

HKEx LISTING DECISION

Cite as HKEx-LD72-1 (Published in September 2009) (Updated in May 2015 and withdrawn in January 2024)

[Streamlined and incorporated into the guidance letter GL108-20 (Experience and qualification of a company secretary).]

Summary	
Parties	Company A - a Main Board listed company with principal business operations in the People's Republic of China Mr X – an appointee of Company A's secretary
Subject	Whether Mr X qualified to act as Company A's secretary
Listing Rules	Main Board Listing Rule 3.28
Decision	Mr X qualified to act as Company A's secretary under Rule 3.28

SUMMARY OF FACTS

1. Company A proposed to appoint Mr. X to replace its retiring secretary.
2. Mr X did not possess the acceptable professional qualifications under Note 1 to Rule 3.28. That said, Company A considered that he had the relevant experience to discharge the functions of its secretary under Note 2 to Rule 3.28 because:
 - a. He participated in Company A's initial public offering preparation and application. After the listing of Company A, he had more than seven years of experience working closely with the retiring secretary and professional advisers in the company's secretarial and administrative matters.
 - b. During the past three years, he had attended approximately 70 hours of training courses on Listing Rule compliance, corporate governance and other related laws/regulations.

ISSUE

3. Whether Mr X qualified to act as Company A's secretary under Rule 3.28.

APPLICABLE LISTING RULES OR PRINCIPLES

4. Rule 3.28 states that:

The issuer must appoint as its company secretary an individual who, by virtue of his academic or professional qualifications or relevant experience, is, in the opinion of the Exchange, capable of discharging the functions of company secretary.

Notes: 1 The Exchange considers the following academic or professional qualifications to be acceptable:

- (a) a Member of The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries;*
- (b) a solicitor or barrister (as defined in the Legal Practitioners Ordinance); and*
- (c) a certified public accountant (as defined in the Professional Accountants Ordinance).*

2 In assessing “relevant experience”, the Exchange will consider the individual’s:

- (a) length of employment with the issuer and other issuers and the roles he played;*
- (b) familiarity with the Listing Rules and other relevant law and regulations including the Securities and Futures Ordinance, Companies Ordinance, Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance and the Takeovers Code;*
- (c) relevant training taken and/or to be taken in addition to the minimum requirement under rule 3.29; and*
- (d) professional qualifications in other jurisdictions.*

ANALYSIS

5. In light of Mr X’s working experience at Company A and training on Listing Rules and secretarial matters, the Exchange accepted that Mr. X was capable of discharging the functions of Company A’s secretary.

DECISION

6. Mr X qualified to act as Company A’s secretary under Rule 3.28.