

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD LISTING REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL

For the purpose of all the Questions and Answers issued by Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and expressions defined in the “Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad Main Market Listing Requirements” and “Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad ACE Market Listing Requirements” respectively (collectively “**Listing Requirements**”), when used in the Questions and Answers, have the meanings given in the said Listing Requirements, and –

“**ACE LR**” means Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad ACE Market Listing Requirements;

“**Bursa Securities**” means Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad; and

“**Main LR**” means Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad Main Market Listing Requirements.

The Questions and Answers illustrate and clarify the relevant provisions under the Listing Requirements. They are issued to aid listed issuers’ understanding and compliance with the Listing Requirements.

A user of the Questions and Answers should always read the Questions and Answers together with the Listing Requirements and, where necessary, seek qualified professional advice. These Questions and Answers are not a substitute for the Listing Requirements or the professional advice.

In formulating the “Answers”, we have in some cases assumed certain underlying facts, summarised the relevant provisions of the Listing Requirements or concentrated on one particular aspect of the question as the focal point of the issue. The “Answers” should therefore not be construed as being definitive and applicable to all cases where the scenario may appear to be similar. In any given case, a listed issuer must assess all the relevant facts and circumstances in complying with the Listing Requirements.

The Listing Division of Bursa Securities is available for consultation where interpretation or clarification of the Listing Requirements is required. Listed issuers and practitioners are welcome to contact Bursa Securities’ Listing Division should they have any query on the Listing Requirements.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD LISTING REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE ACE MARKET**

(As at 1 June 2023)

CHAPTER 1 – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definition of “core business”

Pursuant to Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR, “core business” means the business which provides the principal source of operating revenue or after-tax profit to a corporation and which comprises the principal activities of the corporation and its subsidiary companies.

The principal activities of ABC Bhd are manufacturing and property development.

(i) Scenario 1

Both principal activities of ABC Bhd generate the following operating revenue and after-tax profit for ABC Bhd:

	Manufacturing Business	Property Development Business
Operating Revenue	RM20 million	RM30 million
After-Tax Profit	RM15 million	RM24 million

Pursuant to the definition of “core business” in Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR, what is the core business of ABC Bhd?

As the operating revenue and after-tax profit of its property development business provide the higher quantitative contribution compared to the operating revenue and after-tax profit of its manufacturing business, the core business of ABC Bhd is property development.

(ii) Scenario 2

How does ABC Bhd determine its core business if both its principal activities generate the following operating revenue and after-tax profit?

	Manufacturing Business	Property Development Business
Operating Revenue	RM25 million	RM30 million
After-Tax Profit	RM18 million	RM15 million

If the figures in relation to the quantitative aspect of the core business definition do not clearly show the core business of ABC Bhd (i.e. where the operating revenue of its property development business is higher than that for its manufacturing business but its after-tax profit of its manufacturing business is higher than that for its property development business), ABC Bhd may take into account other relevant factors such as its corporate objectives and plans when determining its core business.

1.2 Definition of “independent director”

- (i) **Is there a difference between the definition of “officer” in sub-Rules (b) and (d) of the said definition of “independent director” in Chapter 1 of the ACE LR (“the said definition”)?**

Yes. For the purpose of sub-Rule (b) of the said definition, “**officer**” shall have the meaning set out in section 2 of the Companies Act 2016 (e.g. director, secretary or employee of a corporation) but excludes a director who has served as an independent director of an applicant, a listed corporation or any one or more of its related corporations for a cumulative period of less than 12 years, whereas for the purpose of sub-Rule (d) of the said definition, “**officer**” has been defined in Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR to be the chief executive, the chief operating officer, the chief financial controller or any other person primarily responsible for the operations or financial management of the applicant, listed corporation or its related corporation, by whatever name called.

- (ii) **Mr Y is currently a non-executive director of C Bhd, a listed corporation. Can Mr Y subsequently be designated as an independent director of C Bhd?**

Mr Y can only be designated as an independent director –

- after he observes a cooling-off period of 3 years as prescribed in sub-Rule (b)¹ of the said definition; and
- he meets the other independence criteria stipulated in the said definition.

- (iii) **Would an independent director of a subsidiary of a listed corporation, who is proposed to be appointed as an independent director of such listed corporation, be disqualified from acting as an independent director of such listed corporation pursuant to sub-Rule (b) of the said definition?**

No, an independent director of a subsidiary will not be disqualified from acting as an independent director of such listed corporation pursuant to sub-Rule (b) of the said definition if he or she has served the subsidiary or any other related corporation of such listed corporation for a cumulative period of less than 12 years.

¹ Sub-Rule (b) of the said definition stipulates that an independent director is one who is not, and has not been within the last 3 years, an officer of the applicant, listed corporation or any related corporation of such applicant or listed corporation (each corporation is referred to as the “**said Corporation**”). For this purpose, “**officer**” has the meaning given in section 2 of the Companies Act 2016 but excludes a director who has served as an independent director in any one or more of the said Corporations for a cumulative period of less than 12 years.

- (iv) **If *Mr A* were to be appointed by a listed corporation to act as a non-executive director of the listed corporation's unlisted subsidiary, would such appointment disqualify him from being an independent director of the listed corporation pursuant to sub-Rule (e) of the said definition?**

No, the appointment of *Mr A* by the listed corporation as a non-executive director of a non-listed subsidiary of a listed corporation would not disqualify him from being an independent director of such listed corporation pursuant to sub-Rule (e) of the said definition.

- (v) **What are the examples of "adviser" used in sub-Rule (f) of the said definition?**

"Adviser" is as defined in Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR and includes, amongst others, Advisers or Sponsors, Qualified Persons and Senior Officers of the Advisers or Sponsor, advocates and solicitors, licensed investment banks, universal brokers, tax consultants, accounting firms, auditing firms etc offering professional advisory services to the listed corporation or its related corporation.

- (vi) **Paragraph 5.1 of Guidance Note 9 in relation to sub-Rule (g) of the said definition states that a person is disqualified from being an independent director of a listed corporation if he –**

- **had engaged personally in transactions with the listed corporation or its related corporation (other than for board services as an independent director) within the last 3 years; or**
- **is presently a partner, director or major shareholder of a firm or corporation ("the Entity") (other than subsidiaries of the listed corporation) which has engaged in transactions with the listed corporation or its related corporation within the last 3 years,**

and the consideration in aggregate exceeds 5% of the gross revenue on a consolidated basis (where applicable) of the person or the Entity or RM1 million, whichever is the higher ("the said Threshold").

***Mr A* is an independent director of *X Bhd*, a listed corporation. If *Mr A* were to purchase a car from *X Bhd* for his own use, the value of which exceeds the said Threshold, would he be disqualified from being an independent director of *X Bhd* pursuant to sub-Rule (g) of the said definition and Paragraph 5.1 of Guidance Note 9?**

As clarified under paragraph 5.2(a) of Guidance Note 9, an acquisition of a car from the listed corporation will not be considered a "transaction" where it is purchased for personal use provided that the transaction is on normal commercial terms. Therefore, *Mr A* would not be disqualified from being an independent director of *X Bhd* pursuant to sub-Rule (g) of the said definition and paragraph 5.2(a) of Guidance Note 9 due to the purchase of the car, provided that the purchase is on normal commercial terms.

- (vii) ***Mr X is a director (and not a major shareholder) of A Bhd, a listed corporation. He is proposed to be appointed as an independent director of B Bhd, another listed corporation. A Bhd and B Bhd are engaged in transactions, the consideration of which exceeds the said Threshold. Would paragraph 5.1 of Guidance Note 9 preclude Mr X from being appointed as an independent director of B Bhd?***

Mr X would not be disqualified from being an independent director of B Bhd pursuant to sub-Rule (g) of the said definition and paragraph 5.2(b) of Guidance Note 9 if Mr X is not involved in the transactions entered into between A Bhd and B Bhd, i.e. Mr X is not the initiator, specified shareholder, agent or is not a party to such transactions, and provided that such transactions are on normal commercial terms.

- (viii) ***Mr X is an executive director of A Bhd, a listed corporation and is proposed to be appointed as an independent director of B Bhd, another listed corporation. A Bhd is a telecommunications corporation and provides telecommunications services to B Bhd, the amount of which exceeds the said Threshold. Mr X, being the executive director of A Bhd, is directly involved in the transactions entered into with B Bhd. Would sub-Rule (g) of the said definition preclude Mr X from acting as an independent director of listed corporation B Bhd?***

Mr X would not be disqualified from being an independent director of B Bhd pursuant to sub-Rule (g) of the said definition and paragraph 5.2(c)(i) of Guidance Note 9 provided that the services rendered by A Bhd are based on a non-negotiable fixed price or rate, which is published or publicly quoted, and the material terms including the prices or charges are applied consistently to all customers or classes of customers.

- (ix) ***In order to come within the ambit of “published or publicly quoted” as provided under paragraph 5.2(c) of Guidance Note 9, must the prices be advertised to the public?***

In order to satisfy the criterion of “published or publicly quoted” under paragraph 5.2(c) of Guidance Note 9, the prices need not be advertised. So long as the pre-determined prices are or can be made readily available to the public or customers, this criterion is deemed satisfied.

- (x) ***Mr A is appointed a director of X Bhd, a listed corporation on 5 August 2010. Mr A is also a major shareholder of Y Sdn Bhd. 5% of Y Sdn Bhd’s gross revenue for the financial years ending 31 December 2007, 31 December 2008 and 31 December 2009 amounted to RM800,000. Y Sdn Bhd supplied X Bhd with raw materials in March 2010 and April 2010, the value of which amounted to RM900,000. Is Mr A disqualified from being an independent director of X Bhd?***

The relevant threshold to be considered pursuant to paragraph 5.1 of Guidance Note 9 is RM1 million or 5% of Y Sdn Bhd’s gross revenue for the last 3 financial years whichever is the higher. As 5% of the gross revenue of Y Sdn Bhd for the last 3 financial years amounted to only RM800,000, the relevant threshold is RM1 million. Pursuant to paragraph 5.1 of Guidance Note 9, Mr A will not be disqualified from being an independent director of X Bhd because the value of the transactions

entered into with *Y Sdn Bhd* of which *Mr A* is a major shareholder does not exceed RM1 million.

- (xi) **Mr A is an independent director of *X Bhd*, a listed corporation. Mr A entered into a contract to provide technical services to a subsidiary of *X Bhd*, the consideration of which is RM5 million and constitutes 10% of Mr A's gross revenue. Does this mean that Mr A is disqualified from being an independent director insofar as that transaction is concerned?**

The disqualification to act as an independent director is not specific to a transaction. As *Mr A* had entered into a transaction that exceeds the said Threshold, *Mr A* is disqualified from being an independent director. *Mr A* would not qualify to act as an independent director of *X Bhd* until such time when he fulfils all the requirements of the said definition.

- (xii) **Would the issuance of shares by a listed corporation or its subsidiary to a director of such listed corporation constitute a "transaction" as used in sub-Rule (g) of the said definition?**

No, the issuance of shares by a listed corporation or its subsidiary to a director of such listed corporation would not constitute a "transaction" for the purposes of sub-Rule (g) of the said definition.

- (xiii) **Mr X will receive remuneration from the listed corporation for services rendered to the listed corporation as a director. Would Mr X be disqualified from being an independent director pursuant to sub-Rule (g) of the said definition, for receiving remuneration from the listed corporation, particularly if the remuneration exceeds the said Threshold?**

No, the receipt of remuneration for services rendered to the listed corporation as a director would not constitute a "transaction" for the purposes of sub-Rule (g) of the said definition.

- (xiv) **Sub-Rule (h) of the said definition stipulates that an independent director must be one who has not served as an independent director in any one or more of the said Corporations for a cumulative period of more than 12 years from the date of his or her first appointment as an independent director. How is the 12-year period computed?**

Sub-Rule (h) of the said definition seeks to address the issues of entrenchment, familiarity and dependency with the management of any said Corporation which affects the "independence" of a director. As such, in computing the 12-year period, a person's tenure as independent director in all the said Corporations within the listed corporation group will be aggregated during the same service period, irrespective of the number of directorships held within the said Corporations. The table below sets out examples illustrating this:

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No.	Illustrations	Tenure of service
(a)	<p><i>Mr. A</i> serves as an independent director in the –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listed corporation from 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2025 (3 years); and • listed subsidiary from 1 January 2027 – 31 December 2029 (3 years). 	His total period of service is 6 years.
(b)	<i>Mr. B</i> serves as an independent director in both the listed corporation and its listed subsidiary at the same time from 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025 (3 years).	The period of service is 3 years.
(c)	<p><i>Mr C</i> serves as an independent director in the –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listed corporation from 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025 (3 years); • listed subsidiary I from 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025 (2 years); and • listed subsidiary II from 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2027 (3 years). 	The period of service is 5 years (from 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2027).
(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. D</i> serves as an independent director in <i>X Berhad</i> (a listed corporation) from 1 January 2023 – 31 December 2025 (3 years). • <i>Mr. D</i> is also an independent director in <i>Y Bhd</i> from 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2027 (4 years). • <i>Y Bhd</i> is a listed subsidiary of <i>X Berhad</i>. • On 1 January 2027, <i>X Berhad</i> disposes all of its equity interests in <i>Y Bhd</i>. 	The period of service is 4 years (1 January 2023 – 31 December 2026 i.e. up until <i>Y Bhd</i> ceases to be a subsidiary of <i>X Berhad</i> , irrespective of whether <i>Mr. D</i> continues to be a director in <i>Y Bhd</i>).

(xv) ***Mr. E* served as an independent director in *K Berhad* (a listed corporation) from 1 June 2012 to 30 May 2015 (3 years). After leaving *K Berhad* for 2 years, *Mr. E* was appointed as an independent director in *L Bhd* (a subsidiary of *K Berhad*) from 1 June 2017 to 30 May 2021 (4 years).**

(a) **If *Mr. E* is appointed as an independent director of *K Berhad* again on 1 June 2023 after an absence of 2 years from the listed corporation group, how many years has *Mr. E* served as an independent director? Is his tenure as independent director refreshed from 1 June 2023?**

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Computation of the 12-year period in sub-Rule (h) of the said definition starts from the first day a person is appointed as an independent director and is calculated based on such person's years of service on a cumulative basis. The 12-year period will only be refreshed after such person has left the board and observed the cooling off period of at least 3 years as prescribed in sub-Rule (b) of the said definition.

Based on the facts above, computation of *Mr. E's* tenure continues from his previous years of service as independent director in the listed corporation group. Prior to his latest appointment as an independent director in *K Berhad* on 1 June 2023, *Mr. E* had served as an independent director in the listed corporation group for 7 years. Hence, he would be serving his 8th year as an independent director of *K Berhad* if he is appointed on 1 June 2023.

- (b) If *Mr. E* is appointed as an independent director of *K Berhad* on 1 June 2024 after an absence of 3 years from the listed corporation group, is his tenure as independent director refreshed?**

Yes, *Mr. E's* 12-year tenure as an independent director is refreshed from 1 June 2024.

- (xvi) *Mr. F* serves as an independent director in *P Bhd* (a listed corporation) from 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2022 (3 years). On 1 January 2023, he is re-designated as a non-independent director in *M Sdn Bhd*, an unlisted subsidiary of *P Bhd*, and serves for another 3 years. When can *Mr. F* be appointed as an independent director in *P Bhd* or any related corporation of *P Bhd*? Does his tenure start afresh or continue from his previous years of service as an independent director?**

Mr. F can only be considered for appointment as an independent director in *P Bhd* or any related corporation of *P Bhd* after serving a cooling-off period of 3 years as prescribed in sub-Rule (b) of the said definition and if he meets the other independence criteria stipulated in the said definition. In such instance, *Mr. F's* 12-year tenure as an independent director would start afresh from the date of his appointment in 2029.

- (xvii) *Mr. G* is currently an executive director of *Q Bhd*, a listed corporation. Can *Mr. G* subsequently be designated as an independent director of *Q Bhd*?**

Mr. G can only be designated as an independent director –

- after he observes a cooling-off period of 3 years as prescribed in sub-Rule (b) of the said definition; and
- he meets the other independence criteria stipulated in the said definition.

- (xviii) Can an independent director who has served on the board for more than 12 years be allowed to remain on the board?**

Yes, such person may remain on the board only if he or she is re-designated as a non-independent director.

- (xix) An independent director retires after serving for 12 years on the board of a listed corporation. Can the listed corporation subsequently appoint such person again as its independent director and if so, does the person's tenure as independent director start afresh?**

The listed corporation may appoint such person as an independent director of the listed corporation provided that the following are complied with:

- (a) such person has served a cooling-off period of at least 3 years as prescribed in sub-Rule (b) of the said definition;
- (b) such person satisfies all the independence criteria in the said definition; and
- (c) the listed corporation must justify the appointment of such person as an independent director, and explain why there is no other eligible candidate, in the statement accompanying the notice of general meeting and immediate announcement on the appointment of such director.

In such instance, the person's 12-year tenure as an independent director in the listed corporation will start afresh from the date of his latest appointment.

Notwithstanding the above, the listed corporation is strongly encouraged to seek other suitable candidates for the independent director position.

1.3 Definition of "person connected"

Is the stepmother of a director of a listed corporation deemed a family member of that director and hence, a person connected with that director?

Although a stepmother would not be regarded as a family member for purposes of the ACE LR, a stepmother may still be regarded as a person connected with the director if she fulfils the other criteria of the definition of "person connected" as stipulated under Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR.

1.4 Definition of "public"

- (i) A collective investment scheme or statutory institution that is managing funds belonging to contributors or investors who are members of the public, subject to fulfilling certain conditions as set out in the ACE LR, would be deemed as "public" where its interest, direct or indirect, in a listed corporation is more than 5% but less than 15% of the total number of shares of such listed corporation. Would an associate of such collective investment scheme or statutory institution also be deemed as "public"?**

No, the associate of such a collective investment scheme or statutory institution would not be deemed as "public" under sub-Rule (c) of the definition "public" in Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR. Accordingly, the associate's shareholdings should be excluded from comprising the public shareholding spread.

- (ii) **Scheme A is a unit trust with an interest in 10% of the total number of listed shares in X Bhd. B is the fund manager of Scheme A. B holds 3% of the total number of shares of X Bhd. In computing its public spread, can X Bhd include both Scheme A and B as part of the public spread?**

X Bhd may include Scheme A in computing its public spread provided that Scheme A satisfies certain conditions as set out in the ACE LR but it cannot include B as "public". This is because B is an associate of Scheme A, which is a substantial shareholder of X Bhd.

- (iii) **It is noted that a "public" shareholder excludes a person who holds or acquires shares through artificial means. What are the circumstances or examples where a person is deemed to hold or acquire shares through artificial means?**

Some examples which fall within the ambit of "artificial means" are as follows:

- (a) shares given away as free shares;
- (b) shares given as a gift; and
- (c) providing financial assistance or loans to acquire shares to nominees of the directors or substantial shareholders.

1.5 What is the definition of "year" in the ACE LR? Does it refer to a calendar year or a financial year?

Where there is a reference to "year" in the ACE LR, it refers to a calendar year. Where the reference is intended to be in relation to a "financial year", the provision in the ACE LR will clearly state so.

1.6 Definition of "Surprise Holiday" and "market day"

- (i) **What is a Surprise Holiday, and under what circumstances will the Exchange operate on a Surprise Holiday?**

Under Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR, Surprise Holiday means a day that is declared as a public holiday in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur that has not been gazetted as a public holiday at the beginning of the calendar year. An example of a Surprise Holiday would be the declaration of a public holiday on 3 December 2021 for the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan in celebration of Kuala Lumpur City Football Club winning the Malaysia Cup on 30 November 2021.

Therefore, the provisions relating to Surprise Holidays in the ACE LR are meant to address public holidays which are unscheduled or unanticipated only.

The Exchange will take into consideration the following factors before deciding to operate on a Surprise Holiday, i.e. whether -

- (a) the Real-Time Electronic Transfer of Funds and Securities System, being the financial market infrastructure, is also operating on such day to facilitate the clearing and settlement service; and

(b) there is concurrence from the SC for the capital markets to remain open on the Surprise Holiday.

(ii) **How soon will the Exchange notify the market before it operates on a Surprise Holiday, and how will the market be notified?**

The Exchange will endeavour to provide advance notice to the industry and market in a timely manner. The Exchange will issue a media release to inform the public if it decides to operate on a Surprise Holiday.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 10 January 2023)**

CHAPTER 2 – GENERAL

Guidance Notes

2.1 If a listed corporation breaches a requirement set out in a Guidance Note, will it be in breach of the ACE LR?

Yes, Guidance Notes form part of the ACE LR. Hence, a listed corporation that fails to comply with a Guidance Note would be in breach of the ACE LR and would be subject to enforcement action by Bursa Securities.

Letters of compliance

2.2 What should be contained in a "letter of compliance" referred to in Rule 2.12 of the ACE LR and to whom must the "letter of compliance" be addressed?

The "letter of compliance" must be addressed to Bursa Securities and should confirm that the provisions of the document to which it relates, comply with the ACE LR and the Rules of Bursa Malaysia Depository Sdn Bhd.

2.3 Can a listed corporation provide a letter of compliance which contains certain qualifications, for example, that generally a particular document complies with the ACE LR except for a few provisions, which are specifically set out in the letter of compliance itself?

Listed corporations must ensure that the constitution, trust deed, deed poll or bylaws of a Share Issuance Scheme and any amendments to the said documents comply with the ACE LR. As such, a letter of compliance must not contain any qualifications. The letter of compliance must state that the whole document complies with the ACE LR and the Rules of Bursa Malaysia Depository Sdn Bhd.

2.4 Who should write the letter of compliance?

Pursuant to Rule 2.12 of the ACE LR, the letter of compliance must be written by a person with legal qualifications provided that in circumstances set out below, it may be written by the following additional persons:

- (a) in the case of bylaws of a Share Issuance Scheme (and any amendment to the bylaws), by the listed corporation's advisers; and
- (b) in the case of an amendment to constitution, by the listed corporation's advisers or its company secretary.

2.5 Can the in-house legal adviser of a listed corporation write the letter of compliance to Bursa Securities?

Yes, the in-house legal adviser of a listed corporation may write the letter of compliance to Bursa Securities.

Qualification of directors, chief executive and chief financial officer**2.6 A listed corporation must ensure that each of its directors, chief executive and chief financial officer has the character, experience, integrity, competence and time to effectively discharge his role as a director, chief executive or chief financial officer, of the listed corporation. How does the listed corporation comply with this requirement as set out in Rule 2.20A of the ACE LR¹?**

In ensuring that its directors, chief executive and chief financial officer meet the requirements set out in Rule 2.20A of the ACE LR, a listed corporation should, as a minimum, be guided by the principles, recommendations and commentaries set out in the Malaysian Code of Corporate Governance 2012, particularly Principle 2 and Principle 4. This assessment should be undertaken whenever –

- (a) the listed corporation appoints, elects or re-elects its directors, chief executive or chief financial officer, as the case may be; or
- (b) the listed corporation conducts its yearly assessment on the performance of its directors, chief executive or chief financial officer, as the case may be; or
- (c) material information involving the said persons comes to the knowledge of the listed corporation.

2.6A What are some of the factors which a listed corporation and its nominating committee should consider when assessing whether a director has the *time* to effectively discharge his or her role as director pursuant to Rule 2.20A of the ACE LR?

In undertaking the assessment on the director's time commitment, the listed corporation and its nominating committee should evaluate whether sufficient time and attention is given to the affairs of the listed corporation, in light of the position(s) the director holds in the listed corporation. In this regard, the listed corporation and its nominating committee should consider, among others, the director's –

- attendance at board or committee meetings, major company events, briefings or site visitations;
- participation in continuing training programmes;
- directorships in other listed corporations, public companies and corporations incorporated and listed outside Malaysia; and
- other commitments or positions and the time commitment involved.

¹ Rule 2.20A of the ACE LR provides that a listed corporation must ensure that each of its directors, chief executive and chief financial officer has the character, experience, integrity, competence and time to effectively discharge his role as a director, chief executive or chief financial officer, of the listed corporation.

Undertaking by adviser**2.7 Are advisers required to file undertakings with Bursa Securities?**

Under Rule 2.21 of the ACE LR, only advisers who present, submit or disclose an application, circular or any information or other document to Bursa Securities on behalf of an applicant or a listed corporation, must file undertakings with Bursa Securities.

2.8 Must an adviser who is subject to Rule 2.21(1) of the ACE LR file an undertaking each time it acts for a listed corporation?

No, an adviser who is subject to Rule 2.21(1) has to file only 1 undertaking. Such undertaking will be applicable for all clients. The form of the undertaking has been prescribed in Appendix 2A of the ACE LR.

2.9 When must an adviser who is subject to Rule 2.21(1) of the ACE LR file an undertaking with Bursa Securities?

An adviser who is subject to Rule 2.21(1) must file an undertaking with Bursa Securities before the submission of documents to Bursa Securities.

If the adviser is involved in the application for admission of an applicant to the Official List, such adviser must provide the undertaking to Bursa Securities together with the submission of the pre-admission consultation pack under paragraph 2A.0 of Guidance Note 15.

Share registrar**2.10 How does a listed corporation ensure compliance with Rule 2.21A of the ACE LR in relation to the appointment of its share registrar?**

The requirements under Rule 2.21A of the ACE LR set out the general criteria and factors to be taken into account by a listed corporation when appointing and retaining a share registrar. The main objectives of the requirements are to facilitate the appointment and retention of suitable share registrars who are able to ensure the proper performance of the listed corporation's obligations under the ACE LR and provide better quality services in a professional manner.

Hence, a listed corporation in appointing a share registrar, must be satisfied that the share registrar is able to provide the services that meet with its needs and expectations in line with the objectives of the requirements. For this purpose, the listed corporation may, amongst others:

- (a) make reasonable due enquiries to ensure and satisfy itself that the share registrar complies with Rule 2.21A of the ACE LR prior to the appointment of the share registrar; and
- (b) reflect the relevant provisions in Rule 2.21A of the ACE LR in the terms of engagement or service agreements entered into between the listed corporation and the share registrar, where appropriate.

2.11 How does a listed corporation ensure that the share registrar it has appointed continues to comply with the provisions set out in Rule 2.21A of the ACE LR?

A listed corporation may, for instance, monitor and review the performance of the share registrar in providing its services from time to time. Again, the listed corporation must be guided by the requirements of Rule 2.21A where relevant, in making its assessment. For example, the listed corporation should take into account whether the share registrar had, from the last review, provided its services in a timely and efficient manner. In this regard, the listed corporation should take into account the feedback received from its shareholders, and also take the appropriate steps to investigate into complaints received from its shareholders in relation to the services provided by its share registrar.

Controlling Person**2.12 Who are the Controlling Person referred to in Rule 2.22 of the ACE LR?**

“Controlling Persons” is defined in Rule 2.22 as a person who is, pursuant to a court order or otherwise, appointed to take possession or control over all or major assets of, or becomes responsible for the management of a listed corporation. This includes an interim liquidator appointed by the court.

2.13 Must a Controlling Person file an undertaking each time it acts for a listed corporation?

Yes, a Controlling Person must file 1 undertaking for each listed corporation it acts for. The form of the undertaking has been prescribed in Appendix 2B of the ACE LR.

Issuance of documents through electronic means**2.14 Rule 2.19B of the ACE LR provides that a listed corporation may send any document required to be sent under the ACE LR to its securities holders (“Documents”), by electronic means subject to compliance with certain prescribed conditions. What constitutes electronic means under Rule 2.19B of the ACE LR?**

Some of the electronic means contemplated include electronic mail (“**email**”), listed corporation’s website, or other electronic mode of communication agreed between the listed corporation and its securities holders.

2.15 A listed corporation which intends to send Documents to its securities holders via electronic means must, among others, ensure that its constitution provides for the use of electronic means, specifies the manner in which the electronic means is to be used and states that the contact details of a securities holder as provided to the Depository shall be deemed as the last known address provided by the securities holder to the listed corporation for purposes of communication with the securities holder.

What are the details that a listed corporation’s constitution should specify relating to the manner in which the electronic means is to be used?

The listed corporation may set out operational details pertaining to the use of the electronic means such as information on –

- the type of electronic means adopted and specific provisions relating to such electronic means such as the requirement for separate notification for publication on website and proof of delivery for Documents issued via email;
- the type of Documents which may be issued via electronic means;
- the addresses or contact details in which the Documents will be sent to;
- when a Document is deemed delivered pursuant to the electronic means; and
- alternative arrangements to send the Documents to securities holders in the event of delivery failure.

2.16 If a listed corporation chooses website as the mode of communication with its securities holders, how may the listed corporation give the separate notification in writing as required under Rule 2.19B(b) of the ACE LR?

The listed corporation may give the separate notification in writing in hard copy (e.g. letter) or by way of electronic means other than through the listed corporation's website (e.g. email, short messaging service ("SMS")) or any other form of communication permitted under the listed corporation's constitution for purposes of notification.

2.17 Rule 2.19B(c) of the ACE LR stipulates that there must be proof of delivery if a Document or notification is sent to securities holders through email. How does a listed corporation show proof of email delivery?

An email is deemed delivered if there is no written notification of delivery failure and there is record of the email being sent. This would serve as proof of email delivery as required under the ACE LR.

2.18 Where a listed corporation sends the Documents via email to its securities holders, what should a listed corporation do in the event of a delivery failure?

In the event of a delivery failure, the listed corporation must immediately send the Documents to the affected securities holders by other appropriate means as permitted under the listed corporation's constitution, such as in hardcopies. In this regard, the listed corporation should ensure that its constitution sets out, among others, the manner of which the Documents are to be sent to the affected securities holders in the event of a delivery failure.

2.19 What are the additional information which a listed corporation should provide to its securities holders when sending them the Documents by electronic means?

A listed corporation should, among others, inform the securities holders that they have the right to request for a hard copy of the Documents and how may they make such a request.

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- 2.20 Rule 2.19B(e) of the ACE LR stipulates that a listed corporation must send documents required to be completed by securities holders for a rights issue or offer for sale (“Rights Issue and Offer for Sale Documents”) through electronic mail, in hard copy or in any other manner as the Exchange may prescribe from time to time. What are the documents that fall within the ambit of Rights Issue and Offer for Sale Documents?**

The Rights Issue and Offer for Sale Documents are documents or forms that securities holders need to complete and submit to the listed corporation within a specified timeframe in relation to a rights issue or offer for sale. These include, the notices of provisional allotment and rights subscription forms (in the case of a rights issue) notices of provisional offer and offer acceptance forms (in the case of an offer for sale).

- 2.21 Is the Notice of Election and Dividend Reinvestment Form (“DRS Document”) in relation to the Dividend Reinvestment Scheme subject to the requirements set out in Rule 2.19B(e) of the ACE LR which must be sent via email, hardcopy or in any other manner prescribed by the Exchange?**

No, the DRS Document is not subject to the requirements set out in Rule 2.19B(e). A listed corporation may determine how the DRS Document should be sent to its securities holders in accordance with its constitution to encourage greater participation.

- 2.22 Is a listed corporation in compliance with Rule 2.19B(e) of the ACE LR if it publishes its abridged prospectus in relation to a rights issue on its website and forward the rights subscription form in hardcopies to its securities holders?**

Yes. The listed corporation is in compliance with the requirement under the ACE LR so long as the documents which are required to be completed by securities holders in relation to the rights issue (e.g. notices of provisional allotment and rights subscription forms) are sent in hardcopy, by way of email, or in any other manner as the Exchange may prescribe from time to time.

- 2.23 A listed corporation has opted to send the Rights Issue and Offer for Sale Documents via email to its shareholders who have given their email addresses to the Depository. Must the listed corporation forward hard copies of the documents if these shareholders request for hard copies of the same?**

Yes, the listed corporation is still required to send hard copies of the notices of provisional allotment and rights subscription forms to its shareholders who request for the same pursuant to Rule 2.19B(d) of the ACE LR.

- 2.24 Rule 2.19B(d) of the ACE LR requires a listed corporation to forward a hard copy of the Document to the securities holder as soon as reasonably practicable after the receipt of the request. What is the reasonably practicable timeframe for a listed corporation to forward hard copies of the Document after the receipt of such request?**

Generally, hardcopies of the Rights Issue and Offer for Sale Documents, should be given within 2 market days after the receipt of the request. This is to ensure that securities holders have sufficient time to understand the procedures involved and act immediately or promptly to complete the forms within the specified timeframe for the rights issue or offer for sale.

As for Documents other than the Rights Issue and Offer for Sale Documents, hardcopies of such documents should be given within 4 market days after receipt of the request.

Obligation to comply with the ACE LR on a Surprise Holiday which is a market day

- 2.25 Will a listed corporation be required to fulfill its obligations under the ACE LR if the Exchange operates on a Surprise Holiday? Will the answer be any different if the listed corporation is not open on such day?**

Yes, a listed corporation is expected to make the necessary arrangements to execute its duties and obligations on the Surprise Holiday, irrespective whether it remains open or otherwise.

There may be some instances of Surprise Holidays that are sudden, or announced pursuant to the Holidays Act 1951 with short notice. The Exchange will take into consideration all facts and circumstances before deciding if any variation to the obligations or timelines applicable to the listed corporation under the ACE LR should be considered on a case-to-case basis, in such instances.

A listed corporation may consult the Exchange for guidance if it foresees any issues with meeting its obligations.

- 2.26 How will a period of market days be computed if there is a Surprise Holiday within that period where the Exchange is open for trading in securities?**

The Surprise Holiday will be included in the computation of the period of market days. This means that a listed corporation must also comply with, or give effect to, the provisions in the ACE LR within a stipulated timeframe which falls on, or includes, the Surprise Holiday.

Please see the Illustration below:

ILLUSTRATION**Facts:**

- *Mr. A* is a director of *ABC Berhad*, a listed corporation.
- *Mr. A* deals in the listed securities of *ABC Berhad* on 16 January 2023, which is outside a closed period.

Computation of time in respect of the listed corporation's obligations:

Under Rule 14.09 of the ACE LR, *Mr. A* must, within 3 market days after the dealing has occurred, give notice of the dealing in writing to the company secretary of *ABC Berhad* and *ABC Berhad* must immediately announce such notice to the Exchange.

Based on the scenarios above, the last day on which *Mr. A* and *ABC Berhad* must comply with their obligations is as follows:

Example	Monday 16.1.2023	Tuesday 17.1.2023	Wednesday 18.1.2023	Thursday 19.1.2023	Friday 20.1.2023
If there is no Surprise Holiday	* Dealing by <i>Mr. A</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Mr. A</i> gives notice of dealing ✓ <i>ABC Berhad</i> makes immediate announcement of the notice 	
If there is a Surprise Holiday on the last day of the notice period i.e. Thursday, 19 January 2023 where the Exchange is open for trading	* Dealing by <i>Mr. A</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Mr. A</i> gives notice of dealing ✓ <i>ABC Berhad</i> makes immediate announcement of the notice 	
If there is a Surprise Holiday in between the notice period i.e. Tuesday, 17 January 2023 where the Exchange is open for trading	* Dealing by <i>Mr. A</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Mr. A</i> gives notice of dealing ✓ <i>ABC Berhad</i> makes immediate announcement of the notice 	

As illustrated above, there is no change to the computation of market days under the ACE LR if the Exchange is open for trading on a Surprise Holiday.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD LISTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACE MARKET
(As at 1 January 2022)**

CHAPTER 3 - ADMISSION*Pre-admission consultation***3.0 [Deleted]***Criteria for admission***3.1 Is the approval of the SC required for listing on the ACE Market?**

No. Except for debt securities issues, corporations seeking listing on the ACE Market will not require the SC's approval under section 212 of the CMSA. Additionally, applicants are no longer required to register their prospectus with the SC pursuant to section 232 of the CMSA. Such prospectuses must be registered with the Exchange instead. All requirements relating to admission and registration of prospectus will be governed by the ACE LR.

3.2 What are the types of corporations that may be listed on the ACE Market?

Eligible corporations from all business sectors will be allowed to raise funds from the ACE Market except special purpose acquisition companies ("SPACs"), incubators and corporations seeking secondary listing on the ACE Market.

3.3 Can an issuer list structured warrants, real estate investment trusts or exchange traded funds on the ACE Market?

No. Structured warrants, real estate investment trusts and exchange traded funds are only allowed to be listed on the Main Market.

3.4 Are shares held by employees of an applicant, its subsidiaries and holding company included for purposes of computing the public shareholding spread of an applicant?

Yes, the shares held by employees of an applicant, its subsidiaries and holding company can be included for purposes of computing the public shareholding spread provided that such employees fall within the definition of "public" in Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR.

3.4A Paragraph 3.2 of the Guidance Note 18 in the ACE LR prescribes amongst others, that an applicant is generally not regarded as suitable for listing if its business is loss making, shows declining profits which may raise doubt on its potential or it suffers from low profitability and without any growth in financial results ("Negative List"). However, such applicant may still be considered for listing if it is an innovative company involved either in technology-based business or research and development or it has taken steps to improve its financial performance or it has strategy to revive its business in the future, and there are acceptable justifications on the prospects of the applicant's business.

- (a) **Is there a specific quantum and time frame applicable in assessing whether the applicant's business is loss making, shows declining profits or suffers from low profitability without any growth in financial results?**

No, there is no specific quantum and timeframe which will be applied as the criteria will operate on a case by case basis, having considered the relevant facts and circumstances.

- (b) **Does an applicant which triggers the Negative List need to include prospective financial information in an initial listing application to Bursa Securities to justify the prospect of its business?**

No, an applicant is not required to include prospective financial information in an initial listing application to Bursa Securities pursuant to the ACE LR. Submission of any prospective financial information by an applicant is purely voluntary in nature.

- (c) **Would the requirements relating to Negative List apply to assets to be injected in a listed corporation, resulting in a significant change in business direction or policy of the listed corporation?**

Yes, the same requirements relating to Negative List would also be applicable to assets injected in a corporation, resulting in a significant change in business direction or policy.

Admission and prospectus registration processes & procedures

- 3.5 Must an applicant submit both the initial listing application ("ILA") and quotation application ("Quotation Application") to Bursa Securities before the listing of its shares?**

Under the enhanced initial listing process as set out in paragraph 2.0 of Guidance Note 15, an applicant is no longer required to submit 2 applications to Bursa Securities, namely –

- (a) an ILA for an approval-in-principle for the admission of shares; and
(b) a Quotation Application for quotation of shares on Bursa Securities.

Instead, the Quotation Application will be merged with the ILA and thus only one application is required to be submitted to Bursa Securities for listing of shares ("**Consolidated Application**").

- 3.6 What are the additional documents required to be submitted together with the Consolidated Application?**

In addition to the existing documents required under the ILA, all the requisite documents/confirmations required under the existing Quotation Application will also be procured in the form of undertakings when the applicant submits its Consolidated Application.

3.6A Under Guidance Note 15, an applicant is required to submit to the Exchange, a cover letter for the listing application and a cover letter for the Stage 1 prospectus registration. Does this mean that the applicant must submit two separate cover letters to the Exchange?

No. One cover letter containing the contents under paragraph 1(a) in Part B and paragraph 1(a) in Part C of Annexure GN15-A may be furnished to Bursa Securities for the listing application and Stage 1 prospectus registration.

3.6B Is an applicant still required to submit hard copies of the application for registration of prospectus and the relevant supporting documents to Bursa Securities?

Yes, in addition to the filing of electronic copies via BursaLINK, the applicant must still submit the hard copies of the application and supporting documents for both Stages 1 and 2 of prospectus registration, to Bursa Securities.

3.6C Under paragraph 9.1(a) of Guidance Note 15 of the ACE LR, an applicant must ensure that when it makes an application to register a prospectus, the information in the prospectus is substantially complete except in relation to information that by its nature can only be finalised and incorporated after the relevant authorities' approvals for the corporate proposal have been obtained. What are some examples of such information?

Examples of such information include, among others, agreements relating to underwriting, cornerstone investors and lock-up arrangements for cornerstone investors.

3.6D If an applicant decides to prepare an independent market research ("IMR") report, must the applicant submit the IMR report to the Bursa Securities in support of the ILA and disclose such in the prospectus?

Yes. Although the preparation of an IMR report is now made optional at the discretion of the applicant, if the applicant has opted to have an IMR report prepared to support the ILA or the preparation of the prospectus, the applicant must submit the IMR report containing the prescribed information under paragraph 1(m) of Part B of Annexure GN15-A to Bursa Securities and disclose such in the prospectus. In this regard, the IMR report must contain information about the industry and market in which the applicant operates that will aid investors' understanding about the applicant's business, and must also cover, amongst others, the background of the independent expert, an overview of the industry, commentary on the industry's size, outlook, prospects and competitive landscape, as well as an overview and appraisal of the applicant's business vis-à-vis the industry.

3.7 When will the listing and quotation of the new shares be effected on Bursa Securities?

The admission and listing of new shares on Bursa Securities will take place on the next market day upon the receipt of confirmation by the applicant from Bursa Depository that the new securities are ready for crediting into the respective securities accounts provided that the applicant has made the following announcements:

- (a) Announcement pursuant to paragraph 8.1 of Guidance Note 15 through Bursa Link via a dedicated template, "Timetable for IPO" on the issuance date of the prospectus.

The announcement must include the following information:

- The opening and closing date of the offer period;
- The balloting date;
- The allotment date of the IPO; and
- The tentative listing date.

If there is any change to the tentative listing date, the applicant must immediately announce the change to Bursa Securities.

- (b) Announcement pursuant to the paragraph 8.2 of Guidance Note 15 through Bursa Link via a dedicated template, "IPO template" before 3 p.m. on the market day before the listing date.

The announcement must include the following information:

- Actual date of listing;
- total number of shares which will be listed;
- Stock Short Name, Stock Code, ISIN Code; and
- Sector and market under which the new shares will be admitted.

3.8 Where can an applicant obtain the form prescribed by Bursa Securities for the classification of an applicant into a specific sector, as mentioned in paragraph 7.2 of Guidance Note 15?

The classification form can be obtained from the official website of Bursa Securities.

Methods of offering of shares

3.9 Can an applicant undertake an offer for sale during the initial public offer under the ACE LR?

Yes, an offer for sale is allowed provided that the applicant has generated 1 full financial year of operating profit based on its latest audited financial statements and all its specified shareholders in aggregate, hold not less than 45% of the enlarged issued and paid-up capital of the applicant at the date of admission to the ACE Market.

3.10 Is an offer of shares to the general public via balloting mandatory for an applicant seeking admission to the ACE Market?

No. An applicant is free to determine its methods of offering of shares.

3.11 Is there any minimum issue price prescribed under the ACE LR?

No, there is no minimum issue price prescribed.

3.12 Is underwriting mandatory before an offering of shares is made under the ACE LR?

No, underwriting is no longer mandatory. Underwriting arrangement is now at the discretion of the applicant and its Sponsor.

3.13 Mr. A and Mr. B are the specified shareholders of X Bhd, a corporation which is admitted to the ACE Market on 15 August 2017. As at 15 August 2017 –

- X Bhd has a total number of 500,000 issued ordinary shares; and
- both Mr. A and Mr. B hold in aggregate 300,000 ordinary shares representing 60% of the total number of issued ordinary shares of X Bhd.

(a) Is there a moratorium imposed on the shareholdings of Mr. A and Mr. B?

Yes. Pursuant to Rule 3.19 of the ACE LR, a moratorium is imposed over the shareholdings of Mr. A and Mr. B in the following manner:

- (i) From 15 August 2017 until 14 February 2018 (6 months), a moratorium is imposed on the entire shareholdings of Mr. A and Mr. B amounting to 300,000 ordinary shares in X Bhd;
- (ii) From 15 February 2018 until 14 August 2018 (the following 6 months), a moratorium is imposed on the aggregate shareholdings of Mr. A and Mr. B amounting to 225,000 ordinary shares in X Bhd which represents 45% of X Bhd's total number of issued ordinary shares;
- (iii) After 14 August 2018, Mr. A and Mr. B may sell up to a maximum of 1/3rd per annum (on straight line basis) of the 225,000 ordinary shares held under moratorium provided that X Bhd has generated 1 full financial year of operating revenue based on its latest audited financial statements.

(b) If, after 14 August 2018, X Bhd is unable to generate 1 full financial year of operating revenue based on its latest audited financial statements, can Mr. A and Mr. B sell their 225,000 ordinary shares in X Bhd held under moratorium?

No, the moratorium over their 225,000 ordinary shares in X Bhd must remain. Mr. A and Mr. B may only sell their 225,000 ordinary shares in X Bhd up to a maximum of 1/3rd per annum (on straight line basis) after X Bhd has generated 1 full financial year of operating revenue based on its latest audited financial statements.

3.14 Mr X and Mr Y are the specified shareholders of ABC Bhd, a corporation which is admitted to the ACE Market on 1 September 2017. As at 1 September 2017 –

- **Mr. X and Mr. Y hold in aggregate 30 million ordinary shares and 10 million convertible securities which are convertible into 10 million ordinary shares in ABC Bhd;**
 - **ABC Bhd has a total number of 45 million issued ordinary shares; and**
 - **ABC Bhd has also issued a total of 15 million convertible securities which are convertible into 15 million ordinary shares in ABC Bhd.**
- (a) For purposes of Rule 3.19 of the ACE LR, what is the amount of shares held by Mr. X and Mr. Y which are to be placed under moratorium?**

The shares of Mr. X and Mr. Y which are to be placed under moratorium are as follows:

- (i) From 1 September 2017 until 30 March 2018 (6 months), the entire shareholdings of Mr. X and Mr. Y amounting to 30 million ordinary shares and 10 million convertible securities in ABC Bhd, must be placed under moratorium;
- (ii) Pursuant to Rule 3.19(1)(e) of the ACE LR, where the specified shareholders also own securities which are convertible or exercisable into ordinary shares of the applicant, the specified shareholders' shareholdings to be placed under moratorium should amount to 45% of 60 million issued ordinary shares of ABC Bhd assuming full conversion or exercise of such securities.

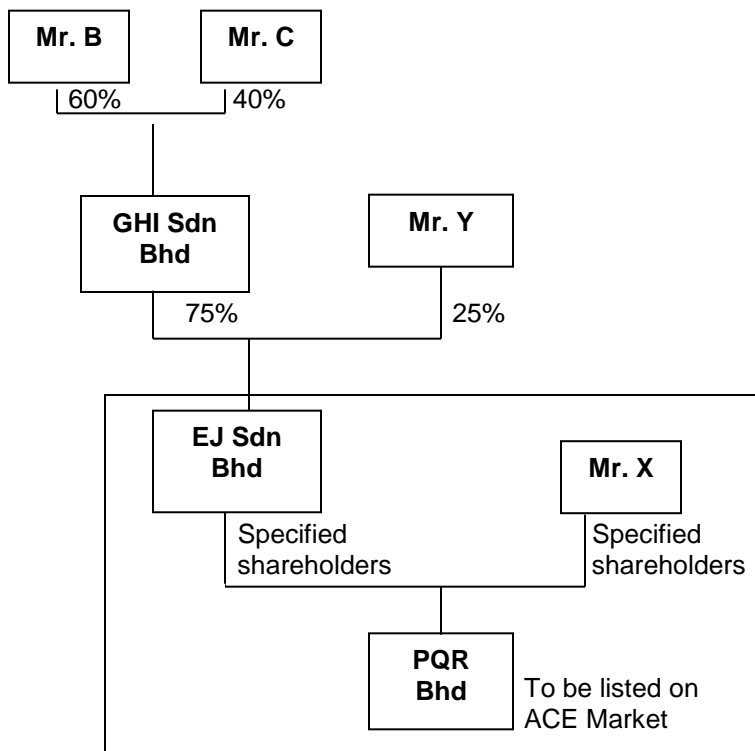
As such, from 1 April 2018 until 30 October 2018 (the following 6 months), the aggregate shareholdings of Mr. X and Mr. Y amounting to 27 million ordinary shares in ABC Bhd, must be placed under moratorium;
- (iii) After 30 October 2018, Mr. X and Mr. Y may sell up to a maximum of 1/3rd per annum (on straight line basis) of the 27 million ordinary shares held under moratorium provided that ABC Bhd has generated 1 full financial year of operating revenue based on its latest audited financial statements.

- (b) If, after 30 October 2018, ABC Bhd is unable to generate 1 full financial year of operating revenue based on its latest audited financial statements, can Mr. X and Mr. Y sell their 27 million shares held under moratorium?**

No. The moratorium over their 27 million ordinary shares in ABC Bhd must remain. Mr. X and Mr. Y may only sell 1/3rd of their 27 million ordinary shares in ABC Bhd per annum (on straight line basis) after ABC Bhd has generated 1 full financial year of operating revenue based on its latest audited financial statements.

- 3.15 EJ Sdn Bhd and Mr. X are the specified shareholders of PQR Bhd, a corporation which intends to list on the ACE Market. EJ Sdn Bhd is an unlisted corporation.

A chart depicting the corporate structure of PQR Bhd is as follows:



- (a) Are the specified shareholders of PQR Bhd required to provide Bursa Securities with an undertaking that they will comply with the moratorium requirements set out in Rule 3.19 of the ACE LR?

Yes, all the specified shareholders of PQR Bhd are required to provide Bursa Securities with the undertaking on moratorium. As such, both EJ Sdn Bhd and Mr. X must give the said undertaking to Bursa Securities.

- (b) In the case of EJ Sdn Bhd, are its shareholders also required to provide Bursa Securities with the undertaking that they will comply with the moratorium requirements set out in Rule 3.19 of the ACE LR?

Rule 3.19(2) of the ACE LR provides that where the specified shareholders of an applicant seeking listing on the ACE Market or a vendor of the asset in a reverse take-over/back-door listing is an unlisted corporation, all direct and indirect shareholders of the unlisted corporation (whether individuals or other unlisted corporation) up to the ultimate individual shareholders must give undertakings to Bursa Securities that they will comply with the moratorium requirements set out in Rule 3.19 of the ACE LR.

As EJ Sdn Bhd is an unlisted corporation, all its shareholders (whether individuals or other unlisted corporation) up to its ultimate individual shareholders, must provide the undertaking on moratorium to Bursa Securities in compliance with Rule 3.19(2) of the ACE LR. Hence, GHI Sdn Bhd, Mr. Y, Mr. B and Mr. C are required to give the undertaking on moratorium to Bursa Securities.

- 3.15A Mr. X is the founder and has 60% equity interest in GHI Bhd, a corporation which intends to list on the ACE Market. He is also the managing director of GHI Bhd and an accredited Angel Investor with Malaysian Business Angel Network. In respect of the shares held by Mr. X in GHI Bhd, will Mr. X be entitled to a moratorium period of 6 months only pursuant to Rule 3.19(1A)(a)(ii)?**

No. The nature of Mr. X's investment in GHI Bhd is not as an angel investor, but as a specified shareholder that drives its business. As such, he is not entitled to the 6 months moratorium period stipulated in Rule 3.19(1A)(a)(ii) in respect of his shares held in GHI Bhd. Both GHI Bhd and Mr. X will have to ensure full compliance with Rule 3.19(1) of the ACE LR.

- 3.15B What is meant by the quantitative criteria for admission to the Main Market of the Exchange in Rule 3.19(1A)(b), Rule 3.19(1B) and Rule 3.21(2A)?**

The quantitative criteria for admission to the Main Market as stated in these rules refer to the profit test or market capitalisation test as set out in the SC Equity Guidelines, which is accessible at <http://www.sc.com.my/legislation-guidelines/equity/>.

- 3.15C JKL Bhd, a corporation listed on the ACE Market, enters into several acquisitions post-listing. Based on the pro-forma accounts, the enlarged group meets the quantitative criteria for admission to the Main Market of Bursa Securities.**

Can JKL Bhd and its specified shareholders apply to Bursa Securities to be exempted from continued compliance with Rules 3.19(1)(b) and 3.19(1)(c) of the ACE LR based on the pro-forma accounts?

No, JKL Bhd and its specified shareholders may only apply to Bursa Securities to be exempted from continued compliance with Rules 3.19(1)(b) and 3.19(1)(c) pursuant to Rule 3.19(1B) after the first audited consolidated financial statements of JKL Bhd. following its listing on the ACE Market show that it has met the quantitative criteria for admission to the Main Market of Bursa Securities.

- 3.15D Apart from the shares a specified shareholder holds in a listed corporation prior to listing, what other type of securities held by the specified shareholder which would also be placed under the moratorium pursuant to Rule 3.19(1A) and 3.19(1D)?**

Such securities include all shares in the listed corporation issued to the specified shareholders during the moratorium period, and all shares issued arising from the conversion or exercise of any convertible securities or warrants held by the specified shareholders as at the date of listing of the listed corporation on the ACE Market. The enlarged number of shares to be held under moratorium is in proportion stated in Rule 3.19(1)(a) to (d).

- 3.15E** *Ms. X, a pre-IPO investor, had invested in LMN Sdn Bhd on 1 July 2020. As part of JKL Berhad's proposed listing, Ms. X will exchange her shares in LMN Sdn Bhd with shares in JKL Berhad at an issue price of RM0.55 per share. On 1 June 2021, JKL Berhad, via its Sponsors, submitted a listing application to Bursa Securities and the IPO issue price is RM0.60 per share. Is Ms X's shareholding in JKL Berhad subjected to moratorium?*

Yes, the shares held by Ms. X in JKL Berhad will be subject to a moratorium period of 6 months from the date of listing of ANZ Berhad on the ACE Market pursuant to Rule 3.19A, as Ms. X had invested in LMN Sdn Bhd within 12 months prior to the date of the listing application to Bursa Securities and had acquired the shares at a discount to the listing price.

Others

- 3.16** **Must a listed corporation undertaking a corporate proposal which will result in a significant change in the business direction or policy of the listed corporation, comply with the admission requirements under Chapter 3?**

Yes, as Bursa Securities will treat such listed corporation as if it were a new applicant seeking admission to the Official List.

- 3.17** **In 2008, Applicant A established its existing Share Issuance Scheme. Applicant A is seeking admission to the Official List of Bursa Securities in 2009. Must Applicant A terminate its existing Share Issuance Scheme before listing?**

No, Applicant A need not terminate its existing Share Issuance Scheme before listing. However, in order for Applicant A to continue with the said scheme post-listing, it must ensure that the scheme complies with the provisions set out in the ACE LR.

- 3.18** **Applicant B is seeking admission to the Official List of Bursa Securities. It is intending to establish a Share Issuance Scheme as part of its listing proposal. Must shareholder approval for such scheme be in accordance with Rule 6.45 of the ACE LR?**

No, the requirements in relation to the procurement of shareholder approval in accordance with Rule 6.45 of the ACE LR are only applicable where the schemes are established after listing.

- 3.19** **Must a listed corporation undertaking a corporate proposal which will result in a significant change in the business direction or policy of the listed corporation, comply with the admission procedures under Chapter 3 and Guidance Note 15?**

Yes, as Bursa Securities will treat such listed corporation as if it were a new applicant seeking admission to the Official List.

3.20 With the removal of prescription on how due diligence is to be conducted for certain proposals (i.e. initial public offering, new issue of securities, prospectus registration, preparation of Public Documents and proposals under Guidance Note 19) under the ACE LR, are the applicant/listed corporation, Sponsor/Adviser and all other parties accepting responsibility for all or any part of the information and documents submitted to the Exchange (“the relevant parties”) no longer required to undertake a due diligence exercise?

No. Whilst the ACE LR no longer prescribes how a due diligence should be conducted nor what is the applicable standards for such exercise, the relevant parties must still ensure that due diligence and enquiry is done so that submissions to Bursa Securities, as well as disclosures to the market meet the prescribed standards of disclosure under the ACE LR¹. The relevant parties may undertake the necessary due diligence exercise in accordance with industry practices, to ensure this obligation is met. For this purpose, the Sponsor/Adviser may refer to the Malaysia Equity Capital Markets and Debt Capital Markets Due Diligence Guides² issued by the Malaysian Investment Banking Association.

Additionally, the relevant parties must also make due and careful enquiries and comply with the equivalent obligations and standards imposed under the SC’s Guidelines on Submission of Corporate and Capital Market Product Proposals, in respect of submission of the proposals to Bursa Securities, as if the submission is made to the SC.

¹ Rule 2.18 of the ACE LR stipulates that any application, proposal, statement, information or document presented, submitted or disclosed pursuant to the ACE LR must be clear, unambiguous and accurate; does not contain any material omission; and is not false or misleading.

Similar standards are also imposed on any prospectus prepared, submitted or issued pursuant to the ACE LR under Rule 3.12C and announcements and circulars issued to securities holders under Rule 9.35 of the ACE LR.

² These Guides are available at <https://www.miba.com.my/info-nuggets/resources/>.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD LISTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACE MARKET
(As at 1 April 2023)**

CHAPTER 3A – TRANSFER OF LISTING

Criteria for transfer of listing

3A.1 Are the moratorium requirements as set out in Rule 3.19 of the ACE LR¹ applicable to the specified shareholders² of a transfer applicant which has successfully been admitted to the ACE Market?

Yes. Pursuant to Rule 3A.02(1)(c) of the ACE LR, a transfer applicant must comply with Chapters 3 and 3A of the ACE LR, and this includes the moratorium requirements as set out in Rule 3.19 of the ACE LR.

Once a transfer applicant is successfully admitted to the ACE Market, the moratorium period under the LEAP Market Listing Requirements (“**LEAP LR**”)³ will no longer be applicable and the moratorium imposed under the ACE LR will commence from the date of its admission to the ACE Market. Similarly, the flexibilities of the moratorium requirements (for example, Rule 3.19(1B)⁴ of the ACE LR) are also applicable to the specified shareholders of the transfer applicant provided that all the applicable conditions are met.

Transfer of listing processes and procedures

3A.2 *DEF Bhd* is a corporation listed on the LEAP Market and is seeking to transfer its listing to the ACE Market. As part of the transfer of listing to the ACE Market, *DEF Bhd* must request for a withdrawal of listing from the LEAP Market.

(a) Is *DEF Bhd* required to obtain its shareholders’ approval for the withdrawal of listing?

Yes. *DEF Bhd* is required to obtain its shareholders’ approval in accordance with Rules 8.06(1)(a) and (b) of the LEAP LR for the withdrawal of listing as follows⁵:

¹ Rule 3.19(1) of the ACE LR imposes a moratorium on the entire shareholdings of the specified shareholders of a listed corporation for 6 months from the date of admission on the ACE Market. Upon the expiry of the 6-month period, the listed corporation must ensure that at least 45% of the entire shareholding of the specified shareholders must remain under moratorium for another 6 months. Thereafter, the specified shareholders may sell, transfer or assign up to a maximum of 1/3rd per annum (on a straight-line basis) of the shares held under moratorium.

² Specified shareholder means a controlling shareholder, a person connected to a controlling shareholder, and an executive director who is a substantial shareholder, of the applicant or listed corporation, or any other person as specified by Bursa Securities.

³ Rule 3.07 of the LEAP LR imposes a moratorium on the promoter’s entire shareholdings for 12 months. Upon the expiry of the 12-month period, at least 45% of the promoter’s entire shareholding must be retained under moratorium for another 36 months and thereafter, the promoter may sell, transfer or assigning the shares held under moratorium.

⁴ The specified shareholders of a listed corporation may be exempted from continuing with the compliance of the moratorium requirements if the listed corporation meets the quantitative criteria for admission to the Main Market after admission to the ACE Market.

⁵ Paragraph 2.1 of the Guidance Note 15A of the ACE LR.

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- (i) *DEF Bhd* must convene a general meeting to obtain its shareholder approval and issue a circular containing, among others, the prescribed information in Appendix 8B of the LEAP LR; and
- (ii) the resolution must be approved by a majority of its shareholders in number, representing 75% of the total number of issued shares held by its shareholders, present and voting in person or by proxy at the meeting; and the number of votes cast against the resolution, is not more than 10% of the total number of issued shares held by the shareholders, present and voting in person or by proxy at the meeting.
- (b) Is *DEF Bhd* mandated to only provide its shareholders an exit offer as part of the withdrawal of listing?**

No. *DEF Bhd* has the option of offering to all its shareholders, an exit offer that complies with the Take-Overs and Mergers Code, or any other alternative exit mechanism that is equitable to its shareholders.

- (c) What are the requirements that must be complied with if *DEF Bhd* proposes to offer an alternative exit mechanism as part of the withdrawal of listing?**

The following are the requirements that must be complied with⁶:

- (i) *DEF Bhd* and its Sponsor or Joint Transfer Sponsor may determine the appropriate alternative exit mechanism, taking into account *DEF Bhd*'s prevailing circumstances;
- (ii) the alternative exit mechanism must be offered to all shareholders on an equitable basis;
- (iii) *DEF Bhd* and its Sponsor or Joint Transfer Sponsor must consult Bursa Securities and submit the proposed exit mechanism to Bursa Securities for its perusal. The consultation must take place before *DEF Bhd* announces the transfer of listing to the ACE Market and the withdrawal of listing from the ACE Market under paragraph 2.2(a) in Guidance Note 15A of the ACE LR; and
- (iv) *DEF Bhd* and its Sponsor or Joint Transfer Sponsor must not proceed with the proposed exit mechanism until Bursa Securities has notified that it has no further comments on the same.

Price discovery mechanism

3A.3 What are the appropriate price discovery mechanisms to be used for determining the price of the transfer applicant's shares which will be transferred to the ACE Market ("transfer shares") pursuant to Rule 3A.03 of the ACE LR?

It is up to the Sponsor and the transfer applicant to decide the appropriate price discovery mechanism to be used, provided that the price discovery must reflect the current valuation ascribed to similar business or sector as the transfer applicant on the ACE Market, and be supported with sound and verifiable bases and justifications. In this regard, the last traded price of the transfer shares on the LEAP Market or the issue price of such shares in secondary

⁶ Paragraph 2.1 of the Guidance Note 15A of the ACE LR.

fundraising exercises on the LEAP Market would not meet the requirements on the price discovery mechanism as prescribed in the ACE LR.

Appointment of adviser

3A.4 Who can act for a transfer applicant in its transfer of listing to the ACE Market?

A transfer applicant may apply for its transfer of listing to the ACE Market through either⁷ –

- (a) a Sponsor only; or
- (b) a Sponsor jointly with a Recognised Approved Adviser⁸ provided that the Recognised Approved Adviser had acted as its Approved Adviser for its initial listing on the LEAP Market or as its Continuing Adviser on the LEAP Market for at least 1 full financial year. In such instance, the Sponsor must be the lead adviser.

3A.5 What are the responsibilities of the Sponsor and Recognised Approved Adviser respectively when both are jointly appointed for the transfer listing application?

The appointment of a Recognised Approved Adviser does not in anyway reduce or dilute the role and responsibilities of the Sponsor. In fact, there is no distinction between the roles and responsibilities of the Sponsor and Recognised Approved Adviser when both are jointly appointed for the transfer listing application. In such instance, the Sponsor and Recognised Approved Adviser must ensure compliance with the ACE LR, and are jointly and severally responsible for the transfer listing application.⁹ Both the Sponsor and Recognised Approved Adviser will be held responsible for all matters regarding the transfer listing application.

3A.6 Where both a Sponsor and Recognised Approved Adviser are jointly appointed for the transfer listing application, can a transfer applicant appoint the Recognised Approved Adviser as its Sponsor immediately after its admission to the ACE Market pursuant to Rule 3A.05 of the ACE LR?

No. The transfer applicant must retain the services of the Sponsor for at least 1 full financial year following its admission to the ACE Market (“**said duration**”). The transfer applicant may only appoint a Recognised Approved Adviser to act as its replacement Sponsor for the remaining Sponsorship Period after the said duration.¹⁰

⁷ Rule 3A.02(2) of the ACE LR.

⁸ This refers to an Approved Adviser that has met the requirements set out in Rule 4.29 of the ACE LR and has been approved by Bursa Securities as a Recognised Approved Adviser.

⁹ As provided in Rule 3A.02(3)(b) of the ACE LR.

¹⁰ Rule 3A.05(2) read together with Rule 4.30(1)(b) of the ACE LR.

Chapter 4 Sponsors and Recognised Approved Advisers
[Questions & Answers]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 1 April 2023)

CHAPTER 4 – SPONSORS AND RECOGNISED APPROVED ADVISERS

Definition of “Public Document”

4.1 Does “Public Document”¹ as referred to in certain rules such as Rules 4.02 and 4.10 of the ACE LR, include an announcement made by a Sponsored Corporation?

Yes, “Public Document” means any document issued by a Sponsored Corporation to the public or holders of any class of securities. This includes an announcement made to Bursa Securities for dissemination to the public.

Mandatory pre-admission consultation

4.1A Who are the key advisers for the purpose of the mandatory pre-admission consultation under Rule 4.06A of the ACE LR?

The key advisers would be advisers as may be specified by Bursa Securities, which may include the applicant’s financial adviser, legal adviser, reporting accountant and valuer.

4.1B Can an applicant undertake voluntary consultation with Bursa Securities prior to the mandatory pre-admission consultation under Rule 4.06A of the ACE LR?

Yes. An applicant is encouraged to undertake voluntary consultation with Bursa Securities prior to the mandatory pre-admission consultation particularly on key material or potential issues which may impede the proposed listing of the applicant.

Eligibility, roles and responsibilities of a Sponsor

4.2 Who is eligible to be a Sponsor?

A Sponsor must be a recognised principal adviser under the SC’s Licensing Handbook and admitted to the Register of Sponsor of the ACE Market.

4.3 Pursuant to Rule 4.08(4) of the ACE LR, a Sponsor must not sponsor an applicant or listed corporation if it has 5% or more of the enlarged issued and paid-up share capital in the applicant or listed corporation. Are shares held by the Sponsor’s director or employee included for the purpose of computing the 5% shareholding?

No, only shares held by the Sponsor is counted for the purpose of determining whether the Sponsor holds 5% or more of the enlarged issued and paid-up share capital in the applicant or listed corporation. However, the Sponsor must still assess if its directors’ and employees’ shareholding in the Sponsored Corporation would impair its ability to discharge its functions independently.

¹ Rule 4.02 of the ACE LR defines “Public Document” as any document issued by an applicant or a listed corporation to the public or to the holders of any class of securities in a listed corporation pursuant to the ACE LR.

Chapter 4 Sponsors and Recognised Approved Advisers [Questions & Answers]

- 4.4 Pursuant to Rule 4.09(a) of the ACE LR, a Sponsor must among others, maintain regular contact with the Sponsored Corporation, including being available at all times to advise and guide the Sponsored Corporation. Does this mean that the Sponsor must assign or station an officer in the Sponsored Corporation's office at all times?**

Bursa Securities does not prescribe the manner in which a Sponsor must undertake this duty. As long as the Sponsor is available to advise and guide the Sponsored Corporation and its directors as prescribed under the ACE LR, the Sponsor is considered to have fulfilled its duty,

- 4.5 Pursuant to Rule 4.09(c) of the ACE LR, a Sponsor must advise the Sponsored Corporation if the trading of the Sponsored Corporation's listed securities will or should be halted or suspended. What are the key roles of a Sponsor under this Rule 4.09(c)?**

A Sponsor must among others, assess and advise the Sponsored Corporation whether there is a need to request for suspension pursuant to Guidance Note 12.

When a Sponsored Corporation makes an announcement during trading hours, a Sponsor is expected to advise the Sponsored Corporation whether the announcement will trigger a trading halt and the period of such trading halt, if applicable, under Guidance Note 14.

The above is not exhaustive. A Sponsor is expected to advise a listed corporation to request for suspension where a situation warrants it. For example, X Bhd's board of directors deliberated on a material acquisition at a meeting ended at 2 p.m. on Monday. The board decided to make an announcement after 5 p.m. while maintaining the confidentiality of the acquisition. However, there is unusual trading in the securities of X Bhd when trading commences at 2.30 p.m. X Bhd is uncertain whether there is a leak of information. In such instances, the Sponsor must advise X Bhd to request a suspension of trading in its securities pending the release of the announcement on the acquisition.

- 4.6 Pursuant to Rule 4.11(c) of the ACE LR, a Sponsor may seek necessary assistance and consultation from other appropriately qualified and suitable professionals when required. Does it mean that a Sponsor is absolved of its responsibilities when it has obtained the necessary assistance or consultation from the said professionals?**

No, the Sponsor is not absolved of its responsibilities under the ACE LR and must at all times ensure full compliance with the requirements imposed on it as a Sponsor.

- 4.7 [Deleted]**

- 4.8 Pursuant to Rule 4.12(b) of the ACE LR, a Sponsor must notify Bursa Securities immediately when it believes or becomes aware that a matter reported by it to the board of directors of its Sponsored Corporation has not been satisfactorily resolved resulting in a breach of the ACE LR. In this regard, must the notification be in writing?**

No. However, a Sponsor is encouraged to notify the same to Bursa Securities in writing to ensure that the information given to Bursa Securities is communicated clearly.

**Chapter 4 Sponsors and Recognised Approved Advisers
[Questions & Answers]**

Appointment of an Adviser for a corporate proposal**4.9 Can a Sponsored Corporation appoint an Adviser other than its Sponsor, to act on its behalf when undertaking a corporate proposal during the Sponsorship Period?**

Yes, a Sponsored Corporation may appoint an Adviser other than its Sponsor to act on its behalf when undertaking a corporate proposal during the Sponsorship Period. However, the Sponsored Corporation must obtain the prior written consent of its Sponsor for such appointment pursuant to Rule 4.25 of the ACE LR. The responsibilities of a Sponsor and Adviser in this circumstance are as set out in Rule 4.16 of the ACE LR.

4.10 Can a Sponsor reject a Sponsored Corporation's request to appoint an Adviser to undertake a corporate proposal?

Yes, however pursuant to Rule 4.25 of the ACE LR, a Sponsor must not unreasonably withhold its consent to the Sponsored Corporation's request to appoint an Adviser for the purpose of undertaking a corporate proposal. The Sponsor should act professionally in considering the request for the appointment of an Adviser.

Resignation and termination of a Sponsor**4.11 X is the Sponsor who makes an application for listing on behalf of A Bhd. A Bhd is listed on the ACE Market on 1 September 2009. Based on Rule 3.21 of the ACE LR, A Bhd must secure and maintain the services of a Sponsor for at least 3 full financial years after its admission to the Official List, and extended to at least 1 full financial year after the applicant has generated operating revenue. A Bhd financial period ends on 31 December 2010.****(a) Can X resign or A Bhd terminate X's appointment as the Sponsor of A Bhd before 31 December 2010?**

No, based on Rule 4.18 of the ACE LR, X who makes a listing application on behalf of an applicant must act as the Sponsor for at least 1 full financial year after admission. During the said period, X cannot resign, neither can A Bhd terminate X's appointment as its Sponsor.

(b) Can X resign as A Bhd's Sponsor after 31 December 2010?

It depends on whether A Bhd has found a replacement Sponsor to succeed X. Based on Rule 4.19(1), if a replacement Sponsor has been found, X can resign by notifying Bursa Securities of the proposed resignation, together with the detailed reasons for the resignation. However, if no replacement Sponsor has been found, X must seek the Exchange's prior approval for its proposed resignation, together with the detailed reasons for the resignation.

**Chapter 4 Sponsors and Recognised Approved Advisers
[Questions & Answers]**

- (c) **On 1 June 2011, X decides to resign as a Sponsor in A Bhd. A Bhd agrees to X's resignation and has found Y as its new Sponsor, who is willing to take over as A Bhd's Sponsor immediately. Must X seek Bursa Securities' approval for its resignation?**

No, pursuant to Rule 4.19(1)(a) of the ACE LR, X only needs to notify Bursa Securities together with detailed reasons for its resignation.

- (d) **If X intends to resign as A Bhd's Sponsor but A Bhd refuses to accept X's resignation, what can X do to end the sponsorship?**

Notwithstanding A Bhd's objection, X may apply to Bursa Securities to resign as A Bhd's Sponsor. X must provide the detailed reasons for its application. Based on Rule 4.19(3) of the ACE LR, Bursa Securities will not grant its approval unless there are exceptional circumstances which warrant the consideration of Bursa Securities.

- (e) **Further to Question (d) above, what are the exceptional circumstances under which Bursa Securities may consider in allowing a resignation or termination of X as A Bhd's Sponsor?**

Generally, Bursa Securities will consider whether the parties have acted "reasonably". The exceptional circumstances which Bursa Securities may consider X's resignation or termination as A Bhd's Sponsor include circumstances where –

- (i) there is an irreconcilable breakdown in the relationship between X and A Bhd; or
- (ii) X is no longer qualified to act as a Sponsor for any reasons, including not having the minimum number of Qualified Person or being removed from the Register of Sponsors by Bursa Securities.

The parties must substantiate their application with the relevant facts and information.

- (f) **Assuming X resigns as A Bhd's Sponsor and A Bhd appoints Y as its new Sponsor for the remaining sponsorship period. Must A Bhd still include a statement in the Public Documents that its admission was sponsored by X for the remaining sponsorship period?**

Yes, pursuant to Rule 4.27(2) of the ACE LR, even though X has ceased to be A Bhd's Sponsor, A Bhd must still include X's name as its listing sponsor on all Public Documents issued by A Bhd during the remaining sponsorship period.

- (g) **In a case where A Bhd applies for and obtains an exemption from Bursa Securities from continued compliance with the remaining sponsorship period pursuant to Rule 3.21(2A), must A Bhd still state in the Public Documents that its admission was sponsored by X after the date the exemption was obtained?**

No, A Bhd would not be required to state that its admission was sponsored by X in the Public Documents issued after the effective date of the exemption.

**Chapter 4 Sponsors and Recognised Approved Advisers
[Questions & Answers]**

- 4.12 A Sponsor's resignation or termination is approved by Bursa Securities in the second year of sponsorship under some exceptional circumstances, even though no replacement Sponsor has been found. What action will Bursa Securities take if after the expiry of the 3 months from the date of Bursa Securities' approval, a Sponsored Corporation has yet to find a replacement sponsor?**

Pursuant to Rule 4.19(5) of the ACE LR, if a Sponsored Corporation fails to find a replacement Sponsor after the expiry of the 3 months from the date of Bursa Securities' approval, Bursa Securities shall suspend trading in the Sponsored Corporation's listed securities. If the Sponsored Corporation still fails to find a replacement sponsor at the end of 2 months after the expiry of the 3 months period, Bursa Securities shall automatically de-list the Sponsored Corporation.

Rules governing Sponsored Corporations in dealing with Sponsors

- 4.13 Rule 4.26 of the ACE LR provides that a Sponsor must be consulted in certain prescribed circumstances. Does this requirement apply to all listed corporations?**

This requirement applies only to Sponsored Corporations i.e. listed corporations which are still being sponsored by a particular Sponsor.

- 4.14 What are some examples of the types of transactions referred to under Rule 4.26(1)(a) of the ACE LR?**

Rule 4.26(1)(a) of the ACE LR requires Sponsored Corporations to consult their Sponsors in relation to proposals or transactions which, if undertaken, will require a listed corporation, at the minimum, to announce the proposal or transaction to Bursa Securities. This includes for example -

- (i) transactions which fall under Rules 10.06 and 10.07 of the ACE LR i.e. non-related party transactions where the percentage ratio is 5% or 25% respectively;
- (ii) related party transactions which are subject to Rule 10.08 of the ACE LR; and
- (iii) transactions which fall under Rule 10.13 of the ACE LR.

- 4.15 (a) Rule 4.26 of the ACE LR provides that a Sponsored Corporation must consult and seek the advice of its Sponsor when it contemplates certain corporate proposals or transactions. What are the obligations of the Sponsor when it is consulted by its Sponsored Corporation pursuant to Rule 4.26 of the ACE LR?**

The Sponsor must advise the Sponsored Corporation on the relevant legislation, guidelines and requirements which are applicable to the circumstances set out in Rule 4.26 of the ACE LR. If the Sponsor is appointed as an Adviser, it must also comply with the requirements in Rule 4.16.

- (b) Does the Sponsor have a right to request further information from the Sponsored Corporation?**

Under Rule 4.28 of the ACE LR, a Sponsored Corporation must provide its Sponsor with all the relevant information it possesses which is necessary and reasonable to enable the Sponsor to discharge its duties.

Chapter 4 Sponsors and Recognised Approved Advisers [Questions & Answers]

Eligibility, roles and responsibilities of a Recognised Approved Adviser

4.16 Will an Approved Adviser which fulfills the criteria as set out in Rule 4.29 of the ACE LR² automatically become a Recognised Approved Adviser?

No. An Approved Adviser that fulfills the criteria as set out in Rule 4.29 of the ACE LR is required to seek approval from Bursa Securities to become a Recognised Approved Adviser. Bursa Securities retains its absolute discretion to subject the approval to such other conditions as Bursa Securities thinks fit, or decline an approval which will or is likely to adversely affect the reputation of Bursa Securities or the integrity of the market or that may be contrary to public interest.³

4.17 What are the roles that can be undertaken by a Recognised Approved Adviser in the ACE Market?

Pursuant to Rule 4.30 of the ACE LR, a Recognised Approved Adviser may, subject to the conditions being met, be appointed for the following:

	Role(s)	Conditions
(a)	Joint Transfer Sponsor in relation to a transfer of listing application	For a transfer applicant which the Recognised Approved Adviser has acted either – (i) as its Approved Adviser for its initial listing on the LEAP Market; or (ii) as its Continuing Adviser on the LEAP Market for at least 1 full financial year.
(b)	Replacement Sponsor	For a listed corporation which it has acted as its Joint Transfer Sponsor.

² The Approved Adviser must comply with the following:

- (a) have acted as an Approved Adviser for at least 3 initial listings on the LEAP Market;
- (b) have at least 1 employee who is a Qualified Person;
- (c) have satisfactory conduct and work record with no adverse record;
- (d) have no pending investigation or enforcement action initiated against it by Bursa Securities or SC;
- (e) provide Bursa Securities with an irrevocable and unconditional undertaking to comply with the ACE LR; and
- (f) satisfy such conditions as may be imposed by Bursa Securities.

³ Rule 4.29(2) of the ACE LR.

Chapter 4 Sponsors and Recognised Approved Advisers [Questions & Answers]

	Role(s)	Conditions
(c)	Adviser for corporate proposals involving new issue of securities pursuant to a bonus issue, private placement made under a general mandate or a Dividend Reinvestment Scheme as set out in Rule 6.02(4A) of the ACE LR (“permitted corporate proposals”)	For any other listed corporation which it has acted as a Joint Transfer Sponsor during or after the Sponsorship Period.

4.18 Can a Recognised Approved Adviser be appointed as a main adviser for transactions or corporate proposals under the ACE LR (other than the permitted corporate proposals)?

No. The Recognised Approved Adviser is not permitted to act as the main adviser for transactions or corporate proposals under the ACE LR (other than the permitted corporate proposals).⁴

4.19 When a Recognised Approved Adviser is appointed as a Joint Transfer Sponsor to submit a transfer of listing application, is it required to assign and identify a Qualified Person and Senior Officer for the corporate proposal?

Yes. In such instance, the Qualified Person and Senior Officer of the Recognised Approved Adviser must also comply with the ACE LR including Chapter 4 and Guidance Note 18, to the extent they are applicable to them with the necessary modifications.⁵

⁴ Rule 4.30(1) of the ACE LR.

⁵ Rule 4.30(2) of the ACE LR.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 1 January 2022)**

CHAPTER 5 – FOREIGN LISTING**General**

5.1 *X Ltd* is a corporation incorporated outside Malaysia. It intends to seek a listing on the ACE Market.

(a) Can *X Ltd* seek a primary listing on the ACE Market?

Yes, *X Ltd* can seek a primary listing on the ACE Market.

(b) If *X Ltd* has a primary listing on another stock exchange, can it seek a secondary listing on the ACE Market?

No, it cannot. *X Ltd* is not allowed to seek a secondary listing on the ACE Market. Secondary listing of a foreign corporation is only allowed on the Main Market.

Admission criteria

5.2 Based on the same facts as in Question 5.1 above, what are the criteria to be fulfilled by *X Ltd* if it intends to have a primary listing on the ACE Market?

X Ltd must –

- (a) apply for a listing on the ACE Market through a Sponsor. The Sponsor must be one from the Register of Sponsors for the ACE Market;
- (b) be incorporated in a jurisdiction where the corporation laws are at least equivalent to those in Malaysia particularly on corporate governance, shareholders' and minority interest protection and take-overs and mergers;
- (c) be registered as a foreign corporation under the Companies Act 1965;
- (d) have a majority of directors whose principal or only place of residence is within Malaysia if its operations are predominantly Malaysian-based, or at least 2 independent directors whose principal or only place of residence is within Malaysia if its operations are predominantly foreign-based;
- (e) ensure that the audit committee has at least 1 independent director whose principal or only place of residence is within Malaysia;
- (f) appoint an external auditor from an international accounting firm or an accounting firm with international affiliation, which is duly registered or recognised by the Audit Oversight Board pursuant to section 31O of the Securities Commission Act 1993;
- (g) appoint an agent or representative in Malaysia to liaise with Bursa Securities;
- (h) establish a share transfer or share registration office in Malaysia;

- (i) prepare its financial statements in accordance with approved accounting standards (which include International Accounting Standards) and for this purpose, provide Bursa Securities with a confirmation from a professional accountant qualified under the Accountants Act 1967 and from an international accounting firm, that the financial statements comply with the said approved accounting standards; and
- (j) ensure that the auditing standards applied are in accordance with approved auditing standards applied in Malaysia or the International Standards on Auditing.

5.3 If the jurisdiction in which the foreign corporation is incorporated does not have corporation laws equivalent to the standard of law in Malaysia, does this mean that the foreign corporation is unable to fulfil the entry criteria stipulated in Rule 5.03 of the ACE LR?

If the standards required under Rule 5.03(1) of the ACE LR can be provided by means of varying the foreign corporation's constituent document, then Bursa Securities may still consider approving the listing of the foreign corporation. In this regard, the foreign corporation must ensure that its constituent documents are varied to be in line with the standards required. For this purpose, the foreign corporation must, in addition to the listing application, submit to Bursa Securities, a comparison of the laws and regulations of its jurisdiction and those provided in Malaysia together with the proposed variations in its constituent documents.

External auditors of an applicant – accounting firms with international affiliation

5.3A Rule 5.11(a) of the ACE LR requires an applicant¹ to appoint an external auditor from an international accounting firm or an accounting firm with international affiliation. What are the criteria which the applicant should consider in determining whether an accounting firm has “international affiliation”?

In determining whether an accounting firm is affiliated with an international firm, the applicant may consider whether the accounting firm -

- is associated with an international firm;
- pays royalties or annual fees to the international firm;
- has shared services with the international firm such as the accounting firm may deploy services of the international firm for its overseas clients; and
- is able to provide all relevant accounting and auditing services akin to an international auditing firm.

¹ An “**applicant**” is defined in Rule 5.01(2) of the ACE LR to mean a foreign corporation seeking a primary listing on the ACE Market.

Admission processes & procedures**5.4 What are the admission procedures that a foreign corporation must comply with for this purpose?**

The foreign corporation must comply with the admission processes and procedures as set out in paragraph 2.0 of Guidance Note 15. In this regard, the foreign corporation must submit to Bursa Securities –

- (a) a listing application (in a template as set out in Part A of Annexure GN15-A of Guidance Note 15);
- (b) a registrable prospectus (which complies with the requirements under Rule 6.18B); and
- (c) all the requisite documents and/or confirmations required for quotation of the shares and registration of prospectus, including the supporting documents specified in Parts B and C of Annexure GN15-A of Guidance Note 15 and Annexure GN16-A of Guidance Note 16.

5.5 Are all the directors, promoters and chief executive of a foreign corporation seeking primary listing on the ACE Market required to provide Bursa Securities with the undertakings set out in Annexure GN15-C and Annexure GN15-D of Guidance Note 15?

Yes, the foreign corporation must enclose and submit all its directors', promoters' and chief executive's undertakings in the format as prescribed in Annexure GN15-C and Annexure GN15-D of Guidance Note 15 to Bursa Securities, together with its application for listing.

Continuing obligations of a listed corporation**5.6 Based on the same facts as in Question 5.1 above, in the event *X Ltd* has a primary listing on the ACE Market, are the continuing listing obligations imposed on *X Ltd* the same compared with those imposed on other Malaysian listed corporations under the ACE LR?**

Yes, once *X Ltd* is listed on the ACE Market, *X Ltd* is required to comply with all the other relevant requirements under the ACE LR. However, *X Ltd* must also comply with some additional requirements imposed under Part C of Chapter 5 in the ACE LR such as the obligations to –

- (a) have directors or independent directors with place of residence in Malaysia;
- (b) ensure that the audit committee has at least 1 independent director with a place of residence in Malaysia;
- (c) appoint an external auditor from an international accounting firm or an accounting firm with international affiliation, which is duly registered or recognised by the Audit Oversight Board pursuant to section 31O of the Securities Commission Act 1993;
- (d) comply with relevant accounting and auditing standards;

-
- (e) obtain prior shareholder approval in a general meeting to appoint or remove its external auditor;
 - (f) distribute notices, documents or information which it is required to distribute in its place of incorporation, to its Malaysian shareholders;
 - (g) announce to Bursa Securities any change in interest(s) of its substantial shareholders;
 - (h) prepare financial statements in accordance with approved accounting standards;
 - (i) immediately notify Bursa Securities of any suspension in trading or de-listing of its securities listed on other stock exchange(s);
 - (j) immediately announce to Bursa Securities any change in the laws of its country of incorporation or the laws in the country of incorporation of its foreign principal subsidiaries, which may affect the rights of shareholders; and
 - (k) ensure that it has in place a system of internal control.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 1 April 2023)**

CHAPTER 6 – NEW ISSUES OF SECURITIES

Admission

- 6.1 Pursuant to Rule 6.02(3)(d) of the ACE LR, Bursa Securities when granting approval for the listing of a new issue of securities by listed corporations, will consider amongst others, whether the listed corporation has satisfactory corporate governance practices. What will Bursa Securities consider in determining whether that is fulfilled?**

Bursa Securities in considering a proposal, would take into account a listed corporation's corporate governance record, including any previous actions taken against the listed corporation for any breach of any relevant laws, guidelines or rules issued by the SC or Bursa Securities, or for failure to comply with any written notice or condition imposed by the SC or Bursa Securities.

In addition, Bursa Securities will also consider the past corporate conduct of the board of directors.

6.1A The facts are as follows:

- *XYZ Bhd* was a corporation listed on the LEAP Market which had successfully transferred its listing to the ACE Market.
- *RAA Sdn Bhd* is a Recognised Approved Adviser and had acted as an Approved Adviser for *XYZ Bhd*'s initial listing on the LEAP Market. It was also the Joint Transfer Sponsor for the submission of *XYZ Bhd*'s transfer of listing application.
- *XYZ Bhd* proposes to undertake a private placement made under a general mandate.

- (a) If *XYZ Bhd* is not the Sponsored Corporation of *RAA Sdn Bhd*, can *XYZ Bhd* appoint *RAA Sdn Bhd* to submit its listing application for the new issue of securities pursuant to the private placement?**

Yes. Pursuant to Rule 6.02(4A) of the ACE LR, as long as *RAA Sdn Bhd* had acted as the Joint Transfer Sponsor for *XYZ Bhd*, *RAA Sdn Bhd* can be appointed by *XYZ Bhd* to submit its listing application in respect of the issue of new securities pursuant to the private placement.

- (b) If *RAA Sdn Bhd* is not permitted to act as the placement agent, it must ensure that *XYZ Bhd* appoints a qualified person to be the placement agent under Rule 6.13(2) of the ACE LR. Who is the qualified person for this purpose?**

XYZ Bhd may appoint any person who holds a license for dealing in securities under the SC's Licensing Handbook, as the qualified person to be the placement agent. This includes a Sponsor or Adviser.

6.2 Is a listed corporation allowed to submit its listing application for a new issue of securities to Bursa Securities on its own?

Yes, but only in relation to a listing application of Specified Bonus Issue¹ of equity securities, which may be submitted by the listed corporation on its own pursuant to Rule 6.02(4) of the ACE LR.

Listing procedures**6.2A What is the key difference between the procedures under paragraphs 2.0 and 4.0 of Guidance Note 17?**

Pursuant to paragraph 2.0 of Guidance Note 17, the listed corporation is required to submit 2 applications to Bursa Securities for approval –

- (a) Additional Listing Application (“**ALA**”) - of which the approval from Bursa Securities will be sought for the listing of new securities; and
- (b) Quotation Application – of which listed corporation is required to furnish Bursa Securities with the requisite documents/confirmations to facilitate the listing and quotation of the new securities on Bursa Securities.

However, under paragraph 4.0 of Guidance Note 17, the Quotation Application is merged with the ALA. Hence, only 1 application is required to be submitted to Bursa Securities (“**Consolidated Application**”). All the requisite documents/confirmations required under the Quotation Application will be procured in the form of undertakings when the listed corporation submits its Consolidated Application.

The procedures under paragraph 4.0 of Guidance Note 17 are similar to paragraph 3.0 of Guidance Note 17 in relation to the listing of bonus issue of securities and convertible securities arising from the bonus issue, which was implemented successfully in April 2007 with the objective of shortening the time to market.

6.3 Y Bhd is a company listed on the ACE Market. It proposes to make a rights issue to raise further funds and Bursa Securities' review of such circular is not required. In this situation, must Y Bhd submit the printed circular to Bursa Securities together with the listing application?

In the event the circular has been issued to its shareholders when *Y Bhd* submits the listing application to Bursa Securities for the rights issue of securities, *Y Bhd* must enclose the circular together with its listing application to Bursa Securities. However, if the circular has not been issued to shareholders when *Y Bhd* submits the listing application to Bursa Securities, then *Y Bhd* must enclose a copy of the draft circular together with its listing application.

¹ A “**Specified Bonus Issue**” is a bonus issue of securities which –

- (i) is not conditional upon any other corporate proposal, or
- (ii) is conditional upon another corporate proposal but –
 - (aa) that other corporate proposal is a subdivision or consolidation of shares; or
 - (bb) that other corporate proposal has been completed or become unconditional.

- 6.4 ***X Bhd* is a Cash Company. It proposes to undertake a regularisation proposal which involves new issue of securities. When must *X Bhd* submit the draft circular for such proposal to Bursa Securities for its review before issuing the same to its shareholders?**

X Bhd must submit the draft circular to Bursa Securities together with its regularisation proposal for Bursa Securities' approval and clearance before *X Bhd* issues the circular.

- 6.5 **Please elaborate further on the type of proposals to which the procedures under paragraph 4.0 of Guidance Note 17 apply.**

This procedure is applicable to the additional securities which will be listed and quoted as the existing listed securities of the same type and class.

Examples where paragraph 4.0 is applicable

Example 1

PLC A proposes to issue additional new ordinary shares pursuant to the exercise of Share Issuance Scheme where the new ordinary shares arising from the Share Issuance Scheme will be listed and quoted as the existing listed ordinary shares.

In this instance, *PLC A* will adhere to the procedures under paragraph 4.0 for the listing and quotation of the new ordinary shares issued pursuant to the Share Issuance Scheme as it involves the same class of securities.

Example 2

PLC B has existing ordinary shares and warrants listed on Bursa Securities. *PLC B* proposes to undertake a rights issue of 100 million new ordinary shares on the basis of 1 new ordinary share for every 2 existing ordinary shares held ("**Rights Issue**"). Pursuant to the provision in the deed poll, additional warrants will be issued arising from the adjustment pursuant to the Rights Issue ("**Additional Warrants**").

In this instance, *PLC B* will adhere to the procedures under paragraph 4.0 provided that the additional 100 million new ordinary shares and the Additional Warrants will be listed and quoted as the existing listed ordinary shares and warrants respectively.

Example 3

PLC E undertakes a corporate exercise which entails the following:

- (a) Proposed acquisition of *ABC company* for a purchase consideration of RM100 million to be satisfied by the issuance of 50 million new ordinary shares at RM2.00 per share ("**Acquisition**").
- (b) Rights issue of 80 million new ordinary shares on the basis of 1 new ordinary share for every 1 share held ("**Rights Issue**").

Facts

- (i) The Acquisition shares and Rights Issue will be listed and quoted as the existing listed ordinary shares; and

- (ii) The Acquisition and Rights Issue are inter-conditional upon each other and hence, the new ordinary shares arising from both the Rights Issue and Acquisition must be listed and quoted at the same time.

In this instance, *PLC E* will adhere to the procedures under paragraph 4.0 of Guidance Note 17 because both the new shares arising from the Acquisition and Rights Issue will be listed and quoted as the existing listed shares.

Examples where paragraph 4.0 of Guidance Note 17 is NOT applicable

Example 4

PLC C proposes to undertake a private placement of new ordinary shares and these new ordinary shares will not be entitled to the final dividend for the financial year ended 30 March 2009.

As the new ordinary shares to be issued pursuant to the private placement will not be listed and quoted as the existing listed ordinary shares to which the procedures under paragraph 4.0 apply, *PLC C* must follow the procedure under paragraph 2.0 of Guidance Note 17.

Example 5

PLC D has existing ordinary shares and warrants listed on Bursa Securities and propose to undertake a rights issue of 80 million new ordinary shares and RM80 million nominal value of Irredeemable Convertible Loan Stocks (“**ICULS**”) to its shareholders.

As the rights issue involves the issuance of a new type of securities i.e. ICULS, which is not currently listed, *PLC D* must follow the listing procedures under paragraph 2.0 of Guidance Note 17 similar to Example 3 above.

Example 6

PLC F undertakes a corporate exercise which entails the following:

- (a) Proposed acquisition of *DEF company* for a purchase consideration of RM100 million to be satisfied by the issuance of 50 million new ordinary shares at RM2.00 per share (“**Acquisition**”).
- (b) Rights issue of 80 million new ordinary shares on the basis of 1 new ordinary share for every 1 share held (“**Rights Issue**”).

Facts

- (i) the new ordinary shares arising from the Acquisition will not be entitled to the Rights Issue;
- (ii) the Rights Issue shares will be listed and quoted as the existing listed ordinary shares; and
- (iii) the Acquisition is not conditional upon the Rights Issue.

In this instance, *PLC F* will adhere to the following procedures:

- procedures under paragraph 2.0 of Guidance Note 17 for new ordinary shares arising from Acquisition as it involves the issuance of a new class of securities i.e. “A” shares; and
- procedures under paragraph 4.0 of Guidance Note 17 for Rights Issue because the new shares arising from the Rights Issue will be listed and quoted as the existing listed shares.

Please refer to Annexure GN17-A of Guidance Note 17 for a better understanding on the application of each additional listing procedure set out under paragraphs 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 of Guidance Note 17.

6.6 When will the listing and quotation of the additional securities be effected under paragraph 4.0 of Guidance Note 17?

Pursuant to the procedures under paragraph 4.0 of Guidance Note 17, the additional securities will be listed and quoted on the next market day after the listed corporation has -

- (a) submitted the relevant certificate together with a covering letter containing the summary of the corporate proposal to Bursa Depository before **10 a.m.** on the market day before the listing date;
- (b) received confirmation from Bursa Depository that the additional securities are ready for crediting into the respective account holders; and
- (c) announced pursuant to paragraph 12.2 of Guidance Note 17 through *Bursa Link* via a dedicated template, “*ALA template*” before **3 p.m.** on the market day before the listing date the following:
 - (i) details of corporate proposal;
 - (ii) total number of securities issued under each proposal and its issue price, if any;
 - (iii) date of listing and quotation; and
 - (iv) latest share capital and number of issued shares after the proposal indicating the number of shares (in units and RM).

6.7 A controlling shareholder which is a statutory institution managing funds belonging to the public is no longer required to list down its directorships or substantial shareholdings in all other listed corporations in Malaysia for the past 3 years, in the additional listing application for new issue of securities under paragraph 12, Part A of Annexure GN17-B. What are some examples of “statutory institutions managing funds belonging to the public”?

Examples of statutory institutions managing funds belonging to the public include the Employees Provident Fund (“**EPF**”), Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera (“**LTAT**”), Kumpulan Wang Persaraan (Diperbadankan) (“**KWAP**”) and Lembaga Tabung Haji.

- 6.8 Paragraph 1(c) of Part C Annexure GN17-B of Guidance Note 17 requires a listed corporation to enclose among others, a confirmation from the listed corporation that Bursa Depository is ready to credit the new securities to the accounts of the entitled holders. Are there any specific requirements to be complied with by a listed corporation with regard to providing this confirmation?**

In order to provide the confirmation that Bursa Depository is ready to credit the new securities to the accounts of the entitled holders, a listed corporation must procure a confirmation from Bursa Depository as set out below when the listed corporation submits the new scrip in respect of new securities to Bursa Depository. The listed corporation must include the following confirmation in its cover letter to Bursa Depository when submitting the said new scrip:

"(To be completed by Bursa Malaysia Depository Sdn Bhd)

We hereby confirm that Bursa Malaysia Depository Sdn Bhd has received all the relevant documents from the share registrar/ issuer to facilitate the crediting of the above allotment. The above securities will be credited into the designated CDS accounts one (1) market day prior to the listing/quotation of the above securities.

.....
Name : (Authorised signatory)
Date : "

Bursa Depository will then acknowledge on the said cover letter. The listed corporation must submit a copy of the cover letter duly acknowledged by Bursa Depository to Bursa Securities as the confirmation required under paragraph 1(c) of Part C, Annexure GN17-B, together with the other documents as required under Part C of Annexure GN17-B in support of an application for quotation of new issue of securities.

General requirements for new issue of securities

- 6.9 When should a listed corporation seek a general mandate from its shareholders to issue new securities?**

A listed corporation is encouraged to seek a general mandate from its shareholders only when it has a clear purpose for the utilization of the general mandate, such as for working capital or debt repayment.

- 6.10 The facts are as follows:**

- **On 31 July 2017, PLC A obtained a general mandate from its shareholders under Rule 6.04(1) of the ACE LR to issue shares at any time until the conclusion of its next annual general meeting provided that the aggregate number of shares to be issued does not exceed 10% of its total number of issued shares for the time being.**
- **PLC A's total number of issued shares as at 31 July 2017 was 95 million shares.**

- On 1 September 2017, *PLC A*'s total number of issued shares increased to 100 million shares pursuant to a private placement exercise of 5 million shares of RM1.00 each issued under the general mandate.
- On 31 December 2017, *PLC A* issued another 50 million shares of RM1.00 each pursuant to a rights issue exercise which has been approved under a specific shareholders' approval.
- *PLC A* intends to undertake another private placement exercise by 30 June 2018.

What is the maximum amount of shares that *PLC A* can issue for the private placement exercise under the general mandate?

As at 30 June 2018, *PLC A*'s total number of issued shares is 150 million. Therefore, the maximum amount that *PLC A* can issue under the general mandate is 15 million shares. Since *PLC A* has issued 5 million shares under the general mandate in the preceding 12 months, the maximum number of shares that can be issued under the general mandate as at 30 June 2018 is 10 million shares.

- 6.11 The minimum information that is to be disclosed in an announcement or circular in relation to a new issue of securities has been prescribed in Chapter 6 of the ACE LR. Would a listed corporation be in compliance with the disclosure requirement if it merely complies with the minimum content of information prescribed in Chapter 6?**

No, in addition to complying with the minimum content of information prescribed under the ACE LR, a listed corporation must always also ensure compliance with other applicable disclosure obligations such as the standard of disclosure prescribed under Rule 9.35 of the ACE LR.

- 6.12 *B Sdn Bhd* is a subsidiary company of *A Bhd*, a listed corporation. *B Sdn Bhd* intends to issue shares to its own director. This director is not a director or major shareholder of *A Bhd* or its holding company or a person connected with such director or shareholder. Must *A Bhd* obtain shareholder approval for this issuance of securities?**

Subject to Rule 8.23 of the ACE LR, *A Bhd* need not obtain shareholder approval for the above issuance of securities under the ACE LR. However, pursuant to Rule 6.07(4) of the ACE LR, the board of directors of *A Bhd* must approve the allotment/issuance to the director and ensure that it is fair and reasonable to the listed corporation, and is in its best interests. Further, *A Bhd* must make an announcement which contains the prescribed information under Rule 6.07(4)(c) and since it is not an exempted transaction under Rule 10.08(11)(a) of the ACE LR, the announcement must also comply with Rule 10.08(1) of the ACE LR.

- 6.13 *A Bhd*, a listed corporation, is issuing shares to a director of its subsidiary, *C Sdn Bhd* for cash. The director is not a director or major shareholder of *A Bhd* or its holding company or a person connected with such director or shareholder. Must *A Bhd* obtain shareholder approval for the issuance of securities?**

No, Rule 6.07 of the ACE LR does not impose any obligation on *A Bhd* in relation to such issuance of securities. Hence, shareholder approval is not required pursuant to Rule 6.07. In addition, *A Bhd* need not comply with the requirements of Part E of Chapter 10 of the ACE LR as this is an issuance of securities by the listed corporation for cash and hence, exempted under Rule 10.08(11)(a) of the ACE LR. However, please note that the general disclosure obligations under Chapter 9 of the ACE LR may apply.

- 6.14** *D Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of A Bhd, a listed corporation. D Sdn Bhd intends to issue shares to a director of A Bhd. What are the obligations set out in Rule 6.07 and Part E of Chapter 10 of the ACE LR that A Bhd must comply with?*

Pursuant to Rule 6.07(1) of the ACE LR, *A Bhd* must obtain shareholder approval for the proposed allotment/issuance. *A Bhd* must also comply with the requirements of Part E of Chapter 10 of the ACE LR as this is not a transaction exempted under Rule 10.08(11)(a) of the ACE LR. As such, the announcement in relation to the issuance/allotment must include the information set out in Appendices 10A and 10C of Chapter 10 and the circulars to shareholders must include the information in Appendices 10B and 10D of Chapter 10.

- 6.15** **Under Rule 6.15(2) of the ACE LR, one of the requirements in a back-to-back placement is that the listed corporation must give Bursa Securities a declaration from its existing shareholders involved in the back-to-back placement arrangement, that they will not derive any financial benefit from such an arrangement, directly or indirectly. When must such declaration be given to Bursa Securities?**

The declaration must be submitted to Bursa Securities as part of the supporting documents for its listing application for new issue of securities.

Requirements relating to a rights issue

- 6.16** **What are the corporate exercises which will be processed under SPEEDS?**

The following corporate exercise will be processed under SPEEDS:

- (a) Specified Bonus Issue;
- (b) Specified Subdivision²;
- (c) Specified Consolidation³;

² A “**Specified Subdivision**” is a subdivision of shares which –

- (i) is not conditional upon any other corporate proposal, or
- (ii) is conditional upon another corporate proposal but –
 - (aa) that other corporate proposal is a bonus issue; or
 - (bb) that other corporate proposal has been completed or become unconditional.

³ A “**Specified Consolidation**” is a consolidation of shares which –

- (i) is not conditional upon any other corporate proposal, or
- (ii) is conditional upon another corporate proposal but –
 - (aa) that other corporate proposal is a bonus issue; or
 - (bb) that other corporate proposal has been completed or become unconditional.

- (d) Crediting of shares from capital restructuring involving share cancellation and reduction in the number of shares held by each shareholder of a listed corporation; and
- (e) Crediting of rights entitlement (“Rights”).

6.17 How does a shareholder know whether a particular corporate exercise is processed under SPEEDS?

Shareholders may refer to the listed corporation’s announcement of the books closing date (“BCD”) in relation to the corporate exercise. If a corporate exercise is processed under SPEEDS, the date of listing and quotation of the securities will be on the next market day after the BCD, and such date will be stated in the announcement.

6.18 What is the timeline for the quotation of the rights for trading if the Rights are processed under SPEEDS?

The timelines for the crediting of Rights processed under SPEEDS are set out in the table below.

Activities	Current Timeline for Rights Issue	SPEEDS timeline
Announcement of BCD	BCD - 10	BCD - 10
Books closing date	BCD	BCD
Trading of Rights Commence	BCD + 3	BCD + 1

6.19 When will a listed corporation be required to announce the important relevant dates of a rights issue pursuant to Rule 6.25 of the ACE LR?

A listed corporation is required to announce the important relevant dates concurrently with the announcement of the BCD for a rights issue. A listed corporation must make the announcement via Bursa Link by using the relevant templates for announcements of the BCD and important relevant dates i.e. the "Entitlements (Notice of Books Closure)" and "Important Relevant Dates for Renounceable Rights" templates respectively.

6.20 What is the cut-off time for a listed corporation to submit to Bursa Securities a copy of the abridged prospectus (“AP”) in respect of a rights issue pursuant to Rule 6.18B(3) of the ACE LR?

A listed corporation must submit to Bursa Securities a copy of the AP together with a soft copy in PDF file format before 3.00 p.m. at least 1 market day before the commencement of trading of Rights.

6.21 Is the listed corporation required to submit any document to Bursa Depository before the BCD for the purpose of processing the Rights under SPEEDS?

The listed corporation must submit an undertaking letter in the prescribed format to Bursa Depository on the announcement date of the BCD for the Rights to be processed under SPEEDS. The undertaking letter must include the following:

- (a) The current share capital and number of issued shares of the listed corporation;
- (b) Designated CDS account for the crediting of fractional shares /rights;

- (c) Options on the allotment of fractional rights; and
- (d) An undertaking that the new share certificates will be submitted to Bursa Depository on the BCD.

6.22 If a shareholder maintains his shares in a few Central Depository System (“CDS”) accounts and the Rights are processed under SPEEDS, how will the Rights arising from the process under SPEEDS be calculated and credited into the shareholder’s CDS accounts?

All Rights will be calculated separately based on the shareholder’s shareholdings in the respective CDS accounts. The Rights will be credited into the respective CDS accounts. Notice of Provisional Allotment Letter with details of the transaction for each CDS account will be issued to the shareholder.

6.23 When is the share registrar required to submit the Provisional Allotment Letter (“PAL”) to Bursa Depository for the Rights to be processed under SPEEDS?

For share registrars located within Klang Valley, the PAL must reach Bursa Depository by 5.30 p.m. on the BCD and in respect of outstation share registrars, the new certificates and PAL must be faxed to Bursa Depository by 5.30 p.m. on the BCD before being delivered to Bursa Depository.

6.24 How does a shareholder get a copy of the Rights Subscription Form if he has not received his Rights Subscription Form posted by the listed corporation?

A shareholder can get a copy of the Rights Subscription Form from the share registrar. He can also download the Rights Subscription Form from www.bursamalaysia.com on the BCD of the rights issue onwards.

6.25 If a shareholder does not receive his Notice of Provisional Allotment Letter and Rights Subscription Form, who can he refer to?

The shareholder can contact the respective share registrar handling the Rights issue exercise.

6.26 Under the SPEEDS processing, when will the share registrar receive the file containing the details on the crediting of the Rights (“SPEEDS entitlement file”) from Bursa Depository for the purpose of despatching the Notice of Provisional Allotment Letter and Rights Subscription Form?

The SPEEDS entitlement file will be made available to the relevant share registrar on the morning of the listing date (BCD+1). After processing based on the SPEEDS entitlement file, the share registrar will print and despatch the Notice of Provisional Allotment Letter and Rights Subscription Form together with the prospectus not later than 2 market days after the BCD of the rights issue.

6.27 Can a shareholder sell his Rights even though he has not received the Notice of Provisional Allotment Letter and Rights Subscription Form?

The Rights will be credited into shareholders CDS accounts before the commencement of the trading of Rights on BCD+1. Shareholders may sell their Rights from BCD+1 without having to wait for the Notice of Provisional Allotment Letter and Rights Subscription Form.

6.28 Is there any fee imposed by Bursa Depository for the processing of shares from the crediting of Rights under SPEEDS and if so, how much is the fee?

Bursa Depository will impose on the issuer a processing fee of RM0.50 per account processed under SPEEDS. The processing fee is inclusive of the fee for the Record of Depositors (“**ROD**”). The fee of RM2.20 for the crediting of shares per account allotted remains the same.

Requirements in relation to bonus issue**6.29 What are the circumstances where the listed corporation, or the external auditors/reporting accountants, is required to provide confirmations that the available reserves for capitalization are sufficient to cover the capitalisation issue under Rule 6.31(2)(b)⁴ of the ACE LR and paragraph 1(dA) in Part B, Annexure GN17-B⁵ of Guidance Note 17?**

The following table clarifies the obligations of the listed corporation and the external auditors/reporting accountants in providing the relevant confirmations required for purposes of complying with Rule 6.31(3) of the ACE LR and paragraph 1(dA) in Part B, Annexure GN17-B of Guidance Note 17:

	SCENARIO	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS RELIED UPON			OBLIGATIONS	
		Latest audited financial statements	Latest audited financial statements adjusted for subsequent events	Latest unaudited financial statements	Must the listed corporation confirm the sufficiency of reserves for capitalization?	Must the reserves for capitalization be verified and confirmed by the external auditors (or reporting accountants) and the report be submitted to Bursa Securities?
Are the available reserves for	Scenario 1	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	No

⁴ Rule 6.31(2)(b) stipulates that a listed corporation undertaking a bonus issue by way of capitalisation must ensure that it has sufficient reserves to cover the capitalisation issue. If the reserves for capitalisation are not based on the annual audited financial statements of the listed corporation, such reserves must be verified and confirmed by the external auditors or reporting accountants of the listed corporation. Where a confirmation by the external auditors or reporting accountants is required, the reserves for capitalisation, which may be adjusted for subsequent events, must be based on the latest audited financial statements or the latest quarterly report, whichever is the later.

⁵ Paragraph 1(dA) of Part B, Annexure GN17-B provides that a listed corporation must file the following documents in support of the listing application for a bonus issue by way of capitalisation:

- (a) confirmation from the listed corporation on the sufficiency of the reserves to cover the capitalization; and
- (b) where the confirmation from the external auditors or reporting accountants is required, the report from the external auditors or reporting accountants.

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[Questions & Answers]

	SCENARIO	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS RELIED UPON			OBLIGATIONS	
		Latest audited financial statements	Latest audited financial statements adjusted for subsequent events	Latest unaudited financial statements	Must the listed corporation confirm the sufficiency of reserves for capitalization?	Must the reserves for capitalization be verified and confirmed by the external auditors (or reporting accountants) and the report be submitted to Bursa Securities?
capitalization sufficient?	Scenario 2	Yes	N/A	No	Cannot undertake bonus issue	N/A
	Scenario 3	No	Yes	N/A (Latest quarterly financial statements subsequent to the audited financial statements is not due for release)	Yes	Yes
Are the available reserves for capitalization sufficient?	Scenario 4	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes

6.30 In circumstances where the reserves for capitalization are based on the latest unaudited financial statements and such reserves must be verified and confirmed by the external auditors or reporting accountants, what is the required scope of the audit verification or confirmation?

The audit verification or confirmation must be made in accordance with the approved auditing standards applied in Malaysia for review of interim financial statements.

In relation to a foreign corporation with primary listing on Bursa Securities, the audit verification or confirmation may also be made in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing.

- 6.31** Rule 6.32 of the ACE LR requires a listed corporation which makes a bonus issue by way of capitalization of reserves arising from revaluation of real estate to submit 2 copies of the valuation report on the real estate to Bursa Securities immediately after the listed corporation announces the bonus issue or as soon as the valuation report is ready. Must the listed corporation submit the valuation report to the SC as well?

No, a valuation report required under Rule 6.32 of the ACE LR must be submitted to Bursa Securities only. A listed corporation need not submit the report to the SC.

- 6.32** Must a valuer who is required to submit an undertaking to Bursa Securities under Rule 6.32 of the ACE LR, file an undertaking each time it acts for a listed corporation?

No, a valuer is only required to provide Bursa Securities its letter of undertaking to comply with the ACE LR once. The same undertaking will be applicable for all listed corporations which the valuer acts for.

- 6.33** *C Bhd*, a listed corporation is undertaking a bonus issue by capitalising its reserves arising from the revaluation of real estate. The valuation figure of the real estate is RM100 million. Pursuant to Rule 6.32(4) of the ACE LR, Bursa Securities obtains a second opinion valuation, by which the real estate is valued at RM80 million. *C Bhd* is required to retain at least 20% of the valuation amount of the real estate in the revaluation reserves after undertaking the bonus issue in accordance with the provisions of the ACE LR. How much should *C Bhd* retain?

C Bhd should retain at least RM16 million in the revaluation reserves after taking into account/undertaking the bonus issue (i.e. based on the lower of the 2 valuation figures). The 20% is computed based on the valuation amount for the real estate set out in the valuation report. Where a second opinion valuation is required, the 20% would be based on the lower of the 2 valuation figures.

- 6.34** *ABC Bhd* is considering a proposal to undertake a capitalisation issue. Based on its latest consolidated audited accounts, *ABC Bhd* has revaluation reserves of RM60 million. *ABC Bhd* however has accumulated losses of RM80 million. Can *ABC Bhd* undertake a capitalisation issue?

Yes, *ABC Bhd* can undertake a capitalisation issue provided that it complies with Part F in Chapter 6 of the ACE LR including ensuring that the reserves are sufficient for the capitalisation issue and its share price adjusted for a bonus issue is not less than RM0.20 based on the daily volume weighted average share price during the 3-month period before the application date.

- 6.35** [Deleted]

Requirements relating to a Share Issuance Scheme

- 6.36** With Rule 6.42(d) of the ACE LR, who can confirm adjustments (other than on a bonus issue, subdivision or consolidation of shares) under a Share Issuance Scheme?

Pursuant to Rule 6.42(d) of the ACE LR, either the listed corporation's external auditor, Sponsor or Adviser, may confirm adjustments (other than on a bonus issue, subdivision or consolidation of shares) under a Share Issuance Scheme. However, this is subject to the provisions contained in the listed corporation's bylaws of the Share Issuance Scheme.

6.37 Pursuant to Rule 6.39(1) of the ACE LR, the total number of shares to be issued under a Share Issuance Scheme must not exceed 30% of the total number of issued shares at any one time. How is this percentage calculated?

Where a listed corporation has issued a percentage out of the 30% allowed under Rule 6.39(1) of the ACE LR, for the following issue, the listed corporation would need to deduct from the total number of issued shares, the number of shares already issued and paid for under the Share Issuance Scheme. The result from the deduction would be the new basis for calculating the percentage allowed for the scheme.

Illustration:

PLC A procured shareholder approval to implement a 5-year Share Issuance Scheme of up to 30% of its total number of issued shares on 8 February 2017. *PLC A* has a total number of issued shares of 20 million but arising from a rights issue implemented on 28 March 2017, the total number of issued shares is now 25 million. In addition, arising from the exercise of all the options offered by *PLC A* pursuant to the Share Issuance Scheme, as at December 2017, 5 million new shares were issued. Pursuant to Rule 6.39 of the ACE LR, what is the number of shares under the Share Issuance Scheme that can be offered by *PLC A* to its employees in year 2018?

Based on this example, the computation of the shares under the Share Issuance Scheme that may be offered by *PLC A* is as follow:

	Total Number of Issued Shares
8 February 2017	20 million
28 March 2017 (Issuance of new shares arising from rights issue – 5 million)	25 million
December 2017 (Total issuance of shares under the Share Issuance Scheme – 5 million)	30 million

Shares under the Share Issuance Scheme that can be offered by *PLC A* in year 2018:

= (30% x 30 million shares) LESS shares already issued under the Share Issuance Scheme (i.e. 5 million shares)

= 4 million new shares

6.38 Can a listed corporation establish more than 1 Share Issuance Scheme at any point in time?

Yes, a listed corporation may establish more than 1 Share Issuance Scheme provided that the aggregate number of shares available under all the Share Issuance Schemes does not exceed 30% of its total number of issued shares (excluding treasury shares).

Share Issuance Scheme by subsidiary**6.39 Is a Share Issuance Scheme undertaken by a subsidiary of a listed corporation subject to the approval of the listed corporation's shareholders?**

Generally, any Share Issuance Scheme implemented by a subsidiary of a listed corporation is no longer subjected to the approval of the listed corporation's shareholders under Rule 6.45 of the ACE LR. The Share Issuance Scheme implemented by the subsidiary will only require the approval of the listed corporation's shareholders if such Share Issuance Scheme is –

- (a) undertaken by a principal subsidiary⁶ and results in, or could potentially result in, a dilution amounting to 25% or more of the listed corporation's equity interest in the principal subsidiary under Rule 8.23 of the ACE LR; or
- (b) very material and triggers the percentage ratio of 25% or more under Rule 10.07 of the ACE LR where it will be considered as a "disposal of asset" by the listed corporation, due to dilution of its equity interest in the subsidiary.

In determining whether the obligations under Rules 8.23 or 10.07 of the ACE LR are triggered, the listed corporation must compute the relevant thresholds prior to implementation of the Share Issuance Scheme of the subsidiary based on the assumption that the Share Issuance Scheme is implemented in full.

Dividend Reinvestment Scheme**6.40 Will the shareholders having registered addresses outside Malaysia be entitled to participate in the Dividend Reinvestment Scheme?**

In addition to the requirements in Chapter 6 of the ACE LR, a listed corporation which intends to issue shares pursuant to a Dividend Reinvestment Scheme must also comply with the relevant provisions of law governing such issuance.

Hence, the listed corporation must ensure that there is no prohibition under the relevant laws in determining whether shareholders having registered addresses outside Malaysia are entitled to participate in the Dividend Reinvestment Scheme.

⁶ A "principal subsidiary" is defined in Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR as a subsidiary which accounts for 25% or more of the profit after tax or total assets employed of the listed corporation based on the latest published or announced audited financial statements of the listed corporation or audited consolidated financial statements of the listed corporation, as the case may be.

Issuance of convertible securities

6.41 Can a listed corporation revise the provisions in its deed poll or trust deed pertaining to the following changes as set out in Rule 6.55(3) of the ACE LR (“said restrictions”):

- **the tenure of the convertible securities; or**
- **the number of shares received for the exercise or conversion of each convertible security or pricing mechanism for the exercise or conversion price (other than adjustments following certain corporate exercises),**

if there are provisions allowing for alteration or adjustment in the deed poll or trust deed and the listed corporation complies with such provisions?

No, and this is clarified in Rule 6.56(b)⁷ of the ACE LR. The said restrictions are imposed on convertible securities (other than debt securities⁸) to provide certainty to the holders of such securities and avoid changes or adjustments to the terms and conditions of the convertible equity securities which may be detrimental to them.

Electronic mode for submission and payment of specified corporate exercises

6.42 Can a listed corporation offer the electronic mode as the only way of performing the corporate exercises as specified under Rule 6.09A of the ACE LR?

No, a listed corporation must still provide the manual method in addition to the electronic mode. This is to ensure that securities holders may continue to use the manual method to perform the relevant steps or procedures specified, if they choose to do so.

6.43 Where can a securities holder find out about the procedures for the subscription and payment of a rights issue?

The securities holder can obtain such information from the abridged prospectus of a rights issue.

6.44 The facts of the matter are as follows:

- **PLC A announces its issuance of convertible securities on 30 June 2020.**
- **PLC A issues the convertible securities on 1 July 2021.**
- **Shareholder B intends to exercise/convert its convertible securities on 31 November 2021.**

⁷ Rule 6.56 of the ACE LR stipulates that a listed corporation may make an alteration or adjustment to the terms of the convertible securities during the tenure of the securities only if such alteration or adjustment –

- (a) is provided upfront in the deed poll or trust deed governing the securities; and
- (b) does not relate to the provisions set out in in Rule 6.55(3) above.

⁸ Rule 6.55(4) of the ACE LR.

The requirements under Rule 6.09A of the ACE LR comes into effect for any rights issue, Dividend Reinvestment Scheme or issue of convertible securities announced on or after 2 February 2021. Based on the facts above, must *PLC A* facilitate the exercise/conversion of convertible securities by its securities holders electronically as required under Rule 6.09A of the ACE LR?

No. *PLC A* is only required to offer the electronic mode for issuance of convertible securities announced on or after 2 February 2021. However, *PLC A* may opt to offer the electronic mode to the securities holders provided that –

- it complies with all the requirements relating to the provision of electronic mode including the disclosure of the process involved in the notice of conversion or exercise of convertible securities; and
- the trust deed or deed poll in respect of the convertible securities facilitates such electronic mode.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD LISTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACE MARKET
(As at 2 January 2018)**

CHAPTER 7 – CONSTITUTION

General

7.1 [Deleted]

7.2 **If a listed corporation undertakes amendments to its constitution, is there a requirement for the listed corporation to submit a letter of compliance and checklist of compliance similar to the requirement of Rule 3.11 of the ACE LR?**

Pursuant to Rules 2.11 and 2.12 of the ACE LR, any amendments made to the constitution by listed corporations must be submitted to Bursa Securities no later than 5 market days after the effective date of the amendment together with a letter of compliance. In relation to a checklist of compliance for such amendment, there is no requirement for submission of the same unless Bursa Securities requests for it.

Enhancements to proxy requirements

7.3 **Under Rule 7.21 of the ACE LR, where a member of a listed corporation is an exempt authorised nominee, there is no limit to the number of proxies which the exempt authorized nominee may appoint in respect of each omnibus account it holds. Who is an “exempt authorised nominee” for purposes of Rule 7.21 of the ACE LR?**

Under the Rules of Bursa Depository, an authorised nominee is defined as a person who is authorised to act as a nominee in accordance with the schedule prescribed under Part VIII of the Rules. This means that such person can hold securities on behalf of another person. On the other hand, an exempt authorised nominee is an authorised nominee who may hold deposited securities for more than one beneficial owner in respect of each securities account it holds, or commonly known as the omnibus account.

7.4 [Deleted]

Annual shareholder approval for directors’ fees and benefits

7.4A **Given that section 230 of the Companies Act 2016 already requires that the fees of directors and any benefits payable to directors to be approved at a general meeting, why must a listed corporation amend its constitution to the effect that the fees of directors, and any benefits payable to directors (“Directors Fees and Benefits”) shall be subject to annual shareholder approval at a general meeting pursuant to the ACE LR?**

This is to make clear that apart from seeking shareholder approval on director’s fees on an annual basis pursuant sections 230 and 340(1)(c) of the Companies Act 2016, a listed corporation must also seek its shareholder approval for benefits payable to directors on an annual basis. This will provide greater clarity on the frequency of shareholder approval for directors’ benefits as the Companies Act 2016 is silent on this point.

7.4B Is a listed corporation required to seek shareholder approval for its Directors' Fees and Benefits even though there is no increase in such fees and benefits?

Yes. A listed corporation must seek shareholder approval for its Directors' Fees and Benefits annually irrespective of whether there is an increase in the amount of such fees and benefits or otherwise.

Effect of the ACE LR

7.5 In the event a listed corporation has incorporated the deeming provision under Rule 7.36(4) of the ACE LR in its constitution, is the listed corporation still required to amend its constitution if there are amendments made to Chapter 7 of the ACE LR which are not already in its constitution?

Yes, a listed corporation is still required to amend its constitution in accordance with the relevant amendments of Chapter 7 of the ACE LR. This is to ensure that shareholders have access to constitution which are updated and comprehensive.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 1 April 2023)**

CHAPTER 8 – CONTINUING LISTING OBLIGATIONS

General

8.1 What are the sectors that are prescribed by Bursa Securities for entities listed on the ACE Market?

The sectors for entities listed on the Official List of the ACE Market are as prescribed by Bursa Securities from time to time. The list of sectors can be obtained from Bursa Securities' official website at www.bursamalaysia.com, or upon request.

Shareholding spread

8.2 Pursuant to Rule 8.02(1) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must ensure that at least 25% of its total listed shares (excluding treasury shares) are in the hands of the public shareholders. Do these public shareholders need to hold at least 1 board lot, i.e. 100 shares each?

No, there is no minimum number of shares that need to be held by these public shareholders.

8.3 On 5 August 2009, *D Bhd*'s public shareholding spread is 18% of its total listed shares (excluding treasury shares).

(a) What are *D Bhd*'s key obligations under the ACE LR in relation to this non-compliance?

D Bhd must take immediate steps to comply with the public shareholding spread requirement.

Pursuant to Rule 8.02(3) of the ACE LR, *D Bhd* must immediately announce to Bursa Securities that it does not comply with the required shareholding spread prescribed under Rule 8.02(1). *D Bhd* must include the information set out in paragraph 3.2 of Guidance Note 13 in its announcement. After that, *D Bhd* must announce the status of its efforts to comply with the public shareholding spread requirement for each quarter of its financial year in accordance with paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of Guidance Note 13.

If *D Bhd* requires an extension of time to rectify its situation, it must request for an extension under Rule 8.02(4) of the ACE LR. However, even though an extension of time is granted, *D Bhd* must comply with the public shareholding spread requirement as soon as possible.

Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations
[Questions & Answers]

- (b) **On 30 August 2009, *D Bhd*'s public shareholding spread is 9% of its total listed shares (excluding treasury shares). What is *D Bhd*'s additional obligation in regard to its public shareholding spread of 9%?**

In addition to the disclosure obligations under Question (a) above, *D Bhd* must immediately announce to Bursa Securities the information set out in paragraph 5.4 of Guidance Note 13.

- (c) **When will the trading of securities of *D Bhd* be suspended after its announcement in Question (b) above?**

Pursuant to Rule 16.02(2)(a) of the ACE LR, Bursa Securities shall suspend trading of securities of *D Bhd* upon expiry of 30 market days from the date of *D Bhd*'s announcement. However, if the public shareholding spread of *D Bhd* increases to above 10% before the expected date of suspension, *D Bhd* should immediately inform Bursa Securities of its improvement in its public spread and seek its confirmation on whether the suspension will still be imposed.

In addition, where appropriate, Bursa Securities may also take such enforcement action as it deems fit against *D Bhd* pursuant to Rule 16.19 of the ACE LR.

- 8.4 **On 5 August 2009, pursuant to a take-over offer, *Company P* holds 76% of the listed shares (excluding treasury shares) of *Y Bhd*, a listed corporation. If *Company P*'s intention is to maintain *Y Bhd*'s listing status, what are *Y Bhd*'s key obligations in regard to its non-compliance with the public shareholding spread requirement prescribed under Rule 8.02(1) of the ACE LR?**

Y Bhd must take immediate steps to comply with the public shareholding spread requirement.

Pursuant to Rule 8.02(3) of the ACE LR, *Y Bhd* must announce that it does not comply with the required shareholding spread prescribed in Rule 8.02(1) of the ACE LR. *Y Bhd* must include the information set out in paragraph 3.2 of Guidance Note 13 in its announcement.

Y Bhd must announce the status of its efforts to comply with the public shareholding spread requirement for each quarter of its financial year in accordance with paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of Guidance Note 13.

If *Y Bhd* requires an extension of time to rectify its situation, it must request for an extension under Rule 8.02(4) of the ACE LR. However, even though an extension of time is granted, *Y Bhd* must comply with the public shareholding spread requirement as soon as possible.

- 8.5 **On 19 August 2009, pursuant to a take-over offer, *Company X* holds 91% of the listed shares (excluding treasury shares) of *Z Bhd*, a listed corporation. If *Company X*'s intention is to maintain *Z Bhd*'s listing status, what must *Z Bhd* do?**

Pursuant to Rule 9.19(48) of the ACE LR, *Z Bhd* must announce that 90% or more of its shares are being held by *Company X*. *Z Bhd* must include the information set out in Part J of Appendix 9A in the announcement.

Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations [Questions & Answers]

After that, *Z Bhd* may withdraw its listing from the Official List of Bursa Securities under Rule 16.07 of the ACE LR. In requesting to withdraw its listing, *Z Bhd* need not comply with the requirements under Rule 16.06 of the ACE LR including the requirement to obtain shareholder approval.

Lower public shareholding spread

8.5A Pursuant to paragraph 2.2 of Guidance Note 13, the Exchange may accept a public shareholding percentage of lower than the 25% threshold as prescribed in Rule 3.10(1) and Rule 8.02(1) of the ACE LR if the quantitative market capitalisation criteria¹ under paragraph 2.2(a) of Guidance Note 13 and qualitative criteria² under paragraph 2.2(b) of Guidance Note 13 are met. In this regard, how would the Exchange assess whether the qualitative criteria have been met?

In assessing or determining that the qualitative criteria have been met, the Exchange may consider or take into account (among others) the following:

Qualitative criteria	Consideration
Sufficient liquid market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concentration of public shareholdings in the applicant or listed corporation • Number of shares in issue in the applicant or listed corporation • The spread between the bid and ask price and trading volume of the shares of the listed corporation
Orderly and fair trading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any queries issued to the listed corporation relating unusual market activities • Any circumstances indicating manipulative activities or any issuance of market alerts in respect of the shares of the applicant or listed corporation
Satisfactory corporate governance conduct and compliance record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is any enforcement proceeding or action commenced or taken against the applicant or listed corporation or its directors by the relevant authorities, including the Exchange and the Securities Commission

¹ A listed corporation must meet the quantitative market capitalisation of RM1 billion or more but less than RM3 billion for minimum acceptable lower spread of 20% or market capitalisation of RM3 billion or more for minimum acceptable lower public spread of 15%.

² In respect of the qualitative criteria, the Exchange may accept lower public spread for an applicant or listed corporation if the Exchange is satisfied that:

- (a) there is, or will be, sufficient liquid market in the shares of the applicant or listed corporation;
- (b) there is, or will be, orderly and fair trading in the shares of the applicant or listed corporation;
- (c) the applicant or listed corporation and its directors have satisfactory corporate governance conduct and compliance record with the Listing Requirements and securities laws; and
- (d) there is reasonable justification necessitating the Lower Public Spread for the applicant or listed corporation.

Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations [Questions & Answers]

Qualitative criteria	Consideration
Reasonable justification necessitating the lower public spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant facts and circumstances that warrant a lower public spread such as actual non-compliance of required public spread • Where the circumstance is that of actual non-compliance of required public spread, whether the non-compliance is beyond the reasonable control of the listed corporation, its controlling shareholders or its directors

8.5B Pursuant to Rule 2A.1 of Guidance Note 13, a listed corporation that has been granted with lower public spread is required to immediately notify the Exchange when it becomes aware of any of the Specified Decreases³. What are the examples of instances when a listed corporation would be deemed to become aware of any of the Specified Decreases?

A listed corporation would be deemed to become aware of the Specified Decrease (if any) -

- when it requests for a copy of the Record of Depositors from Bursa Malaysia Depository Sdn Bhd;
- during the preparation of its annual returns or annual reports; or
- when it undertakes a corporate exercise or corporate proposal;

as the listed corporations would have sufficient information in the said circumstances to be able to reasonably discover whether there is any Specified Decrease.

Notwithstanding the above, a listed corporation must also immediately notify the Exchange if it becomes aware of any Specified Decrease in any circumstances other than those stated above.

Cash Companies

8.6 If a listed corporation's assets on a consolidated basis, consist of 70% or more of cash or short term investments, or a combination of both, is the listed corporation automatically considered a "Cash Company"?

No, it is not. The listed corporation must notify Bursa Securities immediately of the fact and Bursa Securities will determine as to whether the listed corporation should be considered a "Cash Company". Bursa Securities will notify the listed corporation of its determination.

³ Under Rule 2A.1 of Guidance Note 13, a listed corporation approved with a lower public spread must immediately notify the Exchange when it becomes aware of any of the following:

- (a) any decrease in its issued share capital;
- (b) any decrease in the percentage of the public spread below the percentage approved by the Exchange; and
- (c) any decrease of the said listed corporation's average market capitalisation for the preceding 12 months to below the prescribed threshold as set out in paragraph 2.2(a) above.

(collectively "the Specified Decreases").

Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations
[Questions & Answers]**8.7 What are the “short-dated securities” referred to in Rule 8.03(4) of the ACE LR?**

“Short-dated securities” include money market instruments, structured deposits, debt securities, or any other type of deposit or products which are short term in nature (i.e. less than 12 months) offered by financial institutions.

8.8 A Bhd has disposed of its core business resulting in it triggering the Cash Criterion. Before it is classified as a Cash Company, A Bhd has existing investments in short-dated securities with institutions other than financial institutions licensed by Bank Negara Malaysia (“BNM”). How does A Bhd comply with Rule 8.03(4) of the ACE LR?

Upon triggering the Cash Criterion, these short-dated securities must be placed with a custodian. When these short-dated securities mature or are converted into cash, A Bhd must immediately place the funds with an account opened with financial institutions licensed by BNM, and operated by the custodian.

8.9 In year 2010, X Bhd disposes of its core business relating to printing and has been classified as a Cash Company by Bursa Securities. X Bhd intends to expand its other existing business, which is cartridge manufacturing. Can X Bhd regularise its condition by developing this cartridge manufacturing as its new core business?

No, a regularisation proposal under Rule 8.03 of the ACE LR must involve an acquisition of a new core business and not by developing the Cash Company’s existing business.

8.10 Pursuant to Rule 8.03(5)(a)(ii) of the ACE LR, a Cash Company must appoint a Sponsor within 3 months from the date it announces that it is a Cash Company. Who can be the Cash Company’s Sponsor in this instance?

Any person from the Register of Sponsor can be the Cash Company’s Sponsor. This includes a Sponsor that has acted for the Cash Company during the Sponsorship Period.

8.11 Rule 8.03(5)(b) of the ACE LR requires a Cash Company to retain the services of a Sponsor for at least 3 full financial years after it is no longer considered a Cash Company. Who can be the Cash Company’s Sponsor in this instance?

The Sponsor who is appointed by the Cash Company in Question 0 above must act as the Cash Company’s Sponsor in this instance for at least the first full financial year. After that, the Cash Company can either retain that Sponsor or retain another person from the Register of Sponsor to be the Cash Company’s Sponsor for the remaining 2 full financial years.

8.12 A Bhd’s Sponsorship Period ends in 2009. In 2010, A Bhd is classified as a Cash Company. In accordance with Rule 8.03(5)(a)(ii) of the ACE LR, A Bhd appoints X as its Sponsor within 3 months from the date it announces that it is a Cash Company. Before A Bhd completes the implementation of its regularisation proposal, can it replace X with any other person as its Sponsor?

No, A Bhd must retain X as its Sponsor until it completes the implementation of its regularisation proposal and for at least 1 full financial year after A Bhd is no longer considered as a Cash Company. If X resigns or has its appointment terminated before A Bhd completes its regularisation proposal, A Bhd is deemed to have failed its obligation to regularise under Rule 8.03(5)(a) of the ACE LR. In this case, Bursa Securities may suspend the trading of A Bhd’s listed securities and de-list A Bhd.

Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations
[Questions & Answers]**8.13 Is a Cash Company required to disclose its failure to comply with any obligation imposed pursuant to Rule 8.03(5)(a) of the ACE LR?**

Yes, the Cash Company must announce its failure to comply with a particular obligation imposed pursuant to Guidance Note 2 and ensure that the announcement complies with the standard of disclosure set out in Rule 9.35 of the ACE LR with regard to the contents of the announcement. In addition, the Cash Company must also include the consequences of such failure in its announcement.

8.14 Can a Cash Company include the announcement on the status of its proposal as required under paragraph 2.1(b) of Guidance Note 2 (“status report”) in its quarterly report?

No, the quarterly announcement of the status report must be made separately.

8.15 *X Bhd* has been classified as a Cash Company by Bursa Securities. Pursuant to Rule 8.03(5)(a)(i) of the ACE LR, *X Bhd* submits a proposal to acquire a new core business to Bursa Securities for approval. While *X Bhd* is awaiting Bursa Securities’ approval, it has ceased to trigger the Cash Criterion. Can *X Bhd* apply to Bursa Securities for it to be no longer considered a Cash Company?

No, pursuant to Rule 8.03(8) of the ACE LR, *X Bhd* **must** complete the implementation of the proposal before it can apply to Bursa Securities for it to be no longer considered a Cash Company. So, even though *X Bhd* has ceased to trigger the Cash Criterion, that would not entitle it to be no longer considered as a Cash Company until it has completed its proposal to regularise its condition.

Listed corporations with inadequate level of operations**8.16 Is there any difference in the obligations of an affected listed corporation⁴ under the previous framework set out in Guidance Note 3 and the new framework in Rule 8.03A of the ACE LR?**

Under the new framework in Rule 8.03A of the ACE LR, generally the obligations of the affected listed corporation remain the same as that of a GN3 Company including the requirement to submit and implement a regularisation plan within the prescribed timeframe. However, taking into consideration that there are differences between these listed corporations (an affected listed corporation vis-a-vis a GN3 Company), under the new framework -

- (a) an affected listed corporation will not be tagged or classified as a “GN3” Company;
- (b) if the affected listed corporation fails to regularise its condition, Bursa Securities has the discretion to suspend and delist its securities, whilst in the case of a GN3 Company, the suspension and delisting is automatic; and

⁴ As stipulated in Rule 8.03A(3) of the ACE LR, an affected listed corporation refers to a listed corporation which has triggered the criteria of inadequate level of operations under Rule 8.03A(2) of the ACE LR namely that the listed corporation has –

- (a) suspended or ceased all of its business or its major business; or
- (b) suspended or ceased its entire or major operations; or
- (c) an insignificant business or operations.

**Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations
[Questions & Answers]**

- (c) there is an express provision in Rule 8.03A for the affected listed corporation to apply not to undertake any regularisation plan if it is able to demonstrate to Bursa Securities' satisfaction that its remaining business is sustainable and has growth prospects with appropriate justifications, and its level of operations remains suitable for continued listing.

8.17 Which regularisation obligation must a listed corporation comply with in the following scenarios:**Scenario 1**

The listed corporation first triggers the criteria for inadequate level of operations set out in Rule 8.03A of the ACE LR and subsequently triggers the Prescribed Criteria set out in Guidance Note 3.

Scenario 2

The listed corporation first triggers the criteria for inadequate level of operations set out in Rule 8.03A of the ACE LR and subsequently triggers the Cash Criterion in Rule 8.03 of the ACE LR.

The general principle is that the listed corporation must comply with the stricter obligations.

Hence in Scenario 1, the listed corporation must comply with the obligations imposed on a GN3 Company under Rule 8.04 and Guidance Note 3 of the ACE LR.

In Scenario 2, the listed corporation must comply with the obligations imposed on a Cash Company under Rule 8.03 and Guidance Note 2 of the ACE LR.

In both the Scenarios, the timeframe for the listed corporation to regularise its condition commences 12 months from the date the listed corporation announces that it triggers the criteria for inadequate level of operations under Rule 8.03A of the ACE LR.

GN3 Companies**8.18 When must a listed corporation assess whether it is a GN3 Company?**

All listed corporations must on a continuing basis undertake a self assessment of their financial condition and level of operations. At any given time if a listed corporation finds that it triggers any one or more of the criteria prescribed in paragraph 2.1 of Guidance Note 3 ("**Prescribed Criteria**"), the listed corporation must comply with the requirements of Rule 8.04 of the ACE LR and Guidance Note 3.

8.19 Pursuant to Rule 8.04(3)(a)(ii) of the ACE LR, a GN3 Company must appoint a Sponsor within 3 months from the date it announces that it is a GN3 Company. Who can be the GN3 Company's Sponsor in this instance?

Any person from the Register of Sponsor can be the GN3 Company's Sponsor. This includes a Sponsor that has acted for the GN3 Company during the Sponsorship Period.

Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations
[Questions & Answers]

- 8.20 Rule 8.04(3)(c) of the ACE LR requires a GN3 Company to retain the services of a Sponsor for at least 3 full financial years after it is no longer considered a GN3 Company. Who can be the GN3 Company's Sponsor in this instance?**

The Sponsor who is appointed by the GN3 Company in Question 0 above must act as the GN3 Company's Sponsor in this instance for at least the first full financial year. After that, the GN3 Company can either retain that Sponsor or retain another person from the Register of Sponsor to be the GN3 Company's Sponsor for the remaining 2 full financial years.

- 8.21 A Bhd's Sponsorship Period ends in 2009. In 2010, A Bhd is classified as a GN3 Company. In accordance with Rule 8.04(3)(a)(ii) of the ACE LR, A Bhd appoints X as its Sponsor within 3 months from the date it announces that it is a GN3 Company. Before A Bhd completes the implementation of its regularisation plan, can it replace X with any other person as its Sponsor?**

No, A Bhd must retain X as its Sponsor until it completes the implementation of its regularisation plan and for at least 1 full financial year after A Bhd is no longer considered as a GN3 Company. If X resigns or has its appointment terminated before A Bhd completes its regularisation plan, A Bhd is deemed to have failed its obligation to regularise under Rule 8.04(3)(a) of the ACE LR. In this case, Bursa Securities shall, in accordance with Rule 8.04(5) of the ACE LR –

- (a) suspend the trading of the GN3 Company's listed securities on the next market day after 5 market days from the date of notification of suspension by Bursa Securities; and
- (b) de-list the GN3 Company subject to the latter's right to appeal against the de-listing.

- 8.22 X Bhd is a GN3 Company. Pursuant to Rule 8.04(3)(a)(i) of the ACE LR, X Bhd submits a plan to regularise its condition to Bursa Securities for approval. While X Bhd is awaiting Bursa Securities' approval, it has ceased to trigger the Prescribed Criteria. Can X Bhd apply to Bursa Securities for it to be no longer considered a GN3 Company?**

No, pursuant to Rule 8.04(8) of the ACE LR, X Bhd must complete the implementation of the plan to regularise its condition before it can apply to Bursa Securities for it to be no longer considered a GN3 Company. So, even though X Bhd has ceased to trigger the Prescribed Criteria, that would not entitle it to be no longer considered as a GN3 Company until it has completed its plan to regularise its condition.

- 8.23 ABC Berhad, a listed corporation has changed its financial year end from 31 December 2009 to 31 March 2010. ABC Berhad's financial statements for the said period of 15 months show that it has incurred losses. For the purposes of determining if ABC Berhad triggers one of the Prescribed Criteria in Guidance Note 3, will the losses for the whole 15 months period be considered?**

Yes, the losses incurred for the full financial year of ABC Berhad i.e. the 15 months period from 1 January 2009 to 31 March 2010, will be taken into consideration. If the losses equal to or exceed the amount of its shareholders' equity and the shareholders' equity is 50% or less of the issued and paid up capital of the listed corporation at the end of the financial year 31 March 2010, ABC Berhad will trigger the Prescribed Criteria.

Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations
[Questions & Answers]

- 8.24 Which type of accounts can be used by a listed corporation in order to make a determination of “shareholders’ equity”, “total assets employed”, “major” and “insignificant business or operations” under the Prescribed Criteria?**

The determination of “shareholders’ equity”, “total assets employed”, “major” and “insignificant business or operations” under the Prescribed Criteria must be based on either the audited or unaudited accounts, which includes the management accounts of the listed corporation.

- 8.25 Paragraph 2.2(a) of Guidance Note 3 provides that “shareholders’ equity” refers to the equity attributable to equity holders of the listed corporation. Is non-controlling interest included in determining “shareholders’ equity”?**

No, shareholders’ equity excludes non-controlling interest.

- 8.26 The auditors of XYZ Bhd highlighted a material uncertainty related to going concern on XYZ Bhd in its latest audited financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017 (“Financial Statement”). XYZ Bhd’s shareholders’ equity on a consolidated basis based on the Financial Statement was 60% of its share capital (excluding treasury shares).**

However, XYZ Bhd’s subsequent quarterly results for the period ended 30 September 2017 (“quarterly results”) shows that its shareholders’ equity has reduced to 35% of its share capital (excluding treasury shares).

Will XYZ Bhd trigger the Prescribed Criteria upon the release of its quarterly results?

Yes, since XYZ Bhd’s auditors have highlighted a material uncertainty related to going concern on XYZ Bhd in its latest Financial Statement and based on XYZ Bhd’s latest available results which is the quarterly results, its shareholders’ equity is less than 50% of its share capital (excluding treasury shares), XYZ Bhd will trigger the Prescribed Criteria pursuant to paragraph 2.1(g) of Guidance Note 3. In this event, XYZ Bhd must immediately make the First Announcement under paragraph 4.1(a) of Guidance Note 3 upon the release of its quarterly results.

- 8.27 Are the obligations of a GN3 Company whose securities have been suspended from trading different from the obligations of a GN3 Company whose securities have not been suspended from trading?**

No, the obligations are the same irrespective of whether the securities of the GN3 Company have been suspended or not from trading.

- 8.28 On 3 February 2010, X Bhd triggers the Cash Criterion and announces that it is a Cash Company. On 2 June 2010, X Bhd also triggers one of the Prescribed Criteria and announces that it is a GN3 Company.**

- (a) Must X Bhd comply with the regularisation obligations set out in Rule 8.03 (as a Cash Company) or 8.04 (as a GN3 Company) of the ACE LR?**

X Bhd must comply with the stricter obligations i.e. those imposed on a Cash Company under Rule 8.03 and Guidance Note 2 of the ACE LR. Among others, the listed corporation must place at least 90% of its cash and short-dated securities in an account opened with a financial institution licensed by Bank Negara Malaysia and operated by a custodian.

Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations
[Questions & Answers]

- (b) **What is the applicable timeframe for *X Bhd* to submit its proposal to regularise its condition as a Cash Company and GN3 Company?**

X Bhd must regularise its condition by submitting a proposal to Bursa Securities within 12 months from the date *X Bhd* announces that it is a Cash Company, i.e. by 2 February 2011.

- (c) **Must *X Bhd* regularise its condition by undertaking a regularisation proposal/plan under Rule 8.03(5)(a) or that under Rule 8.04(3)(a)(i) of the ACE LR?**

X Bhd must undertake a regularisation proposal under Rule 8.03(5)(a) of the ACE LR. This proposal must be able to regularise *X Bhd*'s condition as a Cash Company and GN3 Company. In this regard, the proposal must be one to acquire a new core business as required under Rule 8.03(5)(a)(i), and which will also fulfill the conditions set out in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of Guidance Note 3.

8.29 Paragraph 2.1(e) of Guidance Note 3 sets out a criterion of a winding up of the listed corporation's subsidiary or associated company which accounts for at least 50% of the total assets employed of the listed corporation on a consolidated basis ("Criterion 2.1(e)").

- (a) **If a winding-up order has been made against such subsidiary or associated company of a listed corporation but the winding-up order is either stayed or under appeal, will the listed corporation still be classified as a GN3 Company?**

Yes, a stay order only has the effect of suspending the operation of the winding-up order. It does not change the fact that Criterion 2.1(e) has been triggered. Thus the classification as a GN3 Company will take effect. Similarly, if the winding-up order is pending appeal, the listed corporation will nonetheless be classified as a GN3 Company, pending the outcome of the appeal.

- (b) **Will a winding-up order against a listed corporation, instead of such subsidiary or associated company of a listed corporation, trigger Criterion 2.1(e)?**

No. However, pursuant to Rule 16.11(2)(d) of the ACE LR, Bursa Securities shall de-list a listed corporation where a winding up order has been made against the listed corporation itself.

8.30 What are the measures that will be taken by Bursa Securities to assist investors in identifying listed corporations which are GN3 Companies?

The full list of GN3 Companies and announcements relating to them are available on Bursa Malaysia's website. Hence, investors may access Bursa Malaysia's website to be kept informed and updated on the status of the financial condition of the GN3 Companies.

Compliance with enhanced regularisation plan requirements

8.31 *X Bhd* triggers the Prescribed Criteria under Guidance Note 3 on 29 December 2014 but has not submitted its regularisation plan to Bursa Securities. Is *X Bhd* required to comply with the enhanced requirements on regularisation plan in paragraphs 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 of Guidance Note 3 which takes effect on 27 January 2015?

X Bhd must comply with the enhance requirements on regularisation plan in paragraphs 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 of Guidance Note 3 if it submits its regularisation plan to Bursa Securities on or after 27 January 2015.

8.31A *Y Bhd* is a GN3 Company which intends to undertake a regularisation plan to regularize its financial condition pursuant to Rule 8.04 and GN3 of the ACE LR. In the regularisation plan submitted to Bursa Securities, *Y Bhd* has included information relating to its financial forecast. What are the specific requirements under the ACE LR that *Y Bhd* must comply with in relation to the disclosure of financial forecast in the regularisation plan?

Y Bhd and its Sponsor or Adviser must ensure that the preparation and disclosure of the financial forecast in the regularisation plan comply with Chapters 9 and 10 in Division 1, Part II of the SC's Prospectus Guidelines in relation to future financial information ("**SC FFI Standards**") as required under Rule 2.19A of the ACE LR. *Y Bhd* must also ensure that its reporting accountant reviews and reports on the underlying accounting policies and assumptions relied on in the preparation of the financial forecast in accordance with the SC FFI Standards.

In addition to the above, *Y Bhd* must, amongst others, ensure that -

- the contents of the regularisation plan submitted to Bursa Securities comply with the requirements as set out in Rule 2.18 of the ACE LR; and
- the draft circular submitted to Bursa Securities together with the regularisation plan complies with the standard of disclosure for circulars as prescribed under Rule 9.35 of the ACE LR.

Appointment of Adviser for proposals

8.32 Pursuant to Rule 8.06(1) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must engage the services of an Adviser where it undertakes such corporate proposals or activities prescribed by Bursa Securities as requiring the services of an Adviser.

(a) What are such corporate proposals or activities that require the services of an Adviser?

The corporate proposals or activities which have been prescribed by Bursa Securities as requiring the services of an Adviser are set out in paragraph 2.0 of Guidance Note 19. In addition, the corporate proposals or activities which do not require the services of an Adviser are set out in paragraph 3.0 of Guidance Note 19.

(b) Who can be the Adviser?

The Adviser must be a person registered on the Register of Sponsors of the ACE Market.

- 8.33** Are Rule 8.06 and Guidance Note 19 applicable to all listed corporations or listed corporations which are still under the Sponsorship Period only?

Yes, Rule 8.06 and Guidance Note 19 apply to all listed corporations, including those under the Sponsorship Period.

Material Variations

- 8.34** Rule 8.24(1)(b) of the ACE LR requires a listed corporation to issue a circular to its shareholders and seek its shareholder approval for any material amendment, modification or variation to a proposal which has been previously approved by shareholders in general meeting. When is an amendment, modification or variation considered as “material”?

Pursuant to Rule 8.24(2)(b) of the ACE LR, an amendment, modification or variation is considered material if it can be reasonably expected to have a material effect on the decision of a holder of securities of the listed corporation in relation to such proposal.

- 8.35** Pursuant to Rule 8.24(3) of the ACE LR, an amendment, modification or variation to a proposal which has been approved by shareholders resulting from the direction or condition imposed by the relevant authorities does not require shareholder approval under Rule 8.24(1)(b) of the ACE LR.

Company A obtains shareholder approval for its corporate proposal i.e. to purchase a 10% interest in *Company B*. Subsequently, before making a submission for approval to the relevant authority, *Company A* revises its proposed purchase to a 30% interest in *Company B*. *Company A* then submits the amended proposal to the relevant authority for approval. The amended proposal is approved by the relevant authority. Although the amendment is material, it is already approved by the relevant authority. Would *Company A* still need to obtain shareholder approval for the amendment?

Yes, the material amendment to *Company A*'s proposal would still require shareholder approval under Rule 8.24(1)(b) of the ACE LR. Although the amended proposal may have been approved by the relevant authority, the amendment was not made pursuant to a direction or condition imposed by such authority.

- 8.35A** *ABC Bhd* raised RM50 million in its initial public offering (“IPO”) for the purposes as set out in items (1) to (3) of the table below and as represented in its prospectus. As at 30 April 2019, *ABC Bhd* had utilized RM29 million from the total proceeds raised as set out in column (i) of the table below. Subsequent to its listing, *ABC Bhd* decides to change the utilisation of the balance IPO proceeds in order to purchase a new land amounting to RM13 million. As such, *ABC Bhd* proposes to utilise the balance IPO proceeds earmarked for purchase of equipment and machineries to settle the purchase consideration of RM13 million as follows (items 2 and 4 of the table):

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No.	Details of Utilisation	IPO Proceeds (RM'000)	Actual Utilisation as at 30 Apr 2019 (RM'000) (i)	Balance IPO Proceeds (RM'000)	Revisions to Utilisation (RM'000)	Balance Revised Utilisation(RM'000)
1.	Repayment of bank borrowing	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
2.	Purchase of equipment and machineries	36,000	15,000	21,000	(13,000)	8,000
3.	Estimated listing expenses	4,000	4,000	-	-	-
4.	Purchase of land	-	-	-	13,000	13,000
	TOTAL	50,000	29,000	21,000	-	21,000

Is *ABC Bhd* required to seek shareholder approval for using its IPO proceeds for purchase of equipment and machineries to pay for its new land?

Yes, pursuant to Rule 8.24(1)(a) of the ACE LR, *ABC Bhd* is required to seek shareholder approval for the change to the utilisation of IPO proceeds since the proposed change of utilisation of proceeds amounting to RM13 million is material as it exceeds 25% of the total IPO proceeds raised:

$$\text{RM13 million/RM50 million} \times 100 = 26\%.$$

8.36 Is Rule 8.24 of the ACE LR only applicable to proposals where Bursa Securities will conduct a full review of the circulars i.e. the Full Review Circulars?

No, the approved proposal referred to in Rule 8.24 of the ACE LR covers all proposals that require shareholder approval.

Securities holders approval

8.37 Where the ACE LR specifies that a transaction or corporate proposal requires the approval of shareholders, would ratification of the transaction or corporate proposal by the shareholders be acceptable?

No, a listed corporation must obtain its shareholder approval before completing or implementing its transaction or corporate proposal.

Financial assistance

- 8.38** Rule 8.25(1) of the ACE LR stipulates that the requirements relating to the provision of financial assistance in the ACE LR are applicable to a listed corporation and its subsidiaries which are not listed on any stock exchange. Does this mean that a subsidiary listed on a stock exchange outside Malaysia is not required to comply with Rule 8.25 of the ACE LR if such subsidiary provides financial assistance?

Yes, the subsidiary listed on a stock exchange outside Malaysia is not subjected to the requirements under Rule 8.25 of the ACE LR. Instead, such subsidiary, in giving financial assistance, will be required to comply with its home exchange rules.

- 8.39** What are the disclosure requirements of a listed corporation in respect of financial assistance provided by the listed corporation or its subsidiaries not listed on any stock exchange pursuant to Rule 8.25(1)(ii) of the ACE LR?

Pursuant to paragraph 3.1 of Guidance Note 4, the listed corporation must announce any financial assistance provided by such listed corporation or its subsidiaries not listed on any stock exchange pursuant to Rule 8.25(1)(ii) of the ACE LR for each quarter of its financial year, simultaneously with its quarterly results pursuant to Rule 9.22 of the ACE LR and in any event no later than 2 months after the end of each quarter of its financial year. In this respect, the listed corporation must ensure that the announcement includes such information as set out in Annexure GN4-A of Guidance Note 4 and Appendix 8D (if applicable) of the ACE LR.

- 8.40** Will a listed corporation (other than a listed corporation whose activities are regulated by any written law relating to banking, finance companies or insurance and are subject to supervision by Bank Negara Malaysia or an equivalent foreign regulatory authority as Bursa Securities deems appropriate) which lends money pursuant to a moneylending licence ("Moneylending") be exempted from compliance with Rule 8.25 of the ACE LR?

No, a listed corporation which is involved in Moneylending is subject to and hence, must ensure compliance with Rule 8.25 of the ACE LR notwithstanding that it has a valid moneylending licence.

- 8.41** Will the Moneylending carried out by a listed corporation automatically fall within the ambit of Rule 8.25(1)(ii) of the ACE LR, as being those "necessary to facilitate the ordinary course of business of the listed corporation or its subsidiaries"?

No, the listed corporation must ascertain whether the Moneylending is "necessary to facilitate the ordinary course of business of the listed corporation or its subsidiaries" in accordance with Guidance Note 4.

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8.42 In the absence of a specific regulatory framework governing “scheduled institutions” in the Financial Services Act 2013 which replaces the Banking and Financial Institutions Act 1989 (“BAFIA”), Rule 8.25(4)(c) of the ACE LR has been deleted, which previously exempted scheduled institutions which were registered and supervised by Bank Negara Malaysia under the BAFIA from complying with the requirements in Rule 8.25. Does it mean that all corporations which were previously “scheduled institutions” under the BAFIA must now comply with Rule 8.25 in full?

Only corporations which were previously “scheduled institutions” and which are no longer subjected to Bank Negara Malaysia’s regulation and supervision⁵ must now adhere strictly to the requirements set out in Rule 8.25 when providing financial assistance.

On the other hand, previous “scheduled institutions” such as the development finance institutions which are prescribed under the Development Financial Institutions Act 2002⁶, and therefore, still regulated and supervised by Bank Negara Malaysia will continue to enjoy the exemption from the provision on financial assistance under Rule 8.25(4)(b) of the ACE LR.

8.43 A listed corporation grants a corporate guarantee to a third party for services rendered by the third party to the listed corporation’s non-wholly owned subsidiary. Is the corporate guarantee subject to disclosure requirements under Guidance Note 4?

No, a corporate guarantee granted to a subsidiary by a listed corporation would not be subject to Guidance Note 4 as it is provided pursuant to Rule 8.25(1)(iii) of the ACE LR and not Rule 8.25(1)(ii). In the circumstances, the quarterly disclosure under paragraph 3.1 of Guidance Note 4 is not applicable.

8.44 What is a moneylending company under Rule 8.25 of the ACE LR? Are corporate guarantees or loans granted to non-wholly owned subsidiaries and contractors regarded as moneylending under the ACE LR?

A moneylending company is defined under Rule 8.25(2)(a)(ii) of the ACE LR as a listed corporation or its subsidiary that lends or advances money in the ordinary course of business as a moneylender pursuant to the Moneylenders Act 1951. As such, provision of corporate guarantees or advances necessary to facilitate the ordinary course of business of the listed corporation or its subsidiary (i.e. for purposes of getting a contract or to enable a sub-contractor to commence work) would not be regarded as moneylending operations.

⁵ For example, corporations which carry out building credit business, factoring or leasing business or development finance institutions which are not prescribed under the Development Financial Institutions Act 2002.

⁶ The existing prescribed development finance institutions are:

- (a) Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad;
- (b) Bank Perusahaan Kecil & Sederhana Malaysia Berhad (SME Bank);
- (c) Export-Import Bank of Malaysia Berhad (EXIM Bank);
- (d) Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad;
- (e) Bank Simpanan Nasional; and
- (f) Bank Pertanian Malaysia Berhad (Agrobank)

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- 8.45 Under Rule 8.25(2)(c) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must procure its shareholders' prior approval for any provision of financial assistance to an associated company or joint arrangement where the aggregate amount provided compared to the net tangible assets of the group is 5% or more. In such circumstances, what is the prescribed content of the circular to be issued to the shareholders?**

The minimum content of a circular for purposes of seeking shareholder approval for provision of financial assistance which is not a related party transaction is not specifically prescribed under the ACE LR. However, a listed corporation can seek guidance from the minimum content prescribed for circulars in relation to transactions as set out under Appendix 10B of the ACE LR.

- 8.46 Pursuant to Rule 8.25(2)(a)(i) of the ACE LR, where a listed corporation or any of its subsidiaries provides financial assistance, the board of directors must ensure, amongst others, that the provision of financial assistance is fair and reasonable to the listed corporation. What would be considered as "fair and reasonable"?**

What would be considered as "fair and reasonable" is subjective and varies from case to case. To ascertain the fairness and reasonableness of the financial assistance granted, the board of directors is required to make an assessment of the circumstances and terms of the provision of financial assistance including comparisons with market practices. For instance, if the proposal is for a one-off lump sum payment to be given to a sub-contractor for services rendered in the listed corporation's housing development project when the market practice is typically for advances to be given by way of instalments and subject to certification of staggered work done by the sub-contractor, the board of directors should scrutinise the proposal to see whether there are exceptional circumstances to justify that such an advance is nonetheless fair and reasonable.

- 8.47 Pursuant to Rule 8.25(2)(e) of the ACE LR, a moneylending company must make quarterly disclosures of certain information as prescribed not later than 7 market days after the end of each quarter of a financial year ("Quarterly Disclosure"). A moneylending company does not lend or advance any money in a particular quarter. Does it still have to make the Quarterly Disclosure?**

In a situation where there is no new money lending activities in that particular quarter and no outstanding advances or loans from the previous quarters, then for subsequent Quarterly Disclosure, the listed corporation would only need to make a negative statement to that effect in its Quarterly Disclosure. If there are still outstanding advances or loans, the listed corporation is required to comply with Rule 8.25(2)(e) of the ACE LR.

- 8.48 Can a listed corporation or any of its subsidiaries commence or continue to lend or advance monies to third party(ies) pursuant to its moneylending business?**

Pursuant to Rule 8.25(1)(ii) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation or any of its subsidiaries can provide such financial assistance where it is made pursuant to or where it is necessary to facilitate the ordinary course of business of the listed corporation or its subsidiaries. As such loans/advances made to a third party by the listed corporation or any of its subsidiaries in the ordinary course of its moneylending business is permitted. However, unless the listed corporation or its wholly owned subsidiary is exempted under Rule 8.25(4), the conditions set out in Rule 8.25 of the ACE LR must be satisfied and in particular, Rule 8.25(2). In this respect, the board of directors of the listed corporation would have to oversee the moneylending operations and the management of credit risk of the moneylending company including ensuring adequate policies and procedures are in place in relation to the matters set out in Rule 8.25(2)(a)(ii)(aa)-(dd).

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In addition to this, the listed corporation will have to make the relevant quarterly announcements for each of the moneylending company not later than 7 market days after the end of each quarter of the financial year as prescribed under Rule 8.25(2)(e) of the ACE LR.

8.49 What are “problem credits” as referred to in Rule 8.25(2)(a)(ii)(dd) of the ACE LR?

“Problem credits” means such problems arising from, amongst others, the borrower’s non-compliance with the terms of the financial assistance including failure to meet repayment of principal/interest or collateral obligations. It is to be noted that the assessment as to what “problem credits” are by the listed corporation/board of directors should not be limited to actual occurrence of default only but may include possible defaults such as signs of the borrower having difficulties in complying with the terms of the financial assistance (e.g. making or requesting for partial or late payments).

8.50 Do all listed corporations which are subject to the requirements in paragraph 3.1 of Guidance Note 4 also have to make the quarterly disclosures stipulated in Rule 8.25(2)(e) of the ACE LR?

No, Rule 8.25(2)(e) is only applicable where a listed corporation or its subsidiary lends or advances money in the ordinary course of its business as a moneylender.

Electronic payment of cash distributions**8.51 Must a listed corporation amend its constitution to allow for payment of cash dividends electronically to its shareholders pursuant to Rule 8.28A of the ACE LR?**

By virtue of Rule 7.36 of the ACE LR, a listed corporation is in a position to pay cash dividends to its shareholders electronically pursuant to Rule 8.28A of the ACE LR regardless of what may be stated in its constitution in relation to cash dividend payment.

Notwithstanding this, to ensure that the listed corporation’s constitution are updated and comprehensive, it should proceed to amend the relevant provisions in its constitution that may be inconsistent with the requirements for the listed corporation to pay cash dividends electronically as set out in Rule 8.28A of the ACE LR.

8.52 What should a listed corporation do if its securities holders have not provided their bank account information to the Depository?

A listed corporation must take all reasonable and appropriate steps to engage and communicate with its securities holders on the availability and benefits of the electronic payment of cash distributions, for example, in the various channels or means set out in the directive dated 19 February 2010 (Ref. No. SR/TAC/ro/LD08/10) (“**Directive**”), and encourage its securities holders to provide their bank account information to the Depository. If, after taking such steps, the securities holders still do not provide their bank account information to the Depository, the listed corporation may continue to pay cash distributions to these securities holders in the existing manner as authorized under the listed corporation’s constituent documents or issuing documents such as the constitution, trust deed or terms of issuance.

Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations
[Questions & Answers]**8.53 Where can a listed corporation obtain its securities holders' relevant contact details for purposes of compliance with Rule 8.28A(2) of the ACE LR?**

A listed corporation can obtain its securities holders' relevant contact details from the Depository when requesting for the bank account information.

8.54 Must a listed corporation notify all its securities holders electronically for purposes of electronic notification under Rule 8.28A(2) of the ACE LR?

Currently, a listed corporation must provide electronic notification to all its securities holders who have provided their email details to the Depository to receive electronic notification. In addition, the listed corporation may also, at its discretion, provide other means of electronic notification such as notification via SMS to securities holders who have provided their mobile phone numbers only.

8.55 For purposes of compliance with Rule 8.28A(2) of the ACE LR, must a listed corporation provide the electronic notification to its securities holders by itself?

No, while a listed corporation is at liberty to issue the electronic notification itself, this function can also be done by the listed corporation's service provider such as the bank which debits the cash distributions from the listed corporation's account or through its share registrar.

8.56 When must a listed corporation notify its securities holders electronically under Rule 8.28A(2) of the ACE LR?

A listed corporation must notify its securities holders electronically, as soon as practicable after the cash distributions have been paid out of its account.

8.57 Who can be the service providers for the electronic payment of cash distributions?

The service providers for the electronic payment of cash distributions include the share registrars (whether external or in-house), the paying agents providing cash management services for payment to third parties such as the banks or lead arranges of the listed corporations who offer such facilities, and the Depository.

8.58 Can a listed corporation appoint another share registrar or the Depository to be its service provider for the electronic payment of cash distributions such as cash dividends whilst at the same time maintaining its existing share registrar for other services?

Yes, a listed corporation may appoint another share registrar or the Depository to be its service provider for the electronic payment of cash distributions such as cash dividends.

8.59 Does a listed corporation have to procure the consent of each of its securities holders to receive payment of the cash distributions electronically?

No. The consent will be procured by the Depository when the securities holders provide their bank account information to the Depository.

8.60 Is a listed corporation required to provide the services for electronic payment of cash distributions to its securities holders if payment of the dividend is satisfied by an issue of shares (dividend in specie) and in cash?

Where payment of dividend is to be satisfied by an issue of shares (dividend in specie) and in cash, a listed corporation is still required to provide the services for electronic payment of cash distributions to its securities holders in respect of the cash dividend portion. However, electronic payment of cash distributions is not applicable to the dividend in specie.

8.61 Can a listed corporation pay other types of cash payments not falling within Rule 8.28A(3) of the ACE LR, to its securities holders electronically?

Yes, a listed corporation may voluntarily pay the other types of cash payments not falling within Rule 8.28A(3) of the ACE LR, to its securities holders via direct crediting into the bank accounts of its securities holders who have provided their bank account details to the Depository. For this, the listed corporation must refer to and comply with the relevant requirements set out in the Rules of the Depository.

Poll Voting

8.61A Under Rule 8.31A(1) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must, among others, ensure that any resolution set out in the notice of any general meeting, is voted by poll. What is an example of a matter that is not set out in the notice of general meeting and therefore not subjected to the poll voting requirements?

Adjournment of general meeting due to unforeseen circumstances is an example of a matter that is not set out in the notice of general meeting.

8.61B Are resolutions set out in an addendum, errata or amendment to the notice of general meeting subjected to voting by poll under Rule 8.31A(1) of the ACE LR?

Yes, “notice of any general meeting” in Rule 8.31A(1) of the ACE LR includes any addendum, errata or amendment to the earlier notice of general meeting. Hence, any resolution set out in the addendum, errata or amendment to the notice of general meeting is subjected to voting by poll.

8.61C Under Rule 8.31A(2) of the ACE LR, a scrutineer appointed to validate the votes cast at the general meeting must fulfill the following requirements:

- the scrutineer must not be an officer⁷ of the listed corporation or its related corporation;
- the scrutineer must be independent of the person undertaking the polling process; and
- if the scrutineer is interested in a resolution to be passed at the general meeting, the scrutineer must refrain from acting as scrutineer for that resolution.

⁷ “Officer” has the meaning given in section 2 of the Companies Act 2016 and includes the director, company secretary and employees.

**Chapter 8 Continuing Listing Obligations
[Questions & Answers]**

- (a) In view of the above, can a listed corporation's external auditor be appointed as a scrutineer for the general meeting?**

Yes, the listed corporation's external auditor can be appointed as the scrutineer for the general meeting so long as the external auditor is independent of the person undertaking the polling process and refrains from acting in a resolution that it may be interested in, e.g. the resolution seeking its reappointment.

- (b) If the external auditor must refrain from acting as the scrutineer in a resolution seeking its reappointment, who can be the scrutineer to validate the votes cast for such resolution?**

The listed corporation may appoint any other person to be the scrutineer for such resolution so long as the said person is not an officer of the listed corporation or its related corporation and is independent of the person undertaking the polling process.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 1 July 2023)**

CHAPTER 9 – CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

General

9.1 Does the ACE LR impose an obligation on listed corporations to make an announcement on financial estimate, forecast or projection?

The ACE LR does not impose an obligation on listed corporations to announce its financial estimate, forecast or projection.

However, if the listed corporations choose to announce their financial estimate, forecast or projection, the listed corporations must, amongst others, comply with the following:

- the requirements on the standard of disclosure prescribed for contents of announcement as set out in Rule 9.35 of the ACE LR and in particular, the preparation and the announcement of the financial estimate, forecast or projection must comply with Chapters 9 and 10 in Division 1, Part II of the SC's Prospectus Guidelines in relation to future financial information ("**SC FFI Standards**") as required under Rule 9.35(2) of the ACE LR. This includes the obligation to ensure that the underlying accounting policies and assumptions of the financial estimate, forecast or projection are reviewed by the external auditors or reporting accountants, as the case may be, in accordance with the SC FFI Standards;
- the requirements as set out in Rule 9.19(37) of the ACE LR and Notes 3(b) and 4 of Appendix 9B of the ACE LR; and
- the disclosure must adhere to the Corporate Disclosure Policy prescribed under the ACE LR including the requirement that there should not be selective disclosure of the financial estimate, forecast or projection to the investors, press, analysts or any other parties prior to the release or simultaneous release, of the financial estimate, forecast or projection through Bursa Link.

9.2 If a listed corporation chooses to announce its internal targets that are set as part of its business plan, is it required to comply with the SC FFI Standards in respect of such announcement?

No. The listed corporation need not comply with the SC FFI Standards. However, the listed corporation must comply with the following obligations instead when it announces its internal targets:

- the requirements on the contents of announcement as set out in Rule 9.35 of the ACE LR and in particular the announcement on its internal target must explain the nature of the internal targets in accordance with Rule 9.35(1)(f) of the ACE LR;
- the immediate and periodic disclosures must comply with Rule 9.19(37) of the ACE LR and Notes 3(b) and 4 of Appendix 9B of the ACE LR; and

- the disclosure must adhere to the Corporate Disclosure Policy prescribed under the ACE LR including the requirement that there should not be selective disclosure of the internal targets to the investors, press, analysts or any other parties prior to the release or simultaneous release, of the internal targets through Bursa Link.

9.3 [Deleted]

Immediate disclosure of material information

9.4 **Is a listed corporation required to make immediate disclosure of a notice of demand issued pursuant to section 466(1)(a) of the Companies Act 2016 (“S. 466 Notice”)?**

There is usually no requirement for an immediate announcement to be made by a listed corporation of a S.466 Notice as this is merely a letter of demand. However, where a S.466 Notice is considered to be material pursuant to Rule 9.03 of the ACE LR based on the facts and circumstances of a particular listed corporation, the listed corporation must make an immediate announcement of the same.

9.5 ***Mr. P was required to despatch certain private and confidential documents pertaining to a material corporate proposal of X Bhd which has yet to be announced. Mr. P subsequently discovered that the documents were missing under suspicious circumstances and hence, was unable to despatch the same. Mr. P immediately reported the matter to X Bhd. Is X Bhd required to make an immediate disclosure of the corporate proposal?***

X Bhd would be required to make an assessment of the circumstances and must make an immediate announcement pursuant to the Rule 9.06(3) of the ACE LR if the suspicious circumstances aforesaid would reasonably lead to the belief that the material information has been inadvertently disclosed. It is to be noted that the illustration provided above is not exhaustive and the circumstances which may cause a listed corporation to believe that material information may have been inadvertently disclosed are varied and subjective on a case to case basis. It may include situations where a listed corporation is of the view that the necessary degree of confidentiality cannot be maintained or suspicious ‘leak’ of the information by party(ies) privy to the material information have occurred. In such circumstances, the listed corporation would have to make an immediate announcement notwithstanding that there is no unusual market activity or insider trading in the listed corporation’s securities or rumours / reports concerning the information.

9.5A **What are some of the examples where a listed corporation cannot rely on the exceptional circumstance of “prejudicing the ability of a listed corporation to pursue its corporate objectives” to delay disclosure of material information?**

The following are some examples where the listed corporation **cannot** rely on this exceptional circumstance to delay disclosure of material information:

- when there is a material default in a loan by a listed corporation and it is in the process of negotiating with the bank;
- when a listed corporation is involved in a material litigation which adversely impacts the listed corporation; or
- when there is a termination of a material contract and the listed corporation is renegotiating with the counter party.

In the above examples, while disclosure of the information may have an unfavourable impact to the listed corporation, such information is critical for investors to make informed investment decision. In such instances, non-disclosure of the material information is prejudicial to the interest of investors. Hence, announcement of the default, litigation or termination of contract must be made immediately.

9.5B Rule 9.05(2) of the ACE LR stipulates that disclosure of material information may be temporarily withheld if the facts are in a state of flux and a more appropriate moment for disclosure is imminent. In this regard, what constitutes facts that are in a state of flux?

This refers to information that, although material, is subject to rapid change. If the situation is about to stabilise or resolve itself in the near future, it may be proper to withhold public announcement until a firm announcement may be made, since successive public announcements concerning the same subject but based on changing facts may confuse or mislead the public rather than enlighten it.

As an illustration, a listed corporation is in negotiations for the acquisition of another corporation. In the course of the successful negotiation, the only information known to each party at the outset may be the willingness of the other to hold discussions. Shortly after that, it may become apparent to the parties that it is likely an agreement can be reached. Finally, an agreement in principle is reached on specific terms.

In such circumstances, the listed corporation need not issue a public announcement at each stage of the negotiations to describe the current state of constantly changing facts, but may wait until agreement in principle is reached on specific terms. If, on the other hand, progress in the negotiations should stabilise at some other point, disclosure should then be made if the information is material.

9.5C Can a listed corporation withhold immediate disclosure of material information -

- **due to confidentiality obligations pursuant to the terms of negotiations or agreements; or**
- **where consent is required from the counter party for the disclosure of the terms of the agreements?**

No. A listed corporation must avoid putting itself in a position where it is bound by confidentiality obligations or requirement on consent from the counter party that may defeat its obligation to disclose material information on an immediate basis.

Clarification, confirmation or denial of rumours or reports

- 9.5D** Rule 9.10(1)(a) of the ACE LR requires a listed corporation to immediately announce a denial or clarification of erroneous rumour or report and take reasonable effort to bring the announcement to the attention of the party that initially distributed such rumour or report. How does the listed corporation comply with taking “reasonable effort to bring the announcement to the attention of the party that initially distributed the erroneous rumour or report”?

The listed corporation may do so by sending a copy of the announcement to such party, e.g. the newspaper’s editor (in the case of an erroneous newspaper article), or the broker responsible for the erroneous market report.

Thorough public dissemination

- 9.6** Is selective disclosure of material information allowed under the ACE LR?

Pursuant to Rule 9.08(2) of the ACE LR, listed corporations must ensure that under no circumstances disclosure of material information is made on an individual or selective basis to analysts, shareholders, journalists or other persons unless such information has previously been fully disclosed and disseminated to the public.

However, pursuant to Rule 9.08(3) of the ACE LR, under limited circumstances, selective disclosure to such persons where it is necessary towards achieving certain corporate objectives is permitted subject to the requirements in the said Rule. Hence, disclosure of unpublished material information to solicitors and advisers in undertaking a corporate or due diligence exercise is permitted provided that the strictest confidentiality is imposed and maintained, and the market activity of the listed corporation is closely monitored.

Preparation of announcements – content of press or public announcement

- 9.7** [Deleted]

- 9.8** [Deleted]

Prescribed events which require immediate announcement

- 9.9** *A Bhd* does not have a chief financial officer. Financial matters fall under the responsibility of its general manager, *Mr. X*. These matters include signing cheques, monitoring cash flow, financial planning and preparing the financial statements. *Mr. X* is also responsible for signing the statutory declaration in relation to the accounts of *A Bhd*. *Mr. X* has recently resigned from *A Bhd*. Must *A Bhd* announce *Mr. X*’s resignation and provide reasons for the resignation in accordance with Rule 9.19(14A)(b) of the ACE LR?

Under Rule 9.19(14A) of the ACE LR, *A Bhd* is required to announce the cessation of office of its chief financial officer and to include the reasons for such cessation. Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR further defines “**chief financial officer**” to mean the person primarily responsible for the management of the financial affairs of the corporation (such as record keeping, financial planning and financial reporting) by whatever name called. As *Mr. X* is primarily responsible for the management of *A Bhd*’s financial affairs, *Mr. X* would fall within the definition of “**chief financial officer**”. Hence, *A Bhd* is required to make the relevant announcement under Rule 9.19(14A)(b) of the ACE LR in relation to the resignation of *Mr. X*.

- 9.10 Listed corporations are required to immediately announce the reasons given for cessation of office of a director¹, chief executive² and chief financial officer³ including but not limited to any information relating to his disagreement with the board and a statement as to whether or not there are any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the shareholders. If the reasons for cessation are contentious in nature, for example, where the reasons are defamatory or where there is an existing dispute in relation to the cessation of office, how does a listed corporation ensure compliance with such requirement?**

Listed corporations must adhere to the standard of disclosure set out in Rule 9.35 under the ACE LR. Amongst others, the listed corporation must ensure that its announcement is factual, clear, unambiguous, accurate, succinct and contains sufficient information to enable securities holders and investors to make informed investment decisions. Further, the announcement must be balanced and fair, and does not contain any language which is inflammatory, defamatory or scandalous of another person.

In instances where the reasons for cessation of office are contentious in nature, the listed corporation should seek prior legal advice in the preparation of the announcement required.

- 9.11 A director resigns from a listed corporation and does not provide reasons for his resignation. Is the listed corporation still required to provide reasons for the resignation of the director in the announcement under Rule 9.19(12)(b) of the ACE LR?**

Under Rule 9.19(12)(b), the listed corporation is required to disclose the reasons for the cessation of office of its director. Hence, the listed corporation must engage with the relevant director for the reasons of his resignation.

- 9.12 If a listed corporation's shareholders requisition for the removal of a director or auditor of the listed corporation, is the listed corporation required to disclose the reasons for removal pursuant to the shareholders' requisition, under Rules 9.19(12)(b) or 9.19(15) of the ACE LR respectively?**

The listed corporation is expected to use its best endeavours to obtain the reasons for such removal from the shareholders making the requisition, and subsequently announce the reasons under Rules 9.19(12)(b) or 9.19(15) of the ACE LR, as the case may be.

¹ See Rule 9.19(12)(b) of the ACE LR.

² See Rule 9.19(14)(b) of the ACE LR.

³ See Rule 9.19(14A)(b) of the ACE LR.

- 9.13 A chief executive resigns and provides the official reasons for his resignation in his letter to the listed corporation. The listed corporation makes the announcement required under Rule 9.19(14)(b) of the ACE LR. Subsequently, the actual reasons for the resignation of the chief executive surfaced. Will there be any enforcement action taken against the listed corporation in this instance by Bursa Securities?**

In making an announcement, the listed corporation must ensure adherence to the requirements under the ACE LR including Rule 9.35(1) which requires the listed corporation to make, amongst others, clear, factual and accurate announcements. Where there are discrepancies in the said announcement, Bursa Securities will investigate to see whether the listed corporation has done all that is necessary to ensure factual and accurate disclosure of facts. Additionally, under Rule 9.35(5) of the ACE LR, the listed corporation is required to immediately notify Bursa Securities when it becomes aware that the announcement does not fulfill the requirements of Rule 9.35(1) of the ACE LR, and do the necessary to rectify the earlier announcement made. If, in the course of Bursa Securities' investigation, it is found that the listed corporation has not taken the necessary steps to ensure accurate and complete disclosure of information, Bursa Securities may take the necessary enforcement action.

- 9.14 Rule 9.19(14B) of the ACE LR requires a listed corporation to announce any appointment or change in the legal representative(s) with sole powers to represent, exercise rights or enter into binding obligations, on behalf of the listed corporation or its foreign principal subsidiary pursuant to any relevant law applicable to the listed corporation or its foreign principal subsidiary. Who is a legal representative for purposes of Rule 9.19(14B) of the ACE LR?**

As expressly stated in Rule 9.19A(14B) of the ACE LR, a legal representative is a person with sole powers to represent, exercise rights or enter into binding obligations, on behalf of the listed corporation or its foreign principal subsidiary. It is a requirement imposed under the law of the relevant country like China for example which permits the appointment of a legal person who has the sole power to manage and direct the corporation, holds the corporation's common seal and is authorized to perform all acts regarding the general administration of the corporation including executing powers of attorney and any legal transaction on the corporation's behalf. The legal representative however, is separate from the director or senior officers of the listed corporation or its foreign principal subsidiary.

- 9.15 A winding-up petition is served on the subsidiary of a listed corporation. However, the winding-up petition has no financial or operational impact on the listed corporation and the listed corporation forms the view that there is no merit to the winding-up petition. Is the listed corporation still required to make an immediate announcement of the winding-up petition?**

Yes. Pursuant to Rule 9.19(20) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must make an immediate announcement of any presentation of winding up petition against the listed corporation or any of its subsidiaries or major associated companies irrespective of whether -

- the winding-up has financial or operational impact on the listed corporation;
- the listed corporation is contesting the winding-up petition or forms the view that there is no merit to the winding-up petition; or
- the listed corporation is in negotiation with the petitioner to arrive at a settlement arrangement.

- 9.16 Does a listed corporation need to inform Bursa Securities when a listed corporation wants to utilise the balance of its initial public offerings proceeds which have been allocated for a project as disclosed in the prospectus, for another project?**

Pursuant to Rule 9.19(33) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation is required to make an immediate announcement to Bursa Securities in respect of any change to the utilisation of proceeds raised from issuance of securities (including arising from initial public offerings) that deviates by 5% or more from the total proceeds raised.

- 9.17 *Z Bhd* has disclosed in its prospectus issued for the initial public offering of *Z Bhd* that it expects the gross proceeds from the public issue of approximately RM35million to be fully utilised as set out in column (i) of the table below. Subsequent to the listing of *Z Bhd*, *Z Bhd* decides that it would need to purchase additional equipment and thus, *Z Bhd* would need a total of RM8.15 million towards the purchase of equipment. *Z Bhd* further decides that the additional RM2.15 million would be from its working capital as follows:**

Details of proposed utilisation of proceeds	Proceeds (RM'000) (i)	Revisions to Utilisation (RM'000)	Balance Revised Utilisation (RM'000)
Acquisition of a new factory	5,000	-	5,000
Purchase of equipment	6,000	2,150	8,150
Repayment of bank borrowings	13,000	-	13,000
Working capital	10,000	(2,150)	7,850
Estimated listing expenses	1,000	-	1,000
Total	35,000	-	35,000

Is *Z Bhd* required to make an immediate announcement of these changes to its proposed utilisation of proceeds under Rule 9.19(33) of the ACE LR⁴?

Yes. As *Z Bhd* would now utilise RM8.15 million towards the purchase of equipment, *Z Bhd* would be required to make an immediate announcement of the changes including the deviation in the utilisation of the RM2.15 million which was originally proposed for working capital purposes pursuant to Rule 9.19(33) of the ACE LR. This is because the deviation amounts to more than 5% of the the total proceeds raised:

$$\text{RM2.15 million/RM35 million} \times 100 = 6.14\%$$

- 9.18 Based on the same facts as in Question Error! Reference source not found. above, would *Z Bhd* be required to make an immediate announcement pursuant to Rule 9.19(33) of the ACE LR notwithstanding that *Z Bhd* has yet to proceed with the purchase of the additional equipment?**

Yes, *Z Bhd* would be required to make the immediate announcement pursuant to Rule 9.19(33) of the ACE LR notwithstanding that *Z Bhd* has yet to proceed with the purchase. For purposes of Rule 9.19(33) of the ACE LR, listed corporations would inherently be required to make the announcement once a decision has been made to change the proposed utilisation of proceeds which triggers the prescribed 5% threshold and not upon actual implementation of the change.

⁴ Rule 9.19(33) of the ACE LR requires a listed corporation to make immediate announcement on any change to the utilisation of proceeds raised by the listed corporation from the issuance of securities that deviates by 5% or more from the total proceeds raised.

9.19 Rule 9.19(37) of the ACE LR requires the listed corporation to make an immediate announcement of any circumstances or development which are likely to materially affect the results or outcome of any financial estimate, forecast, projection or internal targets of the listed corporation previously announced or disclosed in a public document. What is the extent of the variation to the results or outcome of the financial estimate, forecast, projection or internal targets that would be considered as “material”?

Bursa Securities does not prescribe a threshold where the variation would be considered “material” for purposes of making the requisite announcement under Rule 9.19(37) of the ACE LR. The variation would be considered material if the information of such variation is reasonably expected to have a material effect on –

- (a) the price, value or market activity of any of the listed corporation’s securities; or
- (b) the decision of a holder of securities of the listed corporation or an investor in determining his choice of action.

9.20 [Deleted]

9.21 [Deleted]

9.21A Under Rule 9.19(38) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation is required to make an immediate announcement of any modified opinion or material uncertainty related to going concern, as contained in the external auditor’s report of its annual audited financial statements. When must the listed corporation make the immediate announcement as required under Rule 9.19(38) of the ACE LR?

If the auditor’s report contains a modified opinion or material uncertainty related to going concern, the listed corporation must immediately announce such modified opinion or material uncertainty related to going concern, as soon as the annual audited financial statements have been approved by its board of directors. The listed corporation should not delay or defer the announcement until the issuance of its annual report.

As an illustration, the listed corporation has a financial year ending 31 December 2016. In the auditor’s report of its annual financial statements, the external auditors have highlighted a material uncertainty related to going concern. Pursuant to Rule 9.23(1) of the ACE LR, the listed corporation must issue its annual report that includes annual audited financial statements together with the auditors’ and directors’ reports, within 4 months from the close of the financial year of the listed corporation i.e. by 30 April 2017. On 17 April 2017, its board of directors approves the annual audited financial statements of the listed corporation. In this regard, the listed corporation must immediately make the announcement required under Rule 9.19(38) of the ACE LR on 17 April 2017, after the approval of its board of directors for the annual audited financial statements. The listed corporation must not wait until the issuance of its annual report which is targeted on 30 April 2017.

9.21B Under Rule 9.19(38) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must immediately announce any modified opinion or material uncertainty related to going concern in an external auditors' report. The announcement must set out the full details of such modified opinion or material uncertainty related to going concern and include the following:

- (a) all key audit matters disclosed in the external auditors' report;
- (b) steps taken or proposed to be taken to address those key audit matters that relate to the modified opinion or material uncertainty related to going concern; and
- (c) the timeline for the steps referred to in sub-Rule (b) above.

What is a listed corporation expected to disclose under Rules 9.19(38)(a) and (b) of the ACE LR respectively?

In announcing "*all key audit matters disclosed in the external auditors' report*" pursuant to Rule 9.19(38)(a) of the ACE LR, the listed corporation must state -

- (i) those matters giving rise to a modified opinion in accordance with ISA 705 (Revised), or a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the listed corporation's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with ISA 570 (Revised), as described in the "**Basis for Qualified (Adverse) Opinion**" or the "**Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern**" section of the external auditor's report; and
- (ii) those matters that, in the auditor's professional judgment, were of most significance in the audit of its financial statements for the reporting period, as described in the "**Key Audit Matters**" section of the external auditor's report.

On the other hand, in the announcement pursuant to Rule 9.19(38)(b) of the ACE LR, the listed corporation will only be required to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken to address those matters set out in paragraph (i) above.

9.22 Rule 9.19(46) of the ACE LR requires an immediate announcement of any valuation which has been conducted on the non-current assets of the group, where the revaluation surplus or deficit will be incorporated in the financial statements of the listed corporation. Would this include valuation of the listed corporation's investment in subsidiaries?

No. For purposes of Rule 9.19(46) of the ACE LR, the valuation is only in respect of the non-current assets of the group and thus, it would not include valuation of the listed corporation's investment in subsidiaries.

9.23 Rule 9.19(47) of the ACE LR requires a listed corporation to make an immediate announcement of any material development to corporate proposals previously announced. What will be considered "corporate proposals" under Rule 9.19(47) of the ACE LR?

"**Corporate proposals**" for purposes of Rule 9.19(47) of the ACE LR refers to any proposals, transactions, arrangements or exercises by a listed corporation. Corporate proposals include but are not limited to capital raising exercises, transactions, rights issue, bonus issue, capital

consolidation, scheme of arrangement, compromise, amalgamation capital reduction, capital repayment and employee share schemes.

Immediate disclosure requirements – dealings in quoted securities

9.24 For the purpose of Rule 9.20 of the ACE LR, is a listed corporation only required to aggregate the purchases or sales of the quoted securities of a particular corporation?

No. Pursuant to Rule 9.20 of the ACE LR, a listed corporation is required to aggregate all purchases or sales of quoted securities respectively within the preceding 12 months excluding such purchases or sale which has been previously announced.

9.25 Website

(a) Under the ACE LR, Rule 9.21 mandates a listed corporation to have its own website. Is there a timeframe prescribed by Bursa Securities for the listed corporation to set up its website?

A listed corporation must have its own website by 3 August 2009 when the ACE LR takes effect.

(b) Is a listed corporation required to comply with a prescribed minimum content in respect of its website?

No. However, a listed corporation must publish on its website all announcements made to Bursa Securities. Further, the listed corporation must ensure that the website is current, informative and contains all information which may be relevant to the listed corporation's shareholders including analyst's briefings.

(c) When is a listed corporation required to publish announcements on its website?

A listed corporation is required to publish announcements made to Bursa Securities on its website as soon as practicable after such announcements are released on Bursa Securities' website. The listed corporation must not publish any announcements on its website before the same is released by Bursa Securities.

(d) Rule 9.21(2) of the ACE LR requires every listed corporation to publish on its website all announcements made to the Exchange pursuant to the ACE LR. How long must a listed corporation maintain such announcements on its website?

The ACE LR does not prescribe the duration for such announcements to be maintained on a listed corporation's website. The listed corporation may exercise its discretion on how long it will maintain its announcements on its website. In any event, a listed corporation should ensure that its website is current, informative and contain all information which may be relevant to its shareholders, as provided under Rule 9.21(4) of the ACE LR.

- (e) **Rule 9.21(3) of the ACE LR requires a listed corporation to ensure that its website contains the email address, name(s) of designated person(s) and their contact numbers to enable the public to forward queries to the listed corporation. What are the queries envisaged by this requirement, and must the listed corporation answer all queries?**

This requirement is imposed to enable a listed corporation to improve its investor relations with its stakeholders, especially the shareholders. Hence, a shareholder may forward any query to its listed corporation. The listed corporation should use its best endeavours to respond to the queries.

- (f) **Can a listed corporation provide a link in its website that enables its announcements that are posted on Bursa Securities' website to be similarly made available on its website?**

Yes, a listed corporation may do so only if it has procures Bursa Malaysia's approval and enters into an agreement with Bursa Malaysia. This is to avoid any issue of copyright infringement by such listed corporation. Further, the listed corporation must ensure that the link will enable announcements to be viewed seamlessly as part of the listed corporation's web pages. The listed corporation may contact Bursa Securities' Information Services Division for further details on such arrangements.

- (g) **Can a group of corporations share one website?**

Yes, provided that each listed corporation within the group has its own distinctive and designated web pages and shareholders are able to retrieve the information on each of their listed corporations easily. In short, the listed corporations within the group must each ensure compliance of its web pages within the shared website with Rule 9.21(1) of the ACE LR.

Publication of certain information in annual reports on the listed corporation's website

- 9.26 What information set out in Appendix 9C which may be published on the listed corporation's website pursuant to Rule 9.25(1) of the ACE LR?**

Under Rule 9.25(1) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation may publish information set out in Appendix 9C which has been **previously announced or disclosed to shareholders pursuant to the ACE LR, or remains substantially unchanged from year to year ("said information")** provided that the listed corporation discloses in the annual report, the address of its website and the place on its website where the information can be accessed. The said information may include -

- (a) list of material properties;
- (b) profile of directors, chief executive and key senior management;
- (c) material contracts and loans involving the interest of directors, chief executive who is not a director and major shareholders; and
- (d) terms of references, policies and processes of board committees.

9.27 Is the listed corporation required to update the said information published on its website from time to time?

Yes, the listed corporation must update the said information as and when there is a material change to the information. The listed corporation must also ensure that it complies with following requirements of the ACE LR:

- (a) Rule 9.21 which, among others, provide that a listed corporation should ensure that its website is current, informative and contains all information relevant to the listed corporation's shareholders; and
- (b) Rule 2.18 which requires a listed corporation to ensure that any application, proposal, statement, information or document presented, submitted or disclosed pursuant to ACE LR is –
 - clear, unambiguous and accurate;
 - does not contain any material omission; and
 - is not false or misleading.

Publication of summary of key matters discussed at annual general meetings on the listed corporation's website**9.27A What should be covered under the summary of key matters discussed at the annual general meetings which a listed corporation must publish on its website pursuant to Rule 9.21(2)(b) of the ACE LR?**

The summary of the key matters discussed at the annual general meeting which must be published on the listed corporation's website should include a summary of the discussions or explanations on the matters set out in the agenda, substantial or pertinent comments or queries from shareholders relating to the agenda and responses from the board and management.

Issuance of annual report in electronic format

9.28 [Deleted]

Periodic disclosures – quarterly report**9.29 If a listed corporation changes its financial year end which results in a change to the periods to be covered by the quarterly report, how would the listed corporation determine such periods?**

Rule 9.22(3) of the ACE LR states that a listed corporation must consult Bursa Securities to determine the period to be covered by the quarterly reports if there is a change of financial year end.

- 9.30 Does a listed corporation have to provide the selected explanatory notes in the same sequence as provided in paragraph 16 of FRS 134 on Interim Financial Reporting in the quarterly report? How should the listed corporation disclose the additional information required under Appendix 9B of the ACE LR?**

The listed corporation is not required to disclose the selected explanatory notes in the same sequence as paragraph 16 of FRS 134. However, the listed corporation is encouraged to disclose information required under FRS 134 first and then followed by those required by Appendix 9B of the ACE LR.

- 9.31 If any one of the notes required under FRS 134 and/or Appendix 9B of the ACE LR is not applicable to the listed corporation, does the listed corporation have to state specifically that the particular note is not applicable?**

If a particular note is not applicable to the listed corporation, then the listed corporation is encouraged to state specifically that the particular note is not applicable.

- 9.32 Paragraph 1 in Appendix 9B of the ACE LR now requires a listed corporation to disclose a detailed analysis of the performance of all operating segments of the group setting out the material factors affecting the earnings and/or revenue of each segment for the current quarter and financial year-to-date. What is the extent of information required to be disclosed that would be considered as a “detailed analysis”?**

In making the disclosure of a detailed analysis, a listed corporation must comment on the performance of each of its business activity (as segmented in the annual report) and the factors that resulted in the revenue or profits improving or declining as compared to the corresponding period. In this regard, the listed corporation’s board of directors should discuss, among others, the following factors:

- (a) the market condition and demand for its goods and services;
- (b) the level of its operating activities;
- (c) the factors or circumstances affecting the changes to the revenue, costs and profit margin of each business activity or segment;
- (d) any unusual or one-off gains/losses affecting the revenue or profit; or
- (e) any other information which can provide a better understanding of the listed corporation's performance.

A general statement that the revenue and profit for the period has increased or decreased by a certain percentage without any elaboration of the above factors is not acceptable.

9.33 To what extent must a listed corporation's board of directors comment on the listed corporation's prospects in the quarterly report pursuant to paragraph 3 of the Appendix 9B of the ACE LR⁵?

In commenting on the listed corporation's prospects under paragraph 3 of Appendix 9B of the ACE LR, the board of directors must discuss in detail the prospects on each segmented activities and the material factors that are likely to influence the listed corporation's prospects for the remaining period of the financial year. The commentary should include –

- (a) the prospects of each of the group's business segments, including contracts at hand, tender book value, competitive challenges, customers' trend and supply constraint;
- (b) significant changes in raw material costs and selling prices affecting demand and profit margins;
- (c) financial impact arising from currency fluctuation and steps taken to mitigate such fluctuation;
- (d) changes in product or service mix and their impact on profit margin;
- (e) financial impact from recently completed acquisition, disposal or merger;
- (f) new regulations or rules which may affect the group's operating activities; or
- (g) any changes in business direction or new development of the group which may have an impact on the prospects of any business segment.

A general statement such as the board is optimistic of achieving better performance for the financial year or the board expects the group's results for the remaining period to be profitable, without discussing the above matters is not acceptable.

9.34 Listed corporations are now required to disclose, on a quarterly basis, the details of major components on their operating, investing and financing activities in their statement of cash flows pursuant to paragraph 17 in Appendix 9B of the ACE LR. How should the listed corporations make the additional disclosures in their statement of cash flows?

In making the additional disclosures required under paragraph 17 in Appendix 9B of the ACE LR, listed corporations should provide the following details:

- (a) The details in respect of the operating activities may include –
 - receipts from customers
 - payments to suppliers, contractors and employees
 - interest paid
 - payment of income taxes

⁵ Paragraph 3 of Appendix 9B of the ACE LR, among others, requires a listed corporation to provide in its quarterly report, a commentary on the prospects, including the factors that are likely to influence the listed corporation's prospects for the remaining period to the end of the financial year or the next financial year if the reporting period is the last quarter.

Total Cash Flow from/(used in) operating activities

- (b) The details in respect of the investing activities may include –
- purchase of property, plant and equipment
 - disposal of property, plant and equipment
 - payment of intangible assets
 - acquisition of investments
 - disposal of investments
 - advances to associates/jointly controlled entities
 - repayment of advances from associates/jointly controlled entities
 - interest received

Total Cash Flow from/(used in) investing activities

- (c) The details in respect of the financing activities may include –
- dividend paid to equity holders
 - proceeds from borrowings
 - repayment of borrowings
 - proceeds from rights issue

Total Cash Flow from/(used in) financing activities**Timeframe for issuance of annual report**

9.35 Rule 9.23 of the ACE LR in relation to the timeframe for issuance of annual reports has been amended to be implemented in phases in the following manner:

- annual reports for financial years ending on or after 31 December 2014 must be issued to Bursa Securities and shareholders within 5 months from the close of the financial year end (“Phase 1 Requirements”); and
- annual reports for financial years ending on or after 31 December 2015 must be issued to Bursa Securities and shareholders within 4 months from the close of the financial year end, and the separate announcement of the annual audited financial statements can be dispensed with (“Phase 2 Requirements”).

ABC Berhad’s financial year end (“FYE”) falls on 31 December. Is ABC Berhad still required to announce its annual audited financial statements to Bursa Securities?

ABC Berhad is still required to announce its annual audited financial statements for FYE 31 December 2014 by 30 April 2015 under the Phase 1 Requirements. However, it is not required to announce its annual audited financial statements for FYE 31 December 2015 and the subsequent financial years after 31 December 2015 when the Phase 2 Requirements become effective as its annual reports issued within 4 months for those financial years would already include its annual audited financial statements, directors’ and auditors’ reports.

9.35A *XYZ Bhd's financial year end ("FYE") falls on 31 March 2016. Prior to 31 December 2015, XYZ Bhd has been –*

- holding its annual general meeting within 6 months from the close of its financial year (i.e. in September); and
- including the notice convening the annual general meeting and proxy forms in its annual report, and forwarding them together to shareholders.

Pursuant to the Phase 2 Requirements, *XYZ Bhd* is required to issue its annual report that includes the annual audited financial statements together with the auditors' and directors' reports, to the Exchange and shareholders by July 2016 (i.e. 4 months from the close of its financial year end).

(a) Does this mean that *XYZ Bhd* is also required to convene its annual general meeting within the shorter timeframe?

The ACE LR does not prescribe when a listed corporation must convene its annual general meeting. Hence, it is up to *XYZ Bhd* to determine when it should convene its annual general meeting so long as it complies with the relevant requirements of the Companies Act 2016.

(b) Assuming that *XYZ Bhd* convenes its annual general meeting in September 2016, can *XYZ Bhd* send the notice convening the annual general meeting and the proxy forms separately from the annual report?

As the annual general meeting will only be held in September 2016, *XYZ Bhd* may send out the notice convening the annual general meeting and the proxy forms separately from the annual report so long as it complies with the relevant requirements of the Companies Act 2016.

Issuance of interim audited financial statements

9.35B Pursuant to Rule 9.23A of the ACE LR, what are the instances where Bursa Securities may not require the issuance of interim audited financial statements if a listed corporation extends its financial year end ("FYE") to beyond 18 months from the last financial year end?

Amongst the instances where Bursa Securities may not require a listed corporation to issue an interim audited financial statement are when the change in FYE is to –

- coincide with the financial year of the listed corporation's holding company pursuant to section 247 of the Companies Act 2016; or
- allow a listed corporation to undergo a corporate restructuring exercise involving merger or acquisition.

Periodic disclosures – annual report

- 9.36 Pursuant to Rule 9.25(1) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must set out separately in its annual report, the items set out in Appendix 9C of the ACE LR (hereinafter referred as “Appendix 9C”). Does the listed corporation have to provide a negative statement if a particular item contained in Appendix 9C is not applicable to the listed corporation?**

No, the listed corporation does not have to provide a negative statement if a particular item in Appendix 9C is not applicable to the listed corporation except where it is expressly required under Appendix 9C, namely items (19)(b), (22) and (30) of Appendix 9C.

- 9.37 What is the definition of “family” relationship as stated in items (3)(f), (4)(f) and (4A)(e) of Appendix 9C?**

“Family” relationship shall have the same meaning as assigned to “family” under section Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR.

- 9.38 What is the definition of “conflict of interest” as stated in paragraphs (3)(g), (4)(g) and (4A)(f) in Part A of Appendix 9C of the ACE LR?**

A listed corporation may refer to the Issuers Communication Note No. 1/2023 - Guidance on Conflict of Interest issued by Bursa Securities for guidance on complying with the enhanced disclosures on conflict of interest under the ACE LR. Among others, the Issuers Communication Note No. 1/2023 highlights some key considerations and guiding principles in determining situations of conflict of interest, potential conflict of interest and interest in competing business, as well as examples and illustrations, as reference.

The Issuers Communication Note No. 1/2023 - Guidance on Conflict of Interest is available at https://www.bursamalaysia.com/regulation/communication_notes_guides.

- 9.39** [Deleted]

- 9.40 What is the definition of “relevant regulatory bodies” referred to in items (3)(h), 4(h) and 4A(g) of Appendix 9C?**

“Relevant regulatory bodies” refers to any regulator that regulates a listed corporation or its subsidiaries or any authority or organisation which regulates the business activity of a listed corporation or its subsidiaries. This includes Bursa Securities, the SC, Bank Negara Malaysia, the Companies Commission of Malaysia, the Employees Provident Fund, the Inland Revenue Board, the Department of Environment and the local municipal councils.

- 9.41 Pursuant to item (19)(b) of Appendix 9C, are listed corporations required to disclose non-audit fees paid to corporations which are owned by the external auditors i.e. the partners of the auditing firm?**

Yes, pursuant to item (19)(b) of Appendix 9C, listed corporations are required to disclose non-audit fees paid to corporations owned by the external auditors of the listed corporations.

- 9.42 What is considered as “non-audit fees” pursuant to item (19)(b) of Appendix 9C?**

“Non-audit fees” would encompass any fees paid for services rendered to the listed corporation or its subsidiaries other than for statutory auditing work. An example would be consultancy services.

- 9.42A Pursuant to item 19(b) of Appendix 9C, listed corporations are required to set out in their annual reports, the details on the nature of the services rendered by the external auditors if the non-audit fees incurred were significant. For this purpose, what is regarded as “significant” non-audit fees?**

In determining what could be regarded as “significant” non-audit fees, listed corporations should consider the amount of non-audit fees incurred compared to the amount of audit fees paid. Generally, if the non-audit fees constitute 50% of the total amount of audit fees paid to their external auditors, then such non-audit fees are regarded as significant.

- 9.43 Pursuant to items (3)(h), (4)(h) and (4A)(g) of Appendix 9C, listed corporations are required to set out in their annual report the particulars of the directors, chief executive and key senior management respectively including the list of convictions for offences within the past 5 years other than traffic offences, if any. What is regarded as “convicted of an offence”?**

“Convicted of an offence” includes any finding of guilt or any order involving any finding of guilt by any court of competent authority in Malaysia or outside Malaysia in relation to any act or omission punishable under criminal law.

- 9.44 In relation to the statement on internal audit function as required under item (31) of Appendix 9C, where should such statement be located in the annual report?**

There is no specific requirement for the location of the internal audit statement as long as the statement is clear and contains the information required.

- 9.45 In relation to item (31) of Appendix 9C, when the internal audit is conducted in-house, should the cost be disclosed?**

Yes, the cost is to be disclosed regardless of whether the internal audit function is performed in-house or outsourced. Such cost should include all costs involved in performing the internal audit function.

Disclosure of Sustainability Statement in Annual Report

- 9.46 A listed corporation is required to make a Sustainability Statement in its annual reports issued for financial years ending on or after 31 December 2018. If a listed corporation voluntarily makes a Sustainability Statement in its annual report issued for the financial year ending on 31 December 2017, is the listed corporation still required to provide a description of its and its subsidiaries’ corporate social responsibility activities or practices, in its annual report issued for the financial year ending on 31 December 2017?**

No. The listed corporation is not required to provide a description of its and its subsidiaries’ corporate social responsibility statement activities or practices, if it has made a Sustainability Statement in its annual report issued for the financial year ending on 31 December 2017.

9.46A Is it mandatory for a listed corporation to comply with the Sustainability Reporting Guide issued by the Exchange when it prepares its Sustainability Statement?

No. As stated under paragraph 6.1 of Guidance Note 11, a listed corporation is only **encouraged as a best practice** to refer to the Sustainability Reporting Guide when preparing its Sustainability Statement. Whilst adherence to the Sustainability Reporting Guide is voluntary, the Exchange would strongly encourage listed corporations to refer to the Sustainability Reporting Guide, to the extent possible, when preparing their Sustainability Statement.

Circular and other requirements**9.47 Paragraph 9.30A(2)(c) of the ACE LR provides that the obligation on a listed corporation or offeror in an offer for sale of listed securities to submit a draft copy of all circulars and other documents proposed to be sent to the holders of the listed securities, does not apply, amongst others, to any document that is not prepared by the listed corporation or its advisers on its behalf. What are examples of such documents?**

Examples of documents that have not been prepared by the listed corporation or its advisers on its behalf, include amongst others, representations made by directors to the listed corporation pursuant to section 207(3) of the Companies Act 2016 and notices issued by trustees to bondholders pursuant to the provisions of a trust deed.

9.48 What are the main obligations of a listed corporation or the adviser in respect of the Exempt Circulars given that such circulars will not be perused by Bursa Securities?

Pursuant to paragraph 3.2 of Guidance Note 22, the Exempt Circulars must include a statement that Bursa Securities has not perused the circular before its issuance. Further, a listed corporation must submit a checklist showing compliance with the relevant parts of the ACE LR immediately upon issuance of the Exempt Circulars to securities holders. The listed corporation, its director, Sponsor or adviser, as the case may be, must also ensure that the Exempt Circulars comply with the ACE LR, including the standard of disclosure prescribed in Rule 9.35 of the ACE LR and the prescribed minimum contents, if any, failing which, Bursa Securities may take enforcement action against the listed corporation, its directors, Sponsor or adviser, as the case may be.

9.48A What are the areas that Bursa Securities will focus on in respect of the Limited Review Circulars?

In conducting a limited review, Bursa Securities will only focus on key disclosure areas and not the entire circular. However, Bursa Securities may conduct a full review in circumstances where it deems fit. In any event, listed corporations, their directors, Sponsor or adviser, as the case may be, must ensure the accuracy and completeness of the Limited Review Circulars pursuant to Rule 9.35 of the ACE LR.

Others – Default in Payment

9.49 Rule 9.19A(1) of the ACE LR among others, requires a listed corporation to immediately announce any default in payment of either interest or principal sums, or both, in respect of debt securities (whether listed or unlisted on Bursa Securities) by the listed corporation. In this regard, what would constitute a default in payment in respect of debt securities?

Default in payments in respect of debt securities includes -

- (a) default in payments of the interest or principal sum or both in respect of loan stocks or bonds;
- (b) default in payments under a debenture.

9.50 Does a listed corporation have to make an immediate announcement when its 49% associated company defaults in payment of either interest or principal sums but the associated company's bankers do not issue any notices/demand letter?

Pursuant to Rules 9.19A(1)(b) of the ACE LR, any such default in payments (as envisaged in the loan/credit facility agreement) including by an associated company of a listed corporation which is material (ie. vis-à-vis the group) would require immediate announcement irrespective of whether a notice or demand has been issued by the bankers.

9.51 With effect from 27 January 2015, Guidance Note 5 will be deleted from the ACE LR and the requirements relating to default in payment will be set out in Rule 9.19A of the ACE LR instead.

- (a) **DEF Bhd, a listed corporation, triggers the criteria for default in payment on 30 January 2015. Which template under Bursa LINK should DEF Bhd use to make the immediate announcement and monthly status updates required under Rule 9.19A of the ACE LR?**

DEF Bhd must make the required immediate announcement and monthly status updates in the “**General Announcement**” template under the main keyword “**Others**” in the “Subject” column. There will no longer be any sub keyword in the “Subject” column for a default in payment announcement.

- (b) **If DEF Bhd triggered the criteria for default in payment under Guidance Note 5 on 15 January 2015 which was announced by DEF Bhd on the same date, which template under Bursa LINK should DEF Bhd use to make the announcement of the default in payment as well as the monthly status updates?**

DEF Bhd must make the required immediate announcement and monthly status updates in the following manner:

- (i) the announcement of the default in payment on 15 January 2015 should be made in the “**General Announcement**” template under the main keyword “**Practice Note 1/Guidance Note 5**” and sub keyword “**New Default**” in the “Subject” column; and
- (ii) the announcement of the monthly status update in February 2015 and thereafter should be made in the “**General Announcement**” template under the main keyword “**Others**” in the “Subject” column. There will no longer be any sub keyword in the “Subject” column for the monthly status update announcement.

9.52 *A Berhad’s net assets based on the latest published or announced financial statements is RM100 million. A Berhad has procured a credit facility of RM8 million from a bank and has withdrawn RM5 million from the facility as at 30 August 2009. On 30 August 2009, A Berhad defaults in the repayment of a monthly installment of RM100,000. As a result, the bank recalls the credit facility and demanded that A Berhad repays the bank the total outstanding sum due and owing under the credit facility amounting to RM5 million.*

In this case, what is the “total amount outstanding of the defaulted credit facility” referred to in Rule 9.19A(1)(a) of the ACE LR in determining whether A Berhad is required to announce the default under Rule 9.19A of the ACE LR?

The “total amount outstanding of the defaulted credit facility” referred to in Rule 9.19A(1)(a) of the ACE LR is the total outstanding sum due and owing under the credit facility when the bank issued the demand, i.e. RM5 million.

9.53 **The facts of the matter are as follows:**

- *X Berhad* has a financial year end on 31 December.
- *X Berhad’s* net assets as at 30 June 2015, based on its latest financial statements published on 30 July 2015 is RM250 million.
- In 2015, *X Berhad* had defaulted in the following payments of its credit facilities/debt securities:

Date	Default in payments	Total Amount Outstanding (RM'000)
31 July 2015	Default in repayment of loan instalments to <i>Bank A</i> (“Default 1”)	10,000
21 August 2015	Default in payment of interests due to bond holders which had become due and payable (“Default 2”)	4,000

Based on the facts above, is *X Berhad* required to immediately announce each default in payment pursuant to Rule 9.19A of the ACE LR?

Under Rule 9.19A(1)(a) of the ACE LR, a listed issuer must immediately announce any default in payment where the total amount outstanding either singly or collectively is 5% or more of the net assets of the listed corporation based on the latest published or announced financial statements. In this regard, the table below clarifies the immediate announcement obligation of *X Berhad* as required under Rule 9.19A(1)(a) of the ACE LR:

Date	Default in Payments	Total Amount Outstanding (RM'000)	Immediate Announcement Required?
31 July 2015	Default 1	10,000	No as total amount outstanding of Default 1 is only 4% of the net assets.
21 August 2015	Default 1 (which is still outstanding) and Default 2	14,000	Yes as the total amount outstanding of Default 1 and Default 2 are collectively 5.6% of the net assets.

9.54 The facts of the matter are as follows:

- *X Berhad* has a financial year end on 31 December.
- *X Berhad's* net assets as at 30 June 2015, based on its latest financial statements published on 30 July 2015 is RM250 million.
- *X Berhad's* net assets as at 30 September 2015, based on its latest financial statements published on 23 November 2015 is RM200 million.
- In 2015, *X Berhad* had defaulted in the following payments of its credit facilities/debt securities:

Date	Default in payments	Total Amount Outstanding (RM'000)
31 July 2015	Default in repayment of loan instalments to <i>Bank A</i> ("Default 1")	10,000
21 August 2015	Default in payment of interests due to bond holders which had become due and payable ("Default 2")	1,500

Based on the facts above, is *X Berhad* required to immediately announce each default in payment pursuant to Rule 9.19A of the ACE LR?

The table below clarifies the immediate announcement obligation of *X Berhad* as required under Rule 9.19A(1)(a) of the ACE LR:

Date	Default in Payments	Total Amount Outstanding (RM'000)	Immediate Announcement Required?
31 July 2015	Default 1	10,000	No as total amount outstanding of Default 1 is only 4% of the net assets as at 30 July 2015.
21 August 2015	Default 1 (which is still outstanding) and Default 2	11,500	No as the total amount outstanding of Default 1 and Default 2 are collectively only 4.6% of the net assets as at 30 July 2015.
23 November 2015	Default 1 and Default 2 (which are still outstanding)	11,500	Yes as the total amount outstanding of Default 1 and Default 2 are collectively 5.75% of the net assets as at 23 November 2015.

9.55 If a listed corporation, its major subsidiary or major associated company commits a default in payment pursuant to Rule 9.19A of the ACE LR, when does the listed corporation have to furnish a statement of solvency declaration to Bursa Securities?

The statement of solvency declaration duly executed by the board of directors of the listed corporation must be submitted via fax and mail to the Head of Listing, Bursa Securities within 3 market days from the date of the announcement on the default in payment pursuant to Rule 9.19A of the ACE LR.

9.56 If a listed corporation has negative net assets, how should the listed corporation determine how material a default in payment is for the purpose of making an announcement under the ACE LR?

Where a listed corporation has negative net assets, any amount in default will be considered as material pursuant to Rule 9.19A(2) of the ACE LR and the listed corporation must announce any amount in default.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 26 May 2023)**

CHAPTER 10 – TRANSACTIONS

Definition of “transaction”

10.1 Is the definition of "transaction" the same for both non-related party and related party transactions?

No, there is a different definition of "transaction" in the context of non-related party transactions and related party transactions respectively.

In the context of non-related party transactions, it means acquisitions or disposals of assets by a listed corporation or its subsidiaries and includes any of the following actions undertaken by the listed corporation:

- disposing of; or
- granting, accepting, exercising or discharging an option or any other right or obligation, present or future, conditional or unconditional, to dispose of,

the listed corporation's developmental rights, all or substantially all its rights, benefits, or control in an asset. However, it excludes transactions of a revenue nature in the ordinary course of business.

In the context of related party transactions, it includes, acquisitions, disposals or leasing of assets, establishment of joint ventures, provision of financial assistance, provision or receipt of services or any business transaction or arrangement entered into by a listed corporation or its subsidiaries.

10.2 For the purpose of Part D of Chapter 10 of the ACE LR, would an acquisition or disposal of property by a property development corporation be considered as being “in the ordinary course of business”?

No, Bursa Securities does not consider such transaction as being in the ordinary course of business of a property development corporation. However, where the property development corporation disposes of property which has been developed in the ordinary course of its business as a property developer, the listed corporation concerned would be excluded from complying with the provisions under Part D of Chapter 10. An example would be the sale of completed link houses, bungalows or bungalow lots by the property development corporation.

10.3 Is the receipt of financial assistance by a listed corporation or its subsidiaries from a major shareholder or director considered a “transaction” for the purpose of Part E, Chapter 10 of the ACE LR?

No, the receipt of financial assistance by a listed corporation or its subsidiaries from a major shareholder or director is not “provision of financial assistance” as envisaged under Rule 10.02(j) and therefore, it is not a “transaction” for the purposes of Part E of Chapter 10 of the ACE LR.

- 10.4** *A Bhd*, a listed corporation entered into a transaction with *B Sdn Bhd* to purchase shares of a company. *A Bhd* paid a deposit of RM10 million for the said purchase. *A Bhd* obtained shareholder approval for the said purchase. Subsequently, the said purchase was aborted. Instead, *B Sdn Bhd* offered land of equivalent market value, in settlement of the deposit of cash to be refunded. Will the acceptance of the land in settlement of the debt owed by *B Sdn Bhd* be considered as a new transaction, which may trigger the obligations set out in Chapter 10 of the ACE LR?

Yes, the acceptance of the land in settlement of the debt owed by *B Sdn Bhd* to *A Bhd* will be considered a new transaction which may trigger the obligations set out in Chapter 10 of the ACE LR.

- 10.5** What amounts to an “interest” as referred to in the definition of related party transaction set out in Rule 10.02(i) of the ACE LR?

Interest includes directorships, shareholdings (direct or deemed), commissions or such other benefits received or derived from the transaction.

- 10.6** Are outstanding receivables of a related party deemed to be financial assistance by a listed corporation?

“Financial assistance” is regarded as a transaction for purposes of Part E of Chapter 10 and is defined to include forgiving a debt or releasing or neglecting to enforce a financial obligation of another. In this regard, outstanding receivables of a related party which are written off or neglected to be enforced would be regarded as a related party transaction.

General requirements

- 10.7** Where the listed corporation and its subsidiary are both listed on the Official List of Bursa Securities and the listed subsidiary enters into a transaction that requires an announcement to be made pursuant to Chapter 10 of the ACE LR, is the announcement to be made by both the listed corporation and its listed subsidiary?

No, only the listed subsidiary is required to make the announcement pursuant to Chapter 10 of the ACE LR. The listed corporation would not be required to make the announcement.

- 10.8** Similarly, if the listed subsidiary aforesaid enters into a transaction that requires, amongst others, shareholder approval to be obtained, pursuant to Chapter 10 of the ACE LR, will the listed corporation also be required to obtain the shareholder approval under the ACE LR?

No, only the listed subsidiary is required to obtain shareholder approval pursuant to Chapter 10 of the ACE LR.

Computation of percentage ratio**10.9 If the transaction is entered into, not by the listed corporation but by its subsidiary, how are the percentage ratios referred to in Rule 10.02(g) of the ACE LR applied?**

In applying the percentage ratios (other than the percentage ratio in Rule 10.02(g)(iii)¹ of the ACE LR), the listed corporation should take into account its interest in the subsidiary in question when computing the numerator. For example, *X Bhd* a listed corporation, has a 60% owned subsidiary, *Y Sdn Bhd*. *Y Sdn Bhd* acquires a company which has a net asset of RM100 million. The calculation of the percentage ratio in respect of Rule 10.02(g)(i) of the ACE LR should be as follows:

60% x RM100 million

Net assets of *X Bhd* on consolidated basis

In the case of the percentage ratio in Rule 10.02(g)(iii) of the ACE LR, the total consideration paid will form the numerator. For example, *A Bhd*, a listed corporation, has a 60% owned subsidiary, *B Sdn Bhd*. *B Sdn Bhd* acquires a piece of land for the consideration of RM10 million. The calculation of the percentage ratio in respect of Rule 10.02(g)(iii) should be as follows:

RM10 million

Net assets of *A Bhd* on consolidated basis

This is clarified in Rule 10.03(4A) of the ACE LR.

10.10 Does a listed corporation need to exclude treasury shares when computing the percentage ratios of a transaction?

A listed corporation must exclude treasury shares in computing the -

- (a) total number of shares previously in issue under Rule 10.02(g)(iv); and
- (b) market value of all the ordinary shares of the listed corporation under Rule 10.02(g)(v),

when determining the percentage ratio of a transaction under Chapter 10 of the ACE LR.

10.11 If the application of a prescribed percentage ratio to a transaction results in an anomalous result (for example, a negative figure), must it still be applied?

No, such percentage ratio may be disregarded in such circumstances.

¹ Rule 10.02(g)(iii) of the ACE LR defines "percentage ratios" to mean the figures, expressed as a percentage, resulting from the aggregate value of the consideration given or received in relation to the transaction, compared with the net assets of the listed corporation.

10.12 *XY Bhd*, a listed corporation has positive net assets. It enters into a transaction to acquire a piece of land from *A* (“Land Transaction”), an unrelated party for RM1 million which is payable by *XY Bhd* wholly in cash. Pursuant to Rule 10.02(g) of the ACE LR, the only applicable percentage ratio of the said transaction which exceeds 5% is Rule 10.02(g)(v) (“Market Cap Test”). Is *XY Bhd* required to comply with the relevant provisions of Part D of Chapter 10 of the ACE LR? Similarly, will *XY Bhd* be required to comply with the relevant provisions of Part D of Chapter 10 of the ACE LR if the parties agree that the consideration for the Land Transaction be in the form of *XY Bhd*’s shares?

Pursuant to Rule 10.03(8) of the ACE LR, if *XY Bhd* pays for the land in cash, the Market Cap Test will not be applicable. As such, *XY Bhd* will not be required to comply with Part D of Chapter 10 because all the other applicable percentage ratios are less than 5%.

However, if the payment for the land is settled by issuance of *XY Bhd*’s new listed shares (partly or wholly) and the percentage ratio of the same pursuant to the Market Cap Test is 5% or more, *XY Bhd* will be required to comply with the relevant provisions of Part D, Chapter 10 of the ACE LR.

10.13 The following question is based on similar facts as set out in Question 10.12 above, except that in this instance, *XY Bhd* has negative net assets. All the relevant percentage ratios are found to be inapplicable or produce anomalous results except for the Market Cap Test. In light of this, will *XY Bhd* be required to comply with Part D, Chapter 10 of the ACE LR in relation to the Land Transaction where *XY Bhd* pays for the land in cash?

Pursuant to Rule 10.03(8) of the ACE LR, the Market Cap Test will only be applicable if –

- (a) the Land Transaction involves consideration in the form of listed shares; or
- (b) all the other percentage ratios produce anomalous results or are inapplicable.

In this respect, as all the other relevant percentage ratios are inapplicable or produce anomalous results, even if *XY Bhd* pays for the land wholly in cash, *XY Bhd* will have to ensure that the relevant provisions of Part D, Chapter 10 of the ACE LR are complied with.

10.14 In relation to any acquisition or disposal of equity interest in a corporation, when will the total assets ratio provided in Rule 10.02(g)(vi) of the ACE LR (“Total Assets Ratio”) be applicable?

Pursuant to Rule 10.03(9) of the ACE LR, in relation to any acquisition or disposal of equity interest in a corporation, the Total Assets Ratio is applicable –

- (a) if the acquisition will result in such corporation’s total asset being consolidated into the group accounts after the acquisition; or
- (b) in the disposal where such corporation’s total asset has been consolidated in the group accounts before the disposal.

10.15 For the purposes of computation of indicators of materiality under Chapter 10 of the ACE LR, must a listed corporation submit a copy of the external auditors' review report to Bursa Securities?

Yes, a copy of the external auditors' review report must be furnished by the listed corporations to Bursa Securities where the figures used such as in the case of total assets, net assets, net book value of assets, net profits and cost of investment are based on the published or announced interim or unaudited financial report which must be the latest.

Valuation

10.16 What is considered as real estate for the purpose of determining whether the requirement for a valuation under Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR is applicable?

For the purpose of determining whether the requirement of Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR is applicable, real estate means land and all things that are a natural part of the land as well as all things attached to the land both below and above the ground and includes the rights, interests and benefits related to the ownership of the real estate.

Example of the rights, interests and benefits over real estate includes development rights, timber concession, mining concession etc.

10.17 Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR requires a valuation to be conducted when a transaction involves an acquisition or disposal of any real estate, and when the percentage ratio of the transaction is 5% or more for a related party transaction or 25% and more for a transaction falling under Part D of Chapter 10 of the ACE LR.

What will be considered as a transaction which "involves an acquisition or disposal of any real estate"?

These will be the acquisition or disposal of real estate or corporation(s) with real estate.

The following table further clarifies the requirement on valuation report pursuant to Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR:

	Transaction which percentage ratio is –	Valuation required to be conducted and valuation report submitted to Bursa?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ $\geq 25\%$ pursuant to Part D (Transaction), Chapter 10 of the ACE LR; or ▪ $\geq 5\%$ pursuant to Part E (Related Party Transaction), Chapter 10 of the ACE LR 	
(i)	Acquisition or disposal of <u>a real estate</u>	Yes

Chapter 10 Transactions
[Questions & Answers]

	Transaction which percentage ratio is – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ $\geq 25\%$ pursuant to Part D (Transaction), Chapter 10 of the ACE LR; or ▪ $\geq 5\%$ pursuant to Part E (Related Party Transaction), Chapter 10 of the ACE LR 	Valuation required to be conducted and valuation report submitted to Bursa?
(ii)	Acquisition or disposal of a <u>property development²/ property investment³ corporation</u>	Yes, the valuation report must be submitted for all material real estate.
(iii)	Acquisition or disposal of a corporation (other than defined in (ii)) which owns real estate	Yes, only if the real estate has been revalued and the revalued amount is used as the basis in determining the purchase or disposal consideration

10.18 In an acquisition or disposal of a manufacturing corporation by a listed corporation, a revaluation on all the manufacturing corporation's lands, plant and machinery for the purpose of determining the purchase consideration of the said corporation has been carried out. In this situation, is a submission of a valuation report to Bursa Securities required?

Pursuant to Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR, a valuation report only needs to be submitted for the real estate. The listed corporation need not submit a valuation report on the plant and machinery.

10.19 A Sdn Bhd revalued its real estate 5 years ago. PLC B plans to acquire A Sdn Bhd. Pursuant to Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR, such acquisition requires a valuation report to be submitted to Bursa Securities. Can PLC B use the revaluation report conducted 5 years ago by A Sdn Bhd, for the purpose of submission to Bursa Securities under Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR?

No, pursuant to Rule 10.04(2)(b) of the ACE LR, PLC B must ensure that the date of valuation which forms the basis of the valuation certificate included in the circular is not more than 6 months before the date of circular issued to shareholders.

² "property development corporation" means a corporation whose core business is in –

- (a) development or redevelopment of real estate; or
- (b) real estate with development potential,

and includes those rights to develop pursuant to a joint venture agreement, privatisation agreement or some other forms of joint arrangement.

³ "property investment corporation" means a corporation whose core business is in –

- (a) the holding of investment properties for letting and retention as investments; or
- (b) the purchase of investment properties for subsequent sale.

10.20 When a valuation report is required, must the listed corporation submit the valuation report to the SC or Bursa Securities?

A valuation report required under Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR must be submitted to Bursa Securities. A listed corporation need not submit the report to the SC.

10.21 Must a valuer who is required to submit an undertaking to Bursa Securities under Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR, file an undertaking each time it acts for a listed corporation?

No, a valuer is required to provide Bursa Securities its letter of undertaking to comply with the ACE LR once. The same undertaking will be applicable for all listed corporations which the valuer acts for.

Related party transactions**10.22 Must a listed corporation immediately announce all related party transactions?**

A listed corporation must immediately announce all the following related party transactions:

- (a) related party transactions which do not fall within the category of recurrent related party transaction of a revenue or trading nature and necessary for its day to day operations (“RRPT”) and -
 - (i) the value of the consideration of the transaction is RM200,000 or more; and
 - (ii) the percentage ratio of such related party transaction is 0.25% or more; and
- (b) RRPTs which are not comprised in a valid mandate from its shareholders (“Mandate”) and-
 - (i) in relation to a listed corporation with a share capital of RM60 million and above, the consideration, value of the assets, capital outlay or costs of the RRPT is RM1 million or more, or the percentage ratio of such RRPT is 1% or more, whichever is the higher; or
 - (ii) in relation to a listed corporation with a share capital of less than RM60 million, the consideration, value of the assets, capital outlay or costs of the RRPT is RM1 million or more, or the percentage ratio of such RRPT is 1% or more, whichever is the lower,

(“Prescribed Limit”).

10.23 *P Bhd*, a listed corporation enters into a sale and purchase agreement with an unrelated party, *Q Bhd* to acquire a piece of property from *Q Bhd* for RM1 million (“Land Acquisition”). In consideration of the Land Acquisition, *P Bhd* issues to *Q Bhd* 500,000 new *P Bhd*’s shares of RM1 each (“Consideration Shares”) and RM500,000 cash. The Land Acquisition is subject to conditions, including the requirement that *Company X*, a major shareholder of *P Bhd* must underwrite the sale of the Consideration Shares by *Q Bhd* subsequently (“Underwriting Arrangement”). Is the Land Acquisition a related party transaction?

Yes, as the Land Acquisition is conditional upon the Underwriting Arrangement and involves the indirect interest of a major shareholder of *P Bhd* (i.e. *Company X*), the Land Acquisition is a related party transaction.

- 10.24** *S Bhd*, a listed corporation enters into a subscription agreement with an unrelated party, *Mr A* to issue *Mr A* 50,000 new *S Bhd*'s shares of RM1 each ("New Shares"). The completion date of the subscription agreement is 6 months from 1 January 2010. On 1 April 2010, *Mr A* enters into a share sale agreement with *Mr B*, a director and a major shareholder of *S Bhd* for the sale of the New Shares ("Shares Sale Agreement"). Prior to this, *Mr B* has never had any dealings with *Mr A*. In addition, the Shares Sale Agreement was never envisaged on or before the execution of the subscription agreement between *S Bhd* and *Mr A*. On 30 April 2010, *S Bhd* and *Mr A* enter into a supplemental agreement in relation to the New Shares varying amongst others, the purchase price ("Supplemental Agreement"). Will *S Bhd* be required to comply with Part E of Chapter 10 of the ACE LR in relation to the Supplemental Agreement?

Yes, the Supplemental Agreement will be regarded as a related party transaction as it involves the indirect interest of a director and major shareholder of *S Bhd* i.e. *Mr B* and hence, *S Bhd* would be required to comply with Part E of Chapter 10.

- 10.25** *X Bhd*, a listed corporation has obtained a general mandate pursuant to Rule 10.09 of the ACE LR ("Mandate") for provision of financial assistance to its subsidiaries, which constitute related party transactions. If the actual provision of financial assistance exceeds the corresponding value or amount prescribed in the Mandate, does *X Bhd* have to make an announcement in relation to the excess amount?

Yes, pursuant to paragraph 3.4(a)(ii) of Guidance Note 8, if the actual amount of financial assistance provided exceeds the corresponding amount in the Mandate, *X Bhd* must immediately announce the same notwithstanding that the excess amount does not trigger the Prescribed Limit as referred to in Question 10.22. In addition, if the percentage ratio of the amount of financial assistance provided or rendered in excess of the value or amount prescribed in the Mandate is 5% or more, *X Bhd* must also comply with the relevant requirements of Rule 10.08 of the ACE LR.

- 10.26** In respect of a related party transaction where the percentage ratio is 5% or more but less than 25%, an independent adviser must be appointed by the listed corporation in respect of such transaction. Does the independent adviser have to provide a confirmation to Bursa Securities of its eligibility to act as an independent adviser?

No, such a confirmation by an independent adviser is not required under the ACE LR and only a general undertaking letter under Rule 2.21(1) of the ACE LR is required. However, an independent adviser must ensure its independence within the definition of independence under Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR. Under Rule 10.08(5) of the ACE LR, Bursa Securities has the discretion not to allow an independent adviser to continue to act or be appointed as an independent adviser if in its opinion, the adviser is deemed not to be independent. Bursa Securities may also take enforcement action against independent advisers who misrepresented their independence.

- 10.27** What are the duties of an interested director in relation to the related party transaction under this Chapter?

Pursuant to Rules 10.08(6) to (8) of the ACE LR, an interested director is imposed with an obligation to ensure that the board of directors is notified of the nature and extent of his interests. He must also abstain from board deliberation and voting on the relevant resolution in respect of the transaction. In addition, he must also ensure that persons connected with him also abstain from voting on the relevant resolution in respect of the transaction.

10.28 What is meant by “investee corporation” as used in Rule 10.08(11)(q) of the ACE LR?

“Investee corporation” as used in Rule 10.08(11)(q) refers to any corporation in which the listed corporation has direct or indirect shareholdings.

10.29 Does the term “another person” as used in Rules 10.08(11)(c), (g), (k), (l), (m), (n) and (o) of the ACE LR include investee corporations of the listed corporation?

Yes, “another person” includes investee corporations of the listed corporation.

10.30 What is meant by “no other interested relationship” as used in Rules 10.08(11)(c), (l), (m), (n) and (o) of the ACE LR?

For the purposes of Rules 10.08(11)(c), (l), (m), (n) and (o) of the ACE LR, there would be “no other interested relationship” if the transaction does not involve any other interest of related party(ies).

10.31 Other than prices or charges, what are the “material terms” as envisaged under Rule 10.08(11)(g)(ii) of the ACE LR?

The phrase “material terms” would include terms such as the mode of payment or settlement or the period of settlement.

10.32 If the listed corporation gives discounts on the provision of its goods on the basis of volume or bulk purchases to all its customers, can such provision still fall within the exemption set out in Rule 10.08(11)(g) of the ACE LR?

Yes, provided that the provision of goods meets the conditions set out in Rule 10.08(11)(g). However, discounts given or granted purely on the basis that the customer is a related party will not meet the condition that “all material terms are applied consistently to all customers or classes of customers.”

10.33 *ZZ Bhd*, a listed corporation, is an investment holding company and it has one main subsidiary, *YY Sdn Bhd* which conducts stockbroking business. *YY Sdn Bhd* provides a wide range of products or services to its clients which may involve related parties. As *ZZ Bhd*'s main business involves or relates to dealings in securities, can *ZZ Bhd* rely on Rule 10.08(11)(g) of the ACE LR in respect of dealings in securities involving related parties to state that such transactions are not related party transactions, particularly since securities do not fall within the ambit of Rule 10.08(11)(g) of the ACE LR?

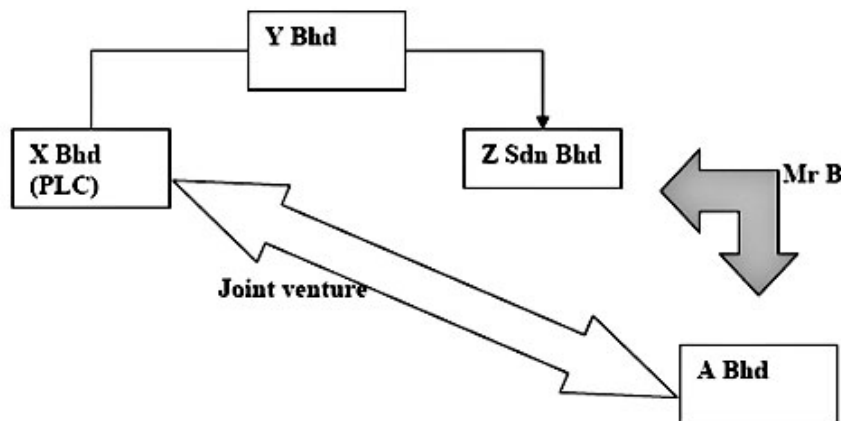
The products or services provided by *ZZ Bhd* to its related parties such as taking orders to acquire or dispose securities, nominees and custody services which although are in relation to securities, would come within the ambit of “stockbroking services” under Rule 10.08(11)(g) of the ACE LR. Therefore, offering of such products or services to *ZZ Bhd*'s related parties would not be considered as related party transactions provided that all conditions in Rule 10.08(11)(g) of the ACE LR are fulfilled. However, *ZZ Bhd*'s dealings in securities as a principal would not be exempted under Rule 10.08(11)(g) of the ACE LR (as the definition of “goods” excludes securities) and therefore, would be regarded as related party transactions if they involve interests of related parties.

- 10.34** In order to come within the ambit of “published or publicly quoted” as provided under Rule 10.08(11)(g) of the ACE LR, must the prices be advertised to the public?

In order to satisfy the criterion of “published or publicly quoted” under Rule 10.08(11)(g), the prices need not be advertised. So long as the pre-determined prices are or can be made readily available to the public or customers, this criterion is deemed satisfied.

- 10.35** *X Bhd*, a listed corporation, has a holding company, i.e. *Y Bhd*. *Y Bhd* has a subsidiary, *Z Sdn Bhd*. *X Bhd* is proposing to enter into a joint venture arrangement with *A Bhd*. *Mr B* who is a director and substantial shareholder of *Z Sdn Bhd* is also a substantial shareholder of *A Bhd*. Assuming that *Mr B* has no interest in *X Bhd* or *Y Bhd*, is this a related party transaction?

Illustration 1



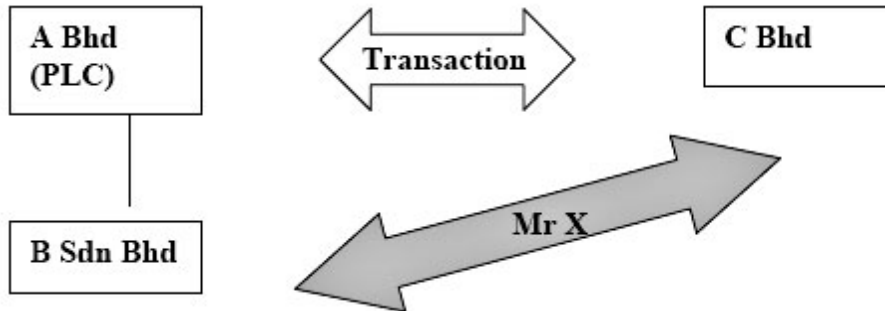
No, based on the above facts, in view of the definition of “related party” under the ACE LR, the joint venture with *A Bhd* is not a related party transaction as it does not involve the interest of any related party (i.e. directors, major shareholders or persons connected with them) of *X Bhd* and *Y Bhd*.

- 10.36** Referring to the facts as set out in Question 10.35 above, will a transaction between *X Bhd* and *Z Sdn Bhd* be deemed a related party transaction?

Yes, a transaction between *X Bhd* and *Z Sdn Bhd*, its sister company, will be deemed to be a related party transaction as it involves the interests of a common major shareholder, *Y Bhd*.

- 10.37** *A Bhd*, a listed corporation, is entering into a transaction with *C Bhd*. *Mr X* who is a director of a subsidiary of *A Bhd*, i.e. *B Sdn Bhd*, is also a director and a substantial shareholder of *C Bhd*. *A Bhd* has no holding company. Assuming that *Mr X* has no interest in *A Bhd*, is this a related party transaction?

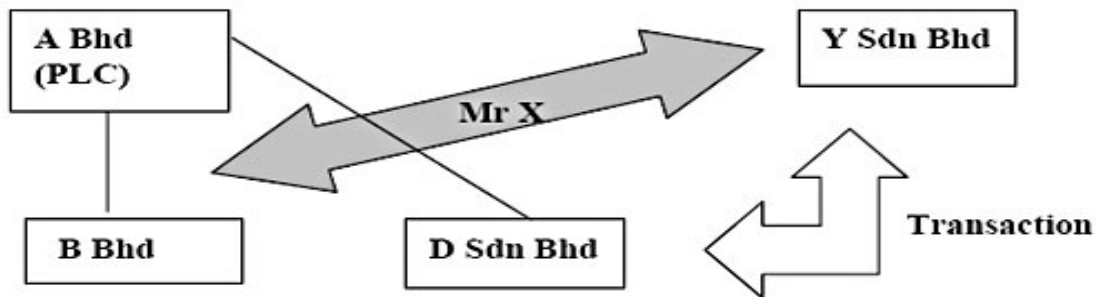
Illustration 2



No, based on the facts above, this transaction is exempted under Rule 10.08(11)(n) of the ACE LR.

- 10.38 *D Sdn Bhd*, a subsidiary company of *A Bhd*, the listed corporation, is entering into a transaction with *Y Sdn Bhd*. *Mr X* who is a director of *B Bhd*, a subsidiary of the listed corporation is also a director and a substantial shareholder of *Y Sdn Bhd*. *A Bhd* has no holding company. Assuming that *Mr X* has no interest in *A Bhd*, is this a related party transaction?

Illustration 3



No, based on the facts above, this transaction is exempted under Rule 10.08(11)(o) of the ACE LR.

- 10.39 Referring to the facts as set out in Question 10.38 above, *D Sdn Bhd*, is entering into a transaction with *Y Sdn Bhd* ("Transaction"). *Mr Z* who is a director and a substantial shareholder of *D Sdn Bhd* is also a director and a substantial shareholder of *Y Sdn Bhd*. However, *Mr Z* has no interest in *A Bhd*, the listed corporation, and *A Bhd* has no holding company.

- (a) Is the Transaction a related party transaction?

Yes, this situation is considered a related party transaction under Rule 10.08(9) of the ACE LR.

(b) What are the obligations of *A Bhd* with regards to the Transaction?

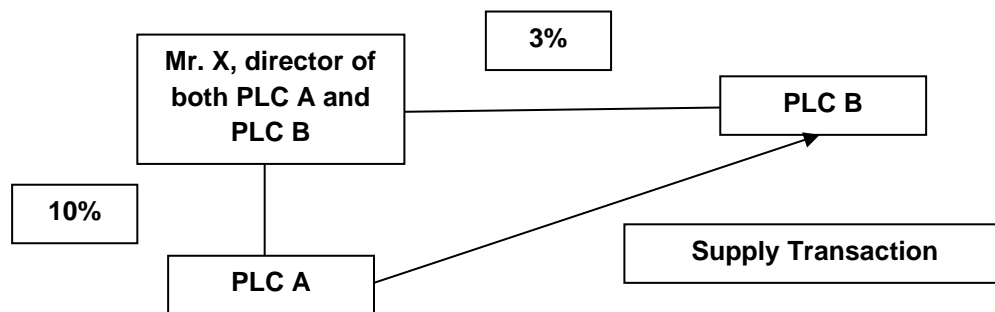
Pursuant to Rule 10.08(9) of the ACE LR, *A Bhd* does not need to obtain shareholder approval, issue a circular or appoint an independent adviser. *A Bhd* must however make an announcement which contains the prescribed information under Rule 10.08(1) of the ACE LR. In addition, the board of directors of *A Bhd* must approve the Transaction before the terms of the Transaction are agreed upon and ensure that the Transaction is fair and reasonable to *A Bhd* and is in the best interests of *A Bhd*.

Additionally, if the percentage ratio of the Transaction is 25% or more, *A Bhd* must comply with the requirements in Rule 10.07, Part F or Part F(A) in Chapter 10 of the ACE LR, as the case may be.

- 10.40** *X Bhd* is a listed corporation. *X Bhd* holds 20% of the total shares in *Y Sdn Bhd*. *Mr. A* is a major shareholder of *X Bhd* and *Y Sdn Bhd*. *X Bhd* intends to dispose of its 20% shareholding in *Y Bhd* to the shareholders in *X Bhd*, including *Mr. A*, on a pro-rata basis via a restricted offer for sale. Will this be considered as a related party transaction?

No, pursuant to Rule 10.08(11)(q) of the ACE LR, this disposal will not be considered as a related party transaction.

- 10.41** *PLC A* and *PLC B* are listed corporations. *Mr. X* is the common director of *PLC A* and *PLC B*. *Mr. X* has shareholdings of 10% in *PLC A* and 3% in *PLC B* respectively. *PLC A* enters into a supply transaction with *PLC B*. What is the nature of the supply transaction vis-à-vis *PLC A* and *PLC B*?



In so far as *PLC A* is concerned, the supply transaction would not be regarded as a related party transaction pursuant to Rule 10.08(11)(c) of the ACE LR provided that *Mr. X* does not receive or derive any benefits from *PLC A* and *PLC B* in relation to the said transaction. The transaction would however be regarded as a related party transaction vis-à-vis *PLC B*.

10.42 *ABC Berhad* and/or its subsidiaries propose(s) to enter into the following transactions:

No.	Details of transactions	Party(ies)	Highest percentage ratio triggered	Value of consideration given or received
1.	Transaction 1 in September 2009	<i>ABC Berhad</i> and <i>Mr. X</i> , a major shareholder of <i>ABC Berhad</i>	5%	RM90,000
2.	Transaction 2 in October 2009	<i>ABC Berhad</i> and <i>Syarikat 123 Sdn Bhd</i> , a joint venture company of <i>ABC Berhad</i> and <i>Mr. Z</i> , a major shareholder of <i>ABC Berhad</i> .	0.22%	RM500,000

What are the obligations of *ABC Berhad* in relation to the above transactions?

The obligations of *ABC Berhad* are as follows:

Transaction 1

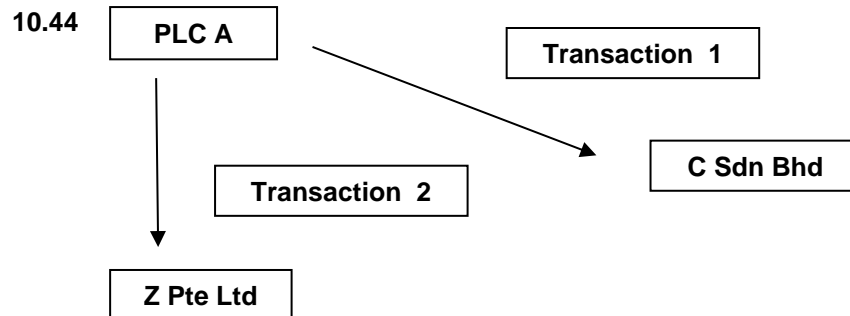
Pursuant to Rule 10.08(1)(a) of the ACE LR, no obligation is triggered by *ABC Berhad* in relation to the related party transaction as even though the highest percentage ratio triggered is 5% (i.e. threshold for shareholder approval for related party transactions), the value of consideration given is less than RM200,000.

Transaction 2

Pursuant to Rule 10.08(1) of the ACE LR, as the highest percentage ratio is less than 0.25%, no requirement is imposed on *ABC Berhad* to immediately announce the related party transaction.

10.43 *Mr. X* holds 8% of the total number of voting shares in *ABC Berhad*, a listed corporation and he is not the largest shareholder of *ABC Berhad*. Is he a major shareholder in *ABC Berhad* under Chapter 10 of the ACE LR?

No, even though he holds more than 5% of the total number of voting shares in *ABC Berhad* (“shareholdings”), he is not regarded as a major shareholder of *ABC Berhad* under Chapter 10 of the ACE LR as he holds less than 10% of the shareholdings and is not the largest shareholder of *ABC Berhad*.



PLC A proposes to enter into Transactions 1 and 2 with C Sdn Bhd and Z Pte Ltd respectively. The terms and conditions of the transactions were agreed upon on 30 January 2010. Mr. C, a director and major shareholder of C Sdn Bhd, was also a director and major shareholder in PLC A but has resigned as a director of and disposed of his shares in PLC A on 1 September 2009 and 29 September 2009 respectively. Mr. Z, a director and major shareholder of Z Pte Ltd, was also a major shareholder of PLC A before 1 March 2009. Are Transactions 1 and 2 related party transactions?

As Transaction 1 involves the interest of Mr. C who was a director and major shareholder of PLC A within the preceding 6 months from 30 January 2010, Transaction 1 is regarded as a related party transaction pursuant to the ACE LR.

However, as Transaction 2 merely involves the interest of Mr. Z who is no longer a major shareholder within the preceding 6 months from 30 January 2010, Mr. Z is not regarded as a major shareholder under the new definition of “major shareholder” and Transaction 2 would not be regarded as a related party transaction pursuant to the ACE LR.

Recurrent related party transaction of a revenue or trading nature and necessary for its day to day operations (“RRPT”)

10.45 If the relevant percentage ratio of a RRPT exceeds 0.25%, must a listed corporation announce the RRPT?

The threshold set out in Rule 10.08(1) i.e. if the relevant percentage ratio is 0.25% or more is not applicable to RRPTs. The obligation to immediately announce RRPTs (where no mandate has been obtained) is set out in Rule 10.09(1) of the ACE LR.

10.46 Must a listed corporation obtain shareholder approval for RRPTs, where such transactions reach the threshold that requires shareholder approval?

Yes, however, the shareholder approval may be in the form of a general mandate from shareholders procured on a yearly basis pursuant to Rule 10.09 of the ACE LR. Where no general mandate is obtained from its shareholders, specific shareholder approval must be obtained for such transactions that reach the threshold which requires shareholder approval before the said transaction is completed.

10.47 *A Berhad* obtains a general mandate from its shareholders on 3 September 2009 for among others, RRPT with its major shareholder, *Mr. X*, as follows:

- (i) supply of cement for an estimated value of RM2 million; and
- (ii) rental of cranes for an estimated value of RM5 million.

After obtaining the general mandate, assuming -

- (a) the actual value of the RRPT entered into by *A Berhad* with *Mr. X* up to 3 June 2010 is RM8 million, what is the obligation of *A Berhad* under the ACE LR in regard to under the Main LR in regard to the deviation between the estimated and actual value of the RRPT?

Since the actual value of the RRPT entered into by *A Berhad* with *Mr. X* exceeds the estimated value of the RRPT by 10% or more, *A Berhad* must immediately announce the deviation to Bursa Securities pursuant to Rule 10.09(2)(e) of the ACE LR (“**Announcement 1**”). *A Berhad* must include in Announcement 1 the information set out in Annexure GN8-B of Guidance Note 8.

- (b) up to 15 July 2010, the actual value of the RRPT entered by *A Berhad* with *Mr. X* has increased to RM8.6 million, must *A Berhad* announce the RRPT again?

No, *A Berhad* is only required to announce the RRPT again when there is an increment of at least RM0.7 million (i.e. 10% of the general mandate estimated value of RM7 million) to the actual amount disclosed in Announcement 1.

10.48 Pursuant to Rule 10.09(2)(e) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must immediately announce to the Exchange when the actual value of a RRPT (“Actual Value”) entered into by the listed corporation, exceeds the estimated value of the RRPT (“Estimated Value”) disclosed in the circular by 10% or more. Can the listed corporation wait until its next AGM (which is the date on which the current mandate expires) to make this announcement?

No, the listed corporation must make the announcement immediately when it becomes aware that the Actual Value has exceeded the Estimated Value by 10% or more. This applies even though the current mandate has yet to expire. For this purpose, the listed corporation is expected to closely monitor and track the value of the RRPTs transacted, as and when a transaction is entered into.

10.49 *A Bhd* has obtained mandate from shareholders for entering into the following RRPTs with corporations involving the interests of its director, *Mr. X*:

Transaction No.	Description	Estimated Value (RM)
1	Acquisition of stationery	500,000
2	Provision of secretarial, accounting and registration services	2,500,000

Transaction No.	Description	Estimated Value (RM)
3	Receipt of insurance services/products	4,000,000
	Total	7,000,000

- (a) For the purpose of determining whether the Actual Value of the RRPTs entered into by *A Bhd* with *Mr. X* exceeds the Estimated Value, can *A Bhd* use the aggregated Estimated Value for Transactions 1, 2 and 3 and compare it to the aggregated Actual Value for the 3 transactions?

Yes, as Transaction 1, 2 and 3 involve the interests of the same related party, pursuant to Rule 10.12 of the ACE LR, *A Bhd* may aggregate, the Estimated Value and Actual Value of those transactions respectively and determine whether the aggregated Actual Value exceeds the aggregated Estimated Value by 10% or more, in which case an announcement would be required.

- (b) Assuming only the actual value of Transaction 2 exceeds 10% of its estimated value, but the aggregated actual value of Transactions 1, 2 and 3 is below the aggregated estimated value of the RRPT or does not exceed the aggregated estimated value of the RRPT by 10% or more, must *A Bhd* make an announcement under Rule 10.09(2)(e) of the ACE LR relating to Transaction 2 only?

No, *A Bhd* need not make such announcement for Transaction 2 only. It only needs to announce under Rule 10.09(2)(e) of the ACE LR if the aggregated actual value of Transactions 1, 2 and 3 exceeds the aggregated estimated value of the RRPT by 10% or more.

- 10.50 Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Annexure GN8-A, a listed corporation has to disclose, among others, the “*estimated aggregate value of the respective Recurrent Related Party Transactions contemplated under the Mandate*” (“Estimated Value”). What are the RRPTs covered under the Estimated Value?

For the purpose of paragraph 3 of Annexure GN8-A, the listed corporation must disclose the Estimated Value in respect of RRPTs expected to be entered into from the date of the current AGM until the date of the next AGM.

- 10.51 Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Annexure GN8-A, a listed corporation must disclose the thresholds for the approval of RRPTs within its group of corporations.

- (a) What is the approval referred to in paragraph 11?

It refers to the listed corporation’s internal approval.

- (b) Does Bursa Securities prescribe these thresholds?

No, the listed corporation may determine the appropriate thresholds for the approval of RRPTs within its group of corporations.

- (c) *A Bhd* currently has its own internal authority matrix for approvals of transactions/procurement. However, this authority matrix makes no distinction between a transaction/procurement which involves the interest of a related party and a transaction/procurement which does not involve the interest of a related party. Can *A Bhd* use this authority matrix for the purpose of disclosure pursuant to paragraph 11 of Annexure GN8-A?

Yes, so long as the said authority matrix is wide enough to cover the RRPTs for which shareholders approval is being sought, *A Bhd* may use its internal authority matrix for the purpose of disclosure under paragraph 11 of Annexure GN8-A.

- 10.52** Pursuant to paragraph 12 of Annexure GN8-A, a listed corporation must include a statement that at least 2 other contemporaneous transactions with unrelated third parties for similar products/services and/or quantities will be used as comparison, wherever possible, to determine whether the price and terms offered to/by the related parties are fair and reasonable, and comparable to those offered to/by other unrelated third parties for the same or substantially similar type of produces/services and/or quantities. If a listed corporation can find only one other contemporaneous transaction with an unrelated third party, would it be deemed in compliance with paragraph 12 of Annexure GN8-A?

Yes, but the listed corporation must disclose in its circular that it has used its best endeavours to locate at least 2 contemporaneous transactions with unrelated third parties, but could only locate one.

- 10.53** *A Bhd's* AGM for its financial year ended 31 December 2008 was on 8 May 2009 ("2009 AGM"), while the AGM for its financial year ending 31 December 2009 falls on 20 May 2010 ("2010 AGM"). During its 2009 AGM, *A Bhd* has obtained its shareholder mandate for some RRPTs. *A Bhd* intends to obtain its shareholder approval to renew the RRPTs at the 2010 AGM. Pursuant to paragraph 14 of Annexure GN8-A, in its circular to renew the RRPTs, *A Bhd* must disclose the actual value transacted of each RRPT from the date on which the mandate was obtained (8 May 2009) up to the latest practicable date before the printing of the circular (assuming it falls on 15 April 2010) ("Actual Value"). Must this Actual Value be audited?

No, the Actual Value need not be audited. *A Bhd* may extract the Actual Value from its management accounts.

Major Disposal

- 10.54** What is meant by "substantially all of a listed corporation's assets" under the definition of "Major Disposal" in Rule 10.02(eA) of the ACE LR?

Disposal of "substantially all of the listed corporation's assets" refers to a disposal by a listed corporation of almost all of its assets, which is so material that upon the completion of the transaction, it will result in the listed corporation triggering the criteria for a cash company under Rule 8.03 and Guidance Note 2, the criteria for inadequate level of operations under Rule 8.03A, or any of the criteria prescribed under Rule 8.04 and Guidance Note 3 of the ACE LR.

10.55 Under Rule 10.11A(1)(bA) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation undertaking a Major Disposal is required to conduct a valuation on all its material real estate if the total net book value of all the listed corporation's real estate contributes 50% or more to the total assets of the listed corporation on a consolidated basis. What constitutes material real estate for the purpose of Rule 10.11A(1)(bA) of the ACE LR?

Bursa Securities does not prescribe a definition or threshold for material real estate under Rule 10.11A(1)(bA) of the ACE LR. Generally, material real estate is real estate owned by the listed corporation that will reflect a close estimate of the total real estate value of the listed corporation.

10.55A A listed corporation undertaking a Major Disposal must appoint an independent adviser and such independent adviser must be a person appropriate to give competent independent advice under the Take-Overs and Mergers Code as prescribed under Rules 10.11A(3)(a) of the ACE LR. How does a listed corporation comply with this requirement?

In assessing whether or not the adviser is a person appropriate to give competent independent advice, the listed corporation and its board should be guided by paragraphs 3.09 and 3.10 of the Rules on Take-Overs, Mergers and Compulsory Acquisitions⁴.

⁴ Paragraphs 3.09 and 3.10 of the Rules on Take-Overs, Mergers and Compulsory Acquisitions stipulate that -

- (a) a person would not be regarded as appropriate to give competent advice if the person –
- is in the same group as the financial or professional adviser (including a stockbroker) to the offeror or the offeree; or
 - has a substantial interest in or financial connection with, either the offeror or the offeree company of such a kind as to create a conflict of interests for that person; and
- (b) circumstances that can be taken into account in considering whether a person is appropriate to give competent independent advice include whether the person –
- holds 10 per cent or more of the voting shares or voting rights in the offeror or the offeree at any time during the last 12 months from the beginning of the offer period;
 - has a business relationship with the offeror or the offeree, at any time during the last 12 months from the beginning of the offer period that contributes to more than 10 per cent in revenue or profit of the adviser, based on the latest audited financial statements or the latest management accounts, if the latest audited financial statements is more than six months;
 - has a representative on the board of directors of the offeror or the offeree;
 - has a representative from either the offeror or the offeree on the board of directors of the independent adviser;
 - is or will be involved in the financing of the take-over offer;
 - is a substantial creditor of either the offeror or the offeree, based on the latest audited financial statements or the latest management accounts, if the latest audited financial statements is more than six months;
 - has a financial interest in the outcome of the take-over offer other than outlined above;
 - was an adviser in any planning, restructuring, acquisition or disposal proposals of the offeror or the offeree at any time during the period of 12 months prior to the beginning of the offer period.

Bursa Securities will not usually interfere with the selection and appointment of an independent adviser by a listed corporation, unless it is aware or becomes aware of issues which may compromise the independence of such adviser. In this regard, pursuant to Rule 10.11A(4) of the ACE LR, Bursa Securities may not allow an adviser to continue to act or be appointed as an independent adviser in a Major Disposal if, in its opinion, the adviser is deemed not to be independent.

10.56 If a Major Disposal also involves a take-over offer pursuant to the Take-Overs and Mergers Code, can the independent adviser required to be appointed under the Take-Overs and Mergers Code and under the ACE LR for the Major Disposal be the same party?

Yes, the independent adviser appointed can be the same party. The said independent adviser must be a person who is appropriate to give competent independent advice under the Take-Overs and Mergers Code and comply with the relevant requirements under both the Take-Overs and Mergers Code as well as the ACE LR.

10.57 Where the Major Disposal involves a related party, can the independent adviser required to be appointed for the related party transaction and the Major Disposal be the same party?

Yes, the independent adviser appointed can be the same party. However, the said independent adviser must be a person who is appropriate to give competent independent advice under the Take-Overs and Mergers Code and comply with the relevant requirements under Rules 10.08 (Related Party Transaction) and 10.11A (Major Disposal) of the ACE LR.

10.58 Where the consideration for the Major Disposal is by way of cash or partly in cash, who should make the statement whether the acquirer has sufficient financial resources to undertake the acquisition, as required under paragraph 4 in Part I of Appendix 10A of the ACE LR?

The announcement in relation to the Major Disposal as required under paragraph 4 in Part I of Appendix 10A of the ACE LR is to be made by the listed corporation that is disposing its assets. In making the statement, the board of directors of the listed corporation must take all reasonable steps to satisfy itself that the acquirer has sufficient financial resources to undertake the acquisition.

Aggregation of transactions

10.59 What is the definition of “parties connected with one another” as used in Rule 10.12(2)(a) of the ACE LR?

“Parties connected with one another” has the same meaning as assigned to “person connected” with a director or a major shareholder, as contained in Chapter 1 of the ACE LR.

10.60 *Z Bhd*, a listed corporation enters into transactions involving the acquisitions and disposal of securities in *A Sdn Bhd* with various parties who are not connected with each other. The transactions are as follows:

Transactions	Type of Transactions	Date of Transactions	Relevant % ratio
Transaction 1	Acquisition from a related party	October 2009	1%
Transaction 2	Acquisition from a non-related party	November 2009	4%
Transaction 3	Acquisition from a non-related party	February 2010	21%

Must the above transactions be aggregated to determine whether *Z Bhd* needs to comply with Chapter 10 of the ACE LR in respect of the aggregated transactions?

Yes, pursuant to Rule 10.12(2)(b) of the ACE LR and paragraph 2.0 of Guidance Note 7, the transactions must be aggregated as follows:

- Transaction 2 will be aggregated with Transaction 1 where *Z Bhd* will be required to announce Transactions 1 and 2 in accordance with Rule 10.06 of the ACE LR.
- Transaction 3 will be aggregated with Transactions 1 and 2 where *Z Bhd* will be required to, amongst others, seek its shareholder approval for Transaction 3 in accordance with Rule 10.07 of the ACE LR. However, *Z Bhd* must ensure that the circular issued to its shareholders includes information on Transactions 1, 2 and 3.

Contents of announcements and circulars

10.61 Can a listed corporation appoint a foreign valuer to prepare the requisite valuation report on the foreign assets proposed to be acquired under item 3 of Part F Appendix 10B of the ACE LR?

Yes, a listed corporation may appoint an independent valuer registered with the relevant professional body in the country where the foreign asset is located independently or jointly with an independent registered valuer in Malaysia to prepare the requisite valuation report. Further, the listed corporation must also ensure that the appointment of the valuer including the independent registered valuer in Malaysia fulfils the requirements under the SC's Asset Valuation Guidelines in relation to the appointment of valuer for valuation of foreign property assets.

10.62 “Conflicts of interest” on the part of the adviser or expert, where appointed which is required to be disclosed in circulars to shareholders has been defined to mean circumstances or relationships which affect or may affect the ability of the adviser or expert to act independently and objectively or where the adviser or expert has an interest in the outcome of the proposal which interferes or is likely to interfere with its independence and objectivity. What are the factors that should be taken into consideration by the adviser or expert to ascertain whether the “conflict of interest” exists?

The factors that should be taken into consideration by the adviser or expert to ascertain whether the “conflict of interest” exists or is likely to exist in relation to its role as an adviser or expert are varied and subjective. The adviser or expert must make that assessment and take all reasonable steps to ascertain whether the conflict of interest exists or is likely to exist. After that, full disclosure must be made in the circular of the nature and extent of the conflict of interests.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 2 January 2018)**

CHAPTER 12 – SHARE BUY-BACKS

12.1 Under the ACE LR, can all listed corporations undertake a share buy-back?

No, listed corporations may undertake a share buy-back only after their Sponsorship Period, provided that they fulfill the conditions set out under Chapter 12 of the ACE LR, including procuring their shareholder approval for the share buy-back.

12.2 [Deleted]

12.3 If a listed corporation obtains an authorisation from its shareholders to purchase its own shares in year 2017 but did not renew the said authorisation in year 2018, can it still issue a Share Buy-back Statement to its shareholders to seek their authorisation for the purchase of its own shares in year 2019?

Yes. Under Rule 12.06(1) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation is only required to issue a Share Buy-back Statement to its shareholders, for purposes of either seeking a new authorisation or renewing an existing authorisation to purchase its own shares. The Share Buy-back Statement must include the prescribed information as set out in Appendix 12A of the ACE LR.

12.4 Under Rule 7.15 of the ACE LR, notices of general meetings are required to be advertised in a daily press. Are listed corporations required to advertise the Share Buy-back Statement as well?

No, only notices of the general meeting for the renewal of an existing authorization for share buy-back are required to be advertised in the daily press.

12.5 A Bhd, a listed corporation has a total number of 100 million issued ordinary shares. Pursuant to its authorisation in year 2017, A Bhd had purchased 10 million of its own shares and retained the shares purchased as treasury shares. Can A Bhd still purchase its own shares in year 2018?

No, pursuant to Rule 12.09 of the ACE LR, A Bhd must not purchase its own shares or hold any of its own shares as treasury shares if this results in the aggregate of the shares purchased or held exceeding 10% of its total number of issued shares. Hence, as the treasury shares held by A Bhd in year 2018 is already 10% of its total number of issued shares, A Bhd may not purchase its own shares in year 2018. However, if the treasury shares are cancelled in year 2018 and subject to the authorisation from shareholders, A Bhd may purchase its own shares subsequently.

12.6 Based on the same facts as in Question 12.5 above, assuming that pursuant to its authorisation in year 2017, A Bhd had purchased 5 million of its own shares and cancelled the shares purchased in April 2017. What is the remaining number of its own shares that A Bhd may purchase in year 2017?

Pursuant to Rule 12.09 of the ACE LR, A Bhd may purchase an additional 5 million of its own shares for the remaining period in year 2017.

- 12.7 B Bhd, a listed corporation has a total number of 120 million issued ordinary shares. For year 2017, B Bhd procured its shareholder approval to undertake share buy-back of up to 10% of its total number of issued shares. Pursuant to its authorisation in year 2017, B Bhd had purchased 3 million of its own shares in February 2017 and retained the shares purchased as treasury shares. Subsequently in August 2017, the total number of issued shares of B Bhd is reduced to 100 million upon completion of its corporate exercise. What is the remaining number of its own shares that B Bhd may purchase in year 2017?**

The maximum limit that a listed corporation may purchase its own shares or hold any of its own shares as treasury shares under Rule 12.09 of the ACE LR will be based on the total number of issued shares of the listed corporation adjusted pursuant to a corporate exercise. Hence, in this case, the maximum limit of its own shares that B Bhd may purchase in year 2017 is 10 million based on its total number of issued shares adjusted pursuant to the corporate exercise in August 2017. In view of the 3 million shares purchased in February 2017, B Bhd may purchase an additional 7 million of its own shares for the remaining period in year 2017.

- 12.7A Is a listed corporation required to lodge a solvency statement made pursuant to section 113 of the Companies Act 2016 with the Exchange?**

No, a listed corporation is not required to lodge the solvency statement with the Exchange.

- 12.8 What does “cost of purchase” in Rule 12.18(b)(ii) of the ACE LR refer to?**

The “cost of purchase” refers to the amount paid by the listed corporation for the shares, which includes the transaction costs.

- 12.9 M Bhd, a listed corporation purchases 10,000 of its own shares in January 2010 and keeps them as treasury shares. Subsequently, M Bhd wishes to sell the treasury shares on 12 March 2010 (i.e. more than 30 days from the date of purchase, in accordance with Rule 12.18 of the ACE LR). The weighted average market price of M Bhd’s shares for the 5 market days preceding the resale on 12 March 2010 (“5 days weighted average market price”) is RM2.00. Can M Bhd sell its treasury shares at RM1.60 on 12 March 2010?**

No, M Bhd is not permitted to sell its treasury shares at RM1.60 on 12 March 2010. The price of RM1.60 represents a discount of 20% from the 5 days weighted average market price of RM2.00, which exceeds the 5% discount on the 5 days weighted average market price immediately before 10 March 2010. According to Rule 12.18 of the ACE LR, a listed corporation may only sell its treasury shares at a discount if the discount is not more than 5% of the 5 days weighted average market price.

- 12.10 N Bhd, a listed corporation purchases 15,000 of its own shares in January 2010 and keeps them as treasury shares. Subsequently, N Bhd wishes to sell the treasury shares on 19 March 2010 (i.e. more than 30 days from the date of purchase, in accordance with Rule 12.18 of the ACE LR). The 5 days weighted average market price of N Bhd’s shares immediately before 19 March 2010 is RM3.20. Can N Bhd sell its treasury shares at RM3.10 on 19 March 2010?**

Chapter 12 Share Buy-Backs
[Questions & Answers]

Yes, N Bhd may sell its treasury shares at RM3.10 on 19 March 2010 provided that the price of RM3.10 is not less than the cost of purchase of the shares being sold. In fact, N Bhd may sell its treasury shares at any price not less than RM3.04 on 19 March 2010, which represents a discount of not more than 5% from the 5 days weighted average market price of RM3.20 immediately before 19 March 2010 provided that the price is not less than the cost of purchase of the shares being resold.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD LISTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACE MARKET
(As at 2 January 2018)**

CHAPTER 13 – ARRANGEMENTS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS

Subdivision of shares

13.1 Can a Cash Company, a GN3 Company or a listed corporation with inadequate level of operations apply for subdivision of its shares?

A Cash Company, GN3 Company and listed corporation with inadequate level of operations may now apply for subdivision of their shares even though the subdivision is not undertaken as part of their proposal or plan to regularise their condition pursuant to Rules 8.03, 8.03A and 8.04 of the ACE LR respectively, provided that they comply with the requirements in Chapter 6 as if the subdivision is a bonus issue as stipulated in Rule 13.04(1) of the ACE LR. Among others, the Cash Company, GN3 Company and listed corporation with inadequate level of operations must ensure that their share price adjusted for the subdivision of shares is not less than RM0.20 based on the daily volume weight average share price during the 3-month period before the application date.

13.1A Is a listed corporation allowed to submit its application for subdivision of shares to Bursa Securities on its own?

Similar to a bonus issue under Chapter 6, a listed corporation may submit its application for a Specified Subdivision¹ on its own under Rule 13.04(1) of the ACE LR. Apart from this, applications for all other subdivision of shares must be submitted through a Sponsor or Adviser, as the case may be.

13.2 [Deleted]

13.3 [Deleted]

13.4 Is there a requirement as regards the number of shares which one share of a listed corporation can be subdivided into?

No, there is no requirement on the manner in which the shares must be subdivided, provided that the listed corporation's share price adjusted for the subdivision of shares must not be less than RM0.20 based on the daily volume weighted average share price of the listed corporation's shares during the 3-month period before the application date.

¹ A **Specified Subdivision** is defined in Rule 13.04(3) of the ACE LR as a subdivision of shares which –

- (a) is not conditional upon any other corporate proposal; or
- (b) is conditional upon another corporate proposal but –
 - (i) that other corporate proposal is a bonus issue; or
 - (ii) that other corporate proposal has been completed or become unconditional.

Others**13.5 What are the enhancements in relation to a Specified Capital Restructuring² exercise (“Specified Capital Restructuring”) under the SPEEDS processing?**

Specified Capital Restructuring (i.e. capital reduction, consolidation of shares or shares cancellation) will no longer require a suspension on the trading of securities. In addition, such corporate exercise can be completed earlier, i.e. on the next market day after the books closing date.

13.6 Is a listed corporation required to submit any document to Bursa Depository before the books closing date for the purpose of processing the Specified Capital Restructuring under SPEEDS?

The listed corporation must submit an undertaking letter in the prescribed format to Bursa Depository on the announcement date of the books closing date for Specified Capital Restructuring that is to be processed under SPEEDS. The undertaking letter must include the following:

- (a) The current share capital and number of issued shares of the listed corporation;
- (b) Designated CDS account for the crediting of fractional shares /rights;
- (c) Options on the allotment of fractional rights; and
- (d) An undertaking that the new share certificates shall be submitted to Bursa Depository on the books closing date.

13.7 Is there any fee imposed by Bursa Depository for the processing of shares from the Specified Capital Restructuring under SPEEDS and if so, how much is the fee?

Bursa Depository will impose on the listed corporation a processing fee of RM0.50 per account processed under SPEEDS. The processing fee is inclusive of the fee for the Record of Depositors (“**ROD**”). The fee of RM2.20 for the crediting of shares per account allotted remains the same.

13.8 When is the share registrar required to submit the new certificates to Bursa Depository for the Specified Capital Restructuring to be processed under SPEEDS?

For share registrars located within Klang Valley, the new certificates must reach Bursa Depository by 5.30 p.m. on the books closing date and in respect of outstation share registrars, the new certificates must be faxed to Bursa Depository by 5.30 p.m. on the books closing date before being delivered to Bursa Depository. In relation to Specified Capital Restructuring, Bursa Depository will return the old certificates to the relevant share registrar on the listing date.

² “**Specified Capital Restructuring**” means capital restructuring involving share cancellation and reduction in the number of shares held by each shareholder of a listed corporation.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 3 June 2019)**

CHAPTER 14 – DEALINGS IN SECURITIES

- 14.1** *ABC Berhad* has fixed the targeted date for announcement of its 1st quarterly results for 2010 on 15 May 2010. *Mr X*, a director of *ABC Berhad*, intends to deal with the shares of *ABC Berhad*. If the announcement of *ABC Berhad's* 1st quarterly results is made on 15 May 2010, what is the closed period for dealings by *Mr. X*?

Closed period is defined in Rule 14.02(b) of the ACE LR to mean a period commencing 30 calendar days before the targeted date of announcement of a listed corporation's quarterly results up to the date of announcement of the quarterly results.

As the targeted and actual date of announcement for *ABC Berhad's* 1st quarterly results falls on 15 May 2010, the closed period for dealings by *Mr. X* will commence from 15 April 2010 until 15 May 2010.

- 14.2** The term “dealing” under Rule 14.02(c) of the ACE LR includes “acquiring or disposing of securities or any interest in securities”. Does this include “transferring”?

Yes, the terms “acquiring or disposing” include “transferring” of securities or any interest in securities.

- 14.3** During the closed period, a principal officer of the listed corporation transfers his shares in the listed corporation to his wife and the consideration is in-kind (as opposed to cash). Is this regarded as a dealing in securities and hence, require notification?

“Dealing” is defined under Rule 14.02(c) of the ACE LR to include any disposal of securities or any interest in securities. As such a transfer of a principal officer's shares in the listed corporation to his wife without consideration or consideration in-kind would be regarded as dealing in securities under Chapter 14 of the ACE LR and subject to the notification requirements set out in that Chapter.

- 14.4** Are the requirements in Chapter 14 only applicable to dealing by affected persons personally?

No, the dealings falling under Chapter 14 include those undertaken by the affected persons as principal or as agent. This includes dealing via the nominee company of the affected persons. In this respect, a nominee company includes a body corporate which is wholly owned by the affected persons or where the affected persons have a controlling interest or a body corporate which is, or its directors are accustomed, or is under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the affected persons.

14.5 *X* is the chief financial officer of *A Berhad*, a corporation listed on Bursa Securities. If *X* does not have access or is not privy to price sensitive information in relation to *A Berhad*, will he still be considered as a principal officer for the purpose of Rule 14.03 of the ACE LR?

Yes, pursuant to Rule 14.02(i) of the ACE LR, since *X* is a chief financial officer of *A Berhad*, he is considered as a principal officer of *A Berhad*.

14.6 When an affected person deals in the listed securities of his own listed corporation during closed periods, and the dealing falls within Rule 14.06¹ of the ACE LR (“14.06 Dealings”), are the affected person, the listed corporation and the company secretary exempted from the requirements of both Rules 14.08 and 14.09?

No, they are only exempted from the requirements of Rule 14.08. All 14.06 Dealings are still subject to Rule 14.09 of the ACE LR.

14.7 *X* is a director of *A Berhad*. Does he need to comply with the dealing procedures set out in Rule 14.08 or 14.09 if he wishes to deal with the listed securities of *A Berhad*’s associate, subsidiary, or related corporation during or outside the closed period?

No. *X* is only required to comply with the dealing procedures set out in Rule 14.08 or 14.09 if he wishes to deal with the listed securities of *A Berhad*.

14.8 Pursuant to Rule 14.08 of the ACE LR, a director who wishes to deal in securities during a closed period must announce the proposed dealing to Bursa Securities before the proposed dealing. Currently, all announcements to Bursa Securities are made via the Bursa LINK. How can a director make an announcement to Bursa Securities if he has no access to the Bursa LINK?

The director who wishes to make an announcement to Bursa Securities should request the listed corporation to send the announcement to Bursa Securities on his behalf using the Bursa LINK.

¹ Rule 14.06 reads as follows:

The following categories of dealings are exempted from the restrictions or requirements of Rules 14.04 and 14.05 respectively:

- (a) the acceptance or exercise of options or rights under a Share Issuance Scheme or share option scheme;
- (b) the exercise of warrants;
- (c) the conversion of convertible securities;
- (d) the acceptance of entitlements under an issue or offer of securities, where such issue or offer is made available to all holders of a listed issuer’s securities or to all holders of a relevant class of its securities, on the same terms;
- (e) the undertaking to accept, or the acceptance of a take-over offer; and
- (f) the undertaking to accept, or the acceptance of securities as part of a merger by way of a scheme of arrangement.

14.9 A director must announce his dealings in securities within the timeframes stipulated under the ACE LR. Should the director still proceed to announce the dealings even if it is no longer within the timeframes prescribed under the ACE LR?

Yes, the director should still proceed to make the announcement even if it is no longer within the timeframes prescribed under the ACE LR to mitigate the failure to comply with the ACE LR.

14.10 Are the requirements relating to dealings in securities under Chapter 14 of the ACE LR applicable to securities borrowing and lending (“SBL”) transactions by directors and principal officers of listed corporations?

No, the requirements under Chapter 14 of the ACE LR are not applicable to SBL transactions by directors and principal officers of listed corporations. This is because a SBL transaction merely involves a temporary transfer of securities from the lender to the borrower on a collateralised basis. Therefore, it falls outside the ambit of Chapter 14 of the ACE LR which serves to apprise the market of acquisitions or disposals of securities or interest in securities (i.e. dealings in securities) by, or trading activities and trends of, directors and principal officers who are privy to price-sensitive information of the company.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 1 July 2023)**

CHAPTER 15 – CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Directors

- 15.1 To calculate the number of independent directors required under Rule 15.02(1)(a) of the ACE LR, should the listed corporation take into account the number of alternate directors?**

No. The listed corporation must not take into account alternate directors for the purpose of calculating the requisite number of independent directors in order to comply with Rule 15.02(1)(a) of the ACE LR.

- 15.2 Can an independent director appoint a person who is not independent to be his alternate director?**

No. If an independent director wishes to appoint another person to be his alternate director, such person must also satisfy the definition of “independent director” under Rule 1.01 of the ACE LR.

- 15.3 A listed corporation has 10 directors on board. However, there are only 3 independent directors. Does the listed corporation comply with Rule 15.02(1)(a) of the ACE LR or does the listed corporation have to appoint another independent director?**

Yes, the listed corporation would be in compliance with Rule 15.02(1)(a) as the number nearest to 1/3rd shall apply, which in this scenario would be 3 independent directors.

- 15.4 Would a director who sits on the boards of directors of a few listed corporations be required to provide a separate undertaking in respect of each listed corporation?**

No. Such director may provide one undertaking to Bursa Securities in respect of all his directorships in various listed corporations. However, if after filing the undertaking, such director becomes a director of another listed corporation which is not indicated in the undertaking, he must provide another undertaking in respect of that listed corporation.

- 15.5 Is the requirement to provide Bursa Securities with the requisite undertaking in Annexure GN15-C and Annexure GN15-D of Guidance Note 15 pursuant to Rule 15.03 of the ACE LR applicable to alternate directors?**

Yes, alternate directors must also provide to Bursa Securities the undertaking in the form of Annexure GN15-C and/or Annexure GN15-D, as the case may be.

15.6 Under the ACE LR, are there any persons who are specifically disqualified from acting as a director of a listed corporation?

Yes. Under Rule 15.05(1) of the ACE LR, the following persons may not act as a director of a listed corporation or be involved either directly or indirectly in the management of a listed corporation, including in an advisory capacity:

- a person who has been convicted by a court of law, whether within Malaysia or elsewhere, of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a corporation;
- a person who has been convicted by a court of law, whether within Malaysia or elsewhere, of an offence, involving fraud or dishonesty or where the conviction involved a finding that he acted fraudulently or dishonestly; or
- a person has been convicted by a court of law of an offence under the Capital Market and Services Act 2007, Securities Industry (Central Depositories) Act 1991, Securities Commission Act 1993 or the Companies Act 1965,

within a period of 5 years from the date of conviction or if sentenced to imprisonment, from the date of release from prison, as the case may be.

15.7 Rule 15.05(3)(c) of the ACE LR states that the office of a director shall become vacant if the director is absent from more than 50% of the total board of directors' meetings held during a financial year. If *Mr A* is appointed as a director of *B Bhd*, a listed corporation, mid-way through a financial year, how does *Mr A* compute the minimum number of board meetings that he must attend for that financial year?

The computation of the minimum number of board meetings to be attended in the financial year will take into account only the meetings that were held on or after the appointment of the director in question. Therefore, if *B Bhd's* financial year end is December 2009, *Mr A* is appointed on 15 August 2009 and the number of board meetings held after his appointment is 6, *Mr A* must attend at least 3 of the board meetings.

15.8 Can the attendance of an alternate director be taken into account for the purpose of computation of the 50% of the total number of board meetings attended?

No. The director himself (and not his alternate director) must personally attend at least 50% of the total number of board meetings held during a financial year.

15.9 Can a board of directors' meeting that is conducted via teleconferencing, video conferencing or other electronic, audio or audio-visual means which allows simultaneous or instantaneous transmission be considered as a board of directors' meeting of a listed corporation for the purposes of Rule 15.05(3)(c) of the ACE LR?

Yes, provided that such mode of meeting is valid under the relevant laws and/or constitution of the listed corporation concerned.

- 15.10 It is noted that a director of a listed corporation must attend at least 50% of the total board meetings held during a financial year pursuant to Rule 15.05(3)(c) of the ACE LR (“50% Requirement”). What happens if a director fails to comply with the 50% Requirement? Will that particular director be deemed to have automatically vacated his office?**

Pursuant to the ACE LR, the office of the director shall become vacant if the director fails to comply with the 50% Requirement. In this regard, the vacation of the office would be automatic and the listed corporation must make an immediate announcement of the vacation of office pursuant to Rule 15.05(3)(c) of the ACE LR.

- 15.11 Rule 15.06(1) of the ACE LR states that a director of an applicant or a listed corporation must not hold more than 5 directorships in listed issuers. Does the restriction apply to directorships held in corporations listed overseas?**

No. The restriction is only applicable to directorships held in listed issuers on Bursa Securities. Hence, in computing the number of directorships that may be held pursuant to the restriction, a director should take into account his directorships held in -

- (a) listed corporations (which include locally incorporated companies listed on Bursa Securities or corporations incorporated outside Malaysia but listed on Bursa Securities);
 - (b) management companies of the collective investment schemes which are listed on Bursa Securities; or
 - (c) issuers of any other listed securities on Bursa Securities.
- 15.12 Can a director aggregate a directorship that is held in a listed subsidiary with directorship in the listed holding company?**

No. A directorship in a listed company is to be counted as 1 directorship in a listed issuer and cannot be aggregated with a directorship in any other company, including a listed subsidiary.

- 15.13 Would a director of a listed corporation who lives overseas be required to attend the Mandatory Accreditation Programme (“MAP”)?**

Yes. Every director of a listed corporation must attend the MAP, regardless of his place of residence.

- 15.14 Would an alternate or substitute director of a listed corporation be required to attend the MAP?**

Yes, an alternate or substitute director of a listed corporation must also attend the MAP.

- 15.15 What happens if a director does not attend the MAP within the timeframes specified under Guidance Note 10?**

A director that does not attend the MAP within the timeframes specified under Guidance Note 10 is in breach of the ACE LR and enforcement action may be taken against him by Bursa Securities.

15.16 Pursuant to Rule 15.08(2) of the ACE LR, the board of directors must on a continuous basis, evaluate and determine the “training” needs of its directors. What would constitute “training” for the purposes of Rule 15.08(2) of the ACE LR?

Pursuant to Rule 15.08(2) of the ACE LR, the board of directors of the listed corporation is given the discretion to determine what constitutes “training” for its directors. In this respect, “training” could include, for example, the following:

- in-house training programmes organised by listed corporations for their directors;
- courses attended by directors as members of professional bodies which require mandatory training for their members;
- diploma/degree/post graduate courses; or
- courses/workshops conducted within or outside Malaysia.

15.17 Can the “training” prescribed by the board of directors for its directors relate to any topic at all, as may be determined at the absolute discretion of the board?

Under Rule 15.08(2) of the ACE LR, the training that is determined by the board of directors for its directors must be on a subject matter that aids the directors in the discharge of their duties as directors. Thus the board must exercise its discretion within the confines of that requirement.

In this regard, the findings from annual performance assessment of directors are useful as they provide valuable insights into the training and development needs of directors. The board or nominating committee will be able to prescribe the training required by its directors based on the areas for improvement identified in the findings. In addition, the board may also regularly request each director to identify appropriate training that he believes will enhance his contribution to the board.

Broadly, the training should include key developments in the legal and regulatory framework, as well as the industry within which the listed corporation operates. The training could also cover areas such as financial literacy, technical know-how, business and industry specific trends, business strategies, risk management and internal control.

15.18 Under Rule 15.08(3)(b) and item (29) of Appendix 9C of the ACE LR, a brief description of the type of training attended by the directors for the financial year is required to be disclosed in the annual report. What are examples of the type of information that is required to be included in the brief description?

Examples of the types of information that should be disclosed in the brief description are the mode of training i.e. via seminar, workshops or courses; the title of the seminar, workshop or courses and the number of hours/days spent.

- 15.19 Under Rule 15.08(3)(c) and item (29) of Appendix 9C of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must provide valid justifications if, in exceptional circumstances, its directors are unable to attend any training during the financial year. What are some of the “exceptional circumstances” envisaged under Rule 15.08(3)(c) of the ACE LR?**

Generally, a director is expected to attend continuous training to update and enhance his skills and knowledge. This is important for the director to ensure that he continues to carry out his role effectively. It is also recognized that there may be exceptional circumstances where a director may not be able attend any training. However, these circumstances should be **rare and uncommon**, such as if a director is suffering from a long term illness or is bedridden over a prolonged period.

Generally, it **will not be** considered as an exceptional circumstance if a director is unable to attend any training because he does not have the time due to business commitment or tight schedule for instance, or there are no suitable programmes or courses available.

Fit and proper policy

- 15.19A Is there any guidance to assist a listed corporation in formulating a fit and proper policy for the appointment and re-election of directors of the listed corporation and its subsidiaries?**

A listed corporation may refer to the Corporate Governance Guide (4th Edition) for guidance on the criteria and considerations that underpin a fit and proper policy for directors. A copy of the said Corporate Governance Guide is available at <https://bursasustain.bursamalaysia.com/droplet-details/resources/corporate-governance-guide-4th-edition>.

Nominating committee

- 15.20 Rule 15.08A(3) of the ACE LR states that a listed corporation must provide in its annual report, a statement about the activities of its nominating committee in the discharge of its duties for the financial year. Such statement must include the application of the listed corporation’s fit and proper policy in the nomination and election of its directors, how the requirements set out in Rule 2.20A of the ACE LR are met and contain the following information:**

- (a) the policy on board composition having regard to the mix of skills, independence and diversity (including gender diversity) required to meet the needs of the listed corporation;
- (b) the board nomination and election process of directors; and
- (c) the assessment undertaken by the nominating committee in respect of the performance of its board, committees and individual directors together with the criteria used for such assessment.
 - (i) What is a listed corporation expected to disclose in the “application of the listed corporation’s fit and proper policy in the nomination and election of its directors”?

In disclosing the “application of the listed corporation’s fit and proper policy in the nomination and election of its directors”, the listed corporation must ensure that the disclosure is sufficiently detailed and informative so that shareholders and investors have clarity and insights as to why the directors are selected and appointed to the board. In this regard, the listed corporation is expected to discuss –

- the overall desired board composition covering, among others, the combination of skill sets, diversity, tenure etc as reflected in its fit and proper policy;
- the specific justifications for appointing or re-electing each individual director during the financial year by taking into account the desired board composition above, as well as factors justifying the nomination or re-election of a director, including the qualification and relevant work experience (in the case of a nomination) or the past contribution or performance of the director (in the case of re-election).

The listed corporation must avoid providing generic, boilerplate or process-centric statements that do not add much value to shareholders. For example, “each director appointed or re-elected are in line with the listed corporation’s fit and proper policy” or “in nominating a candidate, the nominating committee has taken into account the listed corporation’s fit and proper policy and is satisfied that the candidate is suitable for the company”.

(ii) Can a listed corporation publish the information required under sub-Rule (a), (b) and (c) above on its website instead of the annual report?

A listed corporation must publish the statement about the activities of its nominating committee containing the prescribed information under Rule 15.08A(3) of the ACE LR, in its first annual report. In respect of the subsequent financial years, while the listed corporation may publish the information under sub-Rules (a) and (b) on its website provided that the requirements under Rule 9.25(1)¹ of the ACE LR are complied with, information on the application of the fit and proper policy as well as the assessment of performance of the board, committee and individual directors undertaken by the nominating committee during the financial year, must be disclosed in the annual report.

¹ Rule 9.25(1) of the ACE LR stipulates that a listed corporation may publish information set out in Part A of Appendix 9C on its website if such information has been previously announced or disclosed to shareholders pursuant to the ACE LR, or remains substantially unchanged from year to year provided that the listed corporation discloses in the annual report, the address of its website and the place on its website where the information can be accessed.

Audit committee

- 15.21 Would a person with a degree in accounting and who possesses 3 years' post qualification experience in finance but who is currently not a member of Malaysian Institute of Accountants meet the requirements of Rules 9.27 and 15.09(1)(c) of the ACE LR?**

Yes, pursuant to paragraph 7.1 of Guidance Note 9, such person would be acceptable for the purposes of Rules 9.27 and 15.09(1)(c) of the ACE LR.

- 15.22 What are some of the examples of persons who have “experience in accounting or finance” as referred to in paragraph 7.1 of Guidance Note 9?**

Some of the examples of persons who have “experience in accounting or finance” are accountants, auditors in an audit firm, financial controllers, finance executives, finance managers or finance directors.

- 15.23 Mr A started as a clerk in a corporation and gradually worked his way up to being a finance director. He has in total 20 years' experience in finance related work. In the last 8 years, he was the finance director of a family-owned company where he was primarily responsible for the management of the financial affairs of the corporation. However, he only has a diploma in accounting. Does Mr A meet the requirements of Rules 9.27 and 15.09(1)(c) of the ACE LR?**

Yes, pursuant to paragraph 7.1 of Guidance Note 9, Mr A's qualifications will be acceptable for the purposes of Rules 9.27 and 15.09(1)(c) of the ACE LR.

- 15.24 Who will be the signatory to the statutory declaration pursuant to section 251(1)(b) of the Companies Act 2016, who may be approved by Bursa Securities as referred to under Rule 9.27(c) of the ACE LR? Similarly, what are the other requirements as may be approved by Bursa Securities under Rule 15.09(1)(c)(iii) of the ACE LR, pertaining to the audit committee?**

The approval will be given on the basis of an application made by a listed corporation. Bursa Securities will examine the merits of each application and the approval of such signatory or requirements pertaining to audit committee member will be given on a case by case basis.

- 15.25 In relation to the requisite qualifications for the signatory under Rule 9.27 of the ACE LR and a member of the audit committee under Rule 15.09 of the ACE LR, if the person concerned fulfils the requirements set out in the said provisions or paragraph 7.1 of Guidance Note 9 (“Said Qualifications”), does he still have to submit an application to Bursa Securities for approval?**

No. He does not have to submit any application to Bursa Securities for approval. The requirement to seek Bursa Securities' approval is only necessary if the person concerned does not fulfill the Said Qualifications but is nonetheless considered by the listed corporation to have the requisite knowledge and experience that will enable him to discharge his obligations as a signatory or audit committee as if he had the Said Qualifications.

15.26 In relation to Rule 9.27 of the ACE LR where it is stated that the “signatory” must satisfy such other requirements as approved by Bursa Securities, what are the specific requirements that may be approved by Bursa Securities?

The “signatory” must provide justification to Bursa Securities that the knowledge and experience that he has are adequate to enable him to discharge his role effectively as a signatory to the statutory declaration even though he does not have the Said Qualifications. This justification will be considered by Bursa Securities on a case-by-case basis.

15.27 To whom should the application for approval under Rules 9.27 and 15.09 of the ACE LR as referred to in Question 15.26 above be made?

Any application should be made in writing to the Listing Division of Bursa Securities, addressed to the Head, Listing together with the necessary documents to support the application.

15.28A Under Rule 15.12(1)(j) of the ACE LR, an audit committee is required to review whether there is reason (supported by grounds) to believe that the listed corporation’s external auditor is not suitable for re-appointment, and make the relevant recommendation to the board.

What are some of the key factors that may assist the audit committee in determining whether such reason exists where the external auditor is not suitable for re-appointment?

In making the determination, the audit committee should, in addition to the suitability factors as set out in Rule 15.21 of the ACE LR², also consider the performance of the external auditor and its independence such as -

- the external auditor’s ability to meet deadlines in providing services and responding to issues in a timely manner as contemplated in the external audit plan;
- the nature of the non-audit services provided by the external auditor and fees paid for such services relative to the audit fee; and
- whether there are safeguards in place to ensure that there is no threat to the objectivity and independence of the audit arising from the provision of non-audit services or tenure of the external auditor.

² Rule 15.21 of the ACE LR provides that in appointing an external auditor, a listed corporation must consider, among others –

- (a) the adequacy of the experience and resources of the accounting firm;
- (b) the persons assigned to the audit;
- (c) the accounting firm’s audit engagements;
- (d) the size and complexity of the listed corporation’s group being audited; and
- (e) the number and experience of supervisory and professional staff assigned to the particular audit.

15.28B Pursuant to Rule 15.15(3)(d) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation must disclose in the audit committee report, a summary of work of the audit committee in the discharge of its functions and duties for the financial year, and how the audit committee has met its responsibilities. What is the information that a listed corporation is expected to disclose under this requirement?

When describing the summary of work of the audit committee in the discharge of its functions and duties, and how the audit committee has met its responsibilities, a listed corporation must be mindful that the purpose is to provide shareholders with an insight on how the audit committee performed its functions during the financial year, to, among others, safeguard the integrity of financial reporting.

Hence, the listed corporation is expected to discuss the areas over which the audit committee exercised its oversight, and explain with sufficient details what it did to execute its oversight responsibilities.

For example, the listed corporation should, in relation to the audit committee's role to oversee financial reporting, include details such as –

- the dates when the audit committee met with the external (and internal) auditors without the presence of management and the topics discussed;
- identified new financial reporting standards and other standards that were discussed and which may have had a significant impact on the listed corporation's financial statements;
- the review undertaken on matters relating to management judgments and estimates;
- the processes and controls that were in place for effective and efficient financial reporting and disclosures under the financial reporting standards.

With regards to the audit committee's role to review any related party transactions ("**RPTs**") and conflict of interest ("**COI**") situations that arose, persist or may arise within the listed corporation or group, the listed corporation should include –

- information on the framework in place for the purposes of identifying, evaluating, approving, reporting and monitoring such COI situations and RPTs; and
- the key considerations taken by the audit committee when it reviews the RPTs or COI situations.

The listed corporation must avoid providing a generic or boilerplate statement that fails to reflect the breadth and depth of the important activities undertaken by the audit committee. It should also avoid merely re-stating its terms of reference or charter, which is typically static information that should be made available on the listed corporation's website.

The listed corporation and its audit committee may be further guided in disclosing the summary of the audit committee's work as required under Rule 15.15(3)(d) of the ACE LR by referring to the **Corporate Governance Guide (4th Edition)**³.

15.28C What is a listed corporation expected to disclose in the summary of the work of the internal audit function under Rule 15.15(3)(e) of the ACE LR?

Similar to the above, a listed corporation should provide information which enables shareholders to have an insight into how the internal audit function discharged its roles and responsibilities during the financial year. With such information, shareholders are able to understand better the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance, risk management and internal control processes in place. The disclosure would also assist shareholders in assessing whether the audit committee has carried out its oversight duties over the internal audit, effectively.

In this regard, the listed corporation should provide information on the key specific areas that were audited and other information such as the resources made available to the internal audit function as well as the internal audit reporting and communication flow i.e. what was done with the internal audit report and whether concerns, if any, identified by internal audit in its report were addressed, during the financial year. The listed corporation should avoid providing generic statements about the general responsibilities of the internal audit function or its terms of reference which do not inform shareholders of the actual work performed by the internal audit function.

The listed corporation and its audit committee may be further guided in disclosing the summary of the internal audit function's work as required under Rule 15.15(3)(e) of the ACE LR by referring to the **Corporate Governance Guide (4th Edition)**⁴.

15.28 In view of Rule 15.17(f) of the ACE LR, can the company secretary of a listed corporation still attend the audit committee meeting?

Yes, the company secretary may attend. The discretion lies with the audit committee, whether it wishes to also exclude the attendance of the company secretary.

Corporate Governance Disclosures

15.29 Are there any specific requirements pertaining to the disclosure to be made in the annual report in relation to the MCCG?

Guidance Note 11 elaborates on the disclosures to be made in the annual report of a listed corporation in relation to this requirement.

³ This is available at:
<https://bursasustain.bursamalaysia.com/droplet-details/resources/corporate-governance-guide-4th-edition>

⁴ This is available at:
<https://bursasustain.bursamalaysia.com/droplet-details/resources/corporate-governance-guide-4th-edition>

15.30A Under Rule 15.25(1) of the ACE LR, a listed corporation's board of directors must provide an overview of the application of the Principles set out in the MCCG ("Principle") in its annual report ("CG Overview Statement"). In this regard, what are the information that must be disclosed in the CG Overview Statement?

As stipulated under paragraph 3.1A of Guidance Note 11 of the ACE LR, the listed corporation must disclose a summary of its corporate governance practices during the financial year with reference to the 3 Principles set out in the MCCG which are -

- (a) board leadership and effectiveness;
- (b) effective audit and risk management; and
- (c) integrity in corporate reporting and meaningful relationship with stakeholders.

In addition, the listed corporation should also highlight the following in the CG Overview Statement:

- (i) its key focus areas in relation to its corporate governance practices for the reporting financial year; and
- (ii) its future priorities or plans moving forward, in key areas for the forthcoming financial years.

Further guidance on the CG Overview Statement is available at the Executive Summary of the Corporate Governance Guide issued by the Exchange.

15.30 Rule 15.25(2) of the ACE LR requires a listed corporation to disclose the application of each Practice set out in the MCCG during the financial year to the Exchange in a prescribed format ("CG Report") and announce the same together with the announcement of the annual report.

If a shareholder requests for a hard copy of the annual report from a listed corporation, must the listed corporation send a hard copy of the CG Report together with the annual report to the shareholder?

No, there is no obligation for the listed corporation to forward a hard copy of the CG Report together with its annual report to its shareholder who has requested for a hard copy of the annual report. Under Rule 15.25(2) of the ACE LR, the listed corporation is only required to state in its annual report, the designated website link or address where the CG Report may be downloaded by its shareholders.

15.31A Can a listed corporation modify the prescribed format for the CG Report?

No. The listed corporation must strictly comply with the prescribed format of the CG Report with no exception whatsoever. In this regard, the listed corporation must ensure that each applicable field in the prescribed format relating to each Practice is completed before announcing the CG Report to the Exchange.

15.31B Can a listed corporation disclose the application of each Practice set out in the MCCG during the financial year in the annual report instead of in a prescribed format?

No, a listed corporation must disclose the application of each Practice set out in the MCCG during the financial year in a prescribed format.

15.31C If a listed corporation has adopted and disclosed Step Up practice 5.4 or 8.3 of the MCCG in its CG Report, is the listed corporation still required to disclose the application of Practice 5.3 or 8.2?

No. The listed corporation is only required to select the dropdown option “Not applicable – Step Up 5.4 adopted” for Practice 5.3 or “Not applicable – adopted Step Up 8.3” for Practice 8.2, as the case may be, in the CG Report.

15.31D In explaining the departure from a Practice and the adoption of an alternative practice for such departure as required under paragraph 3.2A in Guidance Note 11 of the ACE LR, can a listed corporation state the adoption of another Practice in the MCCG as the justification or its alternative practice?

No, the listed corporation must still provide an explanation for the departure and disclose its alternative practice (other than the adoption of another Practice in the MCCG) and how the alternative practice achieves the Intended Outcome as required under paragraph 3.2A(b) of Guidance Note 11.

15.31 Can a listed corporation insert the CG Overview Statement (as referred to Guidance Note 11) in its directors’ report in the annual report?

Yes, a listed corporation may insert the CG Overview Statement in its directors’ report in the annual report. However, a listed corporation must ensure that the said statement is prominently and clearly set out.

15.32 Must the CG Overview Statement and CG Report be signed by the directors of a listed corporation in the same manner as the directors’ report?

No. It is not the requirement of Bursa Securities that the CG Overview Statement and CG Report must be signed by the directors of a listed corporation. However, the listed corporation must ensure that the CG Overview Statement and CG Report are approved by its board of directors.

15.33 [Deleted]

15.34A Is it mandatory for a listed corporation to comply with the Corporate Governance Guide issued by the Exchange when it prepares its CG Overview Statement and CG Report?

Whilst it is not mandatory, a listed corporation is strongly **encouraged as a best practice** to refer to the Corporate Governance Guide when preparing its CG Overview Statement and CG Report.

Risk Management and Internal Control Statement**15.34 Is there any guidance to assist directors of listed corporations in making the statement on risk management and internal control?**

In addition to Guidance Note 11, directors should also refer to the guidance entitled “Statement on Risk Management and Internal Control: Guidelines for Directors of Listed Issuers” issued by the Taskforce on Internal Control. A copy of the said guidelines is available on Bursa Securities’ website at www.bursamalaysia.com.

Internal audit**15.35 What is meant by “an internal audit function which is independent of the activities it audits” as referred to under Rule 15.27 of the ACE LR?**

This means that the internal audit function of a listed corporation must be independent from the management and operations. A listed corporation must not allow or condone inter-management audit. For example, finance department performing audit on the other operation units within the group of a listed corporation. For the purposes of clarifying the phrase “independent of the activities of its audits”, reference may be made to the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Internal Auditing Guidelines issued by the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (collectively referred to as “the Internal Audit Standards & Guidelines”).

15.36 Can the internal audit function of a listed corporation be outsourced?

Yes. The internal audit function of listed corporation can either be performed in-house or outsourced.

15.37 Where the internal audit function of a listed corporation is outsourced, what is the key issue that must be taken into consideration?

The key issue is the independence and objectivity of the firm/person to whom the internal audit function is outsourced. Again, for the purposes of clarifying the issue of “independence and objectivity”, reference may be made to the Internal Audit Standards & Guidelines.

15.38 Can the internal audit function be outsourced to the firm/person performing the statutory audit for the listed corporation?

Pursuant to section 290.186A of the By-Laws (On Professional Ethics, Conduct And Practice) of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (“**Ethics By-Laws**”), where a financial statement audit client is a listed entity or public interest entity, the firm or network of firm performing the financial statement audit should not accept an engagement to provide internal audit services.

As such, the internal audit function of a listed corporation should not be outsourced to the firm/person performing the statutory audit for the listed corporation.

- 15.39 Can the internal audit function be outsourced to a group internal auditor who may be the internal auditor of the holding company, the subsidiary or subsidiary of the holding company?**

Yes, all these can be considered as outsourcing. The listed corporation, however, must always adhere to the requirements of “independence and objectivity”.

- 15.40 With reference to Questions 15.36, 15.37 and 15.38 above, what are the requirements that must be complied with by the external party to whom the internal audit function is outsourced?**

This depends on who the external party is. Such party must always comply with whatever legal requirements imposed on it by the relevant bodies or which it is subject to, in offering its services as an internal auditor. For example, in the case of a member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants, it would have to comply with the Institute’s requirements. This would include the Ethics By-Laws.

Anti-corruption and whistle-blowing

- 15.42 Pursuant to Rule 15.28(1)(a)(i) of ACE LR, a listed corporation and its board are required to be guided by the Guidelines on Adequate Procedures issued pursuant to section 17A(5) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009 (“GAP”), at a minimum, when establishing its group policies and procedures on anti-corruption. Besides GAP, can a listed corporation adopt other standards or systems on anti-corruption?**

Yes, a listed corporation may adopt other recognised standards or systems on anti-corruption such as the Anti-Bribery Management System (MS ISO 37001) when formulating its anti-corruption policies and procedures provided that the listed corporation ensures that its anti-corruption policies and procedures comply with the GAP as well.

- 15.43 Is a listed corporation in compliance with Rule 15.28(1)(a) of the ACE LR if it establishes and maintains policies and procedures on anti-corruption and whistle-blowing, on a group basis?**

Yes, the listed corporation complies with Rule 15.28(1)(a) of the ACE LR if the policies and procedures are established on a group basis and adopted by the listed corporation and all its subsidiaries within the group.

- 15.44 Rule 15.28(1)(b) of the ACE LR stipulates that a listed corporation and its board of directors must ensure that the policies and procedures on anti-corruption and whistle-blowing are reviewed periodically to assess their effectiveness, and in any event, at least once every 3 years. In this regard, when should the listed corporation conduct the periodic review?**

To ensure that the listed corporation’s policies and procedures remain effective, it is expected that a review would be carried out when -

- there is change in the law or circumstance in the listed corporation’s business;
- there is a material change in the environment or circumstances in which the listed corporation is operating; or
- the current policies and procedures are found to be inadequate.

**Chapter 15 Corporate Governance
[Questions & Answers]**

Such review is necessary to allow the listed corporation to analyse and assess whether the policies and procedures are still effective in addressing or mitigating corruption risks that the listed corporation group is exposed to, or whether improvements are required. In any event, the listed corporation must review its policies and procedures on anti-corruption and whistle-blowing at least once every 3 years.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES BERHAD ACE MARKET LISTING REQUIREMENTS
(As at 2 January 2018)**

CHAPTER 16 – SUSPENSION, DE-LISTING & ENFORCEMENT

Suspension of trading imposed by Bursa Securities

16.1 In relation to a voluntary winding-up of a listed corporation, when would Bursa Securities suspend the trading of its listed securities?

Pursuant to Rule 16.02(1)(h) of the ACE LR, Bursa Securities may suspend the trading of a listed corporation's listed securities upon the commencement of a voluntary winding-up in accordance with the Companies Act, 2016. Pursuant to section 441(1) of the Companies Act, 2016, a voluntary winding-up commences

- (a) where an interim liquidator has been appointed before the resolution for voluntary winding-up was passed, at the time when the declaration referred to in section 440 of the Companies Act 2016, is lodged with the Registrar; and
- (b) in any other case, at the time of the passing of the resolution for voluntary winding-up, as the case may be.

Withdrawal of listing

16.2 In a take-over offer situation pursuant to the Take-Overs and Mergers Code, other than those effected by way of a scheme of arrangement, compromise, amalgamation or selective capital reduction –

(a) when can a listed corporation withdraw its listing status?

In a take-over offer situation pursuant to the Take-Overs and Mergers Code, other than those effected by way of a scheme of arrangement, compromise, amalgamation or selective capital reduction, a listed corporation may withdraw its listing from the Official List of Bursa Securities when 90% or more of its listed shares (excluding treasury shares) are held by one shareholder either individually or jointly with associates of the said shareholder and the listed corporation has announced the offeror's intention not to maintain the listed corporation's listing status.

(b) must a listed corporation seek shareholder approval pursuant to Rule 16.06 of the ACE LR to withdraw its listing status?

No, a withdrawal of listing by a listed corporation in this situation is not subject to Rule 16.06 of the ACE LR and as such, no specific shareholder approval is required for the withdrawal.

Chapter 16 Suspension, De-listing & Enforcement
[Questions & Answers]

- 16.3 What are the types of corporate proposals envisaged in Rule 16.07(b) of the ACE LR where a listed corporation may withdraw its listing upon 100% of its listed shares being held by a shareholder either individually or jointly with the associates, and the listed corporation has announced the offeror's intention not to maintain the listed corporation's listing status?**

The corporate proposals in Rule 16.07(b) of the ACE LR include, among others, a scheme of arrangement, compromise, amalgamation or selective capital reduction under the Take-Overs and Mergers Code, and a Major Disposal.

Trading halt

- 16.4 If material information is announced during trading hours, for example a resolution in relation to a material corporate proposal rejected at an extraordinary general meeting which ended in the morning, will trading of securities of the listed corporation be suspended?**

Generally, if any announcement in relation to material corporate proposals including those stipulated under paragraph 2.1 of Guidance Note 14 is released during trading hours, unless the listed corporation has requested for a suspension of trading under Guidance Note 5, Bursa Securities will impose trading halt for 1 hour or until the end of that trading session, whichever is the earlier. The details of the trading halt periods are as set out in paragraph 3.1 of Guidance Note 14.

- 16.5 During PLC A's Board Meeting held on Monday, 24 August 2009 at 11.00 a.m., the Board resolves, amongst others, the declaration of a dividend. After the meeting ends at 12.45 p.m., PLC A immediately announces the declaration of dividend. Will trading halt be imposed on PLC A's securities?**

Pursuant to paragraph 3.1 of Guidance Note 14, a trading halt will not be imposed on PLC A's securities as the announcement on the declaration of dividend is made and released during the trading session break from 12.30 p.m. to 1.00 p.m. and investors have the opportunity to digest the information before the commencement of trading at 2.30 p.m.. However, where Bursa Securities is of the view that the period is insufficient for purposes of dissemination of a material announcement, Bursa Securities may, at its discretion impose a suspension pursuant to paragraph 3.2 of Guidance Note 14.

- 16.6 PLC B announces its quarterly report for the financial period ended 30 September 2009 ("3rd QR") on 30 November 2009 at 5.30 p.m. Will trading halt be imposed on PLC B's securities on 1 December 2009 (i.e. the next market day)?**

Generally, Bursa Securities will not impose any trading halt when a material announcement is released after 5 p.m. because investors have the opportunity to digest the information before the commencement of trading at 9 a.m. on the next market day. However, pursuant to paragraph 3.2 of Guidance Note 14, Bursa Securities may at its discretion, suspend the trading of the listed corporation's securities for the entire day or such period as Bursa Securities deems appropriate.

Enforcement**16.7 Other than the listed corporations, are there any other persons against whom Bursa Securities may take enforcement actions for breaches of the ACE LR?**

In addition to the listed corporations, Bursa Securities is empowered to take enforcement actions against advisers, directors, officers of listed corporations as well as any other persons to whom the ACE LR are directed.

16.8 If a listed issuer breaches the Main LR, can enforcement action be taken against its directors?

Yes, enforcement action can be taken against a director of a listed issuer, where the listed issuer has breached the Main LR under the circumstances referred to in paragraph 16.13 of the Main LR. In addition, enforcement action can also be taken against a director if he breaches an obligation imposed specifically on him as a director pursuant to the Main LR.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN RELATION TO
FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE ACE MARKET
(As at 1 April 2015)**

Introduction

1. **Under the Fees and Charges, the amount of certain listing fees payable is based on the total market value of the issued capital of the listed corporation. What is the basis for calculating the said market value?**

The basis for calculating the market value of the security is provided for in paragraph 1.1 of the Fees and Charges.

2. **Pursuant to paragraph 1.1(a)(ii)(aa) of the Fees and Charges, in the case of initial listing fees where there is no issue or offer price, the market value of the security shall be based on the last traded price on the first day of listing. In this situation, when must the listing fees be paid to Bursa Securities?**

In this situation, listing fees must be paid to Bursa Securities on the next market day following the first day of listing.

Computation of listing fees for shares

3. **ABC Berhad has an existing issued and paid-up capital of RM25 million comprising of 25 million shares of RM1.00 each. ABC Berhad is to be listed on the ACE Market on 1 March 2010 and in conjunction with its listing, ABC Berhad is undertaking a public offering of 5 million new ordinary shares of RM1.00 each at an issue price of RM3.00 per share.**

- (a) **Based on paragraph 2.1 of the Fees and Charges, what is the amount of the initial listing fee payable by ABC Berhad?**

Based on paragraph 2.1 of the Fees and Charges, the initial listing fee will be calculated based on the market value of the enlarged issued and paid-up capital of ABC Berhad upon listing. The calculation is as follows:

Initial listing fee = 0.01% of total market value of issued capital of ABC Berhad

$$0.01\% \times [\text{RM}3.00 \times (25,000,000 + 5,000,000)] = \text{RM}9,000.$$

However, the minimum listing fee under paragraph 2.1 of the Fees and Charges is RM10,000. As such, the initial listing fee payable by ABC Berhad is RM10,000.

(b) ABC Berhad is listed on 1 March 2010.

(i) What is the annual listing fee payable by ABC Berhad for the year 2010?

As the nominal value of the issued and paid-up capital of ABC Berhad at the date of listing is RM30 million, pursuant to paragraph 2.3(a) of the Fees and Charges, the annual listing fee payable by ABC Berhad for the year 2010 is RM10,000.

(ii) Bearing in mind that ABC Berhad is only listed halfway through 2010, will the annual listing fee of RM10,000 be pro-rated for 2010?

No, ABC Berhad must pay the full fixed annual listing fee of RM10,000 for year 2010. The said amount of RM10,000 will not be pro-rated as it is a fixed fee payable by listed corporations.

(iii) As at 31 December 2010, ABC Berhad's issued and paid-up capital has increased to RM60 million. What is the annual listing fee payable by ABC Berhad for the year 2011?

Pursuant to paragraph 2.3(b) of the Fees and Charges, the annual listing fee payable by ABC Berhad for 2011 is RM20,000.

4. In relation to the annual listing fees payable by ACE Market corporations:

(a) What constitutes "nominal value"?

For the purposes of determining the amount of the annual listing fee payable by ACE Market corporations, "nominal value" is calculated as follows:

Nominal value = Par value of the shares/securities as at 31 December x Total number of shares/securities of the listed corporation as at 31 December

(b) Are treasury shares included in the above calculation of "nominal value"?

Yes, treasury shares form part of the "total number of shares/securities of the listed corporation as at 31 December" referred to in paragraph (a) above.

5. M Berhad is listed on the ACE Market. In January 2010, M Berhad submits its listing application for a Share Issuance Scheme to be implemented in 2010. In view that a separate quotation application is no longer required to be submitted to Bursa Securities, when will the additional listing fees for the Share Issuance Scheme be payable to Bursa Securities?

The fixed sum of RM10,000 being the additional listing fees is payable at the point of submission of the listing application to Bursa Securities.

6. Which category in the Fees and Charges would “preference shares” fall under in relation to the listing fees payable?

“Preference shares” would fall under the following:

- (a) Paragraph 2 of the Fees and Charges (Listing of fees for shares) which applies to non-convertible preference shares; or
- (b) Paragraph 4 of the Fees and Charges (Listing fees for convertible equity securities) which applies to convertible preference shares, whether irredeemable or otherwise.

7. XYZ Berhad is an existing listed corporation which proposes to undertake a bonus issue of 1 new share for every 2 existing shares held by its shareholders. How much is the additional listing fees payable by XYZ Berhad?

XYZ need not pay any additional listing fees. However, pursuant to paragraph 6.3 of the Fees and Charges, XYZ Berhad needs to pay a fixed processing fee of RM5,000.

8. N Berhad is an existing listed corporation on the ACE Market who wishes to undertake a corporate proposal comprising of a rights issue, private placement and issuance of shares for debt settlement purposes. How will the additional listing fees be calculated in respect of this proposal?

The additional listing fees payable by N Berhad in respect of the rights issue, private placement and issuance of shares for debt settlement purposes will be calculated separately notwithstanding that the shares are issued as part of one corporate proposal.

Listing fees for convertible equity securities

9. A listed corporation has issued warrants in March 2009 which are due to mature in March 2015. Assuming that based on paragraph 4.3 of the Fees and Charges, such listed corporation is required to pay the fixed annual listing fee of RM10,000 in respect of such warrants.

(a) Will the fixed annual listing fee of RM10,000 be pro-rated in 2009?

No, the listed corporation must pay the full amount of the fixed annual listing fee of RM10,000 for the year 2009.

(b) Will the fixed annual listing fee of RM10,000 be pro-rated in 2015?

Yes, the fixed annual listing fee of RM10,000 will be pro-rated according to the number of months the warrants are listed in the year of maturity (i.e from January until March 2015).

So the minimum annual listing fee payable by the listed corporation for the year 2015 is -

$$= (\text{RM}10,000 / 12 \text{ months}) \times 3 \text{ months}$$

$$= \text{RM}2,500.00$$

10. **Should the computation of annual listing fees for warrants and transferable subscription rights (“TSRs”) be based on the nominal value of the warrants/TSRs or the number of warrants/TSRs?**

Pursuant to paragraph 4.3 of the Fees and Charges, the computation of annual listing fees for warrants shall be based on the total number of outstanding warrants or TSRs as at 31 December. The nominal value of securities is applicable when computing other types of convertible equity securities such as convertible preference shares.

Valuation review fee

11. **Pursuant to a bonus issue proposal, A Bhd is required to conduct and submit a valuation report to Bursa Securities under Rule 6.32 of the ACE LR, for the purpose of disclosures in circulars for A Bhd’s bonus issue. Does A Bhd need to pay any valuation review fee to Bursa Securities?**

No, based on paragraph 7.1 of the Fees and Charges, the valuation review fee will only be charged when the valuation report is prepared for the purpose of disclosures in circulars and documents which require prior perusal by Bursa Securities. In this instance, the valuation report is prepared for the purpose of disclosures in circulars for bonus issue, which do not require the prior perusal of Bursa Securities under Rule 9.30 of the ACE LR. Therefore, A Bhd need not pay any valuation review fee to Bursa Securities.

12. **B Bhd intends to acquire several pieces of real estate. The total market value of the real estate is RM150 million and the percentage ratio of the proposed acquisition is 30%. The proposed acquisition will also result in a significant change in B Bhd’s business direction or policy. Pursuant to Rule 10.04 of the ACE LR, B Bhd is required to submit a valuation report for the real estate that it intends to acquire.**

- (a) Does B Bhd need to pay any valuation review fee to Bursa Securities?**

Yes. The circular in relation to the proposed acquisition is subject to Bursa Securities’ prior perusal under Rule 9.30(5) of the ACE LR. Pursuant to paragraph 7.1 of the Fees and Charges, valuation review fees will be charged for valuation reports submitted in relation to such circular.

- (b) If the answer to Question (a) above is yes, what is the valuation review fee payable by B Bhd to Bursa Securities?**

Pursuant to paragraph 7.1 of the Fees and Charges, the valuation review fees that B Bhd need to pay to Bursa Securities is –

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 0.01\% \text{ of the total market value of the real estate that it intends to acquire} \\
 &= 0.01\% \times (\text{RM}150,000,000) \\
 &= \text{RM}15,000
 \end{aligned}$$

-
13. Listed corporations are required to submit to Bursa Securities a copy of the details of the computation of the amount of initial and additional listing fees payable pursuant to Rule 2.20(8) of the ACE LR (“Submission”). Does the ACE LR prescribe the contents of the Submission?

No. The ACE LR does not prescribe the contents of the Submission.

Sponsor

14. ABC is an Adviser seeking admission to the Register of Sponsors. What is the applicable fees payable by ABC to Bursa Securities in respect of its admission to the Register of Sponsors?

Part B of the Fees and Charges sets out the relevant fees payable for admission into the Register of Sponsors as follows:

- (a) initial admission fee of RM250,000 for its admission to the Register of Sponsors; and
- (b) annual fee of RM25,000.