

China - Company Law, 1993

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Company Law of the People’s Republic of China
(Adopted at the Fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee
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on December 29, 1993 and promulgated by Order
No.16 of the President of the People's Republic of
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1994)**

Chapter I - General Provisions

Article 1

This Law is formulated in accordance with the Constitution of the People's Republic of China in order to meet the needs of establishing a modern enterprise system, to standardize the organization and activities of companies, to protect the legitimate rights and interests of companies, shareholders and creditors, to maintain the socio-economic order and to promote the development of the socialist market economy.

Article 2

The term "company" as mentioned in this Law refers to a limited liability company or a joint stock limited company incorporated within the territory of the People's Republic of China in accordance with this Law.

Article 3

A "limited liability company" or "joint stock limited company" is an enterprise legal person.

In the case of a limited liability company, shareholders shall assume

liability towards the company to the extent of their respective capital contributions, and the company shall be liable for its debts to the extent of all its assets.

In the case of a joint stock limited company, its total capital shall be divided into equal shares, shareholders shall assume liability towards the company to the extent of their respective shares, and the company shall be liable for its debts to the extent of all its assets.

Article 4

The shareholders of a company shall, in their capacity of contributors of capital, enjoy such rights of owners as benefiting from assets of the company, making major decisions and selecting managerial personnel in accordance with the amount of their respective capital investment in the company.

A company shall enjoy the right to the entire property of the legal person formed by the investments of the share holders and shall possess civil rights and bear the civil liabilities in accordance with the law.

The ownership of State-owned assets in a company shall vest in the State.

Article 5

A company shall, with all its legal person assets, operate independently and be responsible for its own profits and losses according to law.

A company shall, under the macro-adjustment and control of the State, organize its production and operation independently in accordance with market demand for the purpose of raising economic

benefits and labor productivity and maintaining and increasing the value of its assets.

pleted according to law prior to the registration of such companies.

18 **Article 6**

Article 9

25

19 An internal management mechanism shall be implemented within companies, which is characterized by clear definition of powers and responsibilities, scientific management and combination of encouragement and restraint.

A limited liability company established according to this Law must clearly indicate the words “limited liability company” in its name.

26

20 **Article 7**

A joint stock limited company established according to this Law must clearly indicate the words “joint stock limited company” in its name.

27

21 State-owned enterprises restructured to form companies must transform their operating mechanism, gradually produce an inventory of their assets and verify their funds, delimit their property rights, clear off their claims and debts, evaluate their assets and establish a standard internal management mechanism in accordance with the conditions and requirements set by laws, administrative rules and regulations.

Where laws or administrative rules and regulations provide that incorporation of companies must be subject to examination and approval, the procedures of examination and approval shall be completed according to law prior to the registration of such companies.

28

22 **Article 8**

Article 10

29

23 Incorporation of limited liability companies or joint stock limited companies must meet the conditions stipulated by the present Law. Companies meeting the conditions set by this Law shall be registered as limited liability companies or joint stock limited companies; while companies failing to meet the conditions set by this Law shall not be registered as limited liability companies or joint stock limited companies.

A company's domicile shall be the place where its main administrative organization is located.

30

24 Where laws or administrative rules and regulations provide that incorporation of companies must be subject to examination and approval, the procedures of examination and approval shall be com-

Article 11

31

Articles of association must be formulated in accordance with this Law when a company is incorporated. A company's articles of association shall have binding force on the company, its shareholders, directors, supervisors and managers.

32

A company's scope of business shall be defined in its articles of association and registered in accordance with the law. Items within the company's “scope of business” that are subject to restrictions

33

under laws, administrative rules and regulations shall be approved ⁴¹
in accordance with the law.

³⁴ Companies shall engage in business activities within their regis-
tered scope of business. A company may change its scope of
business by amending its articles of association in accordance
with statutory procedures and making such amendments regis-
tered with the Company Registration authority.

³⁵ **Article 12**

³⁶ A company may invest in other limited liability companies or joint
stock limited companies and shall assume liability towards the com-
pany so invested in to the extent of such capital contributions.

³⁷ In case a company, other than an investment company or a holding
company as specified by the State Council, invests in other limited
liability companies or joint stock limited companies, the aggregated
amount of such investments shall not exceed fifty percent of its net
assets; after the initial investment, the increase therein resulting
from capitalization of the profit derived from the company invested
in shall not be included.

³⁸ **Article 13**

³⁹ A company may establish branches, which shall not possess the
status of enterprise legal persons and whose civil liabilities shall be
borne by the company.

⁴⁰ A company may establish subsidiaries, which shall possess the
status of enterprise legal persons, and shall independently bear
civil liabilities according to law.

Article 14

A company must, when engaging in business activities, abide by ⁴²
the law, observe professional ethics, strengthen the construction
of socialist culture and ideology and accept supervision of the gov-
ernment and the public.

The legitimate rights and interests of companies shall be protected ⁴³
by the law and shall be inviolable.

Article 15 ⁴⁴

Companies must protect the lawful rights and interests of their ⁴⁵
staff and workers, and strengthen labor protection so as to achieve
safety in production.

Companies shall apply various forms to strengthen professional ⁴⁶
education and on-the-job training of their staff and workers so as
to improve their quality.

Article 16 ⁴⁷

Company's staff and workers shall, in accordance with the law, or- ⁴⁸
ganize a trade union to carry out the trade union activities and pro-
tect the lawful rights and interests of the staff and workers. The
company shall provide its trade union with conditions necessary
for carrying out its activities.

Wholly State-owned companies and limited liability companies in- ⁴⁹
vested in and established by two or more State-owned enterprises
or by two or more other State-owned investment entities shall,
through staff and workers' congresses or other forms, practice
democratic management in accordance with the provisions of the
Constitution and relevant laws.

50 **Article 17**

51 The grass-root organizations of the Communist Party of China in
52 companies shall carry out their activities in accordance with the
53 Constitution of the Communist Party of China.

52 **Article 18**

53 The present Law shall apply of limited liability companies with
54 foreign investment. Where laws concerning Chinese-foreign
55 equity joint ventures, Chinese-foreign contractual joint ventures
56 and foreign-funded enterprises provide otherwise, such provisions
57 shall prevail.

54 **Chapter II - Incorporation and Organizational Structure
55 of Limited Liability Companies**

55 **Section 1 - Incorporation**

56 **Article 19**

57 The following conditions must be fulfilled for the incorporation of a
58 limited liability company:

58 (1) the number of shareholders conforms to the statutory num-
59 ber;

59 (2) the capital contributions of the shareholders reach the statutory
60 minimum amount of capital;

60 (3) the shareholders have jointly formulated the articles of associ-
61 ation of the company;

61 (4) the company has a name and an organizational structure es-

ablished in compliance with the requirements for a limited liability
company; and

(5) there are fixed premises and necessary conditions for produc- 62
tion and operation.

Article 20 63

A limited liability company shall be jointly invested in and incor- 64
porated by not less than two and not more than fifty sharehold-
ers.

State-authorized investment institutions or departments authorized 65
by the State may independently invest in and establish wholly
State-owned limited liability companies.

Article 21 66

If State-owned enterprises established prior to the implementation 67
of this Law comply with the conditions stipulated in this Law for
the incorporation of limited liability companies, they may, in the
case of enterprises with a single investing entity, be restructured as
wholly State-owned limited liability companies in accordance with
this Law, or in the case of enterprises with multiple investing en-
tities, be restructured as limited liability companies as specified in
the first paragraph of the preceding Article .

The implementation procedures and specific measures for restruc- 68
turing State-owned enterprises as companies shall be formulated
separately by the State Council.

Article 22 69

The articles of association of limited liability companies shall spec- 70

ify the following particulars:

(1) the name and domicile of the company;

(2) the scope of business of the company;

(3) the registered capital of the company;

(4) the names or titles of the shareholders;

(5) the rights and obligations of the shareholders;

(6) the method and amount of capital contributions by the shareholders;

(7) the conditions for transfer of capital contributions by shareholders;

(8) the organization of the company, its method of creation, functions and powers and the rules of procedure;

(9) the legal representative of the company;

(10) the reasons for dissolution of the company and method of liquidation; and

(11) other items which the shareholders deem necessary to be specified.

The shareholders shall sign and affix their seals to the company's articles of association.

Article 23

The registered capital of a limited liability company shall be the amount of the paid-up capital contributions of all its shareholders as registered with the Company Registration Authority.

The registered capital of a limited liability company shall be no less than the following minima:*

86 (1) RMB 500 000 yuan for a company engaged mainly in production and operation;

(2) RMB 500 000 yuan for a company engaged mainly in commodity wholesale; 87

(3) RMB 300 000 yuan for a company engaged mainly in commercial retailing; and 88

(4) RMB 100 000 yuan for a company engaged in science and technology development, consultancy* or services. 89

Where the minimum registered capital of a limited liability company in specified trades needs to be higher than those stipulated in the preceding paragraph, it shall be stipulated by the laws and administrative rules and regulations separately. 90

Article 24

A shareholder may make its capital contributions to a company in currency or by contributing material objects, industrial property rights, non-patented technology and land-use rights at their appraised value. The material objects, industrial property rights, non-patented technology or land-use rights to be contributed as capital must undergo an asset valuation and verification, and shall not be overvalued or undervalued. The appraisal and valuation of land-use rights shall be handled in accordance with the laws and administrative rules and regulations. 91

The investment in the form of industrial property rights and non-patented technology at their appraised value shall not exceed twenty percent of the registered capital of a limited liability company, except where special State regulations in respect of the application of high and new technological achievement provide otherwise. 93

Article 25

Each shareholder shall make in full the amount of the capital contribution subscribed for under the articles of association of the company. Where a shareholder makes its capital contribution in currency, it shall deposit the full amount of such capital contribution in currency in the interim bank account opened by the limited liability company to be established. Where a shareholder makes its capital contribution in the form of material objects, industrial property rights, non-patented technology or land-use rights, the transfer procedures for the property rights shall be handled in accordance with the law.

Shareholders failing to make the capital contributions they subscribed for in accordance with the preceding paragraph shall be liable for breach of contract towards the shareholders who have made in full their capital contributions.

Article 26

After all shareholders have made their capital contributions in full, such contributions must be verified by a statutory capital verification institution which shall issue capital verification certificates.

Article 27

After the total capital contributions of the shareholders have been verified by a statutory capital verification institution, application shall be made to the Company Registration Authority for registration of the incorporation of the company by a representative designated by all the shareholders or by an agent jointly entrusted by them, who shall submit such documents as an application for registration, the articles of association and the capital verification certificate.

Where the examination and approval of the relevant authorities is required by the laws or administrative rules and regulations, the approval documents shall be submitted on application for registration of incorporation.

The Company Registration Authority shall grant registration and issue a business license to a company that meets the requirements stipulated in this Law; the Company Registration Authority shall not register a company failing to meet the requirements stipulated in this Law.

The date of the issuance of the company business license shall be the date of the incorporation of a limited liability company.

Article 28

Where, after the incorporation of a limited liability company, it is discovered that the actual value of the material objects, industrial property rights, non-patented technology or land-use rights contributed as capital is notably less than the value stated in the articles of association, the shareholders that made such contributions shall make up the discrepancy. Those who are shareholders at the time of the incorporation of the company shall bear joint and several liability therefor.

Article 29

Where branches are established simultaneously with the incorporation of a limited liability company, application for registration of the branches established shall be made to, and business licenses shall be obtained from, the Company Registration Authority.

Where a limited liability company establishes branches after its incorporation, the company's legal representative shall apply for the

registration to, and obtain business licenses from, the Company 123
Registration Authority.

Article 30

After a limited liability company has been incorporated, it shall issue capital contribution certificates to its shareholders.

A capital contribution certificates shall specify the following items:

(1) the name of the company;

(2) the registration date of the company;

(3) the registered capital of the company;

(4) the name or title of the shareholder, the amount and date of its capital contribution; and

(5) the serial number of the capital contribution certificate and the date of its verification and issuance.

A capital contribution certificate shall bear the seal of the company on it.

Article 31

A limited liability company shall prepare a roster of its shareholders with the following items therein:

(1) the names or titles and domiciles of the shareholders;

(2) the amounts of capital contributions of the shareholders; and

(3) the serial numbers of the capital contribution certificates.

Article 32

A shareholder shall have the right to look up the minutes of shareholders' meetings and the financial and accounting reports of the company. 124

Article 33

Shareholders shall draw dividends in proportion to their capital contributions. Where a company increases capital, the existing shareholders shall have priority in subscription for new shares. 125

Article 34

Once a company is registered, its shareholders may not withdraw their capital contributions. 126

Article 35

The shareholders of a company may assign among themselves all or part of their capital contributions. 127

Where a share holder intends to assign its capital contribution to persons who are not shareholders, the consent of over half of all the shareholders must be secured. Those shareholders disapproving the assignment shall purchase the capital contribution to be assigned. If such shareholders do not make the purchase, they shall be deemed to have consented to the assignment. 128

Other shareholders shall, under identical terms, have priority in purchasing the capital contribution to be assigned with the consent of the shareholders. 129

	Article 36	145B3	(6) to examine and approve the annual financial budget plan and final accounts plan of the company;	
134	After a shareholder has assigned its capital contribution according to law, the company shall record the name or title and domicile of the consignee and the amount of the capital contribution assigned in the roster of the shareholders.		(7) to examine and approve plans for profit distribution of the company and plans for making up losses;	146
			(8) to adopt resolutions on the increase or reduction of the registered capital of the company;	147
135	Section 2 - Organizational Structure		(9) to adopt resolutions on the issuance of company bonds;	148
136	Article 37		(10) to adopt resolutions on the assignment of capital contribution by a shareholder to a person other than the shareholders;	149
137	The shareholders meeting of a limited liability company shall be composed of all the shareholders. The shareholders meeting shall be the organ of power of the company and shall exercise its functions and powers in accordance with this Law.		(11) to adopt resolutions on matters such as the merger, division, transformation, dissolution and liquidation of the company; and	150
			(12) to amend the articles of association of the company.	151
138	Article 38			
139	The shareholders meeting shall exercise the following functions and powers:		Article 39	152
140	(1) to decide on the business policy and investment plan of the company;		The rules of deliberation and voting procedures of the shareholders meeting shall, except where provided for by this Law, be stipulated by the articles of association of the company.	153
141	(2) to elect and recall members of the board of directors and to decide on matters concerning the remuneration of directors;		Resolutions of the shareholders meeting on the increase or reduction of the registered capital, the division, merger, dissolution, or transformation of the company must be adopted by shareholders of the company representing two-thirds or more of the voting rights.	154
142	(3) to elect and recall supervisors appointed from among the shareholders representatives, and to decide on matters concerning the remuneration of supervisors;			
143	(4) to examine and approve reports of the board of directors;		Article 40	155
144	(5) to examine and approve reports of the supervisory board or supervisors;		A company may amend its articles of association. A resolution on the amendment to the articles of association must be adopted by	156

shareholders of the company representing two-thirds or more of
the voting rights. 165

157 **Article 41**

158 Shareholders shall exercise their voting rights at the shareholders
meeting in proportion to their capital contributions.

159 **Article 42**

160 The first meeting of the shareholders of a company shall be con-
vened and presided over by the shareholder who has made the
biggest capital contribution to the company and shall exercise its
functions and powers in accordance with this Law.

161 **Article 43**

162 Shareholders meetings shall be divided into regular meetings and
interim meetings.

163 Regular shareholders meetings shall be convened on time as stipu-
lated by the articles of associations of the company. Interim share-
holders meetings may be convened upon proposal made by share-
holders representing one-fourth or more of the voting rights, or, by
one-third or more of directors or supervisors.

164 Where a limited liability company has set up a board of directors, its
shareholders meeting shall be convened by the board of directors
and presided over by the chairman of the board. Where special
circumstances preclude the chairman of the board from performing
his function, the meeting shall be presided over by a vice-chairman
or a director of the board designated by the chairman.

Article 44

All shareholders shall be notified fifteen days prior to the convening
of a shareholders meeting. 166

The shareholders meeting shall keep minutes of their decisions on
matters discussed at it; the shareholders present at the meeting
shall sign the minutes. 167

Article 45

A limited liability company shall have a board of directors, which
shall be composed of three to thirteen members. 168

The members of the board of directors of a limited liability com-
pany invested in the established by two or more State-owned en-
terprises, or by two or more other State-owned investment entities
shall include representatives of the staff and workers of the com-
pany. Such representatives of the staff and workers shall be demo-
cratically elected by the staff and workers of the company. 170

A board of directors shall have a chairman and one or two vice-
chairmen. The method for the creation of the chairman and vice-
chairmen shall be stipulated in the articles of association of the
company. 171

The chairman of the board of directors shall be the company's legal
representative. 172

Article 46

The board of directors shall be responsible to the shareholders
meeting, and exercise the following functions and powers: 174

(1) to be responsible for convening shareholders meetings and to
report on its work to the shareholders meetings; 175

- 176 (2) to implement the resolutions of the shareholders meet-
ings;
- 177 (3) to decide on the business plans and investment plans of the
company;
- 178 (4) to formulate the annual financial budget plan and final accounts
plan of the company;
- 179 (5) to formulate plans for profit distribution and plans for making up
losses of the company;
- 180 (6) to formulate plans for the increase or reduction of the registered
capital of the company;
- 181 (7) to formulate plans for the merger, division, transformation and
dissolution of the company;
- 182 (8) to decide on the establishment of the company's internal man-
agement organs;
- 183 (9) to appoint or dismiss the company's manager (general
manager) (hereinafter referred to as manager), and , upon recom-
mendation of the manager, to appoint and dismiss the company's
deputy manager(s) and persons in charge of the financial affairs
of the company, and to decide on matters concerning their
remuneration; and

184 **Article 47**

- 185 The term of office of directors shall be stipulated by the articles
of association of the company but may not exceed three years. A
director may, if reelected upon expiration of his term of office, serve
consecutive terms.
- 186 The shareholders meeting of a company may not unwarrantedly
dismiss a director of the board prior to the expiration of his term of
office.

Article 48

187 Meetings of the board of directors shall be convened and presided
188 over by the chairman of the board. Where special circumstances
preclude the chairman from performing his function, the meeting
shall be convened and presided over by a vice-chairman or a di-
rector of the board designated by the chairman. One-third or more
of the members of the board of directors may propose the conven-
ing of a meeting of the board of directors.

Article 49

189 The rules of deliberation and voting procedures of the board of di-
190 rectors shall, except where provided for by this Law, be stipulated
by the articles of association of the company.

191 All directors shall be notified ten days prior to the convening of a
board meeting.

192 The board meeting shall keep minutes of decisions on matters dis-
cussed at it; directors present at the meeting shall sign the min-
utes.

Article 50

193 A limited liability company shall have a manager, who shall be ap-
194 pointed or dismissed by the board of directors. The manager shall
be responsible to the board of directors and shall exercise the fol-
lowing functions and powers:

195 (1) to be in charge of the production, operation and management of
the company, and to organize the implementation of the resolutions
of the board of directors;

196 (2) to organize the implementation of the annual business plans

and investment plans of the company;

197 (3) to draw up plans on the establishment of the internal manage-
ment organs of the company;

198 (4) to draw up the basic management system of the com-
pany;

199 (5) to formulate specific rules and regulations of the com-
pany;

200 (6) to recommend the appointment or dismissal of the deputy man-
ager(s) and of persons in charge of the financial affairs of the com-
pany;

201 (7) to appoint or dismiss management personnel other than those
to be appointed or dismissed by the board of directors; and

202 (8) other functions and powers granted by the articles of association
of the company and the board of directors.

203 The manager shall attend meetings of the board of directors as a
non-voting attendant.

204 **Article 51**

205 Where a limited liability company has a small number of sharehold-
ers and is comparatively small in scale, it may have an executive
director instead of a board of directors. The executive director may
concurrently serve as the manager of the company.

206 The powers and functions of the executive director shall be stipu-
lated by the articles of association of the company with reference
to Article 46 of this Law.

207 Where limited liability company does not have a board of directors,
the executive director shall be the legal representative of the com-
pany.

Article 52

208

A limited liability company with a relatively large-scale business shall have a supervisory board composed of no less than three members. The supervisory board shall elect a conveyer from among its members. 209

The supervisory board shall be composed of representatives of the shareholders and an appropriate proportion of the staff and workers of the company. The exact proportion shall be stipulated in the articles of association. The representatives of the staff and workers in the supervisory board shall be democratically elected by the staff and workers of the company. 210

Where a limited liability company has a small number of share- holders and is comparatively small in scale, it may have one or two supervisors. 211

Directors, the manager or personnel in charge of financial affairs of the company may not concurrently serve as supervisors. 212

Article 53

213

The term of office of a supervisor shall be three years. A super-visor may, if reelected upon expiration of his term of office, serve consecutive terms. 214

Article 54

215

The supervisory board or the supervisors shall exercise the follow- ing functions and powers: 216

(1) to examine the financial affairs of the company; 217

(2) to supervise the acts of the directors and the manager violat- ing the laws, administrative rules and regulations or the articles of 218

	association of the company during the performance of their functions;	227		
219	(3) to demand directors and the manager to make corrections if any of their acts if found to have damaged the interests of the company;		Article 57	
220	(4) to propose the convening of interim shareholders meetings; and		None of the following persons may hold the position of director, supervisor or manager of a company:	228
221	(5) other functions and powers as stipulated in the articles of association of the company.		(1) a person without capacity or with restricted capacity for civil acts;	229
222	The supervisors shall attend meetings of the board of directors as non-voting participants.		(2) a person who was sentenced to criminal punishment for the crime of embezzlement, bribery, seizure of property or misappropriation of property or for undermining the socio-economic order, where not more than five years have elapsed since the expiration of the enforcement period; or a person who was deprived of his political rights for committing a crime, where not more than five years have elapsed since the expiration of the enforcement period;	230
223	Article 55		(3) a director, or factory head or manager who was personally responsible for the bankruptcy liquidation of the company or enterprise due to mismanagement, where not more than three years have elapsed since the date of completion of the bankruptcy liquidation;	231
224	A company shall, in studying and deciding on issues involving the personal interests of its staff and workers such as their salaries, welfare, safety in production, labor protection and labor insurance, solicit in advance the opinions of the trade union and the staff and workers of the company. And representatives of the trade union or of the staff and workers shall be invited to attend relevant meetings as non-voting participants.		(4) a legal representative of the company or enterprise that had the business license revoked for violating the law, where such representative bear individual liability therefor and not more than three years have elapsed since the date of revocation of the business license; and	232
225	Article 56		(5) a person with relatively large amount of personal debts that have fallen due but haven't been settled.	233
226	A company shall solicit the opinions and suggestions of the trade union and the staff and workers of the company when studying and deciding on major issues concerning production and operation, and formulating important rules and regulations.		Where a company elects or appoints a director or supervisor or engages the manager in violation of the preceding paragraph, such election, appointment or engagement shall be in valid.	234

Article 58	235	ate for others, the same category of business as the company they are serving or, engage in activities which damage the interests of the company. If a director or the manager engages in such business or activities, the incomes derived therefrom shall belong to the company.	
236 Government functionaries may not concurrently serve as directors, supervisors or managers of companies.			
Article 59		Directors and the manager shall not enter into contracts or conduct transactions with the company except as provided for in the articles of association or approved by the shareholders' meeting.	246
237 Directors, supervisors and the manager of a company shall comply with the articles of association of the company, faithfully perform their duties and maintain the interests of the company and shall not take advantage of their position, functions and powers in the company to seek personal gains.			
238 Directors, supervisors and the manager of a company shall not, by taking advantage of their functions and powers, accept bribes or other unlawful incomes, nor may they misappropriate the property of the company.			
Article 60		Article 62	247
240 Directors and the manager of a company shall not misappropriate company funds or lend company funds to others.		Directors, supervisors and the manager shall not disclose any company secrets except as provided for by the law or approved by the shareholders meeting.	248
241 Directors and the manager shall not deposit company assets in their own personal accounts or in personal accounts of other individuals.			
242 Directors and the manager shall not use company assets as security for the personal debts of shareholders of the company or of other individuals.		Article 63	249
Article 61		Directors, supervisors and the manager shall be liable for compensation, if they violate the laws, administrative rules and regulations or the articles of association in performance of their duties and thus cause damage to the company.	250
244 Directors and the manager shall not operate their own in, or oper-		Section 3 - Wholly State-owned Companies	251
245		Article 64	252
		A wholly State-owned company mentioned in this Law means a limited liability company invested in and established solely by the State-authorized investment institution or a department authorized by the State.	253
		Companies which manufacture special products as determined by	254

the State Council or companies that belong to the category of specialized trades shall adopt the form of wholly State-owned companies.

255 **Article 65**

256 The articles of association of a wholly State-owned company shall be formulated by the state-authorized investment institution or a department authorized by the State in accordance with this Law, or be formulated by the board of directors of the company and submitted for the approval of the relevant State-authorized investment institution or the department authorized by the State.

257 **Article 66**

258 A wholly State-owned company shall not have a shareholders meeting. The State-authorized investment institution or the department authorized by the State shall authorize the board of directors of the company to exercise part of the functions and powers of the shareholders meeting and to make decisions on important matters of the company. However, the merger, division, dissolution, increase and reduction of capital, and issuance of company bonds must be decided by the State-authorized investment institution or by the department authorized by the State.

259 **Article 67**

260 The State-authorized investment institution or the department authorized by the State shall exercise supervision and administration over the State-owned assets of the wholly State-owned company in accordance with the provisions of the laws and administrative rules and regulations.

Article 68

261

A wholly State-owned company shall have a board of directors, which shall exercise its functions and powers in accordance with the provisions of Article 46 and Article 66 of this Law. Each term of office of the board of directors shall be three years.

262

The board of directors shall be composed of three to nine members, who shall be appointed and replaced by the State-authorized investment institution or by the department authorized by the State in accordance with the term of office of the board of directors. The board of directors shall include representatives of the staff and workers of the company. The representatives of the staff and workers on the board of directors shall be democratically elected by the staff and workers of the company.

263

The board of directors shall have a chairman and may have a vice-chairman, if necessary. The chairman and vice-chairman shall be designated by the State-authorized investment institution or the department authorized by the State from among members of the board of directors.

264

The chairman of the board of directors shall be the legal representative of the company.

265

Article 69

266

A wholly State-owned company shall have a manager, who shall be engaged and dismissed by the board of directors. The manager shall exercise his functions and powers in accordance with the provisions of Article 50 of this Law.

267

A member of the board of directors may, subject to the consent of the State-authorized investment institution or the department authorized by the State, serve concurrently as manager.

268

269	Article 70		
270	The chairman, vice-chairman and directors of the board, or the manager of a wholly State-owned company may not, without the consent of the State-authorized investment institution or the department authorized by the State, serve concurrently as responsible persons in other limited liability companies, joint-stock limited companies or other business organizations.	(1) the number of sponsors shall conform to the statutory number;	279
		(2) the share capital subscribed for by the sponsors and raised from the general public shall reach the statutory minimum amount of capital;	280
		(3) the issuance of shares and preparations for incorporation shall be in conformity with the provisions of the law;	281
271	Article 71	(4) the articles of association of the company shall be formulated by the sponsors and adopted at the inaugural meeting;	282
272	Where a wholly State-owned company transfers its assets, the procedures for examination and approval, and the transfer of property rights shall be handled by the State-authorized investment institution or the department authorized by the State in accordance with the laws and administrative rules and regulations.	(5) the company shall have a name and an organizational structure required for the incorporation of joint stock limited company; and	283
		(6) the company shall have fixed premises and the necessary conditions for production and operation.	284
273	Article 72		
274	Large-sized wholly State-owned companies with a sound business management system and relatively successful operations may be authorized by the State Council to exercise the rights of asset owners.	Article 74	285
		Joint stock limited companies may be incorporated by means of sponsorship or by means of share offer.	286
275	Chapter III - Incorporation and Organizational Structure of Joint Stock Limited Companies	Incorporation by means of sponsorship means incorporation of a company by means of subscription by the sponsors for all the shares to be issued by the company.	287
276	Section 1 - Incorporation	Incorporation by means of share offer means incorporation of a company by means of subscription by the sponsors for a portion of the shares to be issued by the company and offer of the rest to the general public.	288
277	Article 73		
278	To incorporate a joint stock limited company, the following conditions must be satisfied:	Article 75	289
		To incorporate a joint stock limited company, there shall be five or	290

more sponsors, of which more than half must have their domicile ²⁹⁹ within the territory of the People's Republic of China.

291 Where a State-owned enterprise is restructured as a joint stock limited company, there may be less than five sponsors, however, such a company shall be incorporated by means of share offer.

292 **Article 76**

293 The sponsors of a joint stock limited company must subscribe in accordance with this Law for the shares to be subscribed for by them, and shall undertake the matters concerning the preparation for the incorporation of the company.

294 **Article 77**

295 The incorporation of a joint stock limited company must be subject to the approval of a department authorized by the state Council or of a people's government at the provincial level.

296 **Article 78**

297 The registered capital of a joint stock limited company shall be the total amount of paid-up share capital as registered with the Company Registration Authority.

298 The minimum registered capital of a joint stock limited company shall be RMB 10 ,000,000 yuan. If the minimum registered capital of a joint stock limited company needs to be higher than the aforesaid amount, it shall be stipulated separately by the laws, or administrative rules and regulations.

Article 79

The articles of association of a joint stock limited company shall specify the following items: 300

(1) the name and domicile of the company; 301

(2) the scope of business of the company; 302

(3) The method of incorporation of the company; 303

(4) the total number of shares, the amount of each shared and the registered capital of the company; 304

(5)the names or titles of the sponsors and the numbers of shares subscribed for by the sponsors; 305

(6) the rights and obligations of the shareholders; 306

(7) the composition, functions and powers, the term of office and the deliberation rules of the board of directors; 307

(8) the legal representative of the company; 308

(9) the composition, functions and powers, the term of office and the deliberation rules of the supervisory board; 309

(10) methods for the distribution of the company's profit; 310

(11) the reasons for dissolution of the company and liquidation method; 311

(12) methods for notices and announcements of the company; and 312

(13) other matters that the shareholders general meeting deems necessary to be specified. 313

Article 80

The sponsors may make their capital contributions in cash, or with material objects, industrial property rights, non-patented technology or land-use rights at their appraised value. Material objects, industrial property rights, non-patented technology or land-use rights contributed as capital must be appraised and valued, and such property must be verified and converted into shares. Such contributions may not be over-valued or under-valued. The appraisal and valuation of land-use rights shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the laws, administrative rules and regulations.

316 The amount of capital contributions made by sponsors in the form of industrial property rights and non-patented technology shall not exceed twenty percent of the registered capital of a joint stock limited company.

Article 81

318 where a State-owned enterprise is restructured as a joint stock limited company, it shall be strictly prohibited to convert the State-owned assets into shares at a depressed price or to sell off them at a depressed price, or to distribute them to individuals without charge.

Article 82

320 Where a joint stock limited company is incorporated by means of sponsorship, the sponsors shall pay in full for their shares immediately after confirming in writing their subscription of the shares to be issued according to the articles of association of the company. If material objects, industrial property rights, non-patented

314 technology or land-use rights are invested as payment for shares, the sponsors shall undertake the transfer procedures for property
315 rights therein in accordance with the law.

After the sponsors make their capital contributions in full, they shall elect the board of directors and supervisory board. The board of directors shall submit to the Company Registration Authority the documents such as approval document for the company's incorporation, articles of association and capital verification certificate of the company, and shall apply for registration of incorporation.

Article 83

Where a joint stock limited company is incorporated by means of share offer, the sponsors shall not subscribe for less than thirty five percent of the total shares issued by the company, and the remaining shares shall be offered to the general public.

Article 84

When offering shares to the general public for subscription, the sponsors must submit to the department of security administration under the State Council an application for share offer along with the following main documents:

(1) the approval documents for the incorporation of the company;

(2) the articles of association of the company;

(3) a business forecast;

(4) the names or titles of the sponsors, the number of shares subscribed for by the sponsors, the forms of capital contributions and the capital verification certificate;

	(5) the prospectus on share offer;	33380	Article 87	
331	(6) the name and address of the bank accepting subscription money on behalf of the company; and			A prospectus on share offer shall have the articles of association of the company formulated by the sponsors attached, and shall specify the following; 340
332	(7) the name of the selling agencies and related agreements.			
333	The sponsors shall not offer shares to the general public without the approval of the department of securities administration under the State Council.			(1) then number of shares subscribed for by the sponsors; 341
				(2) the face value and the issue price of each share; 342
				(3) the total number of bearer shares issued; 343
				(4) the rights and obligations of the subscribers; and 344
334	Article 85			(5) the term of the share offer and a statement to the effect that subscribers may withdraw their share subscriptions if all the shares are not taken up within the time limit. 345
335	A joint stock limited company may, with the approval of the department of security administration under the State Council, offer its shares to the general public outside the territory of the Peoples Republic of China. The specific measures therefor shall be specially stipulated by the State Council.			
				Article 88 346
336	Article 86			Where shares are to be offered to the general public, the sponsors must publish the company's prospectus on share offer and prepare subscription forms. The subscription forms shall contain the items listed in the preceding Article, and the subscribers shall fill in the number of shares subscribed for, the amount of money contributed to, and their respective domiciles on the forms, and shall sign and seal such forms. The subscribers shall pay their subscription money in accordance with the number of shares subscribed for. 347
337	The department of security administration under the State Council shall approve the applications for share offer which conform to the stipulations of this Law, and disapprove the applications which fail to conform to the stipulations of this Law.			
338	If an approval is found to be inconsistent with the stipulations of this Law after it has been granted such approval shall be revoked. If the share offer has not yet been made, the offer shall be halted; if the share offer has already been made, the subscribers may claim a refund from the sponsors according to their paid-up subscriptions plus bank deposit interest calculated for the same period.			Article 89 348
				When sponsors offer shares to the public, the shares shall be distributed by a securities agency established according to law, with which a distribution agreement shall be concluded. 349

Article 90

Where shares are to be offered to the public, the sponsors shall enter into an agreement with a bank on the collection of subscription money on behalf of the company.

The bank entrusted with collecting the subscription money shall, in accordance with its agreement, collect and keep the subscription money, issue receipts to the subscribers for their payments, and bear an obligation to issue certification of receipt of subscription money to the relevant departments.

Article 91

After payment in full of the subscription money for all shares is made, a statutory capital verification institution shall be commissioned to conduct a verification of the funds and produce a verification certificate. The sponsors shall, within thirty days thereafter, convene and preside over an inaugural meeting composed of all the subscribers.

If the number of shares has not been fully subscribed for within the time limit specified in the prospectus on share offer or, after payment in full of the subscription money for the total share is made, or if sponsors fail to hold an inaugural meeting within thirty days thereafter, the subscribers may claim a refund from the sponsors according to the paid-up share subscription money plus bank deposit interest calculated for the same period.

Article 92

The sponsors shall notify each subscriber of the date of the inaugural meeting or make a public announcement 15 days prior to

the convening of the meeting. The inaugural meeting may be convened only if subscribers representing fifty percent or more of the total shares issued are present.

The following functions and powers shall be exercised at an inaugural meeting:

(1) to examine the sponsors report on the preparation for the incorporation of the company;

(2) to adopt the articles of association of the company;

(3) to elect members of the board of directors;

(4) to elect members of the supervisory board;

(5) to examine and verify the expenses incurred in the incorporation of the company;

(6) to examine and verify the valuation of the property used by the sponsors to pay for subscription money; and

(7) to resolve not to incorporate the company in the event that a force majeure* or major changes in business operation conditions may directly affect the incorporation of the company.

The resolution made at the inaugural meeting on the issues listed in the preceding paragraph must be approved by subscribers attending the meeting who represent more than half of the voting rights.

Article 93

Sponsors and subscribers may not withdraw their share capital after paying their subscription money or making their capital contributions as substitutes for subscription money, except where the total share issue is not fully subscribed for within the time limit or the sponsors fail to convene the inaugural meeting according to the

schedule, or the inaugural meeting resolves not to incorporate the company.

369 **Article 94**

370 The board of directors shall, within thirty days, after the inaugural meeting, submit the following documents to the Company Registration Authority and apply for registration of the incorporation of the company:

- 371 (1) the approval documents issued by the relevant department in charge;
- 372 (2) the minutes of the inaugural meeting;
- 373 (3) the articles of association of the company;
- 374 (4) the financial audit report on the preparation of the incorporation of the company;
- 375 (5) the capital verification certificate;
- 376 (6) the names and domiciles of the members of the board of directors and the supervisory board; and
- 377 (7) the name and domicile of the legal representative.

378 **Article 95**

379 The Company Registration Authority shall, within thirty days after receipt of an application for the incorporation of a joint stock limited company, make a decision whether or not to register the company. A company complying with the provisions of this Law shall be registered and a company business license shall be issued thereto. a company failing to comply with the provisions of this Law shall not be registered.

The date of issuance of a company business license shall be the date of the incorporation of the company. Once a company is incorporated, and announcement shall be made.

A joint stock limited company incorporated by means of share offer shall, after its registration for incorporation, report its share subscription to the department of security administration under the State Council for the record.

Article 96

Where branches are established simultaneously with the incorporation of a joint stock limited company, the company shall submit applications for registration of the establishment of the branches to, and obtain business licenses of the branches from, the Company Registration Authority.

Where branches are established after the incorporation of a joint stock limited company, the legal representative of the company shall submit applications for registration of the branches to, and obtain business licenses of the branches from, the Company Registration Authority.

Article 97

The sponsors of a joint stock limited company shall bear the following responsibilities:

- (1) in the event of the company failing to be incorporated, joint and several liabilities for all debts and expenses incurred in the act of the incorporation;
- (2) in the event of the company failing to be incorporated, joint and several liabilities for refunding to the subscribers the paid-up sub-

scription money plus bank deposit interest calculated for the same period of time; and

389 (3) in the event of the interests of the company being damaged during the course of its incorporation due to fault of the sponsors, liability for compensation to the company.

390 **Article 98**

391 If a limited liability company is to be converted into a joint stock limited company, it shall satisfy the requirements for a joint stock limited company stipulated by this Law and the conversion shall be handled in accordance with the procedures stipulated in this Law for the incorporation of a joint stock limited company.

392 **Article 99**

393 Where a limited liability company is, after approval, converted into a joint stock limited company in accordance with the law, the total amount of its shares converted shall be equal to the amount of its net assets. Where a limited liability company that is, after approval, converted into a joint stock limited company in accordance with the law offers shares to the general public for the purpose of increasing its capital, it shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of this Law in respect of the share offers to the public.

394 **Article 100**

395 Where a limited liability company is converted into a joint stock limited company in accordance with the law, the claims and debts of the original limited liability company shall be succeeded to by the joint stock limited company into which it is converted.

Article 101

396

A joint stock limited company shall keep its articles of association, roster of the shareholders, minutes of the shareholders general meetings and financial and accounting statements at the company.

397

Section 2 - Shareholders' General Meetings

398

Article 102

399

A joint stock limited company shall form a shareholders general meeting which shall be composed of all the shareholders. The shareholders general meeting is the organ of power of the company and shall exercise its functions and powers in accordance with this Law.

400

Article 103

401

The shareholders' general meeting shall exercise the following functions and powers:

402

(1) to decide upon policies on business operation and investment plans of the company;

403

(2) to elect and replace members of the board of directors and to decide upon matters concerning the remuneration of the directors;

404

(3) to elect and replace the supervisors who are representatives of the shareholders and to decide upon matters concerning the remuneration of the supervisors;

405

(4) to examine and approve reports of the board of directors;

406

(5) to examine and approve reports of the supervisory board;

407

- 408 (6) to examine and approve plans of the company's fiscal financial 421
budget and final accounts;
- 409 (7) to examine and approve plans for company's profit distribution
and making up losses;
- 410 (8) to make resolutions on the increase or reduction of the regis-
tered capital of the company;
- 411 (9) to adopt resolutions on the issuance of company bonds;
- 412 (10) to adopt resolutions on matters such as the merger, division,
dissolution and liquidation of the company; and
- 413 (11) to amend the articles of association of the company.

414 **Article 104**

415 The annual meeting of the shareholders' general meetings shall be
convened once a year. An interim shareholders' general meeting
shall be convened within two months if any of the following situa-
tions occurs:

- 416 (1) if the number of directors is less than the number stipulated
by this Law, or less than two-thirds of the number required by the
articles of association of the company;
- 417 (2) if the amount of the company's losses that have not been made
up reaches one-third of its total share capital;
- 418 (3) if shareholders holding ten percent or more of the company's
shares request to convene a shareholders meeting;
- 419 (4) if the board of directors deems it necessary; and
- 420 (5) if the supervisory board proposes that such a meeting be con-
vened.

Article 105

422 A Shareholders general meeting shall be convened by the board of
directors in accordance with the provisions of this Law and presided
over by the Chairman of the board. Where the Chairman is unable
to perform his duties due to special reasons, the vice-chairman or
other director designated by the Chairman may preside over such
meetings. Shareholders shall be notified of the matters to be con-
sidered at a shareholders general meeting thirty days prior to the
holding of such a meeting. At interim shareholders general meet-
ings, no resolutions may be adopted in respect of matters not in-
cluded in the notice.

423 Where bearer shares are to be issued, a public announcement
shall be made in respect of the matters mentioned in the preced-
ing paragraph forty-five days prior to the holding of such a meet-
ing.

424 Holders of bearer shares attending the shareholders' general meet-
ing shall deposit their share certificates with the company for the
period from five days prior to the holding of the meeting until the
end of the meeting.

Article 106

425 Shareholders attending a shareholders general meeting shall have
the right to one vote for each share held. 426

427 A resolution of the shareholders general meeting must be passed
by more than one half of the voting rights held by the sharehold-
ers present at the meeting. Resolutions on the merger, division or
dissolution of the company adopted by the shareholders general
meeting must require more than two-thirds of the voting rights held
by the shareholders present at the meeting.

428 **Article 107**

429 Amendments to the articles of association of the company must be
a adopted by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by the
shareholders present at the shareholders general meeting.

430 **Article 108**

431 A Shareholder may entrust a proxy to attend the shareholders gen-
eral meeting on his behalf. The proxy shall present the sharehold-
ers power of attorney to the company and exercise voting rights
within the scope of authorization.

432 **Article 109**

433 Resolutions on matters discussed at a shareholders general meet-
ing shall be minuted* down. The directors attending the meeting
shall sign the minutes. The minutes of the meeting shall be kept
together with the roster of the signatures of the shareholders at-
tending the meeting and the powers of attorney of attending prox-
ies.

434 **Article 110**

435 Shareholders shall have the right to examine the articles of asso-
ciation of the company, the minutes of the shareholders' general
meetings and the financial and accounting statements, and to make
suggestions or inquiries about the business operation of the com-
pany.

436 **Article 111**

437 Where a resolution of the shareholders' general meeting or of the

board of directors violates the law or administrative rules and reg-
ulations or infringes the lawful rights and interests of the share-
holders, the shareholders concerned shall have the right to bring a
lawsuit in a people's court demanding that such illegal or infringing
action be stopped.

Section 3 - Board of Directors, and Manager

438

Article 112

439

A joint stock limited company shall have a board of directors com-
posed of five to nineteen members.

440

The board of directors shall be responsible to the shareholders
general meeting and exercise the following functions and pow-
ers:

441

(1) to convene the shareholders general meeting and to report on
its work to the shareholders general meeting;

442

(2) to implement resolutions passed at the shareholders general
meetings;

443

(3) to decide on the business operation plans and the investment
plans of the company;

444

(4) to formulate the fiscal financial budgets and the final accounts
of the company;

445

(5) to formulate plans for the profit distribution and making up
losses of the company;

446

(6) to formulate plans for increasing or reducing the registered capi-
tal of the company and plans for the issue of company bonds;

447

(7) to formulate plans for the merger, division and dissolution of the
company;

448

(8) to decide on the establishment of the internal management organs of the company;

450 (9) to engage or dismiss the manager and, upon recommendation of the manager, to engage or dismiss the deputy manager(s) and responsible persons in charge of the financial affairs of the company, and to decide on matters concerning their remuneration; and

451 (10) to formulate the basic management system of the company.

452 **Article 113**

453 The board of directors shall have one chairman and may have one or two vice-chairmen. The chairman and vice-chairmen of the board of directors shall be elected by the affirmative votes of more than half of all the directors.

454 The chairman of the board shall be the legal representative of the company.

455 **Article 114**

456 The chairman of the board shall exercise the following functions and powers:

457 (1) to preside over shareholders general meetings, and to convene and preside over meetings of the board of directors;

458 (2) to examine the implementation of resolutions of the board of directors; and

459 (3) to sign the shares and the bonds of the company.

460 The vice-chairmen of the board shall assist the chairman of the

449 board in his work and shall, upon designation by the chairman, exercise the chairman's powers and functions on behalf of the chairman of the board in case the chairman is unable to perform his powers and functions.

Article 115

461
462 The term of office of the directors shall be stipulated in the articles of association of the company, but each term shall not exceed three years. A director may serve consecutive terms if reelected upon expiration of his term of office.

463 The shareholders' general meeting may not without reason remove a director from office before the expiration of his term of office.

Article 116

464
465 Meetings of the board of directors shall be held at least twice a year. All the members of the board shall be notified of the meeting ten days prior to the holding of the meeting.

466 The notification method and time limit for giving notice of the convening of the interim meetings of the board of directors may be separately decided.

Article 117

467
468 A meeting of the board of directors shall be convened only if more than one half of all the directors are present. Any resolution of the board must be adopted by the affirmative votes of more than one half of all the directors.

Article 118

470 Meetings of the board of directors shall be attended by the directors
in person. If a director is unable to attend a meeting of the board
for certain reasons, he may entrust another director in writing with
attending the meeting on his behalf. The power of attorney shall
define the scope of authorization.

471 Decisions on matters discussed at a meeting of the board of direc-
tors shall be minutes. Such minutes of the meeting shall be signed
by the directors and clerks present.

472 Directors shall be responsible for resolutions passed by the board
of directors. If a resolution of the board violates the law, admin-
istrative rules and regulations or the articles of association of the
company and thus causes serious losses to the company, the di-
rectors who participated in the adoption of such a resolution shall
be liable for compensation to the company. However, if a director is
proved to have expressed his objection to such a resolution when
it was put to the vote and his objection was recorded in the minutes
of the meeting, he may be exempted from such liability.

Article 119

473 A joint stock limited company shall have a manager, who shall be
engaged or dismissed by the board of directors. The manager shall
be responsible to the board of directors and shall exercise the fol-
lowing functions and powers:

475 (1) to be in charge of the production, operation and management
of the company and to organize the implementation of resolutions
of the board of directors;

476 (2) to organize the implementation of the annual business plans
and investment plans of the company;

469 (3) to draft plans for the establishment of internal management or-
gans of the company;

(4) to draft the basic management system of the company; 478

(5) to formulate specific rules and regulations of the com- 479
pany;

(6) to propose the appointment or dismissal of deputy manager(s) 480
and responsible persons in charge of the financial affairs of the
company;

(7) to appoint or dismiss management personnel, except those 481
who shall be appointed or dismissed by the board of directors;
and

(8) to exercise other functions and powers authorized by the articles 482
of association of the company and by the board of directors.

The manager shall attend meetings of the board of directors as a 483
non-voting participant.

Article 120

484 If necessary, the board of directors may authorize its chairman to 485
perform part of its functions and powers when the meeting of the
board is not in session.

The board of directors may decide that one of its members shall 486
concurrently serve as the manager of the company.

Article 121

487 A company shall solicit in advance the opinions of the trade union 488
and its staff and workers in studying and deciding on issues in-
volving the personal interests of its staff and workers such as the

salary, welfare, safety in production, labor protection and labor insurance, and shall invite representatives from the trade union or from its staff and workers to attend relevant meetings as non-voting participants.

489 **Article 122**

490 A company shall solicit the opinions and suggestions of the trade union and its staff and workers when studying and deciding major issues in respect of the company's production and operations or the formulation of important rules and regulations of the company.

491 **Article 123**

492 Directors and managers shall abide by the articles of association of the company, faithfully perform their duties and protect the interests of the company, and shall not use their positions, functions and powers in the company to seek personal gains.

493 Provisions of Articles 57 to 63 of this Law regarding persons disqualified to serve as directors and managers, and the obligations and responsibilities of the directors and managers shall apply to directors and managers of joint stock limited companies.

494 **Section 4 - Supervisory Board**

495 **Article 124**

496 A joint stock limited company shall have a supervisory board composed of no less than three members. The supervisory board shall elect a conveyer* from among its members.

497 The supervisory board shall be composed of shareholders' repre-

sentatives and an appropriate proportion of representatives of the staff and workers of the company, and the specific proportion of such representatives shall be provided for by the articles of association of the company. The representatives of the staff and workers serving on the supervisory board shall be democratically elected by the staff and workers of the company.

Directors, managers and responsible persons in charge of the financial affairs of the company may not serve concurrently as supervisors. 498

Article 125 499

The term of office of the supervisors shall be three years. A supervisor may serve consecutive terms if re-elected upon expiration of his term of office. 500

Article 126 501

A supervisory board shall exercise the following functions and powers: 502

(1) to examine the financial affairs of the company; 503

(2) to supervise the acts of the directors and the manager violating the laws, the administrative rules and regulations or the articles of association of the company during the performance of their functions; 504

(3) to demand directors or the manager to make corrections if any of their acts is found to have damaged the interests of the company; 505

(4) to propose the convening of interim shareholders' general meetings; and 506

507	(5) other functions and powers provided for in the articles of association of the company.	Article 130	519
508	Supervisors shall attend meetings of the board of directors as non-voting participants.	The issue of shares shall be in compliance with the principles of publicity, fairness and justice. The same shares must carry the same rights and the same benefits.	520
509	Article 127	Shares of the same issue shall be issued on the same conditions and at the same price. A unit or an individual subscribing to shares shall pay the same price for each share.	521
510	The articles of association of the company shall stipulate the method of deliberation and voting procedures of the supervisory board.	Article 131	522
511	Article 128	Shares may be issued at or above par but not below par.	523
512	A supervisor shall faithfully perform his duties of supervision in accordance with the law, the administrative rules and regulations and the articles of association of the company.	Shares to be issued above par shall be subjected to the approval of the department of security administration under the State Council.	524
513	Provisions of Articles 57 to 59 and Articles 62 to 63 of this Law regarding persons disqualified to serve as supervisors and the obligations and responsibilities of supervisors shall apply to the supervisors of joint stock limited companies.	The premiums generated from issuing shares above par shall be entered under the capital common reserve fund of the company.	525
514	Chapter IV - Issue and Transfer of Shares of Joint Stock Limited Companies	Specific measures for the administration of issue of shares above par shall be separately stipulated by the State Council.	526
515	Section 1 - Issue of Shares	Article 132	527
516	Article 129	Share certificates may be in paper form or in such other forms as stipulated by the department of security administration under the State Council.	528
517	The capital of a joint stock limited company shall be divided into shares of equal value.	The following main particulars shall be clearly stated on a share certificate:	529
518	The shares of the company shall take the form of share certificates, their shareholders.	(1) the name of the company;	530
		(2) the date of registration of the company's incorporation;	531

532 (3) the class of the shares, the par value and the number of shares 545
represented by the certificate; and

533 (4) the serial number of the share certificate.

534 A share certificate shall be signed by the chairman of the board of
directors and sealed with the seal of the company.

535 In the case of share certificates owned by sponsors, the words
sponsor's share certificate shall be clearly stated on the share cer-
tificates.

536 Article 133

537 Shares issued by a company to sponsors, a State-authorized in-
vestment institution or legal persons shall be registered shares
which shall state the names of the sponsors, State-authorized in-
vestment institution or legal persons. Such shares may not be reg-
istered in other names, or names of their representatives.

538 Shares issued to the general public may be either registered shares
or bearer shares.

539 Article 134

540 Where registered shares are issued, the company shall prepare
a roster of the shareholders, in which the following items shall be
recorded:

541 (1) the names or titles, and domiciles of the shareholders;

542 (2) the number of shares held by each shareholder;

543 (3) the serial numbers of the share certificates held by each share-
holder; and

544 (4) the date on which each shareholder obtained his shares.

Where bearer shares are issued, the company shall keep a record
of the number, the serial numbers and the issue date of the share
certificates.

Article 135

The State Council may formulate separate regulations on the is-
sue of other classes of shares which are not provided for in this
Law.

Article 136

A joint stock limited company shall formally deliver share certifi-
cates to its shareholders immediately after the registration of its
incorporation. No company may deliver share certificates to its
shareholders prior to the registration of its incorporation.

Article 137

To issue new shares, a company must satisfy the following condi-
tions:

(1) shares of the previous issue must have fully been subscribed
for and at least one year has elapsed since the previous issue of
shares;

(2) the company has been continuously profitable for the last three
years and is able to pay dividends to its shareholders;

(3) the company is not found to have false records in the financial
accounting documents in the last three years; and

(4) the forecast profit rate of the company can reach the interest
rate of bank deposit for the same period of time.

A company's distribution of new shares from the current year's profits shall not be restricted by item (2) of the preceding paragraph.

556

When a company issues new shares openly to the public, the new shares shall be distributed by a securities agency established in accordance with the law, with which a distribution agreement shall be concluded.

567

557 **Article 138**

558 Where a company issues new shares, resolutions on the following matters shall be adopted by a shareholders' general meeting:

559 (1) the class and number of the new shares;

560 (2) the issue price of the new shares;

561 (3) the opening and closing dates of the new share issue; and

562 (4) the class and number of new shares issued to existing shareholders.

563 **Article 139**

564 After the shareholders general meeting adopts a resolution to issue new shares, the board of directors must apply to the department authorized by the State Council or to the local provincial peoples government for approval. If the new shares are to be issued to the general public, the approval of the department of security administration under the State Council must be obtained.

565 **Article 140**

566 When a company obtains the approval to issue new shares to the general public, it must publicly announce its prospectus on new share offer and its financial accounting statements with annexed detailed schedules, and shall prepare subscription application forms.

Article 141

568

Where a company issues new shares, it may determine the pricing proposal for new shares based upon the circumstances of its consecutive proposal for new shares based upon the circumstances of its consecutive profit gains and property value appreciations.*

569

Article 142

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Where the new share issue of a company is fully subscribed for, the company shall apply to the Company Registration Authority for registration of the modification in its capital and make a public announcement thereafter.

571

Section 2 - Transfer of Shares

572

Article 143

573

Shares held by shareholders may be transferred in accordance with the law.

574

Article 144

575

Transfer of shares by shareholders shall be conducted through stock exchanges established in accordance with the law.

576

Article 145

577 Registered shares shall be transferred by means of endorsement
578 by the shareholders or by such other means as provided for by the
law and administrative rules and regulations.

579 When registered shares are transferred, the company shall register
the transferee's name or title and domicile in its roster of sharehold-
ers.

580 No registration of modification to the roster of shareholders as stip-
ulated in the preceding paragraph shall be made within thirty days
prior to the convening of a shareholders general meeting or within
five days prior to the date decided by the company for the distribu-
tion of dividends.

Article 146

581 Transfer of bearer shares shall become effective immediately after
582 the shareholder delivers the share certificates to the transferee at
a stock exchange established in accordance with the law.

Article 147

583 Shares held by the sponsors of a company shall not be trans-
ferred within three years after the date of incorporation of the com-
pany.

584 Directors, supervisors and the manager shall declare their numbers
585 of shares held by them to company, and shall not transfer such
shares during their term of office.

Article 148

586 The State-authorized investment institution may transfer its shares
587

held by it in accordance with the law and may purchase shares held
by other shareholders. The authority to examine and approve such
transfers or purchases and measures for administration thereof
shall be separately provided for by the law and administrative rules
and regulations.

Article 149

A company may not purchase its own shares except where, for 588
the purpose of reducing its capital, shares need to be canceled, or
where the company merges with another company which holds its
shares.

A company must cancel the shares purchased by the company it- 590
self in accordance with the preceding paragraph within ten days,
and register the change of its capital in accordance with laws and
administrative rules and regulations and make a public announce-
ment thereafter.

A company may not accept its own shares as the subject matter of 591
a mortgage.

Article 150

Where registered share certificates are stolen, lost or destroyed, 592
the shareholder may, in accordance with the procedure for publi-
cizing public notice for assertion of claims provided for in the Civil
Procedure Law, request a peoples court to declare such share cer-
tificates as void.

After the voidness has been declared by a peoples court in accor- 594
dance with the aforesaid procedure, the shareholder may apply to
the company for a replacement of the share certificates.

595 **Section 3 - Listed Companies**

596 **Article 151**

597 A listed company mentioned in this Law refers to a joint stock limited company which has its issued shares listed and traded at stock exchanges with the approval of the State Council or the department of securities administration authorized by the State Council.

598 **Article 152**

599 Where a joint stock limited company applies to have its shares listed and traded, the following conditions shall be satisfied:

600 (1) the shares have already been issued to the general public with approval of the securities administration department under the State Council;

601 (2) the total amount of the company's share capital reaches not less than RMB 50 000 000 yuan;

602 (3) the company must have been in operation for three years or more and have made profits for the past three consecutive years; the business operation of a company which is converted from a State-owned enterprise according to law or which is newly incorporated after the implementation of this Law with medium and large-sized State-owned enterprises as the main sponsors may be traced back without interruption to the original enterprise or the main sponsors;

603 (4) the number of shareholders holding shares at the face value of RMB 1 000 yuan or more is not less than one thousand and the shares issued to the general public amount to twenty five percent or more of the total share issue; where the company has a registered capital of more than RMB 400 000 000 yuan, the ratio of shares

issued to the general public must amount of fifteen percent or more of the total share issue;

(5) the company must have no records of involvement in serious illegal activities in the recent three years, and its financial accounting statements must contain no false information in the same period; and

(6) other conditions as stipulated by the State Council.

Article 153

Where a joint stock limited company applies to have its shares listed and traded in a stock exchange, it shall apply to the State Council or the department of security administration authorized by the State Council for approval and submit the relevant documents as required by the law and administrative rules and regulations.

The State Council or the department of security administration authorized by the State Council shall approve applications for approval of the listing and trading of shares that comply with the conditions specified in this Law and shall not approve those that fail to comply with the provisions of this Law.

Where an application for the listing and trading of shares has been approved, the approved listed company must publicly announce its report on the listing of its shares and put its application documents at a designated place for public review.

Article 154

Shares of an approved listed company shall be listed and traded in accordance with the relevant laws and administrative rules and regulations.

Article 155

612
613 Upon approval of the department of security administration under the State Council, shares of a joint stock limited company may be listed and traded in stock exchanges outside the territory of the Peoples Republic of China and the measures therefor shall be specially formulated by the State Council.

Article 156

614
615 A listed company must, in compliance with the provisions of the laws and administrative rules and regulations, regularly disclose its financial and business situations. A financial accounting report shall be publicized every half year of each fiscal year.

Article 157

616
617 The department of security administration under the State Council may decide to suspend the listing of the shares of a listed company if any of the following circumstances occurs:

- 618 (1) the total share capital and the distribution of share ownership have been altered to make the company no longer satisfy the requirements necessary for listing;
- 619 (2) the company has failed to make public its financial situation in compliance with the legal provisions or has falsified its financial accounting statements;
- 620 (3) the company is involved in major illegal acts; or
- 621 (4) the company has incurred losses for the past three consecutive years.

Article 158

622
623 Where any of the circumstances stipulated in item (2) or (3) of the preceding Article applies to a listed company and the consequences are verified to be serious, or where any of the circumstances stipulated in item (1) or (4) of the preceding Article is unable to be eliminated within the time limit and the company has become disqualified as a listed company, the department of security administration under the State Council shall decide to terminate the listing of the shares of the company.

624 Where a company decides to dissolve itself, is ordered by a competent administrative department in accordance with the law to close down or is declared bankrupt, the department of security administration under the State Council shall decide to terminate the listing of the company's shares.

Chapter V - Company Bonds**Article 159**

625
626
627 A joint stock limited company, a wholly State-owned company, and a limited liability company incorporated by two or more State-owned enterprises or by two or more other State-owned investment entities may, for the purpose of raising funds for its production and operation, issue company bonds in accordance with this Law.

Article 160

628
629 Company bonds mentioned in this Law mean negotiable instrument issued by a company in accordance with the legal procedures with repayment of the principal and payment of the interest within a definite time limit.

Article 161

To issue company bonds, the following conditions must be met:

(1) for a joint stock limited company, the value of its net asset may not be lower than RMB 30 000 000 yuan; for a limited liability company, the value of its net asset may not be lower than RMB 60 000 000 yuan;

(2) the accumulated value of the bonds issued may not exceed forty percent of the value of the net assets of the company;

(3) the average distributable* profits for the past three years shall be sufficient to pay the interest on the company bonds for one years;

(4) the funds to be raised must be invested in accordance with the industrial policies of the State;

(5) the interest rate for the bonds shall not exceed the ceiling fixed by the State Council; and

(6) other conditions as a stipulated by the State Council.

Funds raised through the issue of company bonds must be used for the purpose approved by the examination and approval authorities and shall not be used to make up the losses of the company or for non-production expenditure.

Article 162

In any of the following circumstances, a company may not make another issue of bonds:

(1) if the company bonds of the previous issue have not been fully subscribed for; or

(2) if it is a fact that the company has defaulted on, or deferred repayment of the principal and the payment of interest of its previously issued company bonds or its debts, and such default or deferment still persists.

Article 163

For a joint stock limited company and a limited liability company to issue company bonds, its board of directors shall formulate a plan therefor, and a pertinent resolution shall be adopted by the shareholders meeting.

For a wholly State-owned company to issue company bonds, a decision on the approval shall be made by the State-authorized investment institution or the department authorized by the State.

Where a resolution or decision is made in accordance with the preceding two paragraphs of this Article, the company shall submit the matter to the department of security administration under the State Council for approval.

Article 164

The scale of the company bond issues shall be determined by the State Council. Issues of company bonds examined and approved by the department of determined by the State Council.

The department of security administration under the State Council shall approve the application for issuing company bonds if it conforms with the provisions of this Law and shall disapprove the application if it does not conform with the provisions of this Law.

If an approval that has been granted is found not to be in compliance with the stipulations of this Law, such an approval shall be

withdrawn. In the event that company bonds have not yet been issued, the company shall stop issuing the bonds; if the company bond issue has already commenced, the issuing company shall refund the subscribers the money already paid for their subscriptions plus bank deposit interest calculated for the same period of time.

- (5) the beginning and ending dates of the bond issue; 664
- (6) the amount of the net assets of the company; 665
- (7) the total amount of the undue bonds issued by the company; 666
and
- (8) the selling agency of the company bonds. 667

651 **Article 165**

652 Where a company applies to the department of security administration under the State Council for issuing company bonds, the following documents shall be submitted:

- 653 (1) the registration certificate of the company;
- 654 (2) the articles of association of the company;
- 655 (3) the method of offer of the company bonds; and
- 656 (4) an asset valuation report and an asset verification report.

657 **Article 166**

658 After an application for the issue of company bonds is approved, the company shall make a public announcement of the method of offer of the company bonds.

659 The method of offer of company bonds shall specify the following main particulars:

- 660 (1) the name of the company;
- 661 (2) the total amount of the bonds and their par value;
- 662 (3) the interest rate of the bonds;
- 663 (4) the time limit for and the method of the repayment of the principal and the payment of interest;

Article 167 668

669 Company bonds issued by a company must clearly carry thereon items such as the name of the company, the par value, the interest rate and the time limit for repayment, and the bonds shall be signed by the chairman of the board of directors and sealed by the company.

Article 168 670

671 Company bonds may be divided into registered bonds and bearer bonds.

Article 169 672

673 A company issuing company bonds shall prepare the counterfoils of bonds issued.

674 When registered company bonds are issued, the counterfoils of bonds shall specify the following:

- 675 (1) the name or title and domicile of the bondholder;
- 676 (2) the date on which the holder acquired the bonds and their serial numbers;
- 677 (3) the total amount of the bonds, the par value, the interest rate

of the bonds and the method of and time limit for repayment of the principal and payment of interest; and

678 (4) the issuing date of the bonds.

679 Where bearer company bonds are issued, the counterfoils of the company bonds shall specify the total amount of the bonds, the interest rate, the time limit for and method of repayment of the principal and payment of interest, the issuing date of the bonds and the serial numbers.

680 **Article 170**

681 Company bonds may be transferred. The transfer shall be carried out at the securities exchanges established in accordance with the law.

682 The price for the transfer of the company bonds shall be agreed upon by the transferor and transferee.

683 **Article 171**

684 Registered bonds shall be transferred by means of endorsement by the bondholder or by other means provided for by the law or administrative rules and regulations.

685 Where registered bonds are transferred, the name and domicile of the transferee shall be recorded in the counterfoils of the company bonds.

686 Where bearer bonds are transferred, the transfer becomes effective immediately after the bondholder delivers his bonds to the transferee at a securities exchange established in accordance with the law.

Article 172

Upon adoption of a resolution by the shareholders general meeting, a listed company may issue company bonds which can be converted into shares. The specific measures for the conversion shall be stipulated in the method of offer of the company bonds. 688

The issue of company bonds convertible into shares shall be subjected to the approval of the department of securities administration under the State Council. Company bonds convertible into shares shall, in addition to satisfying the conditions for the issue of company bonds, satisfy the conditions for the issue of shares. 689

In issuing company bonds convertible into shares, the words “convertible company bonds?” shall be clearly indicated on the bonds and the amount of convertible company bonds shall be recorded in the counterfoils of company bonds. 690

Article 173

A company that issues company bonds convertible into shares shall let the bondholders convert their bonds into shares in accordance with the conversion measures. However, bondholders shall have an option whether or not to convert their bonds into shares. 692

Chapter VI - Financial Affairs and Accounting of Companies

Article 174

A company shall establish its financial and accounting system in accordance with the law, administrative rules and regulations, and 695

the stipulations of the department in charge of financial affairs under that State Council.

Article 175

At the end of each fiscal year, a company shall prepare its financial and accounting report, which shall be examined and verified in accordance with the law.

The financial and accounting report shall include the following financial and accounting statements and annexed detailed schedules:

- (1) a balance sheet;
- (2) a profit and loss statement;
- (3) a statement on changes in the financial position of the company;
- (4) a statement explaining the financial situation of the company; and
- (5) a statement regarding the distribution of profits.

Article 176

A limited liability company shall send the financial and accounting report to each of its shareholders within the time limit stipulated in its articles of association.

A joint stock limited company shall make the financial and accounting report available at the company for examination by its shareholders twenty days prior to the convening of the shareholders annual general meeting.

A joint stock limited company incorporated by means of share offer must announce its financial and accounting report

Article 177

When a company distributes the annual after-tax profits, it shall allocate ten percent of its profits to its statutory common reserve fund and another five to ten percent to its statutory common welfare fund. Where the accumulated amount of the statutory common reserve fund has exceeded fifty percent of the registered capital of the company, no further allocation may be made.

Where the statutory common reserve fund is insufficient to make up the company's losses of the previous fiscal year, the company shall apply its annual after-tax profits to making up its losses before allocating such profits, in accordance with provisions of the preceding paragraph, to the statutory common reserve fund and statutory common welfare fund.

After making its allocation to the statutory common reserve fund from the company's after-tax profits, the company may, upon resolution made by the shareholders meeting, make allocations to the discretionary common reserve fund.

After a company makes up its losses and makes allocations to the statutory common reserve fund and the statutory common welfare fund a limited liability company shall distribute the remaining profits to its shareholders according to the proportion of capital subscribed for by each shareholder, and a joint stock limited company shall distribute the remaining profits to its shareholders according to the proportion of the shareholdings* held by each shareholder.

Where the shareholders meeting or the board of directors violate the provisions of the preceding paragraphs by distributing profits to the shareholders before making up the company's losses and making allocations to the statutory common reserve fund and the statutory common welfare fund, the profits distributed in violation of the legal provisions must be returned to the company.

714 **Article 178**

715 The premium income derived from issuing shares above par by
a joint stock limited company in accordance with the provisions
of this Law, and other income which according to the rules set
by the departments in charge of financial affairs under the State
Council should be entered into the capital common reserve fund,
shall be entered into the capital common reserve fund of the com-
pany.

716 **Article 179**

717 A company's common reserve fund shall be used to make up the
company's losses, to expand the production and operation of the
company or to increase the capital of the company by means of
conversion.

718 If a joint stock limited company converts its common reserve fund
into capital upon a resolution made by the shareholders general
meeting, it shall issue new shares in proportion to the original
shares held by the shareholders or increase the original par value
of each share. However, when the statutory common reserve fund
is converted into its capital, the remaining amount of the statutory
common reserve fund shall not be less than twenty five percent of
the registered capital.

719 **Article 180**

720 The statutory common welfare fund retained by a company shall
be used for the collective welfare of the company's staff and work-
ers.

721 **Article 181**

A company shall not have any other account books in addition to
its statutory account books. 722

No account may be opened in the name of any individual for deposit
of a company's assets. 723

Chapter VII - Merger and Divisions of Companies 724**Article 182** 725

The merger or division of a company shall require the adoption of
a resolution by its shareholders' meeting of the company. 726

Article 183 727

The merger or division of a joint stock limited company must be
approved by the department authorized by the State Council or by
the people's government at the provincial level. 728

Article 184 729

The merger of a company may take the form of merger by absorp-
tion or merger by new establishment. 730

When a company absorbs another, it is an absorption merger, and
the company being absorbed shall be dissolved. When two or
more companies merge to establish a new company, it is merger
for new establishment, and all parties being merged shall be dis-
solved. 731

When companies merge, the parties to a merger shall sign a
merger agreement and formulate a balance sheet and a detailed 732

inventory of assets. The company shall inform its creditors of the intended merger within ten days following the date on which the merger resolution is adopted and make at least three announcements in newspaper within thirty days. The creditors shall have the right to claim full repayment of their debts or provision of a corresponding guarantee from the company within thirty days from the date of receipt of the notice or, within ninety days from the date of the first public announcement for those who have not received the notice. The company that fails to repay its debts in full or to provide a corresponding guarantee shall not be merged.

733 The claims and debts of the parties to a merger shall be succeeded to by the absorbing company or the newly established company when companies are merged.

734 **Article 185**

735 Where a company proceeds into a division, its assets shall be divided correspondingly.

736 Where a company decides to divide itself, it shall formulate a balance sheet and a detailed inventory of assets and shall inform its creditors of the intended division within ten days following the date on which the division resolution is adopted, and make at least three announcements in newspaper within thirty days. The creditors shall have the right to claim full repayment of their debts or provision of a corresponding guarantee from the company within thirty days from the date of receipt of the notice or, within ninety days from the date of the first public announcement for those who have not received the notice. The company that fails to pay its debts in full or to provide a corresponding guarantee shall not be divided.

737 The debts prior to the division of a company shall be assumed by

the companies following the division in accordance with the agreement reached between them.

Article 186

738

Where a company intends to reduce its registered capital, it must formulate a balance sheet and a detailed inventory of assets.

739

The company shall inform its creditors of the planned reduction of its registered capital within ten days following the date on which the resolution to reduce its capital is adopted, and make at least three announcements in newspaper within thirty days following the aforesaid date. The creditors shall have the right to claim full repayment of their debtor provision of a corresponding guarantee from the company within thirty days from the date of the receipt of the notice or, within ninety days from the date of the first public announcement for those who have not received the notice.

740

After the reduction of capital, the amount of a company's registered capital shall not be lower than the statutory minimum.

741

Article 187

742

Where a limited liability company increases its registered capital, the capital contributions to the newly increased shares subscribed for by the shareholders shall be governed by the relevant provisions of this Law regarding the subscription for capital contributions in connection with the incorporation of a limited liability company.

743

Where a joint stock limited company issues new shares to increase its registered capital, shareholders shall subscribe for the new shares in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Law regarding the payment of subscription money in connection with the incorporation of joint stock limited company.

744

745 **Article 188**

746 Where the merger or division of a company involves changes in registered items, such changes shall be registered according to law with the Company Registration Authority. Where a company is dissolved, it shall apply for cancellation of its registration in accordance with the law. Where a new company is incorporated, the registration of the incorporation of the company shall be carried out according to law.

747 Where a company increases or reduces its registered capital, it shall apply to the Company Registration Authority for registration of the changes in accordance with the law.

748 **Chapter VIII - Bankruptcy, Dissolution and Liquidation of Companies**749 **Article 189**

750 Where a company is declared bankrupt according to law because it is unable to pay off its due debts, a people's court shall, in accordance with relevant laws, organize the shareholders, the relevant departments and relevant professionals to form a liquidation committee which shall conduct bankruptcy liquidation of the company.

751 **Article 190**

752 Where one of the following circumstances occurs, a company may be dissolved:

753 (1) the term of operation as stipulated by the articles of association of the company expires or other reasons for dissolution as stipulated by the articles of association occur;

(2) the shareholders' meeting resolves to dissolve the company; 754
or

(3) dissolution is necessary as a result of the merger or division of the company. 755

756 **Article 191**

757 Where a company is dissolved in accordance with the provisions of item (1) or (2) of the preceding Article, a liquidation committee shall be formed within fifteen days thereafter. A liquidation committee of a limited liability company shall be composed of its shareholders. Membership of a liquidation committee of a joint stock limited company shall be decided upon by its shareholders' general meeting. Where a company fails to form a liquidation committee to conduct liquidation within the time limit, its creditors may request a people's court to designate relevant personnel to form a liquidation committee and conduct liquidation. The people's court shall accept such request and without delay designate the members to the liquidation committee to conduct liquidation.

758 **Article 192**

759 Where a company is ordered to be closed down in accordance with the law due to its violation of the law or administrative rules and regulations, it shall be dissolved. In such a case, the department in charge shall organize the shareholders, relevant departments and relevant professionals to form a liquidation committee to conduct liquidation.

760 **Article 193**

761 During liquidation, a liquidation committee shall exercise the fol-

lowing functions and powers:

- 762 (1) to check up on the company's assets, and separately formulate
a balance sheet and a detailed inventory of assets;
- 763 (2) to notify creditors by notice or announcement;
- 764 (3) to dispose of and liquidate the company's unfinished busi-
ness;
- 765 (4) to pay off taxes owed by the company;
- 766 (5) to clear up claims and debts;
- 767 (6) to dispose of, after paying off the debts of the company, its re-
maining property; and
- 768 (7) to participate in civil lawsuits on behalf of the company.

769 **Article 194**

770 A liquidation committee shall inform the creditors of the company
of its establishment within ten days following the date of its estab-
lishment, and make at least three announcements in newspaper
within sixty days following the aforesaid date. The creditors shall
declare their claims to the liquidation committee within thirty days
from the date of receipt of the notice or, within ninety days from
the date of the first public announcement for those who have not
received the notice.

771 When declaring his claims, a creditor shall specify the relevant
items of the claim and provide supporting material. The liquidation
committee shall register the claims.

772 **Article 195**

773 After the liquidation committee has checked up on the company's

assets, formulated the balance sheet and a detailed inventory of
assets, it shall formulate a liquidation plan and shall submit such
plan to the shareholders' meeting or the department in charge for
confirmation.

774 Where the assets of the company are sufficient to pay off the
company's debts, such assets shall be applied to payment of the
liquidation fee, the wages and labor insurance premiums of the
staff and workers of the company, due taxes and the company's
debts.

775 The remaining assets of a company after paying off all the debts
and expenses as prescribed by the preceding paragraph shall be
distributed, in the case of a limited liability company, in proportion
to the shareholders capital contributions and, in the case of a joint
stock limited company, in proportion to the shareholders' share-
holdings.*

776 During liquidation, a company may not engage in new business ac-
tivities. No assets of the company shall be distributed to the share-
holders prior to full payments prescribed by the second paragraph
of this Article.

777 **Article 196**

778 If a company is liquidated due to its dissolution and the liquida-
tion committee, having checked up on the company's assets and
formulated the balance sheet and a detailed inventory of assets,
discovers that there are insufficient assets in the company to pay
off its debts, the committee shall apply to the people's court for a
declaration of bankruptcy of the company.

779 After the people's court has ruled to declare the company bankrupt,
the liquidation committee shall turn the liquidation matters over to
the court.

Article 197

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781 After the completion of liquidation, the liquidation committee shall formulate a liquidation report and submit the report to the shareholders' meeting or to the department in charge for confirmation and submit it to the Company Registration Authority in order to cancel the registration of the company and publicly announce the company's termination. If no application is made for cancellation of the company's registration, the Company Registration Authority shall revoke the business license of the company and publicly announce the revocation.

Article 198

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783 Members of a liquidation committee shall be devoted to their duties and perform their liquidation obligations in accordance with the law.

784 Members of a liquidation committee shall not accept bribes or other illegal income, or misappropriate the property of the company by taking advantage of their position and power.

785 Members of a liquidation committee who cause losses to the company or to its creditors, either willfully or through gross negligence, shall be liable for compensation.

Chapter IX - Branches of Foreign Companies**Article 199**

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788 A foreign company may, in accordance with this Law, establish a branch within the territory of the Peoples Republic of China to engage in production and business activities.

789 A foreign company mentioned in this Law means a company regis-

tered and incorporated outside the territory of the Peoples Republic of China in accordance with foreign laws.

Article 200

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791 A foreign company that intends to establish a branch within the territory of the People's Republic of China must submit an application to the authorities in charge in China together with relevant documents such as its articles of association and the company's registration certificate issued by its country. Upon approval, it shall apply to the Company registration Authority for registration and for a business license for the Branch according to law.

792 Measures for examining and approving the establishment of branches of foreign companies shall be formulated separately by the State Council.

Article 201

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794 A foreign company that establishes a branch within the territory of the People's Republic of China must appoint its representative or agent within the territory of the People's Republic of China to take charge of the branch and shall allocate to the branch funds commensurate with the business which it is to engage in.

795 Where a minimum amount of operational funds is required for a branch of a foreign company, the State Council shall separately prescribe to that effect.

Article 202

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797 A branch of a foreign company shall clearly indicate in its name the nationality and the form of liability of such foreign company.

The branch shall keep at its domicile a copy of the articles of association of such foreign company.

Chapter X - Legal Liability

Article 206

Where a company obtains its registration by making a false report on its registered capital, submitting falsified certificates, or resorting to other fraudulent means to conceal important facts in violation of this Law when carrying out company registration, it shall be ordered to make a rectification; where a company makes a false report on its registered capital, it shall be fined an amount of not less than five percent but not more than ten percent of the registered capital falsely reported; where a company submits falsified certificates or resorts to other fraudulent means to conceal important facts, it shall be punished with a fine of not less than RMB 10 000 yuan but not more than RMB 100 000 yuan. If the circumstances are serious, the registration of the company shall be revoked. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

Article 207

Where a company issues shares or company bonds by making false prospectus on share offer, false subscription forms or false methods of offer of company bonds, it shall be ordered to stop the issuance and to refund the funds it has raised and the interest therefrom to the subscribers, and shall be punished with a fine of not less than one percent but not more than five percent of the funds illegally raised. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

Article 208

Where a sponsor or a shareholder makes a false capital contri-

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799 Article 203

800 A foreign company is a foreign legal person, so its branch established within the territory of the People's Republic of China shall not have the status of a Chinese legal person in China.

801 A foreign company shall bear civil liability for the operational activities engaged by its branch within the territory of the People's Republic of China.

802 Article 204

803 the business activities engaged in within the territory of the People's Republic of China by branches of foreign companies established upon due approval must comply with the laws of China and shall not harm the social and public interest of China. The lawful rights and interests of such branches shall be protected by the laws of China.

804 Article 205

805 Where a foreign company dissolves its branch established within the territory of the People's Republic of China, it must pay off the branch's debts according to law and carry out liquidation in accordance with the relevant procedures concerning company liquidation provided for in this Law. The assets of the branch shall not be transferred out of the territory of the People's Republic of China prior to the full payment of its debts.

bution by failing to pay the promised cash or tangible assets, or to transfer property rights, thereby deceiving the creditors and the general public, he shall be ordered to make a rectification and imposed a fine of not less than five percent but not more than ten percent of the false capital contributions. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

813 **Article 209**

814 Where a sponsor or a shareholder of a company surreptitiously withdraws his capital contribution after the incorporation of the company, rectification shall be ordered and a fine of not less than five percent but not more than ten percent of the amount of capital contribution surreptitiously withdrawn shall be imposed. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

815 **Article 210**

816 Where a company issues shares or company bonds without the approval of the relevant department in charge as stipulated by this Law, it shall be ordered to stop the issuance and to refund the funds it has raise with interest, and a fine of not less than one percent but not more than five percent of the funds illegally raised shall be imposed. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

817 **Article 211**

818 Where a company violates the provisions of this Law by setting up account books in addition to its statutory account books, it shall be

ordered to make a rectification and imposed a fine of not less than RMB 10 000 yuan but not more than RMB 100 000 yuan. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

Whoever deposits the assets of a company in a personal account shall be confiscated of the illegal gains and imposed upon a fine from one to five times the amount of the illegal gains. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law. 819

Article 212

Where a company submits to the shareholders and the general public false financial and accounting reports or reports concealing important facts, the persons in charge and other persons held directly responsible shall be imposed upon a fine of not less than RMB 100 000 yuan but not more than RMB 100 000 yuan. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law. 820 821

Article 213

Where this Law is violated by converting the State owned assets into shares at a depressed value, or selling them at low prices, or distributing them gratuitously to individuals, the persons in charge and other persons held directly responsible shall be given administrative sanctions in accordance with the law. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law. 822 823

Article 214

825 Where a director, a supervisor or the manager of a company takes advantage of his position and powers to accept bribes, to take other illegal gains or to misappropriate company property, he shall be confiscated of the illegal gains, ordered to return such property to the company, and imposed upon a sanction. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

826 Where a director or the manager misappropriates company funds or lends company funds to another person, he shall be ordered to return such funds to the company; the gains derived therefrom shall belong to the company; the company shall impose a sanction upon him. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

827 Where a director or the manager violates the provisions of this Law by providing company assets as a guarantee for personal debts of a shareholder of its company or of another person, he shall be ordered to cancel the guarantee and shall be liable for compensation in accordance with the law; the gains derived from the illegal provision of guarantee shall belong to the company. If the circumstances are serious, the company shall impose a sanction upon him.

Article 215

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829 Where a director or the manager violates the provisions of this Law by engaging for his own account or for another person in the same kind of business as his company is engaged in, the income derived therefrom shall belong to the company. In addition, the company may impose a sanction upon him.

824 **Article 216**

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831 Where a company fails to make allocations to its statutory common reserve fund or statutory common welfare fund in accordance with this Law, the company shall be ordered to make up the amount that it is required to allocated and shall be imposed upon a fine of not less than RMB 10 000 yuan but not more than RMB 1000 000 yuan.

Article 217

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833 Where a company fails to issue a notice or make an announcement to its creditors according to this Law in case of merger, division, reduction of its registered capital or liquidation, it shall be ordered to make a rectification and be imposed upon a fine of not less than RMB 10 000 yuan but not more than RMB 100 000 yuan.

834 Where a company, in the process of its liquidation, conceals property, records false information in its balance sheet or inventory of assets or, distributes the company assets prior to the full payment of its debts, it shall be ordered to make a rectification and be imposed upon a fine of not less than one percent but not more than five percent of the amount concealed or of the amount distributed prior to the full payment of the debts of the company. The persons in charge and others held directly responsible shall be imposed upon a fine of not less than RMB 10 000 yuan but not more than RMB 100 000 yuan. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

Article 218

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836 Where a liquidation committee fails to submit a liquidation report to the Company Registration Authority in accordance with the provisions of this Law, or where a report submitted conceals major

facts or contains major omissions, it shall be ordered to make a rectification. ⁸⁴¹

Article 220

⁸³⁷ Where a member of the liquidation committee takes advantage of his position and power to practice favoritism for personal gains, seek illegal income or misappropriate the property of the company, he shall be ordered to return the property to the company, confiscated of his illegal gains and imposed upon a fine from one to five times the amount of his illegal gains. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

⁸⁴² Where a relevant department in charge authorized by the State Council approves an application for the incorporation of a company or an application for the issue of shares that does not satisfy the conditions as stipulated in this Law, if the circumstances are serious, the persons in charge and others held directly responsible shall be given administrative sanctions according to law. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

Article 219

⁸³⁸ **Article 219**

⁸³⁹ Where an institution in charge of asset valuation, capital verification or certificate verification provides false documents of certification, the illegal income derived therefrom shall be confiscated and a fine from one to five times the amount of the illegal income shall be imposed; the relevant department in charge may order the institution to suspend its business and revoke the qualification certificates of those held directly responsible according to law. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

Article 221

⁸⁴³ **Article 221**

⁸⁴⁴ Where the department of security administration under the State Council approves an application for the offer of shares, the listing of shares or the issue of bonds that does not satisfy the conditions as stipulated in this Law, if the circumstances are serious, the persons in charge and others held directly responsible shall be given administrative sanctions according to law. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

⁸⁴⁰ Where an institution in charge of asset valuation, capital verification or certificate verification provides by negligence reports with major omissions, it shall be ordered to make a rectification; where the circumstances are serious, a fine from one to three times the amount of the income derived therefrom shall be imposed, and the relevant department in charge may order the institution to suspend its business and revoke the qualification certificates of those held directly responsible according to law.

Article 222

⁸⁴⁵ **Article 222**

⁸⁴⁶ Where the Company registration Authority approves an application for registration which does not meet the requirements as stipulated in this Law, if the circumstances are serious, the persons in charge and others held directly responsible shall be given administrative sanctions according to law. If the case constitutes a crime criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

Article 223

848 Where departments at a level higher than the Company Registration Authority force the Company Registration Authority to approve an application for registration which does not meet the requirements as stipulated in this Law or, covers up an illegal registration, the persons in charge and others held directly responsible shall be given administrative sanctions according to law. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

Article 224

850 Where a company that has not registered according to law as a "limited liability company" or a "joint stock limited company" assumes the name of limited liability company or joint stock limited company, it shall be ordered to make a rectification or be banned, and a fine of not less than RMB 10 000 yuan but not more than RMB 100 000 yuan may be imposed. If the case constitutes a crime, criminal liabilities shall be investigated in accordance with the law.

Article 225

852 Where a company fails to commence its business without justification within the period of more than six months of its incorporation or, after commencing its business, suspends business at its own will for a period of six consecutive months or more, the Company Registration Authority shall revoke the company's business license.

853 Where a company fails to apply for modification registration in accordance with the provisions of this Law whenever modification occurs in items of company registration, it shall be ordered to conduct

847 modification registration within a specified time limit, a fine of not less than RMB 10 000 yuan but not more than RMB 100 000 yuan shall be imposed.

Article 226

854 Where a foreign company, in violation of the provisions of this Law, establishes a branch within the territory of the People's Republic of China without authorization, it shall be ordered to make a rectification or to be closed down, and a fine of not less than RMB 10 000 Yuan but not more than RMB 100 000 Yuan may be imposed.

Article 227

856 Where relevant department in charge performing examination and approval duties according to this Law refuses to approve an application which meets the statutory requirements or the Company Registration Authority refuses an application for registration which meets the statutory requirements, the party concerned may apply for reconsideration or institute an administrative lawsuit in accordance with the law.

Article 228

858 Where a company violating the provisions of this Law should assume civil liability for compensation and pay fines and penalties, and the company's property is insufficient to pay such compensation, fines and penalties, the company shall assume the civil liability for compensation first.

Chapter XI - Supplementary Provisions

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861 **Article 229**

862 Companies registered and incorporated in accordance with the law, administrative rules and regulations, local regulations or the Opinions on Standardization of Limited Liability Companies and the Opinions on Standardization of Joint Stock Limited Companies formulated by the relevant competent departments under the State Council prior to the implementation of this Law shall continue to be retained; companies which do not fully meet the requirements as stipulated in this Law shall meet all such requirements within a prescribed time limit. Specific measures for the implementation thereof shall be formulated separately by the State Council.

863 **Article 230**

864 This Law shall enter into force as of July 1, 1994.

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