Frequently Asked Questions Series 8 (Released on 28 November 2008/ Last Updated in January 2024)

Rule Amendments relating to the 2008 Combined Consultation

Status of "Frequently Asked Questions"

The following frequently asked questions (FAQs) are designed to help issuers understand and comply with the Listing Rules, particularly in situations not explicitly set out in the Rules or where further clarification may be desirable.

Users of the FAQs should refer to the Rules themselves and, if necessary, seek qualified professional advice. The FAQs are not substitutes for the Rules. If there is any discrepancy between the FAQs and the Rules, the Rules prevail.

In formulating our "answers", we may have assumed certain underlying facts, selectively summarised the Rules or concentrated on one particular aspect of the question. They are not definitive and do not apply to all cases where the scenario may at first appear similar. In any given case, regard must be had to all the relevant facts and circumstances.

The Listing Division may be consulted on a confidential basis. Please contact the Listing Division at the earliest opportunity with any queries.

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response	
1	(FAQ withdraw	n on 31 Decer	nber 2023)		
2	(FAQ withdraw	n on 31 Decer	nber 2023)		
3	(FAQ withdrawn on 31 December 2009)				
4	(FAQ withdrawn on 31 December 2023)				
5	(FAQ withdrawn on 31 December 2023)				
6	(FAQ withdraw	n on 31 Decer	nber 2023)		

No.	Main Board	GEM	Query	Response
	Rules	Rules		
7	2.07C(3) 13.25A	16.18(2) 17.27A	For disclosure in the Next Day Disclosure Return pursuant to Main Board Rule 13.25A (GEM Rule 17.27A), which headline category should a listed issuer use when submitting a Next Day Disclosure Return to report a buyback of shares by the listed issuer?	new Tier 1 headline category "Next Day Disclosure Returns". Where a disclosure other than a share buyback is made in the Next Day Disclosure Return, the listed issuer should

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response
8	2.07C(3) 17.06A	16.18(2) 23.06A	For an announcement published pursuant to Main Board Rule 17.06A (GEM Rule 23.06A) regarding the granting of an option under a share option scheme, which headline category should a listed issuer use when submitting the announcement for publication?	The listed issuer should choose the Tier 2 headline category "Share Scheme" under the heading "Securities/ Share Capital" under the Tier 1 headline category "Headline Categories for Announcements and Notices". (Updated in January 2023)
9	(FAQ relocated t	o Series 17 No. 1	1D on 28 December 2018)	
10	(FAQ withdrawn	on 28 December	2018)	
11	(FAQ withdrawn	on 30 September	2009)	
12	(FAQ relocated t	o Series 17 No. 24	4E on 28 December 2018)	
13	(FAQ Withdrawn	in February 2020)	
14	3A.07, 3A.09, Form A1 (published in Regulatory Forms) [Updated in December 2023]	Form A	J	The sponsor and the new applicant must notify the Exchange as soon as possible. It should be noted if the change results in the applicant not having at least one sponsor that is independent under Main Board Rule 3A.07 (GEM Rule 6A.07), it must appoint a new independent sponsor and pursuant to Main Board Rule 3A.02B (GEM Rule 6A.02B), the applicant can resubmit its listing application no less than two months from the date such new independent sponsor is formally appointed. [Updated in February 2020]

No.	Main Board	GEM	Query	Response
15	Rules 8.08(2) 8.08(3)	Rules 11.23(3)(b)(ii) 11.23(8)	If a listed issuer has high shareholding concentration, its bonus issue of a new class of securities involving options, warrants or similar rights to subscribe or purchase shares will be subject to the minimum spread of securities holders requirement. How does the Exchange determine whether the issuer has a high shareholding concentration for this purpose?	A listed issuer is considered to have high shareholding concentration if it has published relevant announcements pursuant to Main Board Rule 13.34(a) (GEM Rule 17.36), or SFC has published relevant press releases on the issuer, during the five year period immediately preceding the date of the issuer's announcement on the proposed bonus issue. [Updated in February 2020]
16	(FAQ Withdraw	n in February 202	0)	
17	10.06(1)(b)	13.08 Note 2	A listed issuer will send an Explanatory Statement to its shareholders for seeking their approval of a general mandate for share repurchases at the forthcoming annual general meeting. Main Board Rule 10.06(1)(b) (Note 2 to GEM Rule 13.08) requires the listed issuer to confirm, among other things, that neither the Explanatory Statement issued under the Rule or the proposed share repurchase has any "unusual features". What does the term "unusual features" mean?	Main Board Rules 10.05 and 10.06 (GEMRules 13.03 to 13.14) set out the restrictions and notification requirements on share repurchases by listed issuers, including the specific disclosure requirements for an Explanatory Statement. The listed issuer's directors should determine whether the Explanatory Statement or the proposed share repurchase has unusual features having regard to the specific requirements under the Rules, the listed issuer's own circumstances, and features of share repurchase proposals which by virtue of their very frequent occurrence can be regarded as common or usual features of such proposals. The listed issuer should consult the Exchange in advance if it is in any doubt as to whether or not any matters are unusual.

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response		
18		in February 2020)			
19	13.25A 13.25B	17.27A	Where can an issuer find the	Tompletes of the various Monthly Poturns and		
19	13.25A 13.25B	17.27B	templates of the various Monthly	Next Day Disclosure Returns in MS Word		
			Returns and Next Day Disclosure Returns, and how to submit them?	format can be downloaded from the ESS website. The completed form, in either PDF		
			,	or MS Word format, should be submitted via		
				ESS as an attachment. [Updated in February 2020]		
	10.051.10.050	47.074				
20	13.25A 13.25B see also:	17.27A 17.27B	Are listed issuers required to submit both English and Chinese	Yes.		
	2.07C(4)(b)	see also: 16.03	versions of Next Day Disclosure			
			Returns and Monthly Returns?			
21	13.25A 13.25B	17.27A	Can a listed issuer submit its	No.		
		17.27B	Monthly Returns or Next Day Disclosure Returns by means			
			other than ESS, such as email, fax			
			or mail?			
22	(FAQ withdrawn	on 30 September	2009)			
00	(FAQ = 141 1 = = = =	4 March 0040				
23	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 March 2019)					
24	13.25A(2)(a)(vii)	17.27A(2)(a)(vii)	The issuer publishes a Next Day	No. On a share repurchase or redemption, the		
			Disclosure Return upon a repurchase or redemption of	issuer must submit and publish a Next Day Disclosure Return by "not later than 30 minutes"		
			shares in January. The	before the earlier of the commencement of the		
			repurchased or redeemed shares are cancelled in February. Must	morning trading session or any pre-opening session" (i.e. by 8:30 a.m.) on the business day		
			are sarrounce in replacity. Must	occording the by older anning on the business day		

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response
			the issuer publish a Next Day Disclosure Return upon cancellation of the shares?	·
				However, the opening balance of the subsequent Next Day Disclosure Return will be the closing balance of the last Next Day Disclosure Return or Monthly Return (whichever is later) and any cancellation of shares since then should be included in the opening balance of the subsequent Next Day Disclosure Return as separate lines (together with the date(s) of cancellation). These cancelled shares should also be taken into account in arriving at the closing balance of that subsequent Next Day Disclosure Return.
				(Updated 7 March 2011)
25	(FAQ Withdraw	n in February 202	0)	
26	13.25B	17.27B	Is section I of the Monthly Return (Movement in Authorised Share Capital) applicable to PRC issuers which do not have authorised share capital? Are PRC issuers required to disclose movements in domestic shares/ A shares in section II of their Monthly Return (Movements	applicable to PRC issuers which do not have authorised share capital. Yes. PRC issuers are required to disclose in section. II of the Monthly Return the

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response
			in Issued Share Capital)?	[Updated in August 2023]
27	13.25B	17.27B	Will listed issuers still be required to submit the Monthly Returns each month even if there are no changes of the reported figures from the previous month?	Yes.
28	(FAQ Withdrav	vn in February 20	020)	
29	13.28 see also: 13.25A 13.25B 13.25C	17.30 see also: 17.27A 17.27B 17.27C	A listed issuer proposes a placing of warrants, which carry rights to subscribe new shares in the listed issuer, for cash consideration under a specific mandate. The listed issuer will issue an announcement for such proposed placing pursuant to Main Board Rule 13.28/ GEM Rule 17.30. How should the listed issuer comply with the disclosure obligation under Main Board Rule 13.28/ GEM Rule 17.30?	The disclosure obligation under Main Board Rule 13.28/ GEM Rule 17.30 arises at the time when the listed issuer agrees to issue securities for cash. As such, the listed issuer should issue an announcement as soon as it enters into the agreement for placing the warrants. The Rule does not apply upon exercise of the subscription rights of the warrants by the warrant holders. However, the listed issuer is reminded of the disclosure obligations under Main Board Rules 13.25A, 13.25B and 13.25C/ GEM Rules 17.27A, 17.27B and 17.27C. [Updated in February 2020]
30	13.28(12)	17.30(12)	A listed issuer proposes a placing of new shares for cash consideration using its general mandate. What "details of the general mandate" is the issuer required to	It should disclose the date of the general meeting approving the general mandate and information that demonstrates the general mandate is sufficient to cover the number of new shares to be issued under the placing, such as: (i) the number of shares that the listed issuer is authorised to allot or issue

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response
			disclose in the announcement under Main Board Rule 13.28(12) (GEM Rule 17.30(12))?	under such general mandate; and (ii) the unutilised portion of the general mandate immediately prior to the proposed placing.
				[Updated in February 2020]
31	13.29	17.30A	If a listed issuer proposes to place new shares under a general mandate at a discount of 20% or more to the benchmarked price, can it satisfy Main Board Rule 13.29 (GEM Rule 17.30A) by incorporating the information required in its announcement published pursuant to Main Board Rule 13.28 (GEM Rule 17.30)?	Yes, or alternatively it may issue a separate announcement to disclose the information required under Main Board Rule 13.28 (GEM Rule 17.30). In either case, the required information must be announced within the timeframe prescribed under Main Board Rule 13.29 (GEM Rule 17.30A). The listed issuer is reminded that, under Main Board Rule 13.36(5) (GEM Rule 17.42B), it cannot issue new shares for cash under a general mandate at a discount of 20% or more to the benchmarked price set out in Main Board Rule 13.36(5) (GEM Rule 17.42B) unless it can satisfy the Exchange that it is in a serious financial position or there are exceptional circumstances. In the present case, the listed issuer must obtain the Exchange's consent before it enters into the proposed placing and publishes the relevant announcement.
32	13.36(4)(a)	17.42A	When a listed issuer refreshes the General Property Acquisition Mandate at a general meeting, does the controlling shareholder have to abstain from voting as in the case of refreshing a general mandate under Main Board Rule 13.36(4)(a) (GEM Rule 17.42A)?	No. Main Board Rule 13.36(4)(a) (GEM Rule 17.42A) is not applicable to the refreshment of the General Property Acquisition Mandate.

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response	
33	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 April 2015)				
34	(FAQ withdrawn	n on 30 September	r 2009)		
35	13.51(1)	17.50(1)	A listed issuer proposes to seek shareholders' approval for certain amendments to its articles of association. Main Board Rule 13.51(1) (GEM Rule 17.50(1)) requires the listed issuer to obtain a confirmation from its legal advisers that the proposed amendments comply with the requirements of the Exchange Listing Rules and the laws of the place where it is incorporated or otherwise established. The Rule also requires the listed issuer to ensure there is nothing unusual about the proposed amendments for a company listed in Hong Kong. Is the listed issuer required to obtain a legal opinion in this regard? (Updated in December 2023)	that there is nothing unusual about the proposed amendments to its articles of association, it is up to the listed issuer to decide whether an enquiry with its legal advisers needs to be made to assist the directors to determine whether there is anything unusual about the proposed amendments to the articles of association. In assessing the question of what is unusual, the directors should have regard to whether the proposed amendments are customary or a common feature of the articles of association of companies listed in Hong Kong.	

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response	
36	(FAQ withdrawn on 31 December 2023)				
37	13.51(2)(c)	17.50(2)(c)	Please clarify what "professional qualification" under Main Board Rule 13.51(2)(c)/GEM Rule 17.50(2)(c) refers to.	1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
38	13.52(2)	17.53(2)	Will the Exchange review announcements submitted by a listed issuer before publication that are not subject to the pre-vetting requirement under Main Board Rule 13.52(2) (GEM Rule 17.53(2))?	consult the Exchange on any Rule compliance	
39	13.52(2)	17.53(2)	Where a listed issuer publishes an announcement under the Rules that is not subject to the prevetting requirement under Main Board Rule 13.52(2) (GEM Rule 17.53(2)), will the Exchange require the listed issuer to submit any documents (for example Listing Rule compliance checklists) for the purpose of post-	share/ discloseable transaction required under Main Board Rules 14.34 and 14.35(GEM Rules 19.34 and 19.35), the listed issuer must complete the "Size Tests Checklist" and submit it to the Listing Division not later than	

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response
			vetting the announcement?	respect of an announcement published by the issuer to demonstrate its compliance with the Rules. In such cases, the Exchange will inform the listed issuer of the specific information and/ or documents required. A checklist for disclosure requirements applicable to a particular type of announcement may need to be submitted by the listed issuer upon request by the Exchange in individual cases.
40	13.52A	17.53A	Under what circumstances will the Exchange exercise the right under Main Board Rule 13.52A (GEM Rule 17.53A) to request review of announcements, circulars or other documents before their publication?	the case where the Exchange has an interest in reviewing certain disclosure in a listed issuer's announcement, for example the

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response
40A	(FAQ withdraw	n on 31 Decemb	per 2023)	
41	14.04 14.29	19.04 19.29	If a listed subsidiary issues new shares by way of a general mandate to acquire assets, what are the notifiable transaction implications for the listed parent?	An allotment of shares by the listed subsidiary would be a deemed disposal for the listed parent and the transaction, depending on the size tests as defined in Main Board Rule 14.04(9) (GEM Rule 19.04(9)), may fall to be treated as a very substantial disposal, major transaction or discloseable transaction of the listed parent and be subject to the relevant notifiable transaction requirements under Main Board Chapter 14 (GEM Chapter 19). Furthermore, the acquisition of assets by the listed subsidiary would constitute an acquisition of assets by the listed parent (or its subsidiary). The transaction, depending on the size tests defined in Main Board Rule 14.04(9) (GEM Rule 19.04(9)), may fall to be treated as a very substantial acquisition, major transaction or discloseable transaction of the listed parent and be subject to the relevant
				notifiable transaction requirements under Main Board Chapter 14 (GEM Chapter 19).
42	14.04 14.29	19.04 19.29	If a listed subsidiary conducts a placing of new shares by way of a	An allotment of shares by the listed subsidiary would also be a deemed disposal for the listed

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response
			general mandate, would it also constitute a notifiable transaction for the listed parent?	parent as it would result in a reduction in the percentage equity interest of the listed parent in such subsidiary. Accordingly, the transaction, depending on the size tests as defined in Main Board Rule 14.04(9) (GEM Rule 19.04(9)), may fall to be treated as a very substantial disposal, major transaction or discloseable transaction of the listed parent and subject to relevant notifiable transaction requirements under Main Board Chapter 14 and GEM Chapter 19.
				Where the size of the deemed disposal falls to be a major transaction or above, the placing is subject to approval by shareholders of the listed parent. The Exchange ordinarily expects the listed parent in these circumstances to maintain control over the matter by making the general mandate of the listed subsidiary conditional on it not triggering a major transaction for the listed parent. Issuers should make prior consultation with the Exchange if they anticipate any practical issues relating to compliance in this connection.
43	14.23A, 14A.84, 14A.85, 14A.86	19.23A, 20.82, 20.83, 20.84	Should an issuer consult the Exchange under Main Board Rule 14.23B (GEM Rule 19.23B) if: (a) the proposed transactions, even when aggregated with the previous transaction(s), will not exceed the	No. The purpose of the Rules is to provide guidance to issuers to comply before entering into the transaction. Circumstances in (a) and (b) do not involve any risk of non-compliance with the Rules. [Updated in February 2020] 1.

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response	
			percentage ratios to be treated as a notifiable transaction or a connected transaction subject to the announcement, reporting and/ or shareholders' approval requirements; or (b) the issuer has already decided to aggregate the proposed transaction with the previous transaction(s) and comply with the requirements for the relevant classification of the transaction when aggregated?		
44	(FAQ withdraw	(FAQ withdrawn on 2 July 2010)			
45	14.67A(1)	19.67A(1)	Are listed issuers required to obtain prior consent from the Exchange in order to defer complying with the disclosure requirements in the initial circular?	Yes, the issuers must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Exchange that the conditions set out in paragraphs (1)(a), (b) and (c) of Main Board Rule 14.67A/ GEM Rule 19.67A are met. Issuers are also encouraged to consult the Exchange at the earliest opportunity.	
46	(FAQ withdrawn in February 2020)				
47	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 February 2011)				
48	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 July 2014)				
49	17.06A	23.06A	Should the announcement be	Main Board Rule 17.06A (GEM Rule 23.06A)	

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response
			made when a share option is granted or when it is accepted?	requires an issuer to publish an announcement as soon as possible upon the granting of an option or award under a share scheme. Under Main Board Rule 17.01A (GEM Rule 23.01A), "grant" is defined to include "offer". The issuer should therefore publish its announcement as soon as possible upon the offer of the option, whether or not it has been accepted. The intention of Rule 17.06A is to minimise opportunities to backdate share options or awards.
				(Updated in March 2009 and January 2023)
50	(FAQ withdraw	n in February 2020))	
51	3.09B, 3.09C, 3.09D	5.02B, 5.02C, 5.02D	Will directors still be subject to criminal liability for false or misleading information which they provide to the Exchange, notwithstanding the removal of the submission requirement of Form 5B under the Main Board Rules (or Form 6A under the GEM Rules)?	Yes. Since the directors' undertakings under the repealed Form 5B under the Main Board Rules (or the repealed Form 6A under the GEM Rules) have been codified into the Listing Rules, a director or supervisor who provides information to the Exchange which is false or misleading in a material particular, may be in breach of section 384 of the Securities and Futures Ordinance, and therefore subject to the criminal sanctions imposed by that section. [Updated in December 2023]
52	(FAQ withdraw	n in December 202	23)	[[DPGGGGG III DGGGIIIDGI 2020]

No.	Main Board	GEM	Query	Response		
	Rules	Rules				
53	(FAQ withdrawn in February 2020)					
54	(FAQ withdrawn in December 2023)					
55	(FAQ withdrawn on 30 September 2009)					
56	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 April 2015)					
57	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 April 2015)					
58	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 April 2015)					
59	(FAQ withdrawn in January 2024)					

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response	
60	Appendix C3, Paragraph 7(d)(viii)	5.52(4)(h)	Please clarify the meaning of "beneficial ownership is transferred from another party by operation of law".	This refers to the situation where the transfer occurs automatically as a result of applicable laws rather than any act on the part of the relevant parties. For example, the director may be entitled to receive an interest in securities as a result of the laws governing intestacy or, where the director is a joint holder of securities, the director may obtain ownership of the securities if the other joint holder dies.	
61	(FAQ withdrawn	in February 2020)		
62	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 April 2015)				
63	Appendix C3, Rule A.3	5.56	When should the black out period start if an issuer anticipates a delay in publishing its results announcement?	The default position is that the latest any black out period can start is 60 days or 30 days before the intended reporting day for annual or interim results. This is so even if it expects that the publication date will be later than the deadline imposed by the Listing Rules. (Updated December 2023)	
64	Appendix C3, Rule A.3	5.56	An issuer has notified the Exchange of the commencement date of the black out period under paragraph (b) of Rule A.3 of Appendix C3 of the Main Board Rules (GEM Rule 5.56). If it later decides to postpone publication, should the black out period be based on the revised publication	No. The commencement date of the black out period does not change if the issuer decides to postpone publishing the results after it has notified the Exchange. The black out period will be extended and end on the date of publication. (Updated December 2023)	

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response	
			date?		
65	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 March 2019)				
66	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 April 2015)				
67	Appendix C3, Rule A.3	5.56	Is a director permitted to deal on the actual day on which the issuer's financial results are published?	No. Rule A.3(a) states that a director must not deal in any securities of the issuer on any day on which its financial results are published.	
68	Appendix C3, Rule A.3	5.56	Does the notification to the Exchange under Rule A.3(b) have	(Updated in December 2023) Yes.	
60	A managhin	5.50	to be in writing?	(Updated in December 2023)	
69	Appendix C3, Rule A.3	5.56	Rule A.3 of Appendix C3 of the Main Board Rules (GEM Rule 5.56) provides that the black out period may commence "from the end of the relevant financial year up to the publication date of the results". Please clarifywhether the	immediately following the financial year end date.	
			period commences on the day the financial year end or the day immediately following the financial year end.		
70	(FAQ withdrawn on 1 April 2015)				
71	(FAQ withdrawn in February 2020)				

No.	Main Board Rules	GEM Rules	Query	Response
72	Appendix D2	18.39	its annual report the engagement of an accountant who is to be in charge of the issuer's accounting	Yes. If an accountant is in charge of the issuer's accounting and financial reporting function, he should be considered "senior management" and his biographical details should be disclosed as required under the Rules. [Updated in December 2023]