

Part B Consultation Questions

Please indicate your preference by checking the appropriate boxes. Please reply to the questions below on the proposed change discussed in the Consultation Paper downloadable from the HKEX website at:

<http://www.hkex.com.hk/-/media/HKEX-Market/News/Market-Consultations/2016-Present/August-2019-Codification-of-General-Waivers/Consultation-Paper/cp201908.pdf>

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

Capitalised terms have the same meaning as defined in the Consultation Paper unless otherwise stated.

1. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the existing General Waiver such that bonus or capitalisation issues by a PRC incorporated issuer are exempted from shareholders' approvals in general meetings and separate class meetings?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

2. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the existing General Waiver to modify the calculation of consideration ratio for a PRC incorporated issuer whose domestic shares are listed on a PRC exchange?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

3. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the existing General Waiver to allow the listed issuer's stock code to be displayed prominently in the corporate or shareholder information section of financial reports as described in paragraph 30 of the Consultation Paper?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

4. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the R4.04(2)&(4) Conditions as an exception to Main Board Rules 4.04(2) and 4.04(4) regarding the disclosure of financial information of subsidiaries or businesses acquired or to be acquired after trading record period?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

5. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the R4.10 Waiver as an exception to Main Board Rule 4.10 regarding the disclosure of financial information of the overseas banking companies?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

6. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the R8.21(1) Conditions as an exception to Main Board Rule 8.21(1) regarding the change of financial year period?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

7. Do you agree with our proposal to (i) codify the modification provided by the General Waivers into Main Board Rules 13.46 and 13.49(1) subject to the new applicant meeting the Annual Results and Reports Waivers Conditions; (ii) codify similar exception to Main Board Rule 13.48(1) as well as GEM Rules 18.66 and 18.79; (iii) align the conditions for Interim Results Exemption with the Annual Results and Reports Waivers Conditions; and (iv) repeal PN 10 and consolidate the guidance with the relevant Main Board Rules?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

8. Do you agree with the proposal to codify the waiver from disclosure of actual consideration of aircrafts to be acquired by listed airline operators, as described in paragraph 58 of the Consultation Paper?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

9. Do you agree with the proposal to allow listed issuers to determine SpinCo's Scheme Limit with reference to SpinCo's shares in issue as at the date of SpinCo's listing?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

10. Do you agree with the proposal to codify the waiver of the exercise price requirement for issuers dually listed on the Exchange and a PRC exchange as described in paragraph 65 of the Consultation Paper?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

11. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the waiver described in paragraph 71 of the Consultation Paper in respect of the experience and qualification of company secretary into the Rules?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

Strong Objection – Rule 3.28 Waivers

I strongly objects to the proposed codification of the waiver from strict compliance with Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules set out under paragraphs 66-71 of the Consultation Paper.

Currently, only members of various professional institutionis, including legal, accounting and chartered secretarial professionals, namely, solicitors and barrister, certified public accountants and chartered secretaries, with relevant experience (Qualified Persons) are currently permitted to become company secretaries. In general, they have to be members of their respective professional bodies, and be subject to professional discipline and continuous professional development requirements.

For issuers with their shares listed on the The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, the company secretaries are expected and de-facto to be primary person as to regulatory compliance in almost all listed issuers. The companies secretaries are expected to be well versed in Hong Kong listing rules, and having competent knowledge of Hong Kong Company Laws, Securities and Futures Ordinance and other compliance related matters, which they are to acquire through professional knowledge as a professional and continuous professional development through various professional organisations in Hong Kong. Overseas/Mainland professionals would be familiar with their local laws and regulations, it would be absurd or even naive to assume that they would be as well versed as the professionals practising in Hong Kong with respect to Hong Kong regulatory landscape.

There may be some specific cases in the past where waivers from compliance with Rule 3.28 were granted, I believe those waivers were only granted after detailed scrutiny of the facts and information provided by the issuers to the Stock Exchange, before those special case-by-case (not general) waivers were granted. These special waivers should be very limited / rare. On the contrary, I would counter suggest that if such special waiver were granted, the issuer shall publish an announcement to inform the shareholders / investors the factors considered by the Stock Exchange why such person was warranted for such waiver, to let the investor community to decide whether the corporate governance of that issuer is trustworthy or not and let the market to decide.

<p>In conclusion, I strong object to the purported codification, Note 3, and further request an announcement by the issuer is required (to state the factors considered by the Stock Exchange) if any waiver / renewal of waiver from strict compliance with Rule 3.28 of the Listing Rules was granted by the Stock Exchange.</p>
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12. Do you agree with the proposals (a) to provide an exemption for Main Board listed issuers that are banking companies or insurance companies from including a working capital statement, subject to appropriate alternative disclosures in their listing documents and transaction circulars if they are able to meet the same conditions as those set out in Main Board Rule 8.21A(2), and (b) to limit Main Board Rule 8.21A(2) so that the exemption applies only to banking companies or insurance companies, subject to alternative disclosures in their listing documents and the conditions as described in paragraph 73 of the Consultation Paper?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

13. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the guidance in Guidance Letter HKEX-GL7-09 into the Rules for new applicants' easy reference?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

14. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the guidance in Listing Decision HKEX-LD15-3 into the Rules for new applicants' easy reference?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

15. Do you agree to amend Main Board Rule 17.05 to state clearly that the restricted period for grant of share options would cover the trading day after the announcement is made with respect to the inside information?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

To allow the market to reflect the true market price incorporating the newly published inside information.

16. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the guidance in Guidance Letter HKEX-GL16-09 into the Rules for completeness?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

17. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the guidance in Guidance Letter HKEX-GL31-12 into a new practice note to the Rules for completeness?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

18. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the guidance in Guidance Letter HKEX-GL58-13 into the Rules for new applicants' easy reference?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

19. Do you agree with our proposal to codify the guidance in Guidance Letter HKEX-GL60-13 into the Rules for new applicants' easy reference?

Yes

No

You may provide reasons for your views.

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