

Management Assessment of Internal Control over Financial Reporting



General

The Board of Directors of Alijarah Holding QPSC and its consolidated subsidiaries (together “the Group”) is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting (“ICOFR”) as required by Qatar Financial Markets Authority (“QFMA”). Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of the Group's consolidated financial statements for external reporting purposes in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). ICOFR also includes our disclosure controls and procedures designed to prevent misstatements

Risks in Financial Reporting

The main risks in financial reporting are that either the consolidated financial statements are not presented fairly due to inadvertent or intentional errors or the publication of consolidated financial statements is not done on a timely basis.

A lack of fair presentation arises when one or more financial statement accounts or disclosures contain misstatements (or omissions) that are material. Misstatements are deemed material if they could, individually or collectively, influence economic decisions that users make based on the consolidated financial statements.

To confine those risks of financial reporting, the Group has established ICOFR with the aim of providing reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatements. We have also assessed the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the Group's ICOFR based on the criteria established in Internal Control Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). COSO recommends the establishment of specific objectives to facilitate the design and evaluate the adequacy of a control system.

As a result, in establishing ICOFR, management has adopted the following financial statement objectives:

- Existence / Occurrence - assets and liabilities exist and transactions have occurred;
- Completeness - all transactions are recorded, account balances are included in the consolidated financial statements;
- Valuation / Measurement - assets, liabilities and transactions are recorded in the financial reports at the appropriate amounts;
- Rights and Obligations and ownership - rights and obligations are appropriately recorded as assets and liabilities; and
- Presentation and disclosures - classification, disclosure and presentation of financial reporting is appropriate.

However, any internal control system, including ICOFR, no matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable, but not absolute assurance that the objectives of that control system are met. As such, disclosure controls and procedures or systems for ICOFR may not prevent all errors and fraud. Furthermore, the design of a control system must reflect the fact that there are resource constraints, and the benefits of controls must be considered relative to their costs.

Organization of the Internal Control System

Functions Involved in the System of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Controls within the system of ICOFR are performed by all business and support functions with an involvement in reviewing the reliability of the books and records that underlie the consolidated financial statements. As a result, the operation of ICOFR involves staff based in various functions across the organization.

Controls to Minimize the Risk of Financial Reporting Misstatement

The system of ICOFR consists of a large number of internal controls and procedures aimed at minimizing the risk of misstatement of the consolidated financial statements. Such controls are integrated into the operating process and include those which:

- are ongoing or permanent in nature such as supervision within written policies and procedures or segregation of duties;
- operate on a periodic basis such as those which are performed as part of the annual consolidated financial statement preparation process;
- are preventative or detective in nature;
- have a direct or indirect impact on the consolidated financial statements themselves. Controls which have an indirect effect on the consolidated financial statements include entity level controls and Information Technology general controls such as system access and deployment controls whereas a control with a direct impact could be, for example, a reconciliation which directly supports a balance sheet line item; and
- feature automated and/or manual components. Automated controls are control functions embedded within system processes such as application enforced segregation of duty controls and interface checks over the completeness and accuracy of inputs. Manual internal controls are those operated by an individual or group of individuals such as authorization of transactions.

Measuring Design, Implementation and Operating Effectiveness of Internal Control

For the financial year 2019, the Group has undertaken a formal evaluation of the adequacy of the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the system of ICOFR considering:

- The risk of misstatement of the consolidated financial statement line items, considering such factors as materiality and the susceptibility of the financial statement item to misstatement;

- The susceptibility of identified controls to failure, considering such factors as the degree of automation, complexity, and risk of management override, competence of personnel and the level of judgment required.

These factors, in aggregate, determine the nature, timing and extent of evidence that management requires in order to assess whether the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of the system of ICOFR is effective. The evidence itself is generated from procedures integrated within the daily responsibilities of staff or from procedures implemented specifically for purposes of the ICOFR evaluation. Information from other sources also form an important component of the evaluation since such evidence may either bring additional control issues to the attention of management or may corroborate findings.

The evaluation has included an assessment of the design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of controls within various processes including Sale, Purchases, Inventory Management, Human Resources and Payroll, General Ledger and Financial Reporting, Property & Equipment, Investment Management, Treasury Management. The evaluation also included an assessment of the design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of Entity Level Controls, Information Technology General Controls, and Disclosure Controls.

Conclusion

As a result of the assessment of the design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of ICOFR, management did not identify any material weaknesses and concluded that ICOFR is appropriately designed, implemented, and operated effectively as of December 31, 2019.