



## 2.1 Audit Committee Charter

### I. COMMITTEE'S PURPOSE

The Audit Committee ("Committee") is appointed by the Board of Directors ("Board") to assist the Board in monitoring (1) the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, (2) compliance by the Company with legal and regulatory requirements, (3) the independent auditor's qualifications and independence, (4) performance of the Company's internal and independent public accounting firm, and (5) the business practices and ethical standards of the Company. The Committee is also directly responsible for (a) the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the Company's independent public accounting firm, and (b) the preparation of the report that the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") requires to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement. While the Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements and disclosures are presented fairly in all material respects in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. These are the responsibility of management and the independent auditor.

### II. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

*Independence.* The Committee shall consist of three or more members of the Board of Directors, each of whom shall be independent. Independence shall be determined as to each member by the full board. To be considered independent, each Committee member must meet the independence requirements applicable to Audit Committees of companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Market ("NASDAQ") under NASDAQ rules and the securities laws of the United States and Canada, and rules promulgated thereunder (the "Securities Laws"). Audit Committee members shall not simultaneously serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies.

*Financial Literacy.* All members of the Committee shall be financially literate, as defined by the Commission, or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after their appointment to the Committee, and at least one member of the Committee shall be an audit committee financial expert, as determined in the judgment of the Board with reference to the Securities Laws and NASDAQ rules.

### III. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The members of the Committee shall be nominated by the Compensation, Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and appointed by the Board at the annual organizational meeting of the Board and shall serve until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified. The Board may remove any member of the Committee at any time.

*Chairman.* Unless a Chairman is elected by the full Board, the members of the Committee shall designate a Chair by majority vote of all the Committee members.

### IV. MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet at least four times annually or more frequently as circumstances dictate. Meetings may be in person or by telephone as needed to conduct the business of the Committee. The Committee may take action by the unanimous written consent of the members in the absence of a meeting. The Committee

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#### V. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee shall have the authority (1) to exercise all powers with respect to the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the independent auditor for the Company and its subsidiaries, (2) to retain special legal, accounting or other consultants to advise the Committee and to pay the fees of such advisors and (3) to determine the amount of funds it needs to operate and direct the CFO make such funds available. As part of its oversight role, the Committee may investigate any matter brought to its attention, with the full power to retain outside counsel or other experts for this purpose. Unless special circumstances require the fact or terms of any engagement or appointment made by the Committee to be kept confidential from the Chief Financial Officer, the Committee shall promptly notify the Chief Financial Officer of the fact and terms of any appointment or engagement, and provide copies of related agreements, and shall cause all invoices to be forwarded to or at the direction of the Chief Financial Officer promptly following receipt. Confidential portions of any agreement or invoice may be redacted. The Audit Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's outside counsel or independent auditor to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any member of, or consultant to, the Committee. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Audit Committee shall:

##### *Financial Statements and Disclosure Matters*

1. Review and discuss prior to public dissemination the annual audited and quarterly unaudited financial statements with management and the independent auditor, including major issues regarding accounting, disclosure and auditing procedures and practices as well as the adequacy of internal controls that could materially affect the Company's financial statements. In addition, the review shall include the Company's disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations." Based on the annual review, the Audit Committee shall recommend inclusion of the financial statements in the Annual Report on Form 10-K to the Board.
2. Discuss with management and the independent auditor significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles, any major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and any special steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies.
3. Review and discuss reports from the independent public accounting firm on:

- A. Critical accounting policies and practices to be used.
  - B. Alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, ramification of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor.
  - C. Other material written communications between the independent auditor and management, such as any management letter.
4. Discuss with management the Company's earnings press releases as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies. Such discussion may be done generally consisting of discussing the types of information to be disclosed and the types of presentations to be made. In its discretion, the Committee may adopt policies requiring specific reviews and approvals with respect to press releases, SEC reports and other disclosures, whether or not financial in nature.
  5. Discuss with management and the independent auditor the effect on the Company's financial statements of significant regulatory and accounting initiatives as well as off-balance sheet structures.
  6. Discuss with management the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies.
  7. Review with the independent auditor any audit problems or difficulties and management responses, including but not limited to (1) any restrictions on the scope of the auditor's activities, (2) any restrictions on the access of the independent auditor to requested material, (3) any significant disagreements with management and (4) any audit differences that were noted or proposed by the auditor but for which the Company's financial statements were not adjusted (as immaterial or otherwise). The Committee will resolve any disagreements between the auditors and management regarding financial reporting.
  8. Review disclosures made to the Audit Committee by the Company's CEO and CFO during their certification process for the Form 10-K and Form 10-Q about any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of disclosure controls and procedures and internal controls over financial reporting and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls.
  9. Discuss at least annually with the independent auditor the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61 - Communication with Audit Committees.
  10. Prepare the Audit Committee report that the Commission requires to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement and review the matters described in such report.

11. Obtain from management the annual report on internal controls over financial reporting required by governing rules, as well as the independent auditor's attestation report on management's assessment of internal controls over financial reporting.

*Responsibility For The Company's Relationship With The Independent Auditor*

12. Be solely responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the independent public accounting firm employed by the Company. The independent auditor shall report directly to the Audit Committee. If the appointment of the independent public accounting firm is submitted for any ratification by stockholders, the Audit Committee shall be responsible for making the recommendation of the independent public accounting firm.
13. Review, at least annually, the qualifications, performance and independence of the independent auditor. In conducting such review, the Committee shall obtain and review a report by the independent auditor describing (1) the firm's internal quality-control procedures, (2) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality control review, or peer review, of the firm or by any formal investigation by governmental or professional authorities regarding services provided by the firm which could affect the financial statements of the Company, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues, and (3) all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company that could be considered to bear on the auditor's independence. This evaluation shall include the review and evaluation of the lead partner of the independent auditor and shall ensure the rotation of partners in accordance with Commission rules and the securities laws. In addition, the Committee shall consider the advisability of regularly rotating the audit firm in order to maintain the independence between the independent auditor and the Company.
14. Approve in advance any audit or permissible non-audit engagement or relationship between the Company and the independent public accounting firm. The Committee shall establish guidelines for the retention of the independent auditor for any permissible non-audit services. The Committee hereby delegates to the Chairman of the Committee the authority to approve in advance all audit or non-audit services to be provided by the independent auditor if presented to the full Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
15. Meet with the independent auditor prior to the audit to review the planning and staffing of the audit including the responsibilities and staffing of the Company's internal audit department personnel who will assist in the audit.
16. Recommend to the Board policies for the Company's hiring of employees or former employees of the independent auditor who participated in any capacity in the audit of the Company.
17. Ensure its receipt from the independent public accounting firm of a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the auditor and the company, consistent with Independence Standards Board Standard 1, engage in a dialogue with the auditor with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the auditor and take, or recommend that the Board take, appropriate action to oversee the independence of the outside auditor.

*Oversight Of The Company's Internal Audit Function*

18. Review the appointment and replacement of the senior internal auditing executive or functional outside equivalent.
19. Review the activities and organizational structure of the internal auditing function and the significant reports to management prepared by the internal auditing department and management's responses.
20. Discuss with the independent auditor and management the internal audit function responsibilities, budget and staffing and any recommended changes in the planned scope of the internal audit department.
21. Obtain from the independent auditor assurance that Section 10A (b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, has not been implicated.
22. Obtain reports from management and the Company's internal auditing function that the Company is in conformity with applicable legal requirements and the Company's Code of Conduct and its Code of Ethics for Senior Executives, Financial Officers and Members of the Management Executive Committee (the "Codes"). Advise the Board with respect to the Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with applicable laws and regulations and with the Codes.
23. Establish and maintain procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal controls or auditing matters. Also, the Committee shall maintain the Anonymous Reporting Hotline for the confidential anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting, internal controls or auditing matters.
24. Discuss with management and the independent auditor any correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies and any published reports that raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements or accounting policies.
25. Review at least annually legal matters with the Company's General Counsel that may have a material impact on the financial statements, the Company's compliance policies, including but not limited to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and any material reports or inquiries received from regulators or governmental agencies.

#### *Review of Related Party Transactions*

26. Review and approve (or decline to approve) any proposed transactions between the Company (including its subsidiaries) and any person that is an officer, key employee, director or affiliate (as defined by NASDAQ) of the Company (or any subsidiary), other than transactions that related to the employment and compensation of such persons and are within the scope of the charter of the Compensation, Nominating and Governance Committee Charter. Review disclosures required to be made under the securities laws of insider and affiliated party transactions.

#### *Other*

27. Report regularly to the Board with respect to any issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance and independence of the Company's independent public accounting firm or the performance of the internal audit function.
28. Review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval.
29. Perform an annual performance self-evaluation.

## COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

The Committee shall meet in person or telephonically at a time and place determined by the Chairman of the Committee, with further meeting to occur, or actions to be taken by unanimous written consent, when deemed appropriate or desirable by the Committee Chairman. A majority of the Committee members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The action of a majority of those present at a meeting when a quorum is present will constitute the actions of the Committee. The Secretary of the Company, or his or her designee, will keep minutes of all Committee meetings, which will be distributed to all members of the Board. Prior to each meeting, a preliminary agenda will be prepared by either the Secretary or the Chairman of the Committee. The Chairman of the Committee will make the final decision regarding the agenda. The agenda and all materials to be reviewed at the meeting shall be received by the Committee members as far in advance of the meeting date as reasonably practicable. The Committee shall have such resources and authority as it deems desirable or appropriate to discharge its duties and responsibilities, including the authority to obtain advice and assistance from internal or external legal, human resource, accounting or other experts, advisors or consultants, without seeking approval of the Board or management. Such independent advisors may be the regular advisors of the Company. The Committee shall have the authority to conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within the scope of its responsibilities as it shall deem appropriate, including the authority to request any officer, employee or advisor of the Company to meet with the Committee or any advisors engaged by the Committee.