

7 April 2008

By fax and by e-mail (Fax No. 2524 0149)

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited
12th Floor, One International Finance Centre
1 Harbour View Street, Central
Hong Kong


Attention : Corporate Communications Department

Dear Sirs,


Combined Consultation Paper on Proposed Changes to the Listing Rules

We refer to the Combined Consultation Paper on Proposed Changes to the Listing Rules issued by the Exchange in January 2008.

Please note our responses to the specific questions raised in the Combined Consultation Paper as set out in the attached questionnaire.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Combined Consultation Paper. If you have any questions on our comments or wish to discuss any of the responses, please contact me on telephone .

Yours sincerely,


April Chan
Company Secretary

Encl.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LISTING RULES

The purpose of this questionnaire is to seek views and comments from market users and interested parties regarding the issues discussed in the Combined Consultation Paper on Proposed Changes to the Listing Rules (the “Combined Consultation Paper”) published by The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the Exchange), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEx), in January 2008.

Amongst other things, the Exchange seeks comments regarding whether the current Main Board Listing Rules and Growth Enterprise Market Listing Rules should be amended.

A copy of the Combined Consultation Paper can be obtained from the Exchange or at <http://www.hkex.com.hk/consul/paper/consultpaper.htm>.

Please return completed questionnaires on no later than **7 April 2008** by one of the following methods:

By mail or hand delivery to: Corporate Communications Department
Re: Combined Consultation Paper on Proposed Changes to the Listing Rules
Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited
12th Floor, One International Finance Centre
1 Harbour View Street, Central
Hong Kong

By fax to: (852) 2524-0149

By email to: cvw@hkex.com.hk

The Exchange’s submission enquiry number is (852) 2840-3844.

Please indicate your preference by ticking the appropriate boxes.

Where there is insufficient space provided for your comments, please attach additional pages as necessary.

Issue 1: Use of websites for communication with shareholders

Question 1.1: Do you agree that the Rules should be amended so as to remove the requirement that all listed issuers must, irrespective of their place of incorporation, comply with a standard which is no less onerous than that imposed from time to time under Hong Kong law for listed issuers incorporated in Hong Kong with regard to how they make corporate communications available to shareholders (as proposed in paragraph 1.20(a) of the Combined Consultation Paper)?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 1.2: Do you agree that the Rules should be amended so as to allow a listed issuer to avail itself of a prescribed procedure for deeming consent from a shareholder to the listed issuer sending or supplying corporate communications to him by making them available on its website?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

This is a more effective approach in encouraging electronic reporting for environmental reason. This is also in line with the procedures for deeming consent in respect of despatch of summary financial reports.

Question 1.3: In order for a listed issuer under our proposal to be allowed to send or supply corporate communications to its shareholders by making them available on its website, its shareholders must first have resolved in general meeting that it may do so or its constitutional documents must contain provision to that effect. Do you concur that, as in the UK, the listed issuer should also be required to have asked each shareholder individually to agree that the listed issuer may send corporate communications generally, or the corporate communications in question, to him by means of the listed issuer's website and to have waited for a specified period of time before the shareholder is deemed to have consented to a corporate communication being made available to him solely on the listed issuer's website?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 1.4: If your answer to *Question 1.3* is “yes”, do you agree that:

(a) the specified period of time for which the listed issuer should be required to have waited before the shareholder is deemed to have consented to a corporate communication being made available to him solely on the listed issuer’s website should be 28 days;

- Yes
 No

(b) where a shareholder has refused a corporate communication being made available to him solely on the listed issuer’s website, the listed issuer should be precluded from seeking his consent again for a certain period of time; and

- Yes
 No

(c) if your answer to (b) is “yes”, should the period be 12 months?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

A limitation in the period to seek shareholders' consent to receive corporate communications on the listed issuer's website could pose practical difficulties in terms of sorting who should be sent the consent request, notably if the listed issuer has to send corporate communications to shareholders four times a year -- annual, quarterly, half-yearly, quarterly within short intervals.

Do you have any other comments you consider necessary to supplement your reply to this *Question 1.4*?

It may be too radical a change to move from the current model to the Australian model now. But, in the long term, the Australian model (where listed issuers are required only to post a copy of the annual report on their website and shareholders will have to request a hard copy of the annual report) seems to be a most effective model to encourage electronic reporting for environmental reason. Some means such as e-request or easily accessible request forms can be made available to facilitate shareholders to lodge their request for a hard copy of the corporate communications.

Question 1.5: Do you consider that the Rules should be amended to remove the requirement for express, positive confirmation from a shareholder for the sending of a corporate communication by a listed issuer to the shareholder on a CD?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

More flexibility is preferred to allow despatch of corporate communications by electronic means for environmental reason.

Question 1.6: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 1 will implement the proposals set out in Issue 1 of the Combined Consultation Paper?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Yes, except 2.07A(2A)(c)(ii) - no limitation in the period to seek shareholders' consent to receive corporate communications on the listed issuer's website should be imposed.

Issue 2: Information gathering powers

Question 2.1: Do you agree that a new Rule should be introduced to grant to the Exchange express general powers to gather information?

- Yes
 No

Question 2.2: Do you agree that the draft Main Board Rule 2.12A at Appendix 2 will implement the proposal set out in *Question 2.1* above?

- Yes
 No

Issue 3: Qualified accountants

Question 3.1: Do you agree that the requirement in the Main Board Rules for a qualified accountant should be removed?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Notwithstanding the other provisions of the Listing Rules and Code on Corporate Governance Practices in monitoring compliance with financial reporting matters, the proposed removal of the requirement for a qualified accountant would send a wrong signal to the market that the importance it has attached to the integrity of internal controls over the financial reporting systems has declined.

In order to alleviate the concern about the difficulty for Mainland companies to identify and retain a suitably qualified accountant, consideration can be given to allow Mainland companies listed in Hong Kong to appoint qualified accountant with relevant PRC professional qualification.

Question 3.2: Do you agree that the requirement in the GEM Rules for a qualified accountant should be removed?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Please refer to the answer to Question 3.1 above

Issue 4: Review of sponsor's independence

Question 4.1: Do you agree that the Rules regarding sponsor's independence should be amended such that a sponsor is required to demonstrate independence at any time from the earlier of the date when the sponsor agrees its terms of engagement with the new applicant and when the sponsor commences work as a sponsor to the new applicant up to the listing date or the end of the price stabilisation period, whichever is the later?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

We agree to the Exchange's view as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the Combined Consultation Paper.

Question 4.2: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 4 will implement the proposals set out in *Question 4.1* above?

- Yes
- No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Issue 5: Public float

Question 5.1: Do you agree that the existing Rule 8.08(1) (d) should be amended?

- Yes
- No

Question 5.2: If your answer to *Question 5.1* is “yes”, do you agree that the existing Rule should be amended as proposed at Appendix 5?

- Yes
- No

Do you have other suggestions in respect of how the existing Rule should be amended? Please provide reasons for your views.

Nil

Question 5.3: Do you have any other comments on the issue of public float? Please be specific in your views.

Should the proposed amendment be extended to existing issuers in the calculation of public float as well?

Question 5.4: Do you agree that the existing Rule 8.24 should be amended?

- Yes
- No

Question 5.5: If your answer to *Question 5.4* is “yes”, do you agree that the existing Rule should be amended as proposed at Appendix 5?

- Yes
 No

Do you have other suggestions in respect of how the existing Rule should be amended? Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 5.6: Do you consider that there is the need to regulate the level of market float?

- Yes
 No

Question 5.7: If your answer to *Question 5.6* is “yes”, do you have suggestions as to how it should be regulated, e.g. in terms of percentage or value, or a combination of both? Please provide reasons for your views.

We support that shares subject to a lock up of more than 6 months should not be counted as part of the market float. The level of market float should be regulated in terms of a minimum percentage of tradable securities in the market. Appropriate disclosure in the initial listing document of the attained level of market float and the lock up arrangements should be made.

Issue 6: Bonus issues of a class of securities new to listing

Question 6.1: Do you agree that the requirement for a minimum spread of securities holders at the time of listing under Main Board Rules 8.08(2) and 8.08(3) should be disapplied in the event of a bonus issue of a class of securities new to listing?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 6.2: Do you consider it appropriate that the proposed exemption should not be available where the listed shares of the issuer may be concentrated in the hands of a few shareholders?

Yes

No

If so, do you consider the five-year time limit to be appropriate?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 6.3: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 6 will implement the proposals set out in *Questions 6.1 and 6.2* above?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Issue 7: Review of the Exchange's approach to pre-vetting public documents of listed issuers

Question 7.1: Do you agree that the Exchange should no longer review all announcements made by listed issuers?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

We support the general regime of no mandatory pre-vetting of announcements for reasons set out in paragraph 7.8 of the Combined Consultation Paper.

Question 7.2: Do you have any views on the proposed arrangements and issues the Exchange should consider in order to effect an orderly transition from the current approach to the new approach with a further reduction in the scope of pre-vetting of announcements?

Clear guidelines should be given on the type and depth of information to be covered in announcements with a view to minimising/avoiding the need for clarification announcements.

Question 7.3: Do you support the proposal to amend the pre-vetting requirements relating to:

(a) circulars in respect of proposed amendments to listed issuers' Memorandum or Articles of Association or equivalent documents; and

Yes

No

(b) explanatory statements relating to listed issuers purchasing their own shares on a stock exchange?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

We support the Exchange's views as set out in paragraph 7.8 of the Combined Consultation Paper. It would be helpful if guidance on definition of "unusual features" as required under paragraph 7.49(a)(ii) of the Combined Consultation Paper was provided.

Question 7.4: Do you agree that the Exchange should continue to pre-vet (pursuant to a new requirement in the Rules) the categories of documents set out in paragraph 7.50 of the Combined Consultation Paper?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Yes for a transitional period only. We support the general principle of no mandatory pre-vetting documents by the Exchange for reasons set out in paragraph 7.8 of the Combined Consultation Paper. As an example, to our knowledge, the Exchange has never pre-vet financial reports before their publication.

Question 7.5: Do you support the proposal to amend the circular requirements relating to discloseable transactions including the proposal regarding situations where the Rules currently require that expert reports are included in a circular?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

We support the Exchange's view as set out in paragraph 7.56 of the Combined Consultation Paper. Furthermore, general information, which are not directly related to the transaction such as interests of directors and substantial shareholders in the listed issuer, should not be required to be included in the circulars provided that such interests have been disclosed on the websites of HKEx and the listed issuer.

Question 7.6: Do you have any comments on the proposed minor Rule amendments described at paragraphs 7.59 to 7.63 of the Combined Consultation Paper? Please provide reasons for your views.

The need to include the Exchange's disclaimer statement on listing documents, circulars, announcements and notices of listed issuers seems to be redundant as the market is approaching the general principle of no-prevetting by the Exchange. To alleviate the Exchange's concern, we suggest the Exchange publishing a general disclaimer statement on its website where listed issuers post their notices, announcements, circulars, listing documents etc.

Question 7.7: Do you agree that the draft (Main Board and GEM) Rules at Appendix 7 will implement the proposals set out in Issue 7 of the Combined Consultation Paper?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Yes, subject to our views expressed in response to Questions 7.3, 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 above.

Issue 8: Disclosure of changes in issued share capital

Question 8.1: Are there any other types of changes in issued share capital that should be included in the Next Day Disclosure Return?

Yes

No

If so, please provide reasons for your views, together with the types of changes.

Question 8.2: Have the various types of changes in a listed issuer's issued share capital been appropriately categorised for the purpose of next day disclosure, bearing in mind the need to strike a balance between promptly informing the market on the one hand and avoiding the creation of a disproportionate burden on listed issuers on the other?

- Yes
 No

Question 8.3: Is 5% an appropriate *de minimis* threshold for those categories of changes to which it applies?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

It would conform with the 5% disclosure threshold under the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

Question 8.4: Do you have any comments on the draft of the Next Day Disclosure Return for equity issuers?

Nil

Question 8.5: Do you have any comments on the draft of the Next Day Disclosure Return for CISs listed under Chapter 20 of the Main Board Rules, other than listed open-ended CISs?

Nil

Question 8.6: Is 9:00 a.m. of the next business day an achievable deadline for the Next Day Disclosure Return?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 8.7: Do you have any comments on the draft of the revised Monthly Return for equity issuers?

Nil

Question 8.8: Do you have any comments on the draft of the revised Monthly Return for CISs listed under Chapter 20 of the Main Board Rules, other than listed open-ended CISs?

Nil

Question 8.9: Do you have any comments on the draft of the revised Monthly Return for open-ended CISs listed under Chapter 20 of the Main Board Rules?

Nil

Question 8.10: Is 9:00 a.m. of the fifth business day following the end of each calendar month an achievable deadline for publication of the Monthly Return?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 8.11: Should the Exchange amend the Rules to require listed issuers to make an announcement as soon as possible when share options are granted pursuant to a share option scheme?

- Yes
 No

If so, do you have any comments on the details which we propose to require listed issuers to disclose in the announcement?

Nil

Question 8.12: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 8A will implement the proposals set out in Issue 8 of the Combined Consultation Paper?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Issue 9: Disclosure requirements for announcements regarding issues of securities for cash and allocation basis for excess shares in rights issue

Question 9.1: Do you support the proposal to amend Main Board Rule 13.28 and GEM Rule 17.30 to extend the specific disclosure requirements to other categories of issues of securities for cash and to include additional items of information in the amended Rule?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 9.2: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 9 will implement the proposal set out in *Question 9.1* above?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 9.3: Do you support the proposal to amend Main Board Rules 7.21(1) and 7.26A(1) and GEM Rules 10.31(1) and 10.42(1) to require listed issuers to disclose the basis of allocation of the excess securities in the announcement, circular and listing document for a rights issue/open offer?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Issue 10: Alignment of requirements for material dilution in major subsidiary and deemed disposal

Question 10.1: Should the Rules continue to impose a requirement for material dilution, separate from notifiable transaction requirements applicable to deemed disposals?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

We agree to the reasons set out in paragraphs 10.1 to 10.4 of the Combined Consultation Paper.

Question 10.2: Do you agree that the requirements for material dilution under Main Board Chapter 13 and GEM Chapter 17 should be aligned to those for deemed disposal in Main Board Chapter 14 and GEM Chapter 19?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 10.3: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 10 will implement the proposals set out in *Question 10.2* above?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Issue 11: General mandates

Question 11.1: Should the Exchange retain the current Rules on the size of issues of securities under the general mandate without amendment?

- Yes
 No

If yes, then please provide your comments and suggestions before proceeding to *Question 11.3* below.

Question 11.2: Should the Exchange amend the current Rules to restrict the size of the general mandate that can be used to issue securities for cash or (subject to your response to *Question 11.4*) to satisfy an exercise of convertible securities to: (choose one of the following options)

10%, with the mandate to issue securities for other purposes retained at not more than 10% (or some other percentage) of the issued share capital? If yes, then what should be the percentage of the issued share capital for issuing securities for such other purposes?

5%, with the mandate to issue securities for other purposes retained at not more than 10% (or some other percentage) of the issued share capital? If yes, then what should the percentage of the issued share capital be for issuing securities for such other purposes?

10% for any purpose (including to issue securities for cash or (subject to your response to *Question 11.4*) to satisfy an exercise of convertible securities)?

a percentage other than 10% for any purpose (including to issue securities for cash or (subject to your response to *Question 11.4*) to satisfy an exercise of convertible securities)? If you support this option, then please state the percentage you consider appropriate. 5%

Please provide your comments and suggestions.

Since 2005, we have put forward a resolution to shareholders to limit the general mandate to not more than 5% of the aggregate nominal value of the issued share capital of CLP Holdings as at the date of each AGM. Over the years, these resolutions have received over 80% support from shareholders who voted at the AGMs.

Question 11.3: Should the Exchange amend the current Rules so as to exclude from the calculation of the size limit the number of any securities repurchased by the listed issuer since the granting of the general mandate? (In other words, the listed issuer's issued share capital as at the date of the granting of the general mandate would remain the reference point for the calculation of the size limit, unless the general mandate is refreshed by the shareholders in general meeting.)

Yes

No

If yes, please provide your comments and suggestions.

Question 11.4: Should the Exchange amend the current Rules such that:

- (a) the application of the current prohibition against the placing of securities pursuant to a general mandate at a discount of 20% or more to the “benchmark price” would apply only to placings of shares for cash;
- (b) all issues of securities to satisfy an exercise of warrants, options or convertible securities would need to be made pursuant to a specific mandate from the shareholders; and
- (c) for the purpose of seeking the specific mandate, the listed issuer would be required to issue a circular to its shareholders containing all relevant information?

Yes

No

Question 11.5: Do you have any other comments or suggestions in relation to general mandates? Please specify.

We believe that a general mandate to issue shares gives listed issuers the flexibility in raising capital as and when needed and in making use of the share placement as an optimum fund raising opportunity. We appreciate market concern about unfair dilution of minority interests by the exercising of general mandates to issue shares and therefore support the reduction of the 20% general mandate to 5%. Notwithstanding this, we support the view that the listed issuer's issued share capital as at the date of the granting of the general mandate should remain the reference point for the calculation of the size limit unless the general mandate is refreshed by shareholders in general meeting.

Issue 12: Voting at general meetings

Question 12.1: Should the Exchange amend the Rules to require voting on all resolutions at general meetings to be by poll?

Yes

No

Question 12.2: If your answer to *Question 12.1* is “no”, should the Exchange amend the Rules to require voting on all resolutions at annual general meetings to be by poll (in addition to the current requirement for voting by poll on connected transactions, transactions that are subject to independent shareholders’ approval and transactions where an interested shareholder will be required to abstain from voting)?

Yes

No

Question 12.3: If your answer to *Question 12.1* is “no”, should the Exchange amend the Rules so that, where the resolution is decided in a manner other than a poll, the listed issuer would be required to make an announcement on the total number of proxy votes in respect of which proxy appointments have been validly made together with: (i) the number of votes exercisable by proxies appointed to vote for the resolution; (ii) the number of votes exercisable by proxies appointed to vote against the resolution; (iii) the number of votes exercisable by proxies appointed to abstain on the resolution; and (iv) the number of votes exercisable by proxies appointed to vote at the proxy’s discretion?

Yes

No

Question 12.4: In the case of listed issuers other than H-share issuers, the Rules currently require 14 days notice for the passing of an ordinary resolution and 21 days notice for the passing of a special resolution. 21 days notice is also required for convening an annual general meeting. In the case of H-share issuers, 45 days notice of shareholder meetings is required under the “Mandatory Provisions for Companies Listing Overseas” for all resolutions. Should the Exchange amend the Rules to provide for a minimum notice period of 28 clear calendar days for convening all general meetings?

- Yes
 No

If so, should the provision be set out in the Rules (as a mandatory requirement) or in the Code on Corporate Governance Practices as a Code Provision (and therefore subject to the “comply or explain” principle)?

The extension to 28 clear calendar days' notice period would cause uncertainties and delays in executing transactions which require shareholders' approval in general meeting.

Question 12.5: If your answer to *Question 12.4* is “no”, should the Exchange amend the Rules to provide for a minimum notice period of 28 clear calendar days for convening all annual general meetings, but not extraordinary general meetings (or, depending on the listed issuer’s place of incorporation, special general meetings)?

- Yes
 No

If the answer is “yes”, should the provision be set out in the Rules (as a mandatory requirement) or in the Code on Corporate Governance Practices as a Code Provision (and therefore subject to the “comply or explain” principle)?

Question 12.6: Do you have any other comments regarding regulation by the Exchange on the extent to which voting by poll should be made mandatory at general meetings or the minimum notice period required for convening shareholders meetings?

The need to lengthen the minimum notice period required for convening shareholders meeting is not apparent given the high attendance of shareholders at our AGMs (about 700 shareholders attended our 2007 AGM).

Issue 13: Disclosure of information about and by directors

Question 13.1: Do you agree that the information set out in draft new Rule 13.51B should be expressly required to be disclosed by issuers up to and including the date of resignation of the director or supervisor, rather than only upon that person's appointment or re-designation?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

We support more transparent disclosure of information about and by directors, in particular those information required under Rule 13.51(2)(h) to (v). However, the information required under Rule 13.51(2)(a) to (g) include information which changes every year (e.g. age) and are covered in the annual report of listed issuer. Therefore the proposed requirement to disclose any changes to those information under Rule 13.51(2)(a) to (g) continuously up to and including the date of resignation of the director concerned would create a lot of extra compliance work of which the benefits are not apparent. We suggest the continuous disclosure be extended to information required under Rule 13.5(2)(h) to (v) only.

Question 13.2: Do you agree that the relevant information should be discloseable immediately upon the issuer becoming aware of the information (i.e. continuously) rather than, for example, only in annual and interim reports?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Information required under Rule 13.51(2)(h) to (v) should be discloseable upon the issuer becoming aware of the information but, not for information required under Rule 13.51(2)(a) to (g) which should be discloseable in annual and interim reports. Please also see answer in response to Question 13.1 above.

Question 13.3: Do you agree that, to ensure that the issuer is made aware of the relevant information, a new obligation should be introduced requiring directors and supervisors to keep the issuer informed of relevant developments?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Yes, if proposed Rule 13.51B (subject to modification as suggested in the answers to Questions 13.1 and 13.2 above) were implemented.

Question 13.4: Do you agree that paragraphs (u) and (v) of Main Board Rule 13.51(2) and GEM Rule 17.50(2) should be amended to clarify that the disclosure referred to in those Rules need not be made if such disclosure would be prohibited by law?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 13.5: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 13 will implement the proposals set out in Questions 13.1, 13.2, 13.3 and 13.4 above?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

For the same reason set out in our answer to Question 13.1 above, we suggest modifying proposed Rule 13.51(B)(1) by replacing the word '(a)' in the second line with the word '(h)' and by adding the phrase "on becoming aware of the information" to the fifth line after the word 'issuer'.

Question 13.6: Do you agree that the Rules should be amended to clarify that issuers should publicly disclose in the Appointment Announcements their directors', supervisors' and proposed directors' and supervisors' current and past (during the past three years) directorships in all public companies with securities listed in Hong Kong and/or overseas?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 13.7: Do you agree that Main Board Rule 13.51(2)(c) and its GEM Rules equivalent, GEM Rule 17.50(2)(c), should be amended to clarify that issuers should publicly disclose their directors', supervisors' and proposed directors' and supervisors' professional qualifications?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 13.8: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 13 will implement the proposals set out in *Questions 13.6 and 13.7* above?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 13.9: Do you agree that Main Board Rule 13.51(2)(m)(ii) should be amended to include reference to the Ordinances referred to in GEM Rule 17.50(2)(m)(ii) that are not currently referred to in Main Board Rule 13.51(2)(m)(ii)?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 13.10: Do you agree that Main Board Rule 13.51(2)(m) and GEM Rule 17.50(2)(m) should be amended so as to put beyond doubt that the disclosure obligation arises where a conviction falls under any one (rather than all) of the three limbs (i.e. Main Board Rule 13.51(2)(m)(i), (ii) or (iii) and GEM Rule 17.50(2)(m)(i), (ii) or (iii))?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 13.11: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 13 will implement the proposal set out in *Questions 13.9 and 13.10* above?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Issue 14: Codification of waiver to property companies

Question 14.1: Do you agree that the Proposed Relief should provide relaxation of strict compliance with the shareholders' approval requirements of the Rules only to listed issuers that are actively engaged in property development as a principal business activity?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Since we are not a property company, we thought it would be best to leave this Issue 14 to property companies and their shareholders to comment.

Question 14.2: Do you agree with the proposed criteria in determining whether property development is a principal activity of a listed issuer (described at paragraphs 14.12 and 14.13 of the Combined Consultation Paper)?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 14.3: Do you agree that the scope of the Proposed Relief should be confined to acquisition of property assets that fall within the definition of Qualified Property Projects?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Are you aware of any examples of Hong Kong listed issuers encountering difficulties in strict compliance with the Rules when participating in other types of auctions or tenders? If yes, please specify what are the problems faced by the listed issuers in participating in these auctions or tenders.

Question 14.4: Do you agree that Qualified Property Projects which contain a portion of a capital element should qualify for relief from the notifiable transaction Rules set out in Main Board Chapter 14?

- Yes
 No

If yes, should the Proposed Relief specify a percentage threshold for the capital element within a project? Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 14.5: Do you agree that the scope of the exemption from strict compliance with Main Board Chapter 14A in relation to the shareholders' approval requirements for property joint ventures with connected persons should be limited to scenarios where the connected person is only connected by virtue of being a joint venture partner with the listed issuer in existing single purpose property projects?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 14.6: Do you agree that the General Property Acquisition Mandate is useful to confer protection on shareholders and is necessary as regards property joint ventures with connected persons where the connected person is only connected by virtue of being a joint venture partner with the listed issuer in existing single purpose property projects (Type B property joint ventures)?

Yes

No

If yes, should the General Property Acquisition Mandate include any limit on the size of the Annual Cap by reference to some quantifiable thresholds? Please provide reasons for your views.

Annual cap, if any and its size, to be decided by shareholders when the General Property Acquisition Mandate is given.

Question 14.7: Are the disclosure obligations described at paragraph 14.51 of the Combined Consultation Paper appropriate?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 14.8: Do you agree that the draft Rule amendments at Appendix 14 will implement the proposals set out in Issue 14 of the Combined Consultation Paper?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Issue 15: Self-constructed fixed assets

Question 15.1: Do you agree that the notifiable transaction Rules should be amended to specifically exclude any construction of a fixed asset by a listed issuer for its own use in the ordinary and usual course of its business?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

We support the Exchange's views as set out in paragraphs 15.8 and 15.9 of the Combined Consultation Paper.

Question 15.2: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 15 will implement the proposal set out in *Question 15.1* above?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Issue 16: Disclosure of information in takeovers

Question 16.1: Do you agree that the current practice of the Exchange, i.e. the granting of waivers to listed issuers to publish prescribed information of the target companies in situations such as hostile takeovers, should be codified in the Rules?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 16.2: Do you agree the new draft Rule should extend to non-hostile takeovers where there is insufficient access to non-public information as well as hostile takeovers?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Time is required to obtain and understand the financial information of the offeree company, no matter whether it is a non-hostile or hostile takeover.

Question 16.3: Paragraph (3) of the new draft Rule proposes that the supplemental circular must be despatched to shareholders within 45 days of the earlier of the following:

- the listed issuer being able to gain access to the offeree company's books and records for the purpose of complying with the disclosure requirements in respect of the offeree company and the enlarged group under Rules 14.66 and 14.67 or 14.69; and
- the listed issuer being able to exercise control over the offeree company.

Do you agree that the 45-day time frame is an appropriate length of time?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

The supplemental circular may need to include financial information about the effect of the takeover on the earnings, assets and liabilities of the listed issuer. 60 days or two months would be more appropriate as it will take time to understand the financial information and accounting records of the offeree company. This is particularly so if the offeree company was incorporated in a jurisdiction different from the offeror and is subject to a different set of accounting standards.

Question 16.4: Do you have any other comments on the draft new Rule 14.67A at Appendix 16? Please provide reasons for your views.

Nil

Issue 17: Review of director's and supervisor's declaration and undertaking

Question 17.1: Do you agree that the respective forms of declaration and undertaking for directors and supervisors (i.e. the DU Forms) should be streamlined by deleting the questions relating to the directors' and supervisors' biographical details?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 17.2: Do you agree that the DU Forms for directors should be amended by removing the statutory declaration requirement?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 17.3: Do you agree that the GEM Rules should be amended to align with the practice of the Main Board Rules as regards the timing for the submission of DU Forms by GEM issuers, such that a GEM issuer would be required to lodge with the Exchange a signed DU Form of a director or supervisor after (as opposed to before) the appointment of such director or supervisor?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 17.4: Do you agree that the Rules should be amended such that the listing documents relating to new applicants for the listing of equity and debt securities must contain no less information about directors (and also supervisors and other members of the governing body, where relevant) than that required to be disclosed under Main Board Rule 13.51(2) or GEM 13.50(2), as the case may be?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 17.5: Do you agree that the application procedures should be amended as discussed in paragraph 17.20 to harmonise with the proposed amendments for the purpose of streamlining the respective DU Forms?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 17.6: Do you agree that the draft Rules at Appendix 17 will implement the proposals set out in Issue 17 of the Combined Consultation Paper?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 17.7: Do you agree that a new Rule should be introduced to grant to the Exchange express general powers to gather information from directors?

- Yes
 No

Question 17.8: Do you agree that the draft paragraph (c) to the Director's Undertaking at Appendix 17 will implement the proposal set out in *Question 17.7* above?

- Yes
 No

Question 17.9: Do you agree that paragraph (e) of Part 2, Appendix 5B, and paragraph (d) of Part 2, Appendix 5H, of the Main Board Rules should be amended to include detailed provisions for service similar to those of the GEM Rules?

- Yes
 No

Question 17.10: Do you agree that the proposed amendment to paragraph (e) of the Director's Undertaking at Appendix 17 will implement the proposal set out in *Question 17.9* above?

- Yes
 No

Question 17.11: Do you agree that the Rules should be amended to make express the ability to change the terms of the Director's Undertaking without the need for every director to re-execute his undertaking?

- Yes
 No

Issue 18: Review of Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers

Question 18.1: Do you agree with the proposed new exceptions to paragraph 7(d) of the Model Code?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

We agree to the proposed new exceptions (a) and (b) but not (c) to paragraph 7(d) of the Model Code. A bona fide gift to a director by a third party in the form of securities of the listed issuer should also be disclosed as a dealing if such a gift would change the beneficial interest of the director concerned in the relevant securities.

Question 18.2: Do you agree with the proposal to clarify the meaning of “price sensitive information” in the context of the Model Code?

- Yes
 No

Question 18.3: Do you agree that the draft new Note to Rule A.1 of the Code would implement the proposal set out in *Question 18.2* above??

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

Question 18.4: Do you agree that the current “black out” periods should be extended to commence from the listed issuer’s year/period end date and end on the date the listed issuer publishes the relevant results announcement?

- Yes
 No

Please provide reasons for your views.

It is a general principle that directors should not deal in their listed issuer's securities whenever they were in possession of unpublished price-sensitive information. All directors should follow this principle. Lengthening or shortening the "blackout" periods should have no effect on this principle.

Furthermore, the "blackout" periods could be too long (8 months in a financial year) if the proposed extension were combined with the shortening of reporting deadlines and adoption of quarterly reporting. 8 months of "blackout" period in a financial year is more restrictive than the practices in other relevant jurisdictions including the U.K., Australia and Singapore.

Question 18.5: Do you agree that there should be a time limit for an issuer to respond to a request for clearance to deal and a time limit for dealing to take place once clearance is given?

Yes

No

Question 18.6: Do you agree that the proposed time limit of 5 business days in each case is appropriate?

Yes

No

Please provide reasons for your views.


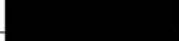

Minor Rule amendments

The Exchange invites your comments regarding whether the manner in which the proposed minor Rule amendments set out in Appendix 19 have been drafted will give rise to any ambiguities or unintended consequences.

We welcome the minor rule amendments, in particular, the clarification of the timing regarding publication of notice for general meeting.

Do you have any other comments in respect of the issues discussed in the Combined Consultation Paper? If so, please set out your additional comments.

In respect of Issue 2 regarding information gathering powers, the proposed rule 2.12A(1) regarding information that the Exchange considers appropriate to protect investors is highly subjective and debatable. We wonder how are the rules in the relevant jurisdictions including the U.K., Australia and Singapore compared to the proposed rules in Appendix 2 of the Combined Consultation Paper. We believe that the current regime of the Exchange raising enquiries with listed issuers has worked well and the existing general provisions in the Listing Rules which empower the Exchange to make enquiries with listed issuers are adequate.

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