Non-resident Enterprise from Holding Stock such as B Shares (《關於非居民企業取得B股等股票股息徵收企業所得稅問題的批覆》) (Guoshui [2009] No. 394), which was issued by the SAT and came into effect on July 24, 2009, further provides that any PRC-resident enterprise whose shares are listed on overseas stock exchanges must withhold and remit enterprise income tax at a rate of 10% on dividends of 2008 and onwards that it distributes to non-resident enterprises. Such tax rates may be further modified pursuant to the tax treaty or agreement that China has entered into with a relevant country or area, where applicable.

Pursuant to the Arrangement between the Mainland China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排》) (the “**Arrangement**”), which was signed between the SAT and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC on August 21, 2006, the PRC Government may levy taxes on the dividends paid by a PRC company to Hong Kong residents (including resident individual and resident entities) in an amount not exceeding 10% of the total dividends payable by the PRC company unless a Hong Kong resident directly holds 25.0% or more of the equity interest in the PRC company, then such tax shall not exceed 5% of the total dividends payable by the PRC company. The Fifth Protocol to the Arrangement between the Mainland China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (《<內地和香港特別行政區關於對所得避免雙重徵稅和防止偷漏稅的安排>第五議定書》) which came into effect on December 6, 2019, added a criteria for the qualification of entitlement to enjoy treaty benefits. Although there may be other provisions under the Arrangement, the treaty benefits under the criteria shall not be granted in the circumstance

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where relevant gains, after taking into account all relevant facts and conditions, are reasonably deemed to be one of the main purposes for the arrangement or transactions which will bring any direct or indirect benefits under this Arrangement, except when the grant of benefits under such circumstance is consistent with relevant objective and goal under the Arrangement. The application of the dividend clause of tax agreements is subject to the requirements of PRC tax law and regulation, such as the Notice of the State Administration of Taxation on the Issues Concerning the Application of the Dividend Clauses of Tax Agreements (《國家稅務總局關於執行稅收協定股息條款有關問題的通知》).

### **Taxation on Share Transfer**

#### *Individual Investors*

According to the Circular Concerning Temporary Exemption From Individual Income Tax on The Income From Stocks Transfer (《關於個人轉讓股票所得繼續暫免徵收個人所得稅的通知》) (Caishui Zi [1998] No. 61) promulgated by the SAT and became effective on March 20, 1998, since January 1, 1997, the IIT in the individual income from transfer of stocks of listed companies will continue to be temporarily exempted. In the newly revised IIT Law, the SAT has not clearly stipulated whether to continue to exempt individuals from tax on the income from transfer of stocks of listed companies.

#### *Enterprise Investors*

In accordance with the EIT Law and its implementation rules, a non-resident enterprise that has not established an establishment or premises in the PRC or it has established an establishment and premises but the income received has no actual connection with the establishment and premises, it shall pay a business income tax at a rate of 10% for the income arising within the PRC (including the income from sale of equity interests of PRC-resident enterprise). The aforesaid income tax payable for non-resident enterprises are deducted at source, where the payer of the income is required to withhold the income tax from the amount to be paid to the non-resident enterprise on each payment or when it is payable on due date. The withholding tax may be reduced pursuant to applicable treaties or agreements on avoidance of double taxation.

#### *PRC Stamp Duty*

Pursuant to the Provisional Regulations of the PRC on Stamp Duty (《中華人民共和國印花稅暫行條例》), which was latest amended on January 8, 2011, and the Implementation Provisions of Provisional Regulations of the PRC on Stamp Duty (《中華人民共和國印花稅暫行條例施行細則》), which was promulgated by the Ministry of Finance on September 29, 1988 and came into effect on October 1, 1988, the PRC stamp duty only applies to specific taxable document executed or received within the PRC, having legally binding force in the PRC and protected under the PRC Law, thus the requirements of the stamp duty imposed on the transfer of shares of PRC listed companies shall not apply to the acquisition and disposal of H Shares by non-PRC investors outside of the PRC.