Audit Committee

Full minutes of audit committee meetings should be kept by a duly appointed secretary of the meeting (who should normally be the company secretary). Draft and final versions of minutes of the meetings should be sent to all committee members for their comment and records, within a reasonable time after the meeting.

A former partner of the issuer’s existing auditing firm should be prohibited from acting as a member of its audit committee for a period of 2 years from the date of the person ceasing: (a) to be a partner of the firm; or (b) to have any financial interest in the firm, whichever is later.

The audit committee should make available its terms of reference, explaining its role and the authority delegated to it by the board by including them on the Exchange’s website and the issuer’s website.

Composition:–

Professor Cheong Heon YI (Chairman) INED
Mr. Tae Woong KANG INED
Dr. Chan YOO INED

Terms of reference:–

Relationship with the issuer’s auditors

(a) to be primarily responsible for making recommendations to the board on the appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditor, and to approve the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external auditor, and any questions of its resignation or dismissal;

(b) to review and monitor the external auditor’s independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process in accordance with applicable standards. The audit committee should discuss with the auditor the nature and scope of the audit and reporting obligations before the audit commences;
(c) to develop and implement policy on engaging an external auditor to supply non-audit services. For this purpose, “external auditor” includes any entity that is under common control, ownership or management with the audit firm or any entity that a reasonable and informed third party knowing all relevant information would reasonably conclude to be part of the audit firm nationally or internationally. The audit committee should report to the board, identifying and making recommendations on any matters where action or improvement is needed;

Review of issuer’s financial information

(d) to monitor integrity of the issuer’s financial statements and annual report and accounts, half-year report and, if prepared for publication, quarterly reports, and to review significant financial reporting judgements contained in them. In reviewing these reports before submission to the board, the committee should focus particularly on:

(i) any changes in accounting policies and practices;

(ii) major judgmental areas;

(iii) significant adjustments resulting from audit;

(iv) the going concern assumptions and any qualifications;

(v) compliance with accounting standards; and

(vi) compliance with the Listing Rules and legal requirements in relation to financial reporting;

(e) Regarding (d) above:

(i) members of the committee should liaise with the board and senior management and the committee must meet, at least twice a year, with the issuer’s auditors; and

(ii) the committee should consider any significant or unusual items that are, or may need to be, reflected in the report and accounts, it should give due consideration to any matters that have been raised by the issuer’s staff responsible for the accounting and financial reporting function, compliance officer or auditors;
Oversight of the issuer’s financial reporting system, risk management and internal control systems

(f) to review the issuer’s financial controls, and unless expressly addressed by a separate board risk committee, or by the board itself, to review the issuer’s risk management and internal control systems;

(g) to discuss the risk management and internal control systems with management to ensure that management has performed its duty to have effective systems. This discussion should include the adequacy of resources, staff qualifications and experience, training programmes and budget of the issuer’s accounting and financial reporting function;

(h) to consider major investigation findings on risk management and internal control matters as delegated by the board or on its own initiative and management’s response to these findings;

(i) where an internal audit function exists, to ensure co-ordination between the internal and external auditors, and to ensure that the internal audit function is adequately resourced and has appropriate standing within the issuer, and to review and monitor its effectiveness;

(j) to review the group’s financial and accounting policies and practices;

(k) to review the external auditor’s management letter, any material queries raised by the auditor to management about accounting records, financial accounts or systems of control and management’s response;

(l) to ensure that the board will provide a timely response to the issues raised in the external auditor’s management letter;

(m) to report to the board on the matters in this code provision; and

(n) to consider other topics, as defined by the board.

(o) The terms of reference of the audit committee should also require it:

(i) To review arrangements employees of the issuer can use, in confidence, to raise concerns about possible improprieties in financial reporting, internal control or other matters. The audit committee should ensure that proper arrangements are in place for fair and independent investigation of these matters and for appropriate follow-up actions; and

(ii) To act as the key representative body for overseeing the issuer’s relations with the external auditor.
Notes:

1 The audit committee may wish to consider establishing the following procedure to review and monitor the independence of external auditors:—

(i) consider all relationships between the issuer and the audit firm (including non-audit services);

(ii) obtain from the audit firm annually, information about policies and processes for maintaining independence and monitoring compliance with relevant requirements, including those for rotation of audit partners and staff; and

(iii) meet with the auditor, at least annually, in the absence of management, to discuss matters relating to its audit fees, any issues arising from the audit and any other matters the auditor may wish to raise.

2 The audit committee may wish to consider agreeing with the board the issuer’s policies on hiring employees or former employees of the external auditors and monitoring the application of these policies. The audit committee should then be in a position to consider whether there has been or appears to be any impairment of the auditor’s judgement or independence for the audit.

3 The audit committee should ensure that an external auditor’s provision of non-audit services does not impair its independence or objectivity. When assessing the external auditor’s independence or objectivity in relation to non-audit services, the audit committee may wish to consider:

(i) whether the skills and experience of the audit firm make it a suitable supplier of non-audit services;

(ii) whether there are safeguards in place to ensure that there is no threat to the objectivity and independence of the audit because the external auditor provides non-audit services;

(iii) the nature of the non-audit services, the related fee levels and fee levels individually and in total relative to the audit firm; and

(iv) criteria for compensation of the individuals performing the audit.