



1957 & Co. (Hospitality) Limited
(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 8495)

Audit Committee

Terms of Reference

(Adopted on 6 November 2017 and revised with effect from 1 January 2019)

Preamble

1. 1957 & Co. (Hospitality) Limited (the “*Company*”) was listed on GEM of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “*HKEx*”) on 5 December 2017.

In compliance with the code provisions of the Corporate Governance Code issued by the HKEx (the “*Corporate Governance Code*”), an audit committee (the “*Audit Committee*”) needs to be established with the terms of reference as set out and adopted herein.

Constitution

2. The Audit Committee was established by resolutions of the board of directors of the Company (the “*Board*” and each director of the Board, a “*Director*”) on 6 November 2017.

Membership

3. The members of the Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board from amongst the non-executive Directors and shall consist of not less than three members, a majority of whom should be independent non-executive Directors and at least one of whom should be an independent non-executive Director with appropriate professional qualifications or accounting or related financial management expertise as required by the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on GEM of HKEx (the “*GEM Listing Rules*”). The quorum of an Audit Committee meeting shall be the majority of the Audit Committee, one of whom must be an independent non-executive Director. R5.28
4. A former partner of the Company’s existing auditing firm shall be prohibited from acting as a member of the Audit Committee for a period of two years from the date of the person ceasing:
 - (a) to be a partner of the firm; or
 - (b) to have any financial interest in the firm, whichever is the later.A15,
C.3.2
5. The chairman of the Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board and should be an independent non-executive Director. R5.28
6. The term of office of a member of the Audit Committee shall be determined by the Board.

Attendance at meetings

7. The external auditors, chief financial officer, the head of internal audit of the Company and representatives of the external auditors shall normally attend meetings. However, at least once a year the Audit Committee shall meet with the external and internal auditors without the executive Directors present. A15,
C.3.3

Frequency and procedure of meetings

8. Unless otherwise stated herein, the meetings of the Audit Committee are governed by the provisions regulating the meetings and proceedings of Directors in the Company's articles of association.
9. Meetings shall be held not less than twice a year or more frequently if the Audit Committee determines it to be necessary. The external auditors may request a meeting if they consider that one is necessary. Meetings may be conducted by way of telephone or other electronic means.
10. The secretary of the Audit Committee shall be a company secretary of the Company or his appointed delegate.
11. An agenda and any accompanying Committee papers should be sent in full to all members of the Audit Committee in a timely manner and at least three days before the proposed date of a meeting of the Audit Committee (or other agreed period). A15,
A.7.1
12. The Company is obliged to supply the members of the Audit Committee with adequate information, in a timely manner, in order to enable them to make informed decisions. Where more detailed and complete information is requested from the senior management, the respective Director shall make further inquiries if needed. The Board or individual director(s) could contact the executive officers and/or senior management of the Company individually and independently. A15,
A.7.2

Annual General Meeting

13. The chairman of the Audit Committee shall attend the Company's annual general meeting and be prepared to respond to any shareholder's questions on the Audit Committee's activities. A15,
E.1.2
14. If the chairman of the Audit Committee is unable to attend an annual general meeting of the Company, he shall arrange for another member of the Audit Committee, or failing this, his duly appointed delegate, to attend in his place. Such person shall be prepared to respond to any shareholder's questions on the Audit Committee's activities. A15,
E.1.2

Authority

15. The Audit Committee is authorised by the Board to seek any information it requires from any employee of the Company or its subsidiaries in order to perform its duties unless the relevant subsidiaries are reasonably justified not to provide such information and the relevant employees are directed to co-operate with any request made by the Audit Committee. It is also authorised by the Board to investigate any activity mentioned in these terms of reference or otherwise affecting the integrity of the Company.
16. The Audit Committee is authorised by the Board to obtain outside independent professional advice, at the Company's expense, and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary. The A15,
A.1.6

Audit Committee shall be exclusively responsible for establishing the selection criteria, selecting, appointing and setting the terms of reference for any external auditors who advise the Audit Committee.

17. The Audit Committee is authorised by the Board to review the effectiveness of the Company's and its subsidiaries' internal control systems, covering all material controls, including financial, operational and compliance controls and risk management functions including financial, business, operational and other risks of the Company and its subsidiaries to undertake any related investigations. A15,
C.2.4
(d)

Duties

18. The duties of the Audit Committee shall include:

Relationship with the Company's auditors

- (a) making recommendations to the Board on the appointment, reappointment and/or removal of the external auditors, and to approve the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external auditors, and to consider any questions of resignation or dismissal of those auditors; A15,
C.3.3
(a)
- (b) reviewing and monitoring the external auditor's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process in accordance with applicable standards; A15,
(b)
- (c) developing and implementing policy on the engagement of the external auditors to supply non-audit services, and to report to the Board, identifying and making recommendations on any matters requiring action or improvement; A15,
C.3.3
(c)
- (d) discussing with the external auditors before the audit commences, the nature and scope of the audit, and ensuring co-ordination where more than one audit firm is involved; A15,
C.3.3
(b)
- (e) discussing problems and reservations arising from the interim and final audits, and any matters the external auditors may wish to discuss;

Review of financial information of the Company

- (f) monitoring the integrity of financial statements, annual reports and accounts, interim reports and, if prepared for publication, quarterly reports, and to review significant financial reporting judgments contained in them. In reviewing these reports and before submission to the Board, the Audit Committee should focus particularly on: A15,
C.3.3
(d)
- (i) any changes in accounting policies and practices;
- (ii) major judgmental areas;
- (iii) significant adjustments resulting from audit;
- (iv) the going concern assumptions and any qualifications;

- (v) compliance with accounting standards; and
- (vi) compliance with any requirements from the HKEx and other legal requirements in relation to financial reporting;
- (g) in regard to (f) above:
 - (i) liaising with the Board, financial controller and the person appointed as the Company's external auditors;
 - (ii) meeting, at least twice a year, with the Company's external auditors; and
 - (iii) considering any significant or unusual items that are, or may need to be, reflected in such financial statements, reports and accounts and giving due consideration to any matters that have been raised by the Company's staff responsible for the accounting and financial reporting function, compliance officer or external auditors;

A15,
C.3.3
(e)

Oversight of the Company's risk management, financial reporting system and internal control procedures

- (h) reviewing the Company's financial controls, internal control and risk management systems;

A15,
C.3.3
(f)
- (i) discussing the internal control system with the senior management and to ensure that the senior management has performed its duties in establishing and maintaining an effective internal control system, including adequacy of resources, staff qualifications and experience, training programmes and budget of the Company's accounting and financial reporting function;

A15,
C.3.3
(g)
- (j) considering the findings of major investigations on internal control matters as delegated by the Board or on its own initiative and the senior management's response to those findings;

A15,
C.3.3
(h)
- (k) where an internal audit function exists, ensuring co-ordination between the internal and external auditors and further ensuring that the internal audit function is adequately resourced and has appropriate standing within the Company, reviewing and monitoring its effectiveness, monitoring the planning of internal audit processes and overseeing the result of the work of the internal audit function;

A15,
C.3.3
(i)
- (l) reviewing the financial and accounting policies and practices of the Company and its subsidiaries and associated companies at the relevant time or, where the context so requires, in respect of the period before the Company became the holding company of its present subsidiaries and associated companies, the present subsidiaries and associated companies of the Company or the businesses operated by its present subsidiaries and associated companies or (as the case may be) its predecessor;

A15,
C.3.3
(j)

- (m) reviewing the external auditor’s management letter, any material queries raised by the auditor to the senior management about accounting records, financial accounts or systems of control and the senior management’s response; A15, C.3.3 (k)
- (n) ensuring that the Board will provide a timely response to the issues raised in the accounting auditor’s management letter; A15, C.3.3 (l)
- (o) reporting to the Board on the matters set out in these terms of reference; A15, C.3.3 (m)
- (p) to ensure cooperation between the internal and independent auditors, to ensure that the internal audit function is adequately resourced and has appropriate standing within the Company, and to review and monitor the effectiveness thereof: A15, C.3.3 (i)
- the Audit Committee shall maintain close contact with the internal audit team of the Company and its subsidiaries to enable organized and effective oversight of the operations and financial conditions of the Company and its subsidiaries, as well as any other audit tasks;
 - providing instructions and assistance to the internal audit team upon receipt of a report from the same regarding any particular audit conducted thereby which, in the opinion of the Audit Committee requires verification; and
 - where an audit support staff has provided instructions to the internal audit team or have received reports from the same, or under other similar circumstances, the Audit Committee shall formulate a system whereby such audit support staff shall report to the Audit Committee on the status and details of the relevant circumstances in a timely and appropriate manner.
- (q) establishing and monitoring the effectiveness of the implementation of the whistle-blowing policy and other means that employees and those who deal with the Company can use, in confidence, to raise concerns about possible improprieties in any matters related to the Company and to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for fair and independent investigation of these matters and for appropriate follow-up action and ensuring the effectiveness of the internal control committee, a sub-committee of the Audit Committee; A15, C.3.7 (a), C.3.8
- (r) acting as the key representative body for overseeing the Company’s relation with its external auditors; A15, C.3.7 (b)

Oversight of the Company’s corporate governance functions

- (s) reviewing and monitoring the Company’s policies and practices on compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; A15, D.3.1 (c)
- (t) reviewing and monitoring the training and continuous professional development of Directors and senior management; A15, D.3.1 (b)
- (u) developing, reviewing and monitoring the code of conduct and compliance manual (if any) applicable to employees and Directors; A15, D.3.1 (c)

- (v) developing and reviewing the Company's policies and practices on corporate governance and making recommendations to the Board and report to the Board on matters; A15,
D.3.1
(a)
- (w) reviewing the Company's compliance with the Corporate Governance Code and disclosure in the Corporate Governance Report; A15,
D.3.1
(e)
- (x) reviewing and monitoring the Company's compliance with the Company's whistle-blowing policy;

Oversight of the Company's continuing connected transaction

- (y) The Audit Committee also has the following functions to safeguard the annual review of the continuing connected transactions:
 - (i) meetings every six months to review the reports on continuing connected transactions;
 - (ii) power to request further information with respect to the Group's continuing connected transactions to be provided by the senior management of the Company as it deems to be appropriate for its review;
 - (iii) authority to appoint any financial or legal advisor as the Audit Committee considers necessary for its review;
 - (iv) decision-making in relation to the continuance or discontinuance of any of the Group's continuing connected transactions in accordance with the results of its review;
 - (v) the committee's approval being a condition precedent to the resolution of a Board meeting to approve any new continuing connected transactions or the renewal of any continuing connected transactions, as the case may be;
 - (vi) formation of its own opinion regarding the enforcement of the continuing connected transaction agreements and disclosure of such opinion in the Company's annual report for each financial year;
 - (vii) initiation of legal proceedings against the respective connected persons in the event any of the connected transaction agreements has been materially breached; and
 - (viii) the power to require alterations, modifications or changes to the terms of the continuing connected transactions in whatever manner as the Independent Non-executive Directors see fit to ensure all connected transactions are carried out on an arm's length basis.

General

- (i) considering any other topics, as determined by the Board.

Post-Audit Review Activities

19. In connection with or following the completion of its review of the external audit and internal audit, the Audit Committee or its chairman may in their discretion meet with the external auditors, internal auditors or financial controller to discuss any changes required in the audit plans for future periods and any other appropriate matters regarding the audit process.

Failure to reach an agreement regarding external auditors

20. Where the Board has taken a different view from the Audit Committee regarding the selection, appointment, resignation or dismissal of external auditors, the Audit Committee shall submit a statement to the Company explaining its recommendation, which statement will be disclosed by the Company in the Corporate Governance Report in accordance with Appendix 15 of the GEM Listing Rules. A15,
C.3.5

Reporting procedures

21. Full minutes of the Audit Committee's meetings should be kept by the secretary of the Audit Committee. The minutes shall be available for inspection at any reasonable time on reasonable notice by any Director. A15,
C.3.1
22. Minutes of meetings of the Audit Committee should record in sufficient detail the matters considered by the Audit Committee and decisions reached, including any concerns raised by the Directors, members or dissenting views expressed. Draft and final versions of minutes of such meetings should be sent to all members of the Audit Committee for their comment and records respectively, in both cases within a reasonable time after such meetings. The minutes of the meeting shall be signed and sealed or electronically signed, by all committee members present. A15,
A.1.5
23. Without prejudice to the generality of the duties of the Audit Committee set out above, the Audit Committee shall report back to the Board and keep the Board fully informed of its decisions and recommendations, unless there are legal or regulatory restrictions on doing so. A15,
D.2.2

Provision of Terms of Reference

24. The Audit Committee should provide these Terms of Reference upon request and upload it to the HKEx's website and the Company's website to explain the duties of the Audit Committee and the authority the Board has granted to it. A15,
C.3.4

Approval of Disclosure Statements

25. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for approving all disclosure statements in relation to the Audit Committee, including but not limited to relevant disclosure statements in annual reports, interim reports and information uploaded on the HKEx's website and the Company's website.

Review of Terms of Reference

26. The Audit Committee shall review these Terms of Reference annually, and may consider and submit to the Board any proposed changes that the Audit Committee deems appropriate or advisable.