

APPENDIX IV

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

This Appendix summarizes certain aspects of PRC laws and regulations, which are relevant to the Company’s operations and business. Laws and regulations relating to taxation in the PRC are discussed separately in “Appendix III — Taxation and Foreign Exchange.” This Appendix also contains a summary of certain Hong Kong legal and regulatory provisions, including summaries of certain material differences between the PRC Company Law and the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, certain requirements of the Listing Rules and additional provisions required by the Stock Exchange for inclusion in the articles of association of PRC issuers. The principal objective of this summary is to provide potential [REDACTED] with an overview of the principal laws and regulatory provisions applicable to the Company. This summary is not intended to include all the information which are important to the potential [REDACTED]. For discussion of laws and regulations which are relevant to the Company’s business, see “Regulatory Overview.”

PRC LAWS AND REGULATIONS

PRC Legal System

The PRC legal system is based on the Constitution of the PRC (《中華人民共和國憲法》) (the “Constitution”) and is made up of written laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, separate regulations, autonomous regulations, rules and regulations of departments, rules and regulations of local governments, international treaties of which the PRC government is a signatory, and other regulatory documents. Court verdicts do not constitute binding precedents. However, they may be used as judicial reference and guidance.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law of the PRC (2023 revision) (《中華人民共和國立法法(2023修正)》) (the “Legislation Law”), the National People’s Congress (the “NPC”) and the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (the “SCNPC”) are empowered to exercise the legislative power of the State. The NPC has the power to formulate and amend basic laws governing civil and criminal matters, state organs and other matters. The SCNPC is empowered to formulate and amend laws other than those required to be enacted by the NPC and to supplement and amend any parts of laws enacted by the NPC during the adjournment of the NPC, provided that such supplements and amendments are not in conflict with the basic principles of such laws.

The State Council is the highest organ of the PRC administration and has the power to formulate administrative regulations based on the Constitution and laws.

The people’s congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations based on the specific circumstances and actual requirements of their own respective administrative areas, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations.

The ministries and commissions of the State Council, PBOC, National Audit Office of the PRC as well as the other organs endowed with administrative functions directly under the State Council may, in accordance with the laws as well as the administrative regulations, decisions and orders of the State Council and within the limits of their power, formulate rules.

The people’s congresses of cities divided into districts and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations in terms of urban and rural development and management, environmental protection, and historical and cultural protection based on the specific circumstances and actual requirements of such cities, which will become enforceable after being reported to and approved by the standing committees of the people’s congresses of the relevant provinces or autonomous regions but such local regulations shall conform with the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations, and the relevant local regulations of the relevant provinces or

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autonomous regions. People’s congresses of national autonomous areas have the power to enact autonomous regulations and separate regulations in light of the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the nationality (nationalities) in the areas concerned.

The people’s governments of the provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the central government and the cities divided into districts or autonomous prefectures may enact rules, in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the local regulations of their respective provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities. The Constitution has supreme legal authority and no laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations or separate regulations may contravene the Constitution.

The authority of laws is greater than that of administrative regulations, local regulations and rules. The authority of administrative regulations is greater than that of local regulations and rules. The authority of local regulations is greater than that of the rules of the local governments at or below the corresponding level. The authority of the rules enacted by the people’s governments of the provinces or autonomous regions is greater than that of the rules enacted by the people’s governments of the city divided into districts or autonomous prefecture within the administrative areas of the provinces and the autonomous regions.

The NPC has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate laws enacted by the SCNPC, and to annul any autonomous regulations or separate regulations which have been approved by the SCNPC but which contravene the Constitution or the Legislation Law. The SCNPC has the power to annul any administrative regulations that contravene the Constitution and laws, to annul any local regulations that contravene the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations, and to annul any autonomous regulations or local regulations which have been approved by the standing committees of the people’s congresses of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities directly under the central government, but which contravene the Constitution and the Legislation Law. The State Council has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate ministerial rules and rules of local governments. The people’s congresses of provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities directly under the central government have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate local regulations enacted or approved by their respective standing committees. The people’s governments of provinces and autonomous regions have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate rules enacted by the people’s governments at a lower level.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law, the power to interpret laws is vested in the SCNPC. According to the Decision of the Standing Committee of the NPC Regarding the Strengthening of Interpretation of Laws (《全國人民代表大會常務委員會關於加強法律解釋工作的決議》) passed on June 10, 1981, the Supreme People’s Court of the PRC (the “Supreme People’s Court”) has the power to give general interpretation on questions involving the specific application of laws and decrees in court trials. The State Council and its ministries and commissions are also vested with the power to give interpretation of the administrative regulations and department rules which they have promulgated. At the regional level, the power to give interpretations of the local laws and regulations as well as administrative rules is vested in the regional legislative and administrative organs which promulgate such laws, regulations and rules.

PRC Judicial System

Under the Constitution and the PRC Law on the Organization of the People’s Courts (2018 revision) (《中華人民共和國人民法院組織法(2018年修訂)》), the PRC judicial system is made up of the Supreme People’s Court, the local people’s courts and special people’s courts.

The local people’s courts are comprised of the primary people’s courts, the intermediate people’s courts and the higher people’s courts. The higher level people’s courts supervise the primary and intermediate people’s courts. The people’s procuratorates also have the right to

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exercise legal supervision over the civil proceedings of people’s courts of the same level and lower levels. The Supreme People’s Court is the highest judicial body in the PRC. It supervises the judicial administration of the people’s courts at all levels.

The PRC Civil Procedure Law (2023 revision) (《中華人民共和國民事訴訟法(2023修正)》) (the “Civil Procedure Law”), which was adopted in 1991 and last amended by SCNPC on September 1, 2023, and came into effect on January 1, 2024, sets forth the criteria for instituting a civil action, the jurisdiction of the people’s courts, the procedures to be followed for conducting a civil action and the procedures for enforcement of a civil judgment or order. All parties to a civil action conducted within the PRC must comply with the Civil Procedure Law. Generally, a civil case is initially heard by a local court of the municipality or province in which the defendant resides. The parties to a contract may, by express agreement, select a judicial court where civil actions may be brought, provided that the judicial court is either the plaintiff’s or the defendant’s domicile, the place of execution or implementation of the contract or the place of the object of the action, provided that such choice shall not violate the requirements of the level of jurisdiction and exclusive jurisdiction.

A foreign national or enterprise generally has the same litigation rights and obligations as a citizen or legal person of the PRC. If a foreign country’s judicial system limits the litigation rights of PRC citizens and enterprises, the PRC courts may apply the same limitations to the citizens and enterprises of that foreign country within the PRC.

If any party to a civil action refuses to comply with a judgment or ruling made by a people’s court or an award made by an arbitration panel in the PRC, the other party may apply to the people’s court for the enforcement of the same. There are time limits of two years imposed on the right to apply for such enforcement. If a person fails to satisfy a judgment made by the court within the stipulated time, the court will, upon application by either party, enforce the judgment in accordance with the law.

A party seeking to enforce a judgment or ruling of a people’s court against a party who is not personally or whose property is not within the PRC may apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction over the case for recognition and enforcement of the judgment or ruling. A foreign judgment or ruling may also be recognized and enforced by the people’s court according to PRC enforcement procedures if the PRC has entered into or acceded to an international treaty with the relevant foreign country, which provides for such recognition and enforcement, or if the judgment or ruling satisfies the court’s examination according to the principle of reciprocity, unless the people’s court finds that the recognition or enforcement of such judgment or ruling will result in a violation of the basic legal principles of the PRC, its sovereignty or security or against social and public interest.

The Company Law, the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing and the Guidelines

A joint stock limited company which was incorporated in the PRC and seeking a listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange is mainly subject to the following three laws and regulations in the PRC:

The Company Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國公司法》) (the “Company Law”) which was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the NPC on December 29, 1993, came into effect on July 1, 1994, and was latest revised on December 29, 2023 and came into effect on July 1, 2024.

The Trial Measures for Overseas Listing which were promulgated by the CSRC on February 17, 2023 and came into effect on March 31, 2023, and were applicable to the overseas offering and listing of PRC domestic companies’ securities.

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The Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies (2025 revision) (《上市公司章程指引(2025修正)》) (the “Guidelines”) which were issued by the CSRC on December 16, 1997, latest revised on March 28, 2025 and came into effect on the same date, providing the guidelines for the Articles of Association. As such, the contents provided in the Guidelines are set out in the Articles of Association of the Company, the summary of which is set out in the section entitled “Appendix V — Summary of Articles of Association” in this document.

Set out below is a summary of the major provisions of the Company Law, the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing and the Guidelines applicable to the Company.

General

A joint stock limited company refers to an enterprise legal person incorporated in accordance with the Company Law with its registered capital divided into shares of equal par value. The liability of its shareholders is limited to the amount of shares held by them and the company is liable to its creditors for an amount equal to the total value of its assets.

A joint stock limited company shall conduct its business in accordance with laws and administrative regulations. It may invest in other limited liability companies and joint stock limited companies and its liabilities with respect to such invested companies are limited to the amount invested. Unless otherwise provided by laws, the joint stock limited company may not be a contributor that undertakes joint and several liabilities for the debts of the invested companies.

Incorporation

A joint stock limited company may be incorporated by promotion or public subscription.

A joint stock limited company may be incorporated by a minimum of two but not more than 200 promoters, and at least half of the promoters must have residence within the PRC.

The promoters must convene an inaugural meeting within 30 days after the issued shares have been fully paid up and must give notice to all subscribers or make an announcement of the date of the inaugural meeting 15 days before the meeting. The inaugural meeting may be convened only with the presence of promoters or subscribers representing at least half of the shares in the company. At the inaugural meeting, matters including the adoption of articles of association and the election of members of the board of directors and members of the board of supervisors of the company will be dealt with. All resolutions of the meeting require the approval of subscribers with more than half of the voting rights present at the meeting.

Within 30 days after the conclusion of the inaugural meeting, the board of directors must apply to the registration authority for registration of the establishment of the joint stock limited company. A company is formally established, and has the status of a legal person, after the business license has been issued by the relevant registration authority. Joint stock limited companies established by the subscription method shall file the approval on the offering of shares issued by the securities administration department of the State Council with the company registration authority for record.

A joint stock limited company’s promoters shall be liable for: (i) the payment of all expenses and debts incurred in the incorporation process jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated; (ii) the refund of subscription monies to the subscribers, together with interest, at bank rates for a deposit of the same term jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated; and (iii) damages suffered by the company as a result of the default of the promoters in the course of incorporation of the company. According to the Interim Provisional Regulations on the Administration of Share Issuance and Trading (《股票發行與交易管理暫行條例》) promulgated

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by the State Council on April 22, 1993 (which is only applicable to the issuance and trading of shares in the PRC and their related activities), if a company is established by means of public subscription, the promoters of such company are required to sign on the document to ensure that the document does not contain any misrepresentation, serious misleading statements or material omissions, and assume joint and several responsibility for it.

Registered Capital

The promoters may make a capital contribution in currencies, or non-monetary assets such as in kind or intellectual property rights or land use rights which can be appraised with monetary value and transferred lawfully, except for assets which are prohibited from being contributed as capital by the laws or administrative regulations. If a capital contribution is made in non-monetary assets, a valuation of the assets contributed must be carried out pursuant to the provisions of the laws or administrative regulations on valuation without any over-valuation or under-valuation.

The transfer of shares by shareholders should be conducted via the legally established stock exchange or in accordance with other methods as stipulated by the State Council.

Transfer of registered shares by a shareholder must be made by means of an endorsement or by other means stipulated by laws or administrative regulations.

Increase of Registered Capital and Issue of Shares

According to the Company Law, in the event a company proposes to issue new shares, resolutions shall be passed at general meeting in accordance with the articles of association to determine the class, amount and issue price of the new shares. All issue of shares of a joint stock limited company shall be based on the principles of equality and fairness. The same class of shares must carry equal rights. Shares issued at the same time and within the same class must be issued on the same conditions and at the same price. It may issue shares at par value or at a premium, but it may not issue shares below the par value.

After the new share issuance has been paid up, the change shall be registered with the company registration authorities and an announcement shall be made.

According to the Company Law, when the company issues shares in registered form, it shall maintain a register of shareholders, stating the following matters:

- the name and domicile of each shareholder;
- the number of shares held by each shareholder;
- the serial numbers of shares held by each shareholder; and
- the date on which each shareholder acquired the shares.

Reduction of Registered Capital

A company may reduce its registered capital in accordance with the following procedures prescribed by the Company Law:

- the company shall prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of the assets;
- the reduction of registered capital shall be approved by a general meeting;

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- the company shall inform its creditors of the reduction in registered capital within 10 days and publish an announcement of the reduction in the newspaper within 30 days after the shareholders’ resolution approving the reduction has been passed;
- creditors shall within 30 days after receiving the notice, or within 45 days of the public announcement if no notice has been received, require the company to pay its debts or provide corresponding guarantees covering the debts;
- the company shall apply to the relevant administration of registration for the registration of the reduction in registered capital.

Repurchase of Shares

According to the Guidelines, a joint stock limited company may not purchase its shares other than for one of the following purposes: (i) to reduce its registered capital; (ii) to merge with another company that holds its shares; (iii) to grant its shares for carrying out an employee stock ownership plan or equity incentive plan; (iv) to purchase its shares from shareholders who vote against the resolution regarding the merger or division with other companies at a general meeting; (v) to apply shares for conversion of convertible corporate bonds issued by a listed company; and (vi) to maintain the company value and protect the shareholders’ interests of a listed company as necessary.

Repurchase of its own shares on the grounds set out in (i) and (ii) above shall be subject to resolution passed by the general meeting; repurchase of its own shares on the grounds set out in (iii), (v) or (vi) above shall be subject to a resolution of the company’s board of directors made by a two-third majority of directors attending the meeting in accordance with the provisions of the company’s articles of association or as authorized by the general meeting.

Following the repurchase of its own shares in accordance with (i) above, such shares shall be canceled within 10 days from the date of repurchase; the shares shall be transferred or canceled within six months if the repurchase of its own shares is in accordance with either (ii) or (iv) above; and the shares repurchased in accordance with (iii), (v) or (vi) above shall not exceed 10% of the company’s total issued shares, and shall be transferred or canceled within three years.

A listed company shall perform its obligation of information disclosure according to the provisions of the Securities Law when repurchasing its own shares. In the event the repurchase of its own shares is in accordance with (iii), (v) or (vi) above, centralized public trading shall be adopted.

A company shall not accept its own shares as the subject matter of a mortgage.

Transfer of Shares

Shares held by shareholders may be transferred in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. Pursuant to the Company Law, transfer of shares by shareholders shall be carried out at a legally established securities exchange or in other ways stipulated by the State Council.

No modifications of registration in the share register caused by transfer of registered shares shall be carried out within 20 days prior to the convening of a general meeting or 5 days prior to the base date for determination of dividend distributions. However, where there are separate provisions by law on alternation of registration in the share register of listed companies, those provisions shall prevail.

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According to the Company Law, shares issued prior to the public issuance of shares shall not be transferred within 1 year from the date of the joint stock limited company’s listing on a stock exchange. Directors, supervisors and the senior management shall declare to the company their shareholdings in the company and any changes of such shareholdings; they shall not transfer more than 25% of all the shares they hold in the company annually during their tenure; and they shall not transfer the shares they hold within one year from the date on which the company’s shares are listed and commenced trading on a stock exchange, nor within 6 months after their resignation from their positions with the company.

Shareholders

According to the Company Law and the Guidelines, the rights of holders of ordinary shares of a joint stock limited company include:

- the right to attend or appoint a proxy to attend general meetings and to vote thereat;
- the right to transfer shares in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and provisions of the articles of association;
- the right to inspect the company’s articles of association, share register, counterfoil of company debentures, minutes of general meetings, resolutions of meetings of the board of directors, resolutions of meetings of the board of supervisors and financial and accounting reports and to make proposals or enquiries on the company’s operations;
- the right to bring an action in the people’s court to rescind resolutions passed by general meetings and board of directors where the articles of association is violated by the above resolutions;
- the right to receive dividends and other types of interest distributed in proportion to the number of shares held;
- in the event of the termination or liquidation of the company, the right to participate in the distribution of residual properties of the company in proportion to the number of shares held; and
- other rights granted by laws, administrative regulations, other regulatory documents and the company’s articles of association.

The obligations of a shareholder include the obligation to abide by the Company’s articles of association, to pay the subscription moneys in respect of the shares subscribed for and in accordance with the form of making capital contributions, to be liable for the company’s debts and liabilities to the extent of the amount of his or her subscribed shares and any other shareholders’ obligation specified in the company’s articles of association.

General Meetings

The general meeting is the organ of authority of the company, which exercises its powers in accordance with the Company Law. According to the Company Law, the general meeting exercises the following principal powers:

- to elect or remove the directors and supervisors (other than the representative of the employees of the company) and to decide on matters relating to the remuneration of directors and supervisors;

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- to examine and approve reports of the board of directors;
- to examine and approve reports of the board of supervisors;
- to examine and approve the company's proposals for profit distribution plans and loss recovery plans;
- to decide on any increase or reduction of the company's registered capital;
- to decide on the issue of bonds by the company;
- to decide on issues such as merger, division, dissolution and liquidation of the company and other matters;
- to amend the company's articles of association; and
- other powers as provided for in the articles of association.

According to the Guidelines, annual general meeting is required to be held once every year; extraordinary general meeting is required to be held within two months after the occurrence of any of the following:

- the number of directors is less than the number stipulated by the law or less than two thirds of the number specified in the articles of association;
- the aggregate losses of the company which are not recovered reach one-third of the company's total paid-in registered capital;
- when shareholders individually or in aggregate holding 10% or more of the company's shares request the convening of an extraordinary general meeting;
- whenever the board of directors deems necessary;
- when the board of supervisors so requests; or
- other circumstances as provided for in the articles of associations.

According to the Company Law, general meetings shall be convened by the board of directors, and presided over by the chairman of the board of directors. In the event that the chairman is incapable of performing or does not perform his duties, the meeting shall be presided over by the vice chairman. In the event that the vice chairman is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, a director nominated by more than half of directors shall preside over the meeting.

Where the board of directors is incapable of performing or not performing its duties of convening the general meeting, the board of supervisors shall convene and preside over such meeting in a timely manner. In case the board of supervisors fails to convene and preside over such meeting, shareholders alone or in aggregate holding more than 10% of the company's shares for 90 days consecutively may unilaterally convene and preside over such meeting.

According the Company Law, notice of annual general meeting shall state the time and venue of and matters to be considered at the meeting and shall be given to all shareholders 20 days before the meeting. Notice of extraordinary general meetings shall be given to all shareholders 15 days prior to the meeting.

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There is no specific provision in the Company Law regarding the number of shareholders constituting a quorum in a general meeting.

According to the Company Law, shareholders present at general meeting have one vote for each share they hold, save that shares held by the company are not entitled to any voting rights.

Pursuant to the provisions of the articles of association or a resolution of the general meeting, the accumulative voting system may be adopted for the election of directors and supervisors at the general meeting. Under the accumulative voting system, each share shall be entitled to vote equivalent to the number of directors or supervisors to be elected at the general meeting and shareholders may consolidate their voting rights when casting a vote.

Pursuant to the Company Law, resolutions of the general meeting shall be adopted by more than half of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the meeting. However, resolutions of the general meeting regarding the following matters shall be adopted by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the meeting: (i) amendments to the articles of association; (ii) the increase or decrease of registered capital; (iii) the merger, division, dissolution, liquidation or change in the form of the company; (iv) other circumstances as provided for in the articles of associations.

According to the Company Law, meeting minutes shall be prepared in respect of decisions on matters discussed at the general meeting. The chairman of the meeting and directors attending the meeting shall sign to endorse such minutes. The minutes shall be kept together with the shareholders' attendance register and the proxy forms.

Board

According to the Company Law, a joint stock limited company shall have a board of directors, which shall consist of at least 3 members. Members of the board of directors may include representatives of the employees of the company, who shall be democratically elected by the company's staff at the staff representative assembly, general staff meeting or otherwise.

The term of a director shall be stipulated in the articles of association, but no term of office shall last for more than three years. Directors may serve consecutive terms if re-elected. A director shall continue to perform his duties in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and articles of association until a duly re-elected director takes office, if re-election is not conducted in a timely manner upon the expiry of his term of office, or if the resignation of directors results in the number of directors being less than the quorum.

According to the Company Law, the board of directors mainly exercises the following powers:

- to convene the general meetings and report on its work to the general meetings;
- to implement the resolutions passed in general meetings;
- to decide on the company's business plans and investment proposals;
- to formulate the company's profit distribution proposals and loss recovery proposals;
- to formulate proposals for the increase or reduction of the company's registered capital and the issuance of corporate bonds;
- to prepare plans for the merger, division, dissolution and change in the form of the company;

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- to decide on the hiring or dismissal the company's manager and his salary and compensation, and by recommendation of the manager, to decide on the hiring or dismissal of deputy manager(s) and the persons in charge of finance as well as their salaries and compensations;
- to formulate the company's basic management system; and
- to exercise any other power under the articles of association or authorized by the shareholders.

Board Meetings and Chairman of Board

According to the Company Law, meetings of the board of directors of a joint stock limited company shall be convened at least twice a year. Notice of meeting shall be given to all directors and supervisors 10 days before the meeting. Interim board meetings may be proposed to be convened by shareholders representing more than 10% of voting rights, more than one-third of the directors or the board of supervisors. The chairman shall convene and preside over such meeting within 10 days after receiving such proposal. Meetings of the board of directors shall be held only if half or more of the directors are present. Resolutions of the board of directors shall be passed by more than half of all directors. Each director shall have one vote for resolutions to be approved by the board of directors. Directors shall attend board meetings in person. If a director is unable to attend a board meeting, he may appoint another director by a written power of attorney specifying the scope of the authorization to attend the meeting on his behalf.

If a resolution of the board of directors violates the laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association, and as a result of which the company sustains serious losses, the directors participating in the resolution are liable to compensate the company. However, if it can be proved that a director expressly objected to the resolution when the resolution was voted on, and that such objection was recorded in the minutes of the meeting, such director may be released from that liability.

According to the Company Law, the board of directors shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman. The chairman and the vice chairman are elected with approval of more than half of all the directors. The chairman shall convene and preside over board meetings and examine the implementation of board resolutions. The vice chairman shall assist the work of the chairman. In the event that the chairman is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, the duties shall be performed by the vice chairman. In the event that the vice chairman is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, a director nominated by more than half of the directors shall perform his duties.

Qualification of Directors

The Company Law provides that the following persons may not serve as a director:

- a person who is unable or has limited ability to undertake any civil liabilities;
- a person who has been convicted of an offense of bribery, corruption, embezzlement or misappropriation of property, or the destruction of socialist market economy order; or who has been deprived of his political rights due to his crimes, in each case where less than five years have elapsed since the date of completion of the sentence;

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- a person who has been a former director, factory manager or manager of a company or an enterprise that has entered into insolvent liquidation and who was personally liable for the insolvency of such company or enterprise, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of the completion of the bankruptcy and liquidation of the company or enterprise;
- a person who has been a legal representative of a company or an enterprise that has had its business license revoked due to violations of the law and has been ordered to close down by law and the person was personally responsible, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of such revocation; or
- a person who is liable for a relatively large amount of debts that are overdue.

Board of Supervisors

A joint stock limited company shall have a board of supervisors composed of not less than three members. The board of supervisors is made up of representatives of the shareholders and an appropriate proportion of representatives of the employees of the company. The actual proportion shall be stipulated in the articles of association, provided that the proportion of representatives of the employees shall not be less than one third of the supervisors.

Representatives of the employees of the company in the board of supervisors shall be democratically elected by the employees at the employees' representative assembly, employees' general meeting or otherwise.

The directors and senior management may not act concurrently as supervisors.

The board of supervisors shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman. The chairman and the vice chairman of the board of supervisors are elected with approval of more than half of all the supervisors. The chairman of the board of supervisors shall convene and preside over the meetings of the board of supervisors. In the event that the chairman of the board of supervisors is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, the vice chairman of the board of supervisors shall convene and preside over the meetings of the board of supervisors. In the event that the vice chairman of the board of supervisors is incapable of performing or not performing his duties, a supervisor nominated by more than half of the supervisors shall convene and preside over the meetings of the board of supervisors.

Each term of office of a supervisor is three years and he or she may serve consecutive terms if re-elected. A supervisor shall continue to perform his duties in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and articles of association until a duly re-elected supervisor takes office, if re-election is not conducted in a timely manner upon the expiry of his term of office, or if the resignation of supervisors results in the number of supervisors being less than the quorum.

The board of supervisors of a company shall hold at least one meeting every six months.

According to the Company Law, a resolution of the board of supervisors shall be passed by more than half of all the supervisors, while according to the Opinions on Supplementary Amendment to Articles of Associations by Companies to be listed in Hong Kong (《關於到香港上市公司對公司章程作補充修改的意見的函》), a resolution of the board of supervisors shall be passed by more than two-thirds of all the supervisors.

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The board of supervisors exercises the following powers:

- to review the company's financial position;
- to supervise the directors and senior management in their performance of their duties and to propose the removal of directors and senior management who have violated laws, regulations, the articles of association or the resolutions of the general meeting;
- when the acts of directors and senior management are harmful to the company's interests, to require correction of those acts;
- to propose the convening of extraordinary general meetings and to convene and preside over general meetings when the board of directors fails to perform the duty of convening and presiding over general meeting under this law;
- to initiate proposals for resolutions to general meeting;
- to initiate proceedings against directors and senior management; and
- other powers specified in the articles of association.

Supervisors may attend board meetings and make enquiries or proposals in respect of board resolutions. The board of supervisors may initiate investigations into any irregularities identified in the operation of the company and, where necessary, may engage an accounting firm to assist their work at the company's expense. According to the Company Law, a joint stock limited company may, in accordance with its articles of association, establish an audit committee to exercise the powers of the Board of Supervisors.

Manager and Senior Management

According to the Company Law, a company shall have a manager who shall be appointed or removed by the board of directors. The manager shall report to the board of directors and may exercise the following powers:

- to supervise the business and administration of the company and arrange for the implementation of resolutions of the board of directors;
- to arrange for the implementation of the company's annual business plans and investment proposals;
- to formulate the general administration system of the company;
- to formulate the company's detailed rules;
- to recommend the appointment and dismissal of deputy managers and person in charge of finance;
- to appoint or dismiss other administration officers (other than those required to be appointed or dismissed by the board of directors); and
- to other powers conferred by the board of directors or the articles of association.

The manager shall comply with other provisions of the articles of association concerning his/her powers. The manager shall attend board meetings.

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According to the Company Law, senior management shall mean the manager, deputy manager(s), person-in-charge of finance, board secretary (in case of a listed company) of a company, and other personnel as stipulated in the articles of association.

Duties of Directors, Supervisors and Senior Management

Directors, supervisors, and senior management of the company are required in accordance with the Company Law to comply with the relevant laws, regulations and the articles of association, and have fiduciary and diligent duties to the company. Directors, supervisors and senior management are prohibited from abusing their powers to accept bribes or other unlawful income and from misappropriating of the company’s properties. Directors and senior management are prohibited from:

- misappropriation of the company’s funds;
- depositing the company’s funds into accounts under his own name or the name of other individuals;
- loaning company funds to others or providing guarantees in favor of others supported by the company’s assets in violation of the articles of association or without prior approval of the general meeting or board of directors;
- entering into contracts or deals with the company in violation of the articles of association or without prior approval of the general meeting;
- using their position and powers to procure business opportunities for themselves or others that should have otherwise been available to the company or operating for their own benefits or managing on behalf of others businesses similar to that of the company without prior approval of the general meeting;
- accept and possess commissions paid by a third party for transactions conducted with the company;
- unauthorized divulgence of confidential business information of the company; or
- other acts in violation of their duty of loyalty to the company.

A director, supervisor or senior management who contravenes any law, regulation or the company’s articles of association in the performance of his duties resulting in any loss to the company shall be personally liable to the company.

Finance and Accounting

According to the Company Law, a company shall establish financial and accounting systems in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial department of the State Council and shall at the end of each financial year prepare a financial and accounting report which shall be audited by an accounting firm as required by law. The company’s financial and accounting report shall be prepared in accordance with provisions of the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial department of the State Council.

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Pursuant to the Company Law, the company shall deliver its financial and accounting reports to all shareholders within the time limit stipulated in the articles of association and make its financial and accounting reports available at the company for inspection by the shareholders at least 20 days before the convening of an annual general meeting of shareholders. A company that makes public stock offerings shall publish its financial and accounting reports.

When distributing each year’s after-tax profits, it shall set aside 10% of its after-tax profits into a statutory common reserve fund (except where the fund has reached 50% of its registered capital).

If its statutory common reserve fund is not sufficient to make up losses of the previous year, profits of the current year shall be applied to make up losses before allocation is made to the statutory common reserve fund pursuant to the above provisions.

After allocation of the statutory common reserve fund from after-tax profits, it may, upon a resolution passed at the general meeting, allocate discretionary common reserve fund from after-tax profits.

The remaining after-tax profits after making up losses and allocation of common reserve fund shall be distributed in proportion to the number of shares held by the shareholders, unless otherwise stipulated in the articles of association.

Shares held by the Company shall not be entitled to any distribution of profit.

The premium received through issuance of shares at prices above par value and other incomes required by the financial department of the State Council to be allocated to the capital reserve fund shall be allocated to the company’s capital reserve fund.

The Company’s reserve fund shall be applied to make up losses of the company, expand its business operations or be converted to increase the registered capital of the company.

However, the capital reserve fund may not be applied to make up the company’s losses. Upon the conversion of statutory common reserve fund into capital, the balance of the statutory common reserve fund shall not be less than 25% of the registered capital of the company before such conversion.

The Company shall have no other accounting books except the statutory accounting books. Its assets shall not be deposited in any accounts opened in the name of any individual.

Appointment and Retirement of Accounting Firms

Pursuant to the Company Law, the appointment or dismissal of accounting firms responsible for the auditing of the company shall be determined by general meeting or board of directors in accordance with provisions of articles of association. The accounting firm should be allowed to make representations when the general meeting or board of directors conducts a vote on the dismissal of the accounting firm. The company should provide true and complete accounting evidences, books, financial and accounting reports and other accounting data to the accounting firm it employs without any refusal, withholding and misrepresentation.

Distribution of Profits

According to the Company Law, a company shall not distribute profits before losses are covered and the statutory common reserve is drawn.

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Amendments to Articles of Association

Any amendments to the company’s articles of association must be made in accordance with the procedures set out in the company’s articles of association. In relation to matters involving the company’s registration, the amendment to articles of association shall be registered with the relevant authority in accordance with the applicable laws.

Dissolution and Liquidation

According to the Company Law, a company shall be dissolved by reason of the following: (i) the term of its operations set down in the articles of association has expired or other events of dissolution specified in the articles of association have occurred; (ii) the general meeting resolve to dissolve the company; (iii) the company is dissolved by reason of merger or division; (iv) the business license is revoked; the company is ordered to close down or be dissolved; or (v) the company is dissolved by the people’s court in response to the request of shareholders holding shares that represent more than 10% of the voting rights of all its shareholders, on the grounds that the company suffers significant hardship in its operation and management that cannot be resolved through other means, and the ongoing existence of the company would bring significant losses for shareholders.

In the event of (i) or (ii) above, if the company has not yet distributed its assets to shareholders, it may carry on its existence by amending its articles of association or upon approval by resolution of the shareholders’ meeting. The amendment of the articles of association in accordance with provisions set out above shall require approval of more than two thirds of voting rights of shareholders attending a general meeting.

Where the company is dissolved in the circumstances described in subparagraphs (i), (ii), (iv), or (v) above, a liquidation group shall be established and the liquidation process shall commence within 15 days after the occurrence of an event of dissolution.

The members of the company’s liquidation group shall be composed of its directors or the personnel appointed by the general meeting. If a liquidation group is not established within the stipulated period, creditors may apply to the people’s court and request the court to appoint relevant personnel to form the liquidation group. The people’s court should accept such application and form a liquidation group to conduct liquidation in a timely manner.

The liquidation group shall exercise the following powers during the liquidation period:

- to handle the company’s assets and to prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of the assets;
- to notify creditors through notice or public announcement;
- to deal with the company’s outstanding businesses related to liquidation;
- to pay any tax overdue as well as tax amounts arising from the process of liquidation;
- to claim credits and pay off debts;
- to handle the company’s remaining assets after its debts have been paid off; and
- to represent the company in civil lawsuits.

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The liquidation group shall notify the company’s creditors within 10 days after its establishment and issue public notices in newspapers within 60 days. A creditor shall lodge his claim with the liquidation group within 30 days after receiving notification, or within 45 days of the public notice if he did not receive any notification. A creditor shall state all matters relevant to his creditor rights in making his claim and furnish evidence. The liquidation group shall register such creditor rights. The liquidation group shall not make any debt settlement to creditors during the period of claim.

Upon liquidation of properties and the preparation of the balance sheet and inventory of assets, the liquidation group shall draw up a liquidation plan to be submitted to the general meeting or people’s court for confirmation.

The company’s remaining assets after payment of liquidation expenses, wages, social insurance expenses and statutory compensation, outstanding taxes and debts shall be distributed to shareholders according to their shareholding proportion. It shall continue to exist during the liquidation period, although it can only engage in any operating activities that are related to the liquidation. The company’s properties shall not be distributed to the shareholders before repayments are made in accordance to the foregoing provisions.

Upon liquidation of the company’s properties and the preparation of the balance sheet and inventory of assets, if the liquidation group becomes aware that the company does not have sufficient assets to meet its liabilities, it must apply to the people’s court for a declaration for bankruptcy.

Following such declaration, the liquidation group shall hand over all matters relating to the liquidation to the people’s court.

Upon completion of the liquidation, the liquidation group shall submit a liquidation report to the general meeting or the people’s court for verification. Thereafter, the report shall be submitted to the registration authority of the company in order to cancel the company’s registration, and a public notice of its termination shall be issued. Members of the liquidation group are required to discharge their duties honestly and in compliance with the relevant laws.

Members of the liquidation group shall be prohibited from abusing their powers to accept bribes or other unlawful income and from misappropriating the company’s properties.

A member of the liquidation group is liable to indemnify the company and its creditors in respect of any loss arising from his intentional or gross negligence.

Merger and Demerger

Companies may merge through absorption or through the establishment of a newly merged entity. If it merges by absorption, the company which is absorbed shall be dissolved. If it merges by forming a new corporation, both companies will be dissolved.

Overseas Listing

According to the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing, a Chinese domestic company that seeks overseas listing shall file the application with the CSRC according to the administrative filing procedures necessary for the Trial Measures for Overseas Listing.

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SECURITIES LAW AND REGULATIONS

The PRC has promulgated a number of regulations that relate to the issue and trading of shares and disclosure of information. In October 1992, the State Council established the Securities Committee and the CSRC. The Securities Committee is responsible for coordinating the drafting of securities regulations, formulating securities-related policies, planning the development of securities markets, directing, coordinating and supervising all securities related institutions in the PRC and administering the CSRC. The CSRC is the regulatory arm of the Securities Committee and is responsible for the drafting of regulatory provisions of securities markets, supervising securities companies, regulating public offers of securities by PRC companies in the PRC or overseas, regulating the trading of securities, compiling securities related statistics and undertaking relevant research and analysis. In April 1998, the State Council consolidated the two departments and reformed the CSRC.

The Interim Provisional Regulations on the Administration of Share Issuance and Trading (《股票發行與交易管理暫行條例》) deals with the application and approval procedures for public offerings of equity securities, trading in equity securities, the acquisition of listed companies, deposit, clearing and transfer of listed equity securities, the disclosure of information with respect to a listed company, investigation, penalties and dispute settlement.

On December 25, 1995, the State Council promulgated and implemented the Regulations of the State Council Concerning Domestic Listed Foreign Shares of Joint Stock Limited Companies (《國務院關於股份有限公司境內上市外資股的規定》). These regulations deal mainly with the issue, subscription, trading and declaration of dividends and other distributions of domestic listed and foreign invested shares and disclosure of information of joint stock limited companies having domestic listed and foreign invested shares.

The Securities Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國證券法》) (the “Securities Law”) took effect on July 1, 1999 and was revised on August 28, 2004, October 27, 2005, June 29, 2013, August 31, 2014 and December 28, 2019, respectively. The latest revised Securities Law came into effect on March 1, 2020. This is the first national securities law in the PRC, which is divided into 14 chapters and 226 articles regulating, among other things, the issuance and trading of securities, takeovers by listed companies, securities exchanges, securities companies and the duties and responsibilities of the State Council’s securities regulatory authorities. The Securities Law comprehensively regulates activities in the PRC securities market. Article 224 of the Securities Law provides that domestic enterprises shall comply with the relevant provisions of the State Council to list its shares outside the PRC.

Currently, the issuance and trading of foreign issued shares (including H shares) are mainly governed by the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Council and the CSRC.

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND PRC COMPANY LAW

The Hong Kong law applicable to a company incorporated in Hong Kong is based on the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance and the Companies Ordinance and is supplemented by common law and the rules of equity that are applicable to Hong Kong. As a joint stock limited company established in the PRC that is seeking a [REDACTED] of shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, we are governed by the PRC Company Law and all other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the PRC Company Law.

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Set out below is a summary of certain material differences between Hong Kong company law applicable to a company incorporated in Hong Kong and the PRC Company Law applicable to a joint stock limited company incorporated and existing under the PRC Company Law. This summary is, however, not intended to be an exhaustive comparison.

Corporate Existence

Under Hong Kong company law, a company with share capital is incorporated by the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong, which issues a certificate of incorporation to the Company upon its incorporation, and the company will acquire an independent corporate existence henceforth. A company may be incorporated as a public company or a private company. Pursuant to the Companies Ordinance, the articles of association of a private company incorporated in Hong Kong shall contain certain pre-emptive provisions. A public company's articles of association do not contain such pre-emptive provisions.

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company may be incorporated by promotion or public subscription.

Hong Kong law does not prescribe any minimum capital requirement for a Hong Kong company.

Share Capital

Under the Companies Ordinance, the concept of the nominal value (also known as par value) of shares of a Hong Kong company has been abolished, and the companies have increased flexibility to alter its share capital by (i) increasing its share capital; (ii) capitalizing its profits; (iii) allotting and issuing bonus shares with or without increasing its share capital; (iv) converting its shares into larger or smaller number of shares; and (v) cancelling its shares. The concept of authorized capital no longer applies to a Hong Kong company formed on or after March 3, 2014 as well. Hence, the directors of a Hong Kong company may, with the prior approval of the shareholders if required, issue new shares of the company. The PRC Company Law has no provisions on minimum registered capital of joint stock companies, except that laws, administrative regulations and State Council decisions have separate provisions on paid-in registered capital and the minimum registered capital of joint stock companies, in which case the company should follow such provisions. The Company's registered capital is the amount of its issued share capital. Any increase in the Company's registered capital must be approved at the general meeting and shall be approved by/filed with the relevant PRC governmental and regulatory authorities (if applicable).

The Companies Ordinance does not prescribe any minimum capital requirement for companies incorporated in Hong Kong.

Under the PRC Company Law, the shares may be subscribed for in the form of money or non-monetary assets (other than assets not entitled to be used as capital contributions under relevant laws or administrative regulations). For non-monetary assets to be used as capital contributions, appraisals must be carried out to ensure there is no over-valuation or under-valuation of the assets. There is no such restriction on a company incorporated in Hong Kong.

Restrictions on Shareholding and Transfer of Shares

Generally, domestic shares, which are denominated and subscribed for in Renminbi, can be subscribed for and traded by PRC investors, qualified overseas institutional investors or qualified overseas strategic investors.

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Overseas listed shares, which are denominated in Renminbi and subscribed for in a currency other than Renminbi, may only be subscribed for, and traded by, investors from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan or any country and territory outside the PRC, or qualified domestic institutional investors. If the H shares are eligible securities under the Southbound Trading Link, they are also subscribed for and traded by PRC investors in accordance with the rules and limits of Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect or Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect. When the application for “full circulation” has been approved by the CSRC, the domestic unlisted shares of the H-share listed company might be listed and circulated on the Stock Exchange.

Under the PRC Company Law, a promoter of a joint stock limited company is not allowed to transfer the shares it holds for a period of one year after the date of establishment of the company. Shares in issue prior to a public offering of the company cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares on a stock exchange. Shares in a joint stock limited liability company held by its directors, supervisors and senior management and transferred each year during their term of office shall not exceed 25% of the total shares they held in a company, and the shares they held in a company cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares, and also cannot be transferred within half a year after the said personnel has left office. The articles of association may set other restrictive requirements on the transfer of a company’s shares held by its directors, supervisors and senior management. There are no such restrictions on shareholdings and transfers of shares under Hong Kong law apart from the six-month lockup on the company’s issue of shares and the 12-month lockup on controlling shareholders’ disposal of shares, as illustrated by the undertakings given by the Company and our controlling shareholder to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Financial Assistance for Acquisition of Shares

The PRC Company Law does not prohibit or restrict a joint stock limited company or its subsidiaries from providing financial assistance for the purpose of an acquisition of its own or its holding company’s shares.

Notice of Shareholders’ General Meetings

Under the PRC Company Law, notices of an annual session of the shareholders’ assembly and an interim meeting of the shareholders’ assembly must be given to shareholders 20 days and 15 days before the meeting, respectively. For a limited liability company incorporated in Hong Kong, the minimum period of notice is 14 days in case of other shareholders’ meetings other than an annual general meeting and 21 days in the case of an annual general meeting.

Quorum for Shareholders’ General Meetings

Under Hong Kong company law, the quorum for a shareholders’ general meeting must be two members unless the articles of association of the company otherwise provide. For companies with only one member, the quorum must be one member. The PRC Company Law does not specify any quorum requirement for a shareholders’ assembly.

Voting at Shareholders’ General Meeting

Under the PRC Company Law, the passing of any resolution of a shareholders’ assembly requires affirmative votes of shareholders representing more than half of the voting rights represented by the shareholders who attend the assembly except in cases of resolutions on amendments to a company’s articles of association, increase or decrease of registered capital, merger, division or dissolution, or change of corporation form, which require affirmative votes of shareholders representing more than two-thirds of the voting rights represented by the shareholders who attend the assembly.

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Under Hong Kong law, (i) an ordinary resolution may be passed by a simple majority of affirmative votes of the shareholders who attend the shareholders’ general meeting in person or by proxy, and (ii) a special resolution may be passed by no less than three fourths of affirmative votes of the shareholders who attend the shareholders’ general meeting in person or by proxy.

Variation of Class Rights

The PRC Company Law makes no specific provision relating to variation of class rights. However, the PRC Company Law states that the State Council can promulgate requirements relating to other kinds of shares.

Under the Companies Ordinance, no rights attached to any class of shares can be varied except (i) with the passing of a special resolution by the shareholders of the relevant class at a separate meeting sanctioning the variation, (ii) with the written consent of shareholders representing at least three-fourths of the total voting rights of shareholders of the relevant class, or (iii) if there are provisions in the articles of association relating to the variation of those rights, then in accordance with those provisions.

Derivative Action by Minority Shareholders

Under Hong Kong company law, a shareholder may, with the leave of the Court, start a derivative action on behalf of a company for any misconduct committed by its directors against the company. For example, leave may be granted where the directors control a majority of votes at a general meeting, and could thereby prevent the company from suing the directors in its own name.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, in the event where the directors and senior management of a joint stock limited company violate laws, administrative regulations or its articles of association, resulting in losses to the company, the shareholders individually or jointly holding 1% or more of the shares in the company for more than one hundred and eighty (180) consecutive days may request in writing the board of supervisors to initiate proceedings in the people’s court. In the event that the board of supervisors violates as such, the above said shareholders may send written request to the board of directors to initiate proceedings in the people’s court. Upon receipt of such written request from the shareholders, if the board of supervisors or the board of directors refuses to initiate such proceedings, or has not initiated proceedings within thirty (30) days upon receipt of the request, or if under urgent situations, failure of initiating immediate proceeding may cause irreparable damages to the company, the above said shareholders shall, for the benefit of the company’s interests, have the right to initiate proceedings directly to the court in their own name.

The Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies also provide other remedies against the directors, and senior management who breach their duties to the company. In addition, as a condition to the listing of shares on the Stock Exchange, each director of a joint stock limited company is required to give an undertaking in favor of the company acting as agent for the shareholders. This allows minority shareholders to take action against directors of the company in default.

Minority Shareholder Protection

Under the Companies Ordinance, a shareholder who alleges that the affairs of a company are conducted in a manner unfairly prejudicial to his interests may petition to the Court to make an appropriate order to give relief to the unfairly prejudicial conduct. Alternatively, pursuant to the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, a shareholder may seek to wind up the company on the just and equitable ground. In addition, on the application of a specified number of members, the Financial Secretary may appoint inspectors who are given extensive statutory powers to investigate the affairs of a company incorporated or registered in Hong Kong.

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The PRC Company Law provides that any shareholders holding 10% or above of voting rights of all issued shares of a company may request a People’s Court to dissolve the company to the extent that the operation or management of the company experiences any serious difficulties and its continuous existence would cause serious losses to them, and no other alternatives can resolve such difficulties.

The Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies also provide other remedies against the directors, and senior management who breach their duties to the company. In addition, as a condition to the listing of shares on the Stock Exchange, each director and supervisor of a joint stock limited company is required to give an undertaking in favor of the company acting as agent for the shareholders. This allows minority shareholders to take action against directors and supervisors of the company in default.

Directors

The PRC Company Law, unlike Hong Kong law, does not contain any requirements relating to the declaration of directors’ interests in material contracts, restrictions on directors’ rights to carry out major disposals or companies providing certain benefits, or prohibitions against compensation for loss of office without shareholders’ approval. The PRC Company Law restricts the directors of a listed company who have interests or associations in the enterprises involved in the resolution of the board meetings from voting on the said resolution. All the above provisions have been incorporated in the articles of association, which are summarized in Appendix V.

Supervisors

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company’s directors and senior management are subject to the supervision of a board of supervisors or an audit committee. There is no mandatory requirement for the establishment of a board of supervisors for a company incorporated in Hong Kong.

Fiduciary Duties

In Hong Kong, directors owe fiduciary duties to the company, including the duty not to act in conflict with the company’s interests. Furthermore, the Companies Ordinance has codified the directors’ statutory duty of care. Under the PRC Company Law, directors, supervisors and senior management shall assume the duty of loyalty and diligence.

Financial Disclosure

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited company is required to make available at the company for inspection by shareholders its financial report twenty (20) days before its annual general meeting. In addition, a joint stock limited company of which the shares are publicly offered must publish its financial report. The Companies Ordinance requires a company incorporated in Hong Kong to send to every shareholder a copy of its financial statements, auditors’ report and directors’ report, which are to be presented before the company in its annual general meeting, not less than twenty one (21) days before such meeting. According to the PRC laws, a company shall prepare its financial accounting reports as at the end of each accounting year, and submit the same to accounting firms for auditing as required by law.

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Information on Directors and Shareholders

The Company Law gives shareholders the right to inspect the company’s articles of association, minutes of the general meetings and financial and accounting reports. Under the articles of association, shareholders have the right to inspect and copy (at reasonable charges) certain information on shareholders and on directors which is similar to the rights of shareholders of Hong Kong companies under the Companies Ordinance.

Receiving Agent

Under the Hong Kong law, dividends once declared by the board of directors will become debts payable to shareholders. The limitation period for debt recovery action under Hong Kong law is six years, while under the PRC law this limitation period is three years.

Corporate Reorganization

Corporate reorganization involving a company incorporated in Hong Kong may be effected in a number of ways, such as a transfer of the whole or part of the business or property of the company in the course of voluntary winding up to another company pursuant to Section 237 of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance or a compromise or arrangement between the company and its creditors or between the company and its members pursuant to Section 673 and Division 2 of Part 13 of the Companies Ordinance, which requires the sanction of the court. In addition, subject to the shareholders’ approval, an intra-group wholly-owned subsidiary company may also be amalgamated horizontally or vertically under the Companies Ordinance. Under PRC law, merger, division, dissolution or change to the status of a joint stock limited liability company has to be approved by shareholders in general meeting.

Mandatory Deductions

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited liability company is required to make transfers equivalent to certain prescribed percentages of its after-tax profit to the statutory common reserve fund. There are no corresponding provisions under Hong Kong law.

Arbitration of Disputes

In Hong Kong, disputes between shareholders and a company or its directors, managers and other senior management may be resolved through the courts. The Guidelines for the Articles of Association of Listed Companies provide that shareholders may sue directors, managers and other senior management of the company, and shareholders may sue the company, and the company may sue its shareholders, directors, managers and other senior management personnel.

The Securities Arbitration Rules of the HKIAC contain provisions allowing, upon application by any party, an arbitral tribunal to conduct a hearing in Shenzhen for cases involving the affairs of companies incorporated in the PRC and listed on the Stock Exchange so that PRC parties and witnesses may attend. Where any party applies for a hearing to take place in Shenzhen, the tribunal shall, where satisfied that such application is based on bona fide grounds, order the hearing to take place in Shenzhen conditional upon all parties, including witnesses and arbitrators, being permitted to enter Shenzhen for the purpose of the hearing. Where a party, other than a PRC party or any of its witnesses or any arbitrator, is not permitted to enter Shenzhen, then the tribunal shall order that the hearing be conducted in any practicable manner, including the use of electronic media. For the purpose of the Securities Arbitration Rules of the HKIAC, a PRC party means a party domiciled in the PRC other than the territories of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

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Remedies of a Company

Under the Company Law, if a director, supervisor or manager in carrying out his duties infringes any law, administrative regulation or the articles of association of a company, which results in damage to the company, that director, supervisor or manager should be responsible to the company for such damages. In addition, the Hong Kong Listing Rules require listed companies' articles to provide for remedies of the company similar to those available under Hong Kong law (including rescission of the relevant contract and recovery of profits from a director, supervisor or senior management).

Dividends

The company has the power in certain circumstances to withhold, and pay to the relevant tax authorities, any tax payable under PRC law on any dividends or other distributions payable to a shareholder. Under Hong Kong law, the limitation period for an action to recover a debt (including the recovery of declared dividends) is six years, whereas under PRC laws, the relevant limitation period is three years. The company must not exercise its powers to forfeit any unclaimed dividend in respect of shares until after the expiry of the applicable limitation period.

Closure of Register of Shareholders

The Companies Ordinance requires that the register of shareholders of a company must not be closed for the registration of transfers of shares for more than thirty (30) days (extendable to sixty (60) days in certain circumstances) in a year. Unless otherwise stipulated by laws, share transfers shall not be registered within twenty (20) days prior to convening a shareholders' general meeting or five (5) days before the base date of distribution of dividends.