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Effective for audits of financial statements  
for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016

*Practice Note 810.2 (Revised)*

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# The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance

\* Please note the following changes with effect from 26 June 2017:

- "Insurance Companies Ordinance" to "Insurance Ordinance";
- "Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation" to "Insurance (Margin of Solvency) Rules";
- "Insurance Companies (General Business) (Valuation) Regulation" to "Insurance (General Business) (Valuation) Rules";
- "Third Schedule" to "Schedule 3"; and
- The filing submission as set out in paragraph 10 of this practice note is changed from 6 months to 4 months.

The HKICPA is in the process of updating this practice note and the updated practice note will be issued after due process. Practitioners should make relevant changes to the names of respective legislations and the title of this practice note when issuing reports in the interim.



**PRACTICE NOTE  
810.2 (REVISED)  
THE DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR OF AN INSURER AUTHORIZED UNDER  
THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE**

*(Issued February 2015; revised February 2016, October 2016  
Effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 15 December 2016)*

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UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE

Practice Note (PN) 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* should be read in the context of the *Amended Preface to the Hong Kong Quality Control, Auditing, Review, Other Assurance, and Related Services Pronouncements* which sets out the application and authority of PNs.

**PRACTICE NOTE  
810.2 (REVISED)  
THE DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR OF AN INSURER AUTHORIZED UNDER  
THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE**

*The purpose of Practice Notes issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA) is to assist the auditor in applying Hong Kong Engagement Standards of general application to particular circumstances and industries.*

*Practice Notes are persuasive rather than prescriptive. However they are indicative of good practice and have similar status to the explanatory material in Hong Kong Engagement Standards. This Practice Note provides guidance to assist the auditor to fulfill the objectives of the engagement. The auditor should be prepared to explain departures when called upon to do so.*

**PART I - GENERAL**

**Introduction**

1. In this Practice Note ("PN") all the sections mentioned below are in respect of the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance (Cap.41) ("the Ordinance") unless otherwise stated.
2. This PN is intended to give guidance to members on the duties of the auditor of an insurer appointed under section 15 (see paragraphs 21 and 22) or paragraph 4(1A) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance ("the Third Schedule"). In addition, guidance on the duties of the auditor of an insurance broker appointed under section 72 is also included (see paragraphs 55 to 57). This guidance is set out in Part II of this PN below.

This PN also provides guidance to members when reporting on levies paid to the insolvency schemes for Motor and Employee Compensation, and to the Terrorism scheme for Employee Compensation. This guidance is set out in Part III of this PN below.

It is not intended to provide detailed guidance on the general audit procedures to be adopted in respect of insurance companies and brokers.

3. The PN has been prepared following discussions with the Insurance Authority ("IA").
4. This is a guide to the provisions in the Ordinance which were effective as at 2 May 1997 (i.e. including the amendments introduced by the Insurance Companies (Amendment) Ordinance 1997), prepared for reference only. Every care has been taken in its preparation. However, the legislation itself is the sole authority of the law and the PN should be used in conjunction with the legislation.

**PART II – THE DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES  
ORDINANCE**

**Scope of the Ordinance**

5. The Ordinance is applicable to all persons (companies or individuals) carrying on insurance business in Hong Kong (including insurance brokers) other than those persons noted in paragraph 7 and those specifically exempted by section 51 (see paragraph 8). Insurers which are deemed to carry on insurance business in or from Hong Kong will also fall within the scope of the Ordinance. Section 2(3) provides that a person shall be deemed to carry on insurance business in or from Hong Kong if he opens or maintains an office or agency in Hong Kong for the purpose of carrying on insurance business, or he holds himself out as carrying on insurance business, in or from Hong Kong. Insurers will fall within this scope if they are incorporated in Hong Kong, have a place of business here, are represented here by an agent or are holding themselves out as

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carrying on insurance business in or from Hong Kong. The following would therefore be included within the scope of and required to be authorized under the Ordinance:

- a. a Hong Kong incorporated company carrying on insurance business in Hong Kong;
  - b. a Hong Kong incorporated company carrying on insurance business through an overseas branch or agency, whether or not it is operating as an insurer in Hong Kong;
  - c. an overseas incorporated company carrying on insurance business through a Hong Kong branch;
  - d. an overseas company carrying on insurance business in Hong Kong by means of an agency;
  - e. a captive insurer, as defined in section 2(7);
  - f. reinsurance companies carrying on reinsurance business in or from Hong Kong (but see paragraph 8(b)); and
  - g. any other person holding himself out as carrying on insurance business in or from Hong Kong.
6. The location of the risks is not relevant in determining whether a particular entity falls within the scope of the Ordinance. Thus, for example, an insurer or a reinsurer who is incorporated overseas and who has not established a place of business in Hong Kong, is not represented by an agent in Hong Kong, and does not hold himself out as carrying on insurance business in or from Hong Kong, can accept insurance or reinsurance premiums relating to Hong Kong risks, without having to be authorized under the Ordinance.
7. Under section 6(1), Lloyd's and an association of underwriters approved by the IA are allowed to carry on insurance business in or from Hong Kong without having to be authorized under the Ordinance. Also, the following persons, although involved in insurance business, do not have to be authorized under the Ordinance:
- a. a Hong Kong incorporated company with an overseas incorporated subsidiary that carries on insurance business outside Hong Kong, provided that the Hong Kong holding company is not itself an insurer;
  - b. an insurance agent (being a person who holds himself out to advise on or arrange contracts of insurance in or from Hong Kong as an agent or subagent of one or more insurers). However, an insurer is required to register its appointed insurance agents in accordance with section 66 and the IA has the power, also under section 66, to direct the insurer to de-register its appointed insurance agents under certain conditions.
8. Section 51 specifically exempts the following persons from the provisions of the Ordinance:
- a. any body of persons carrying on insurance business in Hong Kong whose gross premiums do not exceed HK\$500,000 in any financial year and who are bound together for certain specified purposes but not for the purpose of gain;
  - b. persons carrying on only reinsurance business in Hong Kong (unless incorporated in Hong Kong or, if incorporated elsewhere, who have a place of business in Hong Kong or are represented in Hong Kong by an agent or any other person or partnership having a place of business in Hong Kong);
  - c. registered trade unions (subject to certain limitations);
  - d. registered co-operative societies;

- e. the Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation;
  - f. banks, restricted licence banks and deposit-taking companies carrying on insurance business, limited to certain long term or general insurance business carried on solely for the purposes of their banking or deposit-taking business;
  - g. the Credit Union League of Hong Kong;
  - h. a recognized clearing house (as defined in section 51(h));
  - i. a person who is authorized under Part III of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (as defined in section 51(i)).
9. Under section 53 the Chief Executive in Council has power to exempt any insurer from any of the provisions of the Ordinance or to modify or vary any of its provisions in respect of any insurer.

### **Financial information to be submitted by insurers**

10. Section 20 requires two copies of the audited financial information required by the Third Schedule (as detailed in paragraph 11 and summarised in Appendix 1) to be submitted to the IA within six months of the end of the financial period to which they relate. At the same time, where an insurer is a company, section 21 requires that a copy of each document, except those required by Parts 8 and 9 of the Third Schedule (i.e. the returns on Hong Kong long term and/ or general businesses and statement of assets and liabilities), should be deposited with the Registrar of Companies.

11. Requirements for submitting financial information to the IA include:

- a. Statutory requirements

The Third Schedule requires, amongst other things, the following to be submitted annually to the IA:

- i. a report by the directors with respect to the profit or loss of the insurer for the financial year and the state of the insurer's affairs as at the end thereof (the detailed disclosure requirements of which are set out in Part 2 of the Third Schedule);
- ii. a balance sheet;
- iii. a revenue account;
- iv. a profit and loss account.

Where an insurer carrying on long term business only, or a captive insurer, is a holding company, whether or not it is itself a subsidiary of another body corporate, the statements in (ii) to (iv) above must in addition contain the equivalent consolidated information relating to the insurer and its subsidiaries.

Where an insurer is authorized to carry on general business:

- v. a return on Hong Kong business;
- vi. a statement of assets and liabilities (not applicable to reinsurers or captive insurers).

Where an insurer is authorized to carry on long term business:

- vii. a return on Hong Kong long term business.

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The detailed disclosure requirements for the statements in (ii) to (iv) above are outlined in Parts 3 to 5 of the Third Schedule while those relating to the returns referred to in (v) and (vii) above and the statement referred to in (vi) above are covered in Parts 8 and 9 of the Third Schedule respectively.

An auditor's report is required in respect of each of the statements referred to in (ii) to (iv) above (see paragraph 27), the returns referred to in (v) and (vii) above (see paragraphs 28 and 29) and the statement referred to in (vi) above (see paragraph 30).

b. Other requirements

Although it is not a statutory requirement, the IA requires an insurer to submit annually an audited cash flow statement in addition to the statutory requirements in (i) and (iv) above based on its previous circular.

12. The requirements for the submission of these statements to the IA do not override the requirements of the Companies Ordinance. Insurance companies which are incorporated in Hong Kong are also required to produce financial statements to lay before the shareholders in general meeting and these financial statements have to comply with the disclosure provisions of the Companies Ordinance.

**Holding company**

13. It should be noted that the additional provisions relating to an insurer which is a holding company (Part 3 (paragraphs 10 to 13) of the Third Schedule) may result in consolidated financial statements being prepared where none are required under the Companies Ordinance. Paragraph 10 of the Third Schedule provides that Part 3 of the Third Schedule shall apply to an insurer carrying on long term business only, or a captive insurer that is a holding company, whether or not it is itself a subsidiary of another body corporate. This means that such an insurer authorized in Hong Kong must prepare its own consolidated financial statements even if it is the wholly-owned subsidiary of a parent company, whether or not that parent company is an insurer. Where a group is structured vertically with each subsidiary or sub-subsiidiary being an insurer in its own right, each holding company in the group will have to submit group financial statements in respect of its own subgroup. Depending on the merits of individual insurer, it may be possible for the insurer to obtain a modification of the Third Schedule requirements by making an application under section 17(2).
14. Apart from the requirements under Parts 8 and 9, which are in respect of Hong Kong Insurance Business and Hong Kong Long Term Insurance Business (as defined in paragraph 1(1) of the Third Schedule) only, the information to be submitted under the Third Schedule shall be in respect of the total business of the insurer.

**Hong Kong branch**

15. Where an overseas company carries on insurance business in Hong Kong through a branch, the information required by the IA apart from the requirements under Parts 8 and 9 must relate to the company's worldwide position. In this respect it should be noted that section 17(2) permits the IA to modify or vary any of the requirements of the Third Schedule in relation to an insurer, provided that the insurer requests such a modification in writing. The IA has indicated that it may be prepared to modify or vary the requirements of the Third Schedule in respect of an overseas company incorporated in a country where the insurer is subject to an acceptable standard of prudential supervision depending on the merits of individual insurer. The auditor who audits a Hong Kong branch of such company is therefore recommended to suggest to the client that the insurer discusses with the IA.
16. According to the IA, submission of audited branch financial statements is one of the standard requirements for the giving or renewal of an accounting concession under section 17(2).
- a. Unless specifically required by the IA, the audited branch financial statements need not comply with the requirements of the Insurance Companies (General Business) (Valuation)

Regulation. They shall, however, comply so far as applicable with the requirements of the Third Schedule.

- b. The audited branch financial statements would normally include a revenue account, and/or a profit and loss account, a balance sheet, a cash flow statement and notes thereto.

The auditor of the branch is required to ascertain whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the IA's conditions on accounting concession granted to the branch. The IA would normally require the branch to submit financial statements prepared in accordance with the Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRSs) and audited by certified public accountants who are qualified under the Professional Accountants Ordinance (Cap.50) (and not disqualified under section 393(2) of the Companies Ordinance) for appointment as auditors of a company. Financial statements prepared in accordance with the HKFRSs will be needed in order for the auditor to issue a report for Part 8 for the financial year ending on or after 31 December 2015. When the branch prepares the financial statements in accordance with the HKFRSs for the first time the requirements in HKFRS 1 "First-time Adoption of Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards" apply in full. The auditor of the branch is also required to ascertain the extent the requirements of HKFRS 1 may have been exceptionally amended by the IA's accounting concession when certain facts and circumstances apply (for example the omission of comparative financial information for which the example audit opinion is included in Appendix 5).

### Requirement for assets in Hong Kong

17. General and composite insurers, other than captive insurers or persons authorized to carry on reinsurance business only, are required by section 25A to maintain assets in Hong Kong at all times in respect of their liabilities as of the end of the last preceding year, arising from Hong Kong Insurance Business, and to file a statement of assets and liabilities with the IA annually to ensure compliance. The Eighth Schedule to the Ordinance sets out a list of assets which qualify as assets in Hong Kong. The auditor's requirements to report on this statement are set out in paragraph 30. Where the insurer has entered into contracts of reinsurance for which the premiums payable exceeded 50% of the gross premiums received, such assets shall be at least equal to the greater of:
  - a. the aggregate of:
    - i. 80%<sup>1</sup> of its liabilities after deducting the amount in respect of which contracts of reinsurance have been entered into; and
    - ii. the relevant amount (see paragraph 18); and
  - b. the aggregate of:
    - i. 40% of its liabilities before deducting the amount in respect of which contracts of reinsurance have been entered into; and
    - ii. the relevant amount (see paragraph 18).

Where the insurer has not entered into contracts of reinsurance for which the premiums payable exceeded 50% of the gross premiums received, then such assets shall be at least equal to the amount determined in (a) above.

18. "Relevant amount" means the relevant amount determined in accordance with section 10 (see paragraph 38) except that:
  - a. the reference to gross premium income in that section shall, for the purposes of section 25A, be deemed to be the gross premium income arising from the insurer's Hong Kong Insurance Business only; and
  - b. the references to claims outstanding, additional amount for unexpired risks and fund in section 10 shall, for the purposes of section 25A, be deemed to be the claims outstanding, additional amount for unexpired risks and fund respectively arising from the insurer's Hong Kong Insurance Business only.

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<sup>1</sup> The IA may increase the percentage on individual case basis.



19. The value of assets and the amounts of liabilities shall be determined in accordance with any applicable valuation regulations made under section 59(1)(a). Existing valuation regulations at the time of issue of this PN are covered in paragraphs 41 to 51.
20. Pursuant to section 25A(8), if an insurer is required by law to, and does, maintain assets in a place outside Hong Kong for the sole purpose of making preferential payments to policyholders in respect of claims payable relating to Hong Kong insurance business where the insurer is in liquidation, then the assets to be maintained in Hong Kong by section 25A shall be reduced by the amount of these assets.

### **Appointment of the auditor**

21. Under section 15, the insurer must appoint an auditor ("the Appointed auditor") who is:
  - a. qualified under the Professional Accountants Ordinance (and not disqualified under section 393(2) of the Companies Ordinance); or
  - b. qualified as an auditor in the country of incorporation, if the insurer is incorporated outside Hong Kong and who holds such qualification as the IA accepts as being of a comparable standard to that of a person referred to in (a) above.

Financial information and statements to be submitted by an insurer under Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule, as appropriate, must be audited by the Appointed auditor.

22. The forms and statements to be submitted by an insurer under Parts 8 and 9 of the Third Schedule must be audited by an auditor who is qualified under the Professional Accountants Ordinance (and not disqualified under section 393(2) of the Companies Ordinance). This auditor may or may not be the Appointed auditor of the insurer referred to in paragraph 21.
23. The insurer must notify the IA in writing of any appointment of, or change in, its Appointed auditor within one month. The first auditor must be appointed within one month of the insurer beginning to carry on insurance business. It is recommended that before beginning the audit the auditor ensures that he/ she has been formally appointed under the Ordinance and that the IA has been notified of the appointment. The IA keeps a record of all the Appointed auditors of insurers for its own use.
24. Section 15A(1) requires that the insurer immediately notifies the IA in writing if for any reason a person appointed under section 15 ceases to be the Appointed auditor or a Hong Kong incorporated insurer proposes to give notice to its shareholders of a resolution removing/replacing the Appointed auditor.
25. Section 15A(2) requires the Appointed auditor to notify the IA in writing immediately if the auditor resigns, decides not to seek reappointment, or decides to qualify any of the auditor's reports required in respect of the information to be submitted under the Third Schedule. Further guidance on this obligation may be found in PN 620.2 *Communication between the auditor and the Insurance Authority* issued by the HKICPA.

### **The auditor's reports**

26. Separate requirements apply in respect of auditor's reports on the financial information, forms and statements required by the Third Schedule for different categories of insurers. These are set out below and in Appendix 1. Suggested forms of wording for each report are included in Appendix 2. For the IA's easy identification of all the forms and statements submitted which are reported on by the auditor, the auditor should stamp the identification chop on each page of the forms and statements. The page numbers set in the auditor's report on the statement to be submitted to the IA under Part 9 of the Third Schedule should refer to the statements and the accompanying supplementary information, where applicable.
27. Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of the Third Schedule requires the auditor to audit the financial information prepared in accordance with Parts 3, 4 and 5 of that Schedule (being a balance sheet, revenue account, profit and loss account and, where applicable, consolidated financial statements) and to state in the auditor's report the items set out below. Definitions of "relevant premium income" and

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"relevant claims outstanding" are contained in paragraphs 32 to 37. Solvency requirements are set out in paragraph 38.

The auditor is required to state:

*In the case of a general insurer other than a captive insurer,*

- a. the relevant premium income and relevant claims outstanding of, and the relevant amount as defined in section 10 (see paragraph 38) in the case of, the insurer;
- b. whether in the auditor's opinion the value of the assets of the insurer exceeds its liabilities by that relevant amount;
- c. whether in the auditor's opinion proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16; and
- d. whether in the auditor's opinion the balance sheet, revenue account and profit and loss account have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance.

*In the case of an insurer carrying on long term business only,*

- a. the greater of:
  - i. the relevant amount as defined in section 10 (see paragraph 38) in the case of the insurer, and
  - ii. the required margin of solvency, as determined by the insurer's appointed actuary in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation;
- b. whether in the auditor's opinion the value of the assets of the insurer exceeds its liabilities by the amount under (a) above;
- c. whether in the auditor's opinion proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16;
- d. whether in the auditor's opinion the balance sheet, revenue account, profit and loss account and (if it is a holding company submitting group financial statements) the group financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance; and
- e. whether in the auditor's opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of:
  - i. the state of the insurer's affairs;
  - ii. the insurer's profit or loss for the financial year (if the financial statements are unconsolidated); and
  - iii. the state of the group's affairs and of its profit or loss for the financial year (in the case of group financial statements).

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*In the case of a captive insurer,*

- a. the net premium income and net claims outstanding of, and the relevant amount as defined in section 10 (see paragraph 38) in the case of, the insurer;
- b. whether in the auditor's opinion the value of the assets of the insurer exceeds its liabilities by that relevant amount;
- c. whether in the auditor's opinion proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16;
- d. whether in the auditor's opinion the balance sheet, revenue account, profit and loss account and (if it is a holding company submitting group financial statements) the group financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance; and
- e. whether in the auditor's opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of:
  - i. the state of the insurer's affairs;
  - ii. the insurer's profit or loss for the financial year (if the financial statements are unconsolidated); and
  - iii. the state of the group's affairs and of its profit or loss for the financial year (in the case of group financial statements).

*In the case of a composite insurer,*

- a. the relevant premium income and relevant claims outstanding of, and the relevant amount as defined in section 10 (see paragraph 38) in the case of, the insurer's general business;
  - b. the greater of:
    - i. the relevant amount as defined in section 10 (see paragraph 38), and
    - ii. the required margin of solvency, as determined by the insurer's appointed actuary in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation in the case of the insurer's long term business;
  - c. whether in the auditor's opinion the value of the assets of the insurer exceeds its liabilities by the aggregate of the relevant amount under (a) and the amount under (b) above;
  - d. whether in the auditor's opinion proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16;
  - e. whether in the auditor's opinion the balance sheet, revenue account and profit and loss account have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance; and
  - f. whether in the auditor's opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the insurer's long term business.
28. For insurers carrying on general insurance business, paragraph 4(1A)(a) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule requires the auditor to audit the forms (except Form HKL1) prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Third Schedule (often referred to as the general business returns). The auditor is required to state:

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- a. whether in the auditor's opinion proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 for the purposes of preparing the forms;
  - b. whether the forms have been properly prepared in accordance with those records; and
  - c. whether the information supplied in the forms is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the provisions of Part 8 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance and, on that basis, the forms, when read in conjunction with the insurer's audited financial information for the year then ended prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards and the provisions of the Ordinance, gives a true and fair view of the insurer's underwriting results pertaining to the Hong Kong Insurance Business for the year then ended.
29. For insurers carrying on long-term insurance business, paragraph 4(1A)(aa) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule requires the auditor to report on Form HKL1 prepared in accordance with Part 8 of the Third Schedule (revenue account), and to state:
- a. whether in the auditor's opinion proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 for the purposes of preparing the form; and
  - b. whether the form has been properly prepared in accordance with those records.
30. For insurers carrying on general insurance business, paragraph 4(1A)(b) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule requires the auditor to audit the statement of assets and liabilities ("the statement") prepared in accordance with Part 9 of the Third Schedule, and to state:
- a. whether in the auditor's opinion proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 for the purposes of preparing the statement;
  - b. whether the statement has been properly prepared in accordance with those records;
  - c. whether the values of the assets and liabilities have been determined in accordance with any applicable valuation regulations;
  - d. whether the relevant amount as defined in section 10 has been determined in accordance with section 25A(1) (see paragraph 18); and
  - e. where the statement is submitted pursuant to:
    - i. section 25A(9), the assets held by the insurer, as shown in the statement, enable it to comply with the requirement stipulated in section 25A as at the last day of the financial year and two such other dates in the financial year as the auditor may elect, provided that the intervening period between those two dates shall not be shorter than three months; or
    - ii. section 25B(3)(b), the assets held by the insurer, as shown in the statement, enable it to comply with the requirement stipulated in section 25B as at the date specified in the notice issued under that section.

Notwithstanding section 25A(3) which states that an insurer shall, at all times, maintain assets in Hong Kong in respect of its liabilities, as of the end of the last *preceding* financial year, it has been agreed with the IA that for the purposes of checking compliance with section 25A, the auditor compares the assets with liabilities on the last day of the *current* financial year as well as the assets at two dates during the year, as elected by the auditor, with the liabilities at the *preceding* financial year end date.

The auditor may add qualifications, amplifications or explanations to the auditor's reports as necessary.

31. The auditor's report required in respect of the financial information prepared in accordance with Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule relates to the financial information, which has to be submitted to the IA and the Registrar of Companies. Where the insurer is incorporated in Hong Kong, financial statements will also have to be prepared for the members in accordance with the applicable requirements of the Companies Ordinance. The auditor will be required to issue two separate audit reports, one for the members on the Companies Ordinance financial statements, and one addressed to the directors who will have the responsibility for submitting the financial information required by the Third Schedule to the IA. The report addressed to the directors will refer to the financial information prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance (see Appendix 2 for report format). The audit report addressed to members and relating only to the Companies Ordinance financial statements will also have to be submitted to the IA under section 20(5) (see Appendix – Illustrations 1 or 3 of HKSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements* for report format).

### **Definitions of "relevant premium income" and "relevant claims outstanding"**

32. "Relevant premium income" is defined as the greater of:
- a. 50% of the annual gross premium income of the company; and
  - b. gross premium income less premiums payable by the company in respect of reinsurance.

Gross premium income is defined in section 10(4)(c) as the premiums receivable in that financial year in respect of all insurance business other than long term business. Premiums receivable are defined as the premiums paid or payable to an insurer in respect of contracts written or renewed in that financial year before deducting commissions of agents or brokers but after deducting any discounts specified in policies or refunds of premiums made in respect of any termination or reduction of risks. Discounts specified in policies are generally discounts that relate to the reduction of risks which are being underwritten and should not contain an element of rebate as regards the premiums paid by the insured. Gross premium income as defined above will normally be the amount disclosed in the revenue account under the requirements of paragraph 24(1)(a) of the Third Schedule, provided that the amounts recorded are consistent with the amounts written in the year. It should be noted however that this will not be the same as the earned premiums accounted for on an accruals basis since the former is based on all contracts written in the financial year.

33. "Relevant claims outstanding" is defined as:
- a. where no class of the general business of the insurer is accounted for on a fund accounting basis, the aggregate of the following:
    - i. an amount equal to 50% of the claims outstanding (see paragraph 35) before deducting any amount recoverable from reinsurers thereon, or the amount of claims outstanding after deducting any amount recoverable from reinsurers thereon, whichever is the greater; and
    - ii. the additional amount for unexpired risks (see paragraph 36);
  - b. where all classes of the general business are accounted for on a fund accounting basis, the fund (see paragraph 37);
  - c. where part of the general business is accounted for on a fund accounting basis, the aggregate of the following:
    - i. in respect of *that* part, the fund (see paragraph 37); and
    - ii. in respect of *the other* part of that business:

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- an amount equal to 50% of the claims outstanding (see paragraph 35) before deducting any amount recoverable from reinsurers thereon, or the amount of claims outstanding after deducting any amount recoverable from reinsurers thereon, whichever is the greater; and
  - the additional amount for unexpired risks (see paragraph 36).
34. "Claims outstanding", "additional amount for unexpired risks" and "fund" are defined in paragraph 1(1) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule.
35. "Claims outstanding" is defined as, the amount set aside by an insurer as at the beginning or end of its financial year as being an amount likely to be sufficient to meet:
- a. claims in respect of incidents occurring:
    - i. in the case of an amount set aside as at the beginning of the financial year, before the beginning of that year; and
    - ii. in the case of an amount set aside at the end of the financial year, before the end of that year,being claims which have not been treated as claims paid and including claims relating to business accounted for over a longer period than a financial year, claims the amount of which have not been determined and claims arising out of incidents that have not been notified to the insurer; and
  - b. expenses (such as legal, medical, surveying and engineering costs) which have been incurred but not yet recorded as paid or which are likely to be incurred by the insurer, whether through the employment of its own staff or otherwise, and are directly attributable to the settlement of individual claims which relate to incidents occurring before the beginning or the end of the financial year (as the case may be), whether or not the individual claims in question are those mentioned above.
36. "Additional amount for unexpired risks" (otherwise known as premium deficiency) means the amount set aside by an insurer at the end of its financial year, in addition to any unearned premiums, which is considered necessary to meet the cost of claims and expenses of settlement arising from risks to be borne by the insurer after the end of the financial year under contracts of insurance entered into before the end of that year.
37. "Fund", in relation to general business recorded as commencing in any financial year of an insurer but accounted for over a period longer than that financial year, means, during such period, an amount not less than the aggregate amount of the premiums receivable during that period (net of reinsurance premiums payable) reduced by the aggregate amount of the claims paid (net of reinsurance recoveries), expenses for settling claims, commission (net of reinsurance commission receivable) and premium taxes in respect of that business and any management expenses attributable to the management of the fund, and after the end of such period, means such amount as is considered necessary to discharge the remaining obligations (net of reinsurance) in respect of that business.

### **Solvency requirements**

38. a. Each company authorized to conduct general business in or from Hong Kong (except a captive insurer) must maintain an excess of assets over liabilities by a relevant amount (often referred to as solvency margin) equivalent to 20% of relevant premium income or relevant claims outstanding, whichever is higher, up to HK\$200 million plus 10% of relevant premium income or relevant claims outstanding in excess of HK\$200 million. The minimum relevant amount required is HK\$10 million (HK\$20 million if authorized for statutory business).

- b. Each company authorized to conduct long term business in or from Hong Kong must maintain an excess of assets over liabilities by an amount equivalent to the greater of the relevant amount of HK\$2 million and the margin of solvency calculated in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation. At least the greater of HK\$2 million and one-sixth of the margin of solvency must be held in funds maintained in respect of its long term business (other than class G or H business specified in Part 2 of the First Schedule to the Ordinance).
- c. Each company authorized to conduct composite business in or from Hong Kong must maintain an excess of assets over liabilities by an amount equivalent to the aggregate of the amounts determined in accordance with (a) and (b) above.
- d. Each company authorized to conduct business as a captive insurer in or from Hong Kong must maintain an excess of assets over liabilities by a relevant amount equivalent to 5% of net premium income or net claims outstanding, whichever is higher. The minimum relevant amount is HK\$2 million.

A summary of solvency requirements is set out in Appendix 3 for easy reference.

### **Value of assets and liabilities**

39. The calculation of relevant premium income, relevant claims outstanding and the relevant amount applicable (see paragraph 38), and the required margin of solvency as determined by the insurer's appointed actuary are required in order to enable the auditor to state in the auditor's report, whether in the auditor's opinion the value of the assets of the insurer exceed its liabilities by the required amount applicable according to the Ordinance. The required amount is determined as being the relevant amount applicable in relation to an insurer's general and captive insurance business and the greater of the relevant amount and the required margin of solvency in relation to an insurer's long term business. An insurer is under an obligation to ensure that the value of the assets exceed its liabilities by the required amount at all times but it is recommended that the auditor only verifies the position at the balance sheet date and two such other dates in the financial year as the auditor may elect, provided that the intervening period between those two dates shall not be shorter than three months. If the value of the assets does not exceed its liabilities by the relevant amount applicable, the insurer is deemed to be unable to pay its debts under section 42 and can be wound up.
40. Subject to any relevant valuation regulations issued under section 59(1)(a) (see paragraphs 41 to 51), it is necessary to base the calculation on the provisions laid down in section 8. This section requires assets to be valued having regard to their market value and the cost of realising such assets. In computing the amount of liabilities, all contingent and prospective liabilities shall be taken into account but not liabilities in respect of the insurer's share capital. In determining the amount of these liabilities, regard shall be made to cost of settlement of such liabilities and, where the amount of any such liabilities is assessed or estimated, to the experience of the insurer in carrying on any relevant insurance business or of other persons carrying on the same or similar insurance business.

### **Valuation Regulation for companies carrying on general business**

41. In accordance with section 8(4)(b), the valuation of assets and liabilities of an insurer whose business includes or will include general business, other than a captive insurer, should be determined in accordance with the Insurance Companies (General Business) (Valuation) Regulation ("Valuation Regulation") issued in December 1995.
42. Different requirements are made in the Valuation Regulation in respect of different categories of assets. The major categories of assets in respect of which more detailed provisions are made, and the relevant sections in the Valuation Regulation, include:
  - a. land and buildings (section 3);
  - b. listed shares or securities, unit trusts or mutual funds (section 4);

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- c. shares in investment subsidiaries (section 5);
- d. shares in other insurers (section 6);
- e. other unlisted shares (section 7);
- f. unlisted securities (section 8); and
- g. premiums receivable (section 9).

Some provisions are also made in respect of:

- a. intangible assets and deferred acquisition costs (section 10);
- b. discounting of claims (section 11); and
- c. additional amount for unexpired risks (section 12).

- 43. Section 14 of the Valuation Regulation stipulates admissibility limits for the different categories of assets to ensure a prudent spread of investments. The admissibility limits are applicable to the financial information prepared in accordance with Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule only. This section of the Valuation Regulation does not apply to the assets of an insurer required to be maintained in Hong Kong under section 25A or 25B and therefore does not apply to the statement of assets and liabilities prepared under Part 9 of the Third Schedule.
- 44. Notwithstanding that the value given to an asset of an insurer is permissible under the Valuation Regulation, if, in all circumstances of the case, it appears that the asset is of a lesser value than that given, such lesser value is to be the value of the asset (section 15 of the Valuation Regulation).
- 45. The Valuation Regulation reaffirms that where no provision for valuation is made under the Valuation Regulation in respect of any asset or liability, section 8(4)(c) continues to apply (section 13 of the Valuation Regulation).
- 46. In the case of a company carrying on or intending to carry on business as a captive insurer, the values of assets and liabilities may be determined in accordance with section 8.
- 47. Liabilities are defined in section 8(4) as including all contingent and prospective liabilities but excluding liabilities in respect of the insurer's share capital. Where specific valuation rules are not applicable, regard should be had to the cost of settlement of the liabilities and, where estimates are necessary, to the experience of the insurer in carrying on any relevant insurance business or of other persons carrying on the same or similar insurance business.
- 48. For the purpose of valuing the amount of liabilities, contingent liabilities will be assessed on the probability of their crystallisation. Generally it will be the auditor's responsibility to have regard to the nature of the contingency, the uncertainties which are expected to affect the ultimate outcome and a prudent estimate of the financial effect.

**Liabilities Regulation for companies carrying on long term business**

- 49. Where the liabilities of an insurer are in respect of long term business, they must be determined in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Determination of Long Term Liabilities) Regulation ("Liabilities Regulation").
- 50. The general principles and certain specific factors underlying the determination of long term liabilities are laid down in section 4 of the Liabilities Regulation. Generally, they shall be determined on actuarial principles, having due regard to the reasonable expectations of policyholders. Proper provisions shall be made for liabilities on a prudent basis including an allowance for adverse variations of relevant assumptions, and provisions shall be made for all



prospective liabilities as determined by the policy conditions for each contract, taking account of future premiums.

51. Specific requirements of the Liabilities Regulation, and the sections of that Regulation in which they are covered, are made in respect of options and guarantees (section 10), expenses (section 12), valuation of future premiums (section 14) and acquisition expenses (section 15). Section 5 of the Liabilities Regulation requires prospective calculations to be used in preference to retrospective calculations where possible.

### **Proper records**

52. The Ordinance requires the auditor to state specifically in the auditor's report whether proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16.
53. Without prejudice to the Companies Ordinance, section 16 requires the insurer to keep proper books of account which sufficiently exhibit and explain all transactions entered into by the insurer in the course of any business carried on by him. These books can be kept either in a legible form or in a non-legible form capable of being reproduced in a legible form. The Ordinance also requires adequate precautions to be taken to guard against falsification of these records and to facilitate the discovery of any such falsification. In the case of an overseas insurer carrying on insurance business through a branch or an agency, the IA would normally require books to be kept in respect of all its branch or agency business carried on in or from Hong Kong.
54. These books of account must be kept for seven years from the end of the financial year to which the last entry made or matter recorded therein relates.

### **Insurance brokers**

55. Section 65 states that an insurer may not accept any business from an insurance broker in Hong Kong unless that broker is authorized. An authorized insurance broker may be an insurance broker directly authorized by the IA or a member of a body of insurance brokers approved by the IA. Sections 69 and 70 set out the requirements to be complied with by insurance brokers and bodies of insurance brokers in order to obtain the relevant authorization and approval.
56. Under section 72, the insurance broker must appoint an auditor who is:
  - a. qualified under the Professional Accountants Ordinance (and not disqualified under section 393(2) of the Companies Ordinance); or
  - b. qualified as an auditor in the country of incorporation, if the insurance broker is incorporated outside Hong Kong and who holds such qualification as the IA accepts as being of comparable to that of a person referred to in (a) above.
57. The auditor of an insurance broker is required to report on the broker's financial statements to its proprietor (in the case of an unincorporated broker) or its shareholders (in the case of an incorporated broker). The auditor is also required to report on an insurance broker's compliance with the minimum requirements. For further guidance on this area, members may refer to PN 810.1 (Revised), *Insurance brokers - compliance with the minimum requirements specified by the Insurance Authority under sections 69(2) and 70(2) of the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the HKICPA.

## **Communications between the auditor and the IA**

58. Section 53D introduces statutory protection for an auditor from liability to the client for breach of confidentiality when he/ she communicates directly with the IA in good faith on matters relevant to any functions of the IA under the Ordinance. Sections 15A(2) (see paragraph 25) and 53E impose a statutory obligation on the auditor to report certain matters directly to the IA. Members may refer to PN 620.2 for further guidance in this area.

## **PART III – OTHER REPORTING**

### **Annual return on employees' compensation gross premium**

59. The Hong Kong Government (the "Government") has entered into an agreement with some authorized insurers for the provision of a facility covering terrorism risk in respect of employees' compensation insurance business. Under the agreement, the insurer is required to pay a monthly charge to the Government based on the gross premium in respect of the employees' compensation business written. An annual return together with a report by the auditor are required to be submitted to the IA within four months after the end of each financial year on the amounts of gross premium for the financial year and the charge payable thereon to the Government. For the IA's easy identification of the annual return which is reported on by the auditor, the auditor should bind the annual return together with the report thereon and stamp the identification chop on each page of the annual return. An auditor should conduct such an engagement in accordance with HKSAE 3000 (Revised), *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*. An example auditor's report is set out in Example 1 in Appendix 4.

### **Report on levies paid to the insolvency scheme for motor compensation insurance**

60. All insurance companies in Hong Kong that are authorized by the Government to write motor vehicle insurance are required to be members of the Motor Insurers' Bureau of Hong Kong ("MIB"). Each member has entered into an agreement with the MIB to contribute such funds as may be required by the MIB to meet its objectives, and furnish particulars of motor premium income and submit such report as the MIB may from time to time deem necessary. A practitioner should conduct such an engagement in accordance with HKSRS 4400 "Engagements to Perform Agreed-Upon Procedures Regarding Financial Information". An example report is set out in Example 2 in Appendix 4.

### **Report on levies paid to the insolvency scheme for employees' compensation insurance**

61. All insurance companies in Hong Kong who are authorized by the Government to write direct employees compensation insurance business are required to be members of the Employees Compensation Insurer Insolvency Bureau ("ECIIB"). Each member has entered into an agreement with the ECIIB to contribute such funds as may be required by the ECIIB to meet its objectives, and furnish particulars of employees' compensation premium income and submit such report as the ECIIB may from time to time deem necessary. A practitioner should conduct such an engagement in accordance with HKSRS 4400. An example report is set out in Example 3 in Appendix 4.

## Appendix 1

### What does the insurer need to submit to the IA?

The following summary lists out the references to different Parts of the Third Schedule to the Insurance Companies Ordinance and also includes the paragraph references in Part 1 of that Schedule that set out the reporting requirements.

	Parts 3 <sup>2</sup> , 4 and 5: Financial Information		Part 8 <sup>3</sup> : Return on Hong Kong business		Part 9 <sup>3</sup> : Statement on Hong Kong assets and liabilities under Hong Kong business	Notes
	Part 3	Parts 4, 5	Forms 1-9	Form HKL1		
General insurer	-	√ Para.4.(1AB)	√ Para.4.(1A)(a)	-	√ Para.4.(1A)(b)	a)
Long term insurer (including pure reinsurer)	√ Para.4.(1)*	√ Para.4.(1)*	-	√ Para.4.(1A)(aa)	-	b)
Composite insurer	-	√ Para.4.(1AC)^	√ Para.4.(1A)(a)	√ Para.4.(1A)(aa)	√ Para.4.(1A)(b)	c)
Captive insurer	√ Para.4.(1AD)*	√ Para.4.(1AD)*	√ Para.4.(1A)(a)			
Pure reinsurer (General)		√ Para.4.(1AB)	√ Para.4.(1A)(a)			
Pure reinsurer (Composite)		√ Para.4.(1AC)^	√ Para.4.(1A)(a)	√ Para.4.(1A)(aa)		
Lloyd's			√ Para.4.(1A)(a)		√ Para.4.(1A)(b)	

\* True and fair opinion required

^ True and fair opinion required in respect of the life insurance business only

<sup>2</sup> Part 3 of the Third Schedule deals with additional provisions relating to an insurer which is a holding company. It applies to an insurer carrying on long term business only or a captive insurer, which is a holding company preparing consolidated financial statements.

<sup>3</sup> Part 8 return and Part 9 statement should be prepared in respect of the insurer's Hong Kong Insurance Business and Hong Kong Long Term Insurance Business.

**Notes**

**a) General Insurer**

**i) *Financial information prepared under Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule***

This financial information is submitted to the Insurance Authority by a general insurer. Part 4 deals with general provisions relating to the balance sheet. Part 5 deals with general provisions relating to the revenue account and profit and loss account.

The requirement to audit this financial information including the opinions to be given is set out in paragraph 4(1AB) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule. An example auditor's report is set out as Example 1 in Appendix 2.

**ii) *Forms prepared under Part 8 of the Third Schedule***

These forms are submitted to the Insurance Authority by a general insurer. These forms are in respect of the Hong Kong insurance business only as defined in Part 1 of the Third Schedule.

The requirement to report on these forms including the opinions to be given is set out in paragraph 4(1A)(a) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule. The general insurer prepares the standard forms to which the auditor will annex the auditor's report. Example auditor's reports are set out as Example 4(a) and 4(b) in Appendix 2.

**iii) *Statement prepared under Part 9 of the Third Schedule***

This statement is submitted to the Insurance Authority by a general insurer. This statement is in respect of the Hong Kong assets and liabilities as defined in Section 25A of the Ordinance.

The requirement to report on this statement including the opinions to be given is set out in paragraph 4(1A)(b) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule. The general insurer prepares the statement under Part 9 and auditor will annex the auditor's report. Example auditor's reports are set out as Example 4(c) and 4(d) in Appendix 2.

**b) Long term insurer**

**i) *Financial information prepared under Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule***

This financial information is submitted to the Insurance Authority by a long term insurer. Part 3 deals with additional provisions relating to a long term insurer which is a holding company. Part 4 deals with general provisions relating to the balance sheet. Part 5 deals with general provisions relating to the revenue account and profit and loss account.

The requirement to audit this financial information including the opinions to be given is set out in paragraphs 4(1) and (1AA) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule. An example auditor's report is set out as Example 2 in Appendix 2.

**ii) *Form HKL1 prepared under Part 8 of the Third Schedule***

This form is submitted to the Insurance Authority by a long term insurer. This form is in respect of the Hong Kong long term insurance business only as defined in Part 1 of the Third Schedule.

The requirement to report on this form including the opinions to be given is set out in paragraph 4(1A)(aa) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule. The long term insurer prepares the standard form to which the auditor will annex the auditor's report. An example auditor's report is set out as Example 5 in Appendix 2.

**c) Composite insurer**

**i) *Financial information prepared under Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule***

This financial information is submitted to the Insurance Authority by a composite insurer. Part 4 deals with general provisions relating to the balance sheet. Part 5 deals with general provisions relating to the revenue account and profit and loss account.

The requirement to audit this financial information including the opinions to be given is set out in paragraph 4(1AC) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule. An example auditor's report is set out as Example 3 in Appendix 2.

**ii) *Forms prepared under Part 8 of the Third Schedule***

These forms are submitted to the Insurance Authority by a composite insurer. They relate only to the general business written in Hong Kong by a composite insurer.

The requirement to report on these forms including the opinions to be given is set out in paragraph 4(1A)(a) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule. The composite insurer prepares the standard forms to which auditor will annex the auditor's report. Example auditor's reports are set out as Example 4(a) and 4(b) in Appendix 2.

**iii) *Statement prepared under Part 9 of the Third Schedule***

This statement is submitted to the Insurance Authority by a composite insurer. The statement reports the Hong Kong assets and liabilities relating to the general business only.

The requirement to report on this statement including the opinions to be given is set out in paragraph 4(1A)(b) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule. The composite insurer prepares the statement under Part 9 and auditor will annex the auditor's report. Example auditor's reports are set out as Example 4(c) and 4(d) in Appendix 2.

**iv) *Form HKL1 prepared under Part 8 of the Third Schedule***

This form is submitted to the Insurance Authority by a composite insurer. The form is in respect of the Hong Kong long term insurance business only as defined in Part 1 of the Third Schedule.

The requirement to report on this form including the opinions to be given is set out in paragraph 4(1A)(aa) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule. The composite insurer prepares the standard form to which the auditor will annex the auditor's report. An example auditor's report is set out as Example 5 in Appendix 2.

## Appendix 2

### Example unmodified auditor's reports under the Third Schedule to the Insurance Companies Ordinance

- Example 1 – **General insurer:** an auditor's report on financial information to be submitted to the Insurance Authority in accordance with Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule
- Example 2 – **Long term insurer:** an auditor's report on financial information to be submitted to the Insurance Authority in accordance with Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule
- Example 3 – **Composite insurer:** an auditor's report on financial information to be submitted to the Insurance Authority in accordance with Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule
- Example 4 – **General insurer/ Composite insurer:**
- (a) an auditor's report on forms (except Form HKL1) to be submitted to the Insurance Authority under Part 8 of the Third Schedule
  - (b) an auditor's report for Hong Kong branch of an overseas insurance company which has obtained an Accounting Concession under Section 17(2) of the Insurance Companies Ordinance on forms (except Form HKL1) to be submitted to the Insurance Authority under Part 8 of the Third Schedule
  - (c) an auditor's report on statement to be submitted to the Insurance Authority under Part 9 of the Third Schedule
  - (d) an auditor's report for Hong Kong branch of an overseas insurance company which has obtained an Accounting Concession under Section 17(2) of the Insurance Companies Ordinance on statement to be submitted to the Insurance Authority under Part 9 of the Third Schedule
- Example 5 – **Long term insurer/ Composite insurer:** an auditor's report on Form HKL1 to be submitted to the Insurance Authority under Part 8 of the Third Schedule

**Example 1 - General insurer: an auditor's report on financial information  
to be submitted to the Insurance Authority  
in accordance with Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of financial information of an entity other than a listed entity<sup>4</sup>, that have been prepared by the directors of the entity in accordance with the provisions of the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance (that is, a special purpose framework) to meet the requirements of the Insurance Authority. The directors do not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a compliance framework.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the directors' responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.<sup>5</sup>
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised).<sup>6</sup>
- Use of the auditor's report is restricted.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.<sup>7</sup>
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information<sup>8</sup> prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial information differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial information, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under paragraph 4(1AB) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Information**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial information of XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprises the [balance sheet][statement of financial position] as at 31 December 20X1, and the [income statement][statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income], [statement of changes in equity], [cash flow statement][statement of cash flows] and the revenue account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial information, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

<sup>4</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements* for illustrations of auditor's reports for listed entities.

<sup>5</sup> HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*.

<sup>6</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*.

<sup>7</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*.

<sup>8</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph 12(c)

In our opinion, the financial information of the Company for the year ended 31 December 20X1 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the provisions of the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance ("the Ordinance").

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSA") and with reference to Practice Note 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Information* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use**

We draw attention to note X to the financial information, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial information is prepared to assist the Company in complying with the provisions of the Ordinance. As a result, the financial information may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the submissions by the Company to the Hong Kong Insurance Authority and the Registrar of Companies and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.<sup>9</sup>

### **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Information and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised), The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]*

### **Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Information<sup>10</sup>**

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial information in accordance with the provisions of the the Ordinance and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial information, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

In addition, the directors are required to maintain proper records in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance and to maintain the relevant amount applicable as defined in section 10 of the Ordinance.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

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<sup>9</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

<sup>10</sup> Throughout the illustrative auditor's reports, the terms directors and those charged with governance may need to be replaced by another term that is appropriate in the context of the legal framework in the particular jurisdiction.



### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Information**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial information as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial information. In addition, we express opinion on whether proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance and as to whether the value of the assets of the Company as determined under the Ordinance exceeds its liabilities by not less than the relevant amount applicable as at year end.

Paragraph 41(b) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that when law, regulation or HKSA's expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial information, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial information or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE

**Report on matters under paragraph 4(1AB) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance**

The relevant premium income, the relevant claims outstanding and the relevant amount applicable, as defined in section 10 of the Ordinance and reported in note x to the financial information, amounted to HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_, HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_ and HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_ respectively as at 31 December 20X1.

In our opinion:

- (i) proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance in respect of the year ended 31 December 20X1; and
- (ii) the value of the assets of the Company as determined under the Ordinance and reported in note x to the financial information exceeds its liabilities by not less than the relevant amount applicable as at 31 December 20X1.

ABC & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

**Example 2 - Long term insurer: an auditor's report on financial information  
to be submitted to the Insurance Authority  
in accordance with Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of financial information of an entity other than a listed entity<sup>11</sup>, that have been prepared by the directors of the entity in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (a general purpose framework) and the provisions of the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance to meet the requirements of the Insurance Authority. The directors do not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.<sup>12</sup>
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the directors' responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.<sup>13</sup>
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised).<sup>14</sup>
- Use of the auditor's report is restricted.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.<sup>15</sup>
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information<sup>16</sup> prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial information differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial information, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under paragraphs 4(1) and (1AA) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Information**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial information of XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprises the [balance sheet][statement of financial position] as at 31 December 20X1, and the [income statement][statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income], [statement of changes in equity], [cash flow statement][statement of cash flows] and the

<sup>11</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements* for illustrations of auditor's reports for listed entities.

<sup>12</sup> According to paragraph A14 of HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*, the financial statements prepared for a specific purpose may be prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework because the intended users have determined that such general purpose financial statements meet their financial information needs.

<sup>13</sup> HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*.

<sup>14</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*.

<sup>15</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*.

<sup>16</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph 12(c)

revenue account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial information, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial information gives a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 20X1, and of its [profit][loss] and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") and is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the provisions of the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance ("the Ordinance").#

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSA") and with reference to Practice Note 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Information* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use**

We draw attention to note X to the financial information, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial information is prepared to assist the Company in complying with the provisions of the Ordinance. As a result, the financial information may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the submissions by the Company to the Hong Kong Insurance Authority and the Registrar of Companies and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.<sup>17</sup>

### **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Information and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised), The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]*

### **Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Information<sup>18</sup>**

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial information that gives a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the provisions of the Ordinance, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial information, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

In addition, the directors are required to maintain proper records in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance and to maintain the greater of the required margin of solvency attributable to its long term business as determined by the Company's appointed actuary in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation and the relevant amount applicable as defined in the Ordinance (the "minimum solvency requirements").

<sup>17</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

<sup>18</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Information**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial information as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial information. In addition, we express opinion on whether proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance and as to whether the value of the assets of the Company as determined under the Ordinance exceeds its liabilities by not less than the minimum solvency requirements applicable as at year end.

Paragraph 41(b) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that when law, regulation or HKSA's expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial information, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial information or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial information, including the disclosures, and whether the financial information represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Report on matters under paragraphs 4(1) and (1AA) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance**

The [relevant amount applicable, as defined in section 10 of the Ordinance]/[required margin of solvency, as determined by the Company's appointed actuary in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation]\*, being greater than the [required margin of solvency, as determined by the Company's appointed actuary in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation]/[relevant amount applicable, as defined in section 10 of the Ordinance]\*, amounted to HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_\*\* as at 31 December 20X1.

In our opinion:

- (i) proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance in respect of the year ended 31 December 20X1; and
- (ii) the value of the assets of the Company as stated in the financial information exceeds its liabilities by not less than HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_\*\* as at 31 December 20X1.

ABC & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

\* Delete where appropriate.

\*\* The amount stated should be the same.

# May be qualified where the valuation of any asset or liability is in accordance with any statutory provision which does not give a true and fair view, indicating the items affected by such valuation and the statutory provisions in question.

**Example 3 - Composite insurer: an auditor's report on financial information  
to be submitted to the Insurance Authority  
in accordance with Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of financial information of an entity other than a listed entity<sup>19</sup>, that have been prepared by the directors of the entity in accordance with the provisions of the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance to meet the requirements of the Insurance Authority. For the long term business, the statement of financial position is also prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs"). The directors do not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.<sup>20</sup>
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the directors' responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.<sup>21</sup>
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised).<sup>22</sup>
- Use of the auditor's report is restricted.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.<sup>23</sup>
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information<sup>24</sup> prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial information differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial information, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under paragraph 4 (1AC) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Information**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial information of XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprises the [balance sheet][statement of financial position] as at 31

<sup>19</sup> See HKSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements* for illustrations of auditor's reports for listed entities.

<sup>20</sup> According to paragraph A14 of HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*, the financial statements prepared for a specific purpose may be prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework because the intended users have determined that such general purpose financial statements meet their financial information needs.

<sup>21</sup> HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*.

<sup>22</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*.

<sup>23</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*.

<sup>24</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph 12(c)

December 20X1, and the [income statement][statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income], [statement of changes in equity], [cash flow statement][statement of cash flows] and the revenue account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial information, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the supplementary schedules set out on pages ..... to .....

In our opinion, the financial information set out on pages ..... to ..... is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance and, on that basis, the long term business [balance sheet][statement of financial position] on page ....., when read in conjunction with the notes on pages ..... to ..... and the supplementary schedules on pages ..... to ....., gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company's long term business as at 31 December 20X1 in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") and the provisions of the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance ("the Ordinance").<sup>#</sup>

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAAs") and with reference to Practice Note 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Information* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use**

We draw attention to note X to the financial information, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial information is prepared to assist the Company in complying with the provisions of the Ordinance. As a result, the financial information may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the submissions by the Company to the Hong Kong Insurance Authority and the Registrar of Companies and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.<sup>25</sup>

### **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Information and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information* – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]

### **Responsibilities of Directors' and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Information<sup>26</sup>**

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial information that is in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance. This responsibility includes the preparation of a long term business [balance sheet][statement of financial position] which, when read in conjunction with the notes and supplementary schedules to the financial information, gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company's long term business, in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance and HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial information, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

<sup>25</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

<sup>26</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.



In addition, the directors are required to maintain proper records in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance and to maintain an excess of assets over liabilities by the aggregate of the relevant amount applicable and attributable to its general business as defined in section 10 of the Ordinance and the greater of the required margin of solvency attributable to its long term business as determined by the Company's appointed actuary in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation and the relevant amount applicable and attributable to its long term business as defined in the Ordinance.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Information**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial information as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial information. In addition, we express opinion on whether proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance and as to whether the value of the assets of the Company as determined under the Ordinance exceeds its liabilities by not less than the relevant amount applicable and attributable to general business and the greater of the required margin of solvency attributable to its long term business as determined by the Company's appointed actuary in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation and the relevant amount applicable and attributable to its long term business as defined in the Ordinance as at year end.

Paragraph 41(b) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that when law, regulation or HKSA's expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial information, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial information or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial information, including the disclosures, and whether the financial information represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Report on matters under paragraph 4 (1AC) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance**

In respect of the Company's general business, the relevant premium income, the relevant claims outstanding and the relevant amount applicable, as defined in section 10 of the Ordinance and reported in note x to the financial information, amounted to HK\$\_\_\_\_\_, HK\$\_\_\_\_\_ and HK\$\_\_\_\_\_ respectively as at 31 December 20X1.

In respect of the Company's long term business, the [relevant amount applicable, as defined in Section 10 of the Ordinance]/[required margin of solvency, as determined by the Company's appointed actuary in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation]\*\*, being greater than the [required margin of solvency, as determined by the company's appointed actuary in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation]/[relevant amount applicable, as defined in Section 10 of the Ordinance]\*\*, amounted to HK\$\_\_\_\_\_ as at 31 December 20X1.

In our opinion:

- (i) proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance in respect of the year ended 31 December 20X1; and
- (ii) the value of the assets of the Company as stated in the financial information exceeds its liabilities by not less than HK\$\_\_\_\_\_, being the aggregate of the [relevant amount applicable attributable to its general business and the required margin of solvency attributable to its long term business]/[relevant amounts applicable]\*\* as at 31 December 20X1.

ABC & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]

[Auditor Address]

[Date]

\*\* Delete where appropriate.

# May be qualified where the valuation of any asset or liability is in accordance with any statutory provision which does not give a true and fair view, indicating the items affected by such valuation and the statutory provisions in question.

**Example 4(a) - General insurer/ Composite insurer: an auditor's report  
on forms (except Form HKL1)  
to be submitted to the Insurance Authority  
under Part 8 of the Third Schedule**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

Pursuant to paragraph 4(1A)(a) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Insurance Companies Ordinance ("the Ordinance"), we have been requested to issue this report for submission by XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") to the Insurance Authority ("the IA").

*Directors' Responsibilities*

The directors are responsible for the preparation of forms in accordance with the provisions of Part 8 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance ("the Forms") set out on pages ..... to ..... This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Forms and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In addition, the directors are also responsible for ensuring that the Company maintains proper records at all times in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance.

*Our Independence and Quality Control*

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"), which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

The firm applies Hong Kong Standard on Quality Control 1<sup>27</sup> and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the matters referred to in paragraph 4(1A)(a) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance, based on our work performed and to report our opinion.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised), *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and with reference to Practice Note 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the HKICPA. We have planned and performed our work to obtain reasonable assurance for giving our opinion below.

Our engagement includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting that proper records have been maintained by the Company in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance for the purpose of preparing the Forms, and that the Forms have been properly compiled from those records.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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<sup>27</sup> HKSQC 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*

THE DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR OF AN INSURER AUTHORIZED  
UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE

*Opinion*

Based on the foregoing, in our opinion:

- (i) the Company has maintained proper records in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance in respect of the year ended 31 December 20X1 for the purpose of preparing the Forms;
- (ii) the Forms have been properly prepared in accordance with those records; and
- (iii) the information supplied in the Forms is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the provisions of Part 8 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance and, on that basis, the Forms, when read in conjunction with the Company's audited financial information for the year ended 31 December 20X1 prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards and the provisions of the Ordinance dated [ ], gives a true and fair view of the Company's underwriting results pertaining to the Hong Kong Insurance Business for the year then ended.\*

*Intended Users and Purpose*

This report is intended solely for submission by the Company to the IA and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report<sup>28</sup>.

ABC & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]

[Auditor's Address]

Date

- \* To facilitate compliance with various reporting requirements, the Insurance Authority expects an insurer to prepare a combined set of financial statements in accordance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap.622) and financial information in accordance with the Insurance Companies Ordinance (Cap.41) in order for an auditor to give a true and fair view opinion for reporting under Part 8 of the Third Schedule to the Insurance Companies Ordinance. The effective date for this combined set of financial statements and information is for the financial year ending on or after 31 December 2015 with early adoption permitted. When preparing the combined set of financial statements and information, the insurer should refer to the guidance set out in Accounting Bulletin 6 "Guidance on the Requirements of Section 436 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance Cap. 622".

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<sup>28</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

**Example 4(b) - General insurer/ Composite insurer (Hong Kong Branch of an overseas insurance company which has obtained an Accounting Concession under Section 17(2) of the Insurance Companies Ordinance): an auditor's report on forms (except Form HKL1) to be submitted to the Insurance Authority under Part 8 of the Third Schedule**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

Pursuant to paragraph 4(1A)(a) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Insurance Companies Ordinance ("the Ordinance"), we have been requested to issue this report for submission by XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") to the Insurance Authority ("the IA").

*Directors' Responsibilities*

The directors are responsible for the preparation of forms in accordance with the provisions of Part 8 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance ("the Forms") set out on pages ..... to ..... This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Forms and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In addition, the directors are also responsible for ensuring that the Company maintains proper records at all times in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance.

*Our Independence and Quality Control*

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"), which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

The firm applies Hong Kong Standard on Quality Control 1<sup>29</sup> and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the matters referred to in paragraph 4(1A)(a) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance, based on our work performed and to report our opinion.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised), *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and with reference to Practice Note 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the HKICPA. We have planned and performed our work to obtain reasonable assurance for giving our opinion below.

Our engagement includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting that proper records have been maintained by the Company in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance for the purpose of preparing the Forms, and that the Forms have been properly compiled from those records.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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<sup>29</sup> HKSQC 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*

THE DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR OF AN INSURER AUTHORIZED  
UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE

*Opinion*

Based on the foregoing, in our opinion:

- (i) the Company has maintained proper records in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance in respect of the year ended 31 December 20X1 for the purpose of preparing the Forms;
- (ii) the Forms have been properly prepared in accordance with those records; and
- (iii) the information supplied in the Forms is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the provisions of Part 8 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance and, on that basis, the Forms, when read in conjunction with the Company's Hong Kong Branch audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 20X1 prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards dated [ ], gives a true and fair view of the Company's underwriting results pertaining to the Hong Kong Insurance Business for the year then ended.

*Intended Users and Purpose*

This report is intended solely for submission by the Company to the IA and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report<sup>30</sup>.

ABC & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]

[Auditor's Address]

Date

- \* Branch financial statements prepared in accordance with the HKFRSs will normally be required in order for the auditor to issue a report for Part 8 for the financial year ended on or after 31 December 2015.

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<sup>30</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

**Example 4(c) - General insurer/ Composite insurer: an auditor's report  
on statement to be submitted to the Insurance Authority  
under Part 9 of the Third Schedule**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

Pursuant to paragraph 4(1A)(b) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Insurance Companies Ordinance ("the Ordinance"), we have been requested to issue this report for submission by XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") to the Insurance Authority ("the IA").

*Directors' Responsibilities*

The directors are responsible for the preparation of a statement in accordance with the provisions of Part 9 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance ("the Statement") set out on pages ..... to .....<sup>31</sup> and to maintain at all times assets in Hong Kong which enable the Company to comply with the requirement of section 25A of the Ordinance. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Statement and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In addition, the directors are also responsible for ensuring that the Company maintains proper records at all times in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance.

*Our Independence and Quality Control*

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"), which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

The firm applies Hong Kong Standard on Quality Control 1<sup>32</sup> and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the matters referred to in paragraph 4(1A)(b) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance, based on our work performed and to report our opinion.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised), *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and with reference to Practice Note 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the HKICPA. We have planned and performed our work to obtain reasonable assurance for giving our opinion below.

We have performed such procedures as we consider are necessary for the purpose of our report, which include:

- (i) on the basis of the work we performed in connection with the audit of the Company's financial information prepared under Parts 4 and 5 of the Third Schedule for the year ended 31 December 20X1, assessing whether records have been properly maintained in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance for the purpose of preparing the Statement;

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<sup>31</sup> The page numbers here should refer to the Statement and the accompanying supplementary information.

<sup>32</sup> HKSQC 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*

THE DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR OF AN INSURER AUTHORIZED  
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- (ii) comparing the Statement with the Company's records, and assessing whether the Statement has been properly prepared in accordance with those records and the requirements of Part 9 of the Third Schedule and whether the assets held by the Company, as shown in the Statement, enable it to comply with the requirement of Section 25A of the Ordinance as at 31 December 20X1; and
- (iii) comparing the assets held by the Company at two other dates during the year ended 31 December 20X1, as reflected in the Company's records, with the liabilities at the preceding financial year end date for the purpose of determining whether such assets enable it to comply with the requirement of section 25A of the Ordinance.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

*Opinion*

Based on the foregoing, in our opinion:

- (i) the Company maintained proper records in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance in respect of the year ended 31 December 20X1 for the purpose of preparing the Statement;
- (ii) the Statement has been properly prepared in accordance with those records;
- (iii) the value of assets and amount of liabilities, as shown in the Statement, have been determined in accordance with the Insurance Companies (General Business) (Valuation) Regulation;
- (iv) the relevant amount, as shown in the Statement, has been determined in accordance with Section 25A(1) of the Ordinance; and
- (v) the assets held by the Company, as shown in the Statement, enable it to comply with the requirement of section 25A of the Ordinance as at 31 December 20X1 and, based on the records of the Company, the assets held by the Company as at [date 2\*] and [date 3 \*] enable it to comply with the requirement of section 25A of the Ordinance as at those dates#.

*Intended Users and Purpose*

This report is intended solely for submission by the Company to the IA and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report<sup>33</sup>.

ABC & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]  
[Auditor's Address]  
Date

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<sup>33</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.



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- \* The two dates selected must be not less than three months apart.
- \*\* Branch financial statements prepared in accordance with the HKFRSs will normally be required for the financial year ended on or after 31 December 2015.
- # Where the Company has received a notice under section 25B of the Ordinance then the opinion "(v)" will need to be amended accordingly as follows:
  - (v) the assets held by the Company, as shown in the Statement, enable it to comply with the requirement stipulated in section 25B of the Ordinance as at [date##].
- ## The date specified in the notice issued under section 25B of the Ordinance.

**Example 4(d) - General insurer / Composite insurer (Hong Kong Branch of an overseas insurance company which has obtained an Accounting Concession under Section 17(2) of the Insurance Companies Ordinance): an auditor's report on statement to be submitted to the Insurance Authority under Part 9 of the Third Schedule**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

Pursuant to paragraph 4(1A)(b) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Insurance Companies Ordinance ("the Ordinance"), we have been requested to issue this report for submission by XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") to the Insurance Authority ("the IA").

*Directors' Responsibilities*

The directors are responsible for the preparation of a statement in accordance with the provisions of Part 9 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance ("the Statement") set out on pages ..... to .....<sup>34</sup> and to maintain at all times assets in Hong Kong which enable the Company to comply with the requirement of section 25A of the Ordinance. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Statement and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In addition, the directors are also responsible for ensuring that the Company maintains proper records at all times in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance.

*Our Independence and Quality Control*

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"), which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

The firm applies Hong Kong Standard on Quality Control 1<sup>35</sup> and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the matters referred to in paragraph 4(1A)(b) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance, based on our work performed and to report our opinion.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised), *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and with reference to Practice Note 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the HKICPA. We have planned and performed our work to obtain reasonable assurance for giving our opinion below.

We have performed such procedures as we consider are necessary for the purpose of our report, which include:

- (i) on the basis of the work we performed in connection with the audit of the Company's Hong Kong Branch financial statements prepared under Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards\*\* for the year ended 31 December 20X1, assessing whether records have been properly maintained in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance for the purpose of preparing the Statement;

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<sup>34</sup> The page numbers here should refer to the Statement and the accompanying supplementary information.

<sup>35</sup> HKSQC 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*

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- (ii) comparing the Statement with the Company's records, and assessing whether the Statement has been properly prepared in accordance with those records and the requirements of Part 9 of the Third Schedule and whether the assets held by the Company, as shown in the Statement, enable it to comply with the requirement of Section 25A of the Ordinance as at 31 December 20X1; and
- (iii) comparing the assets held by the Company at two other dates during the year ended 31 December 20X1, as reflected in the Company 's records, with the liabilities at the preceding financial year end date for the purpose of determining whether such assets enable it to comply with the requirement of section 25A of the Ordinance.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

*Opinion*

Based on the foregoing, in our opinion:

- (i) the Company maintained proper records in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance in respect of the year ended 31 December 20X1 for the purpose of preparing the Statement;
- (ii) the Statement has been properly prepared in accordance with those records;
- (iii) the value of assets and amount of liabilities, as shown in the Statement, have been determined in accordance with the Insurance Companies (General Business) (Valuation) Regulation;
- (iv) the relevant amount, as shown in the Statement, has been determined in accordance with Section 25A(1) of the Ordinance; and
- (v) the assets held by the Company, as shown in the Statement, enable it to comply with the requirement of section 25A of the Ordinance as at 31 December 20X1 and, based on the records of the Company, the assets held by the Company as at [date 2\*] and [date 3 \*] enable it to comply with the requirement of section 25A of the Ordinance as at those dates#.

*Intended Users and Purpose*

This report is intended solely for submission by the Company to the IA and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report<sup>36</sup>.

ABC & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]  
[Auditor's Address]  
Date

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<sup>36</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

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- \* The two dates selected must be not less than three months apart.
- \*\* Branch financial statements prepared in accordance with the HKFRSs will normally be required for the financial year ended on or after 31 December 2015.
- # Where the Branch has received a notice under section 25B of the Ordinance then the opinion "(v)" will need to be amended accordingly as follows:
  - (v) the assets held by the Company, as shown in the Statement, enable it to comply with the requirement stipulated in section 25B of the Ordinance as at [date##].
- ## The date specified in the notice issued under section 25B of the Ordinance.

**Example 5 - Long term insurer/ Composite insurer: an auditor's report  
on Form HKL1 to be submitted to the Insurance Authority  
under Part 8 of the Third Schedule**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

Pursuant to paragraph 4(1A)(aa) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Insurance Companies Ordinance (the "Ordinance"), we have been requested to issue this report for submission by XYZ Insurance Company Limited (the "Company") to the Insurance Authority ("the IA").

*Directors' Responsibilities*

Pursuant to the provisions of Part 8 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance, the directors have a responsibility for ensuring that Form HKL1 set out on pages ..... to .....has been properly compiled from the records of the Company in accordance with the Guide to Forms HKL1, HKL2 and HKL3 issued by the IA on 26 February 2004, as further updated on 7 April 2004. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of Form HKL1 and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In addition, the directors are also responsible for ensuring that the Company maintains proper records at all times in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance.

*Our Independence and Quality Control*

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"), which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

The firm applies Hong Kong Standard on Quality Control 1<sup>37</sup> and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the matters referred to in paragraph 4(1A)(aa) of Part 1 of the Third Schedule to the Ordinance, based on our work performed and to report our opinion.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and with reference to Practice Note 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the HKICPA. We have planned and performed our work to obtain reasonable assurance for giving our opinion below.

Our engagement includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting that proper records have been maintained by the Company in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance for the purpose of preparing the attached Form HKL1, and that the attached Form HKL1 has been properly compiled from the records of the Company in accordance with the Guide to Forms HKL1, HKL2 and HKL3 issued by the IA on 26 February 2004, as further updated on 7 April 2004.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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<sup>37</sup> HKSQC 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*

THE DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR OF AN INSURER AUTHORIZED  
UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE

*Opinion*

Based on the foregoing, in our opinion:

- a. the Company has maintained proper records in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance in respect of the year ended [*year end date*] for the purposes of preparing the attached Form HKL1; and
- b. the attached Form HKL1 has been properly prepared in accordance with those records.

*Intended Users and Purpose*

This report is intended solely for submission by the Company to the IA and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report<sup>38</sup>.

ABC & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]  
[*Auditor's Address*]  
Date

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<sup>38</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

**Appendix 3**  
**Solvency requirements**

Business	Solvency requirements	Relevant amount	Maximum relevant amount	Minimum relevant amount
General	An excess of assets over liabilities by the relevant amount	20% of relevant premium income or relevant claims outstanding, whichever is higher	HK\$40 million plus 10% of relevant premium income or relevant claims outstanding in excess of HK\$200 million	HK\$10 million (HK\$20 million if authorized for statutory business)
Long term	An excess of assets over liabilities by the greater of the relevant amount and the required margin of solvency calculated in accordance with the Insurance Companies (Margin of Solvency) Regulation*	Other than classes G & H: HK\$2 million  Classes G & H: HK\$ nil	-	-
Composite	An excess of assets over liabilities by the aggregate of the amounts for general and long term business	-	-	-
Captive	An excess of assets over liabilities by the relevant amount	5% of net premium income or net claims outstanding, whichever is higher	-	HK\$2 million

\* At least the greater of HK\$2 million and one-sixth of the margin of solvency must be held in funds maintained in respect of its long term business (other than classes G & H business specified in Part 2 of the First Schedule to the Ordinance).

## **Appendix 4**

### **Example reports for other reporting**

- Example 1 – Report by the auditor on annual return on employees' compensation gross premium
- Example 2 – Report on levies paid to the insolvency scheme for motor compensation insurance
- Example 3 – Report on levies paid to the insolvency scheme for employees' compensation insurance



## **Example 1 – Report by the auditor on annual return on employees' compensation gross premium**

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON ANNUAL RETURN ON EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION GROSS PREMIUM**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

Pursuant to the Agreement for Provision of Facility covering Terrorism Risks in respect of Employees' Compensation Insurance Business entered into between XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") dated [date] ("Agreement"), we have been requested to report on the attached Annual Return on Employees' Compensation Gross Premium for the [\*year ended [date]/period from [date] to [date]] ("Annual Return").

#### *Directors' Responsibilities*

Pursuant to the Agreement, the directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Return. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation of the Annual Return. In addition, the directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company maintains proper records at all times in accordance with section 16 of the Insurance Companies Ordinance ("the Ordinance").

#### *Our Independence and Quality Control*

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"), which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

The firm applies Hong Kong Standard on Quality Control 1<sup>39</sup> and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Annual Return, based on our work performed and to report our opinion.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised), *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and with reference to Practice Note 810.2 (Revised), *The Duties of the Auditor of an Insurer authorized under the Insurance Companies Ordinance* issued by the HKICPA. We have planned and performed our work to obtain reasonable assurance for giving our opinion below.

Our engagement includes examining evidence supporting that proper records have been maintained in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance and the amounts in the Annual Return, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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<sup>39</sup> HKSQC 1, *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements*

THE DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR OF AN INSURER AUTHORIZED  
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*Opinion*

Based on the foregoing, in our opinion:

- (a) the Company has maintained proper records in accordance with section 16 of the Ordinance for the purpose of preparing the Annual Return; and
- (b) the Annual Return has been properly prepared, in all material respects, from the books and records of the Company.

*Intended Users and Purpose*

This report is intended for filing with the Government of the HKSAR pursuant to the Agreement and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by, anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report<sup>40</sup>.

ABC & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]  
[Auditor's Address]  
Date

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<sup>40</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

## Example 2 – Report on levies paid to the insolvency scheme for motor compensation insurance

### REPORT OF FACTUAL FINDINGS

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

We have performed the procedures agreed with you and enumerated below with respect to the premium surcharges ("the Surcharges") for motor insurance business of XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 20X1 as set forth in the accompanying schedules. The procedures were performed solely to assist you in connection with the requirements of the Motor Insurers' Bureau of Hong Kong as to annual reporting of the Surcharges payable according to the books and records of the Company.

Our engagement was undertaken in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Related Services 4400 "Engagements to Perform Agreed-Upon Procedures Regarding Financial Information" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). The procedures performed are summarised as follows:

1. We obtained and checked the summation of the 20X1 quarterly returns prepared by the Company regarding the determination of Surcharges due in respect of the First Fund and the Insolvency Fund Scheme ("the Quarterly Returns").
2. We compared the Surcharges as stated in the Quarterly Returns to the books and records of the Company.

We report our findings below:

- (a) With respect to item 1, we found the summation of the Surcharges payable for motor insurance business of the Company for the year ended 31 December 20X1 to be correct.
- (b) With respect to item 2, we found the amounts to be in agreement.

Because the above procedures do not constitute an assurance engagement made in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAAs"), Hong Kong Standards on Review Engagements ("HKSREs") or Hong Kong Standards on Assurance Engagements ("HKSAEs"), we do not express any assurance on the figures as set forth in the accompanying schedules.

Had we performed additional procedures or had we performed an assurance engagement on the information provided in accordance with HKSAAs, HKSREs or HKSAEs issued by the HKICPA, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

Our report is prepared solely for the purpose set forth in the first paragraph of this report and for your information and use of the Company for submission to the Motor Insurers' Bureau of Hong Kong and is not to be used for any other purpose or to be distributed to any other parties. This report relates only to items specified above and does not extend to any financial statements of the Company, taken as a whole.

ABC & Co.

Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]

[Auditor's Address]

Date

### **Example 3 – Report on levies paid to the insolvency scheme for employees' compensation insurance**

#### **REPORT OF FACTUAL FINDINGS**

To the Directors of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

We have performed the procedures agreed with you and enumerated below with respect to the Gross Premium Income as defined under Clause 1.01 of the Insolvency Fund Agreement and the amount of contributions payable ("the Contributions") for employees' compensation business of XYZ Insurance Company Limited ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 20X1 as set forth in the accompanying schedules. The procedures were performed solely to assist you in connection with the requirements of the Employees Compensation Insurer Insolvency Bureau as to annual reporting of the Gross Premium Income and the Contributions according to the books and records of the Company.

Our engagement was undertaken in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Related Services 4400 "Engagements to perform agreed-upon procedures regarding financial information" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). The procedures performed are summarised as follows:

1. We obtained and checked the summation of the 20X1 quarterly returns prepared by the Company regarding the Gross Premium Income and the determination of Contributions due in respect of the Insolvency Fund Scheme ("the Quarterly Returns").
2. We compared the Gross Premium Income and the Contributions as stated in the Quarterly Returns to the books and records of the Company.

We report our findings below:

- (c) With respect to item 1, we found the summation of the Gross Premium Income and the amount of the Contributions payable for employees' compensation business of the Company for the year ended 31 December 20X1 to be correct.
- (d) With respect to item 2, we found the amounts to be in agreement.

Because the above procedures do not constitute an assurance engagement made in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSA"), Hong Kong Standards on Review Engagements ("HKSREs") or Hong Kong Standards on Assurance Engagements ("HKSAEs"), we do not express any assurance on the figures as set forth in the accompanying schedules.

Had we performed additional procedures or had we performed an assurance engagement on the information provided in accordance with HKSA, HKSREs or HKSAEs issued by the HKICPA, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

Our report is prepared solely for the purpose set forth in the first paragraph of this report and for your information and use of the Company for the submission to the Employees Compensation Insurer Insolvency Bureau and is not to be used for any other purpose or to be distributed to any other parties. This report relates only to items specified above and does not extend to any financial statements of the Company, taken as a whole.

ABC & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]  
[Auditor's Address]  
Date

## **Appendix 5**

### **Example auditor's reports on Hong Kong Branch of an overseas insurance company**

- Example 1 – modified auditor's report on financial statements prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards for the first time and where comparative information has not been presented and disclosed as required under Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards
- Example 2 – unmodified auditor's report on financial statements prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards pursuant to the conditions of accounting concession

**Example 1 - modified auditor's report on financial statements prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards for the first time and where comparative information has not been presented and disclosed as required under Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards**

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a branch that have been prepared by the chief executive of the branch in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (a general purpose framework) to assist the branch in complying with the conditions of the accounting concession. The directors do not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.<sup>41</sup>
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the chief executive's responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.<sup>42</sup>
- The comparative information has not been presented as required by Hong Kong Accounting Standard 1 (Revised), *Presentation of Financial Statements*. The misstatement is deemed to be material but not pervasive to the financial statements (i.e., a qualified opinion is appropriate).
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised).<sup>43</sup>
- Use of the auditor's report is restricted.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.<sup>44</sup>
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information<sup>45</sup> prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law or regulation.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Branch of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of XYZ Insurance Company Limited's Hong Kong Branch ("the Branch") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 20X1, and the [statement of profit or loss and] the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

<sup>41</sup> According to paragraph A14 of HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*, the financial statements prepared for a specific purpose may be prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework because the intended users have determined that such general purpose financial statements meet their financial information needs.

<sup>42</sup> HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*.

<sup>43</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*.

<sup>44</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*.

<sup>45</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph 12(c)

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Branch as at 31 December 20X1, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA").

### **Basis for Qualified Opinion**

As explained in [note X] to the financial statements, the comparative information for the year ended 31 December 20X1 has not been presented as required by Hong Kong Accounting Standard 1 (Revised) "Presentation of Financial Statements" which requires an entity to present comparative information in respect of the preceding period for all amounts reported in the current period's financial statements. We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Branch in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

### **Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use**

We draw attention to note [X] to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to assist the Branch in complying with the conditions of the accounting concession. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the submissions by the Branch to the Hong Kong Insurance Authority and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.<sup>46</sup>

### **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information* – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]

### **Responsibilities of Chief Executive and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>47</sup>**

Pursuant to the conditions of the accounting concession under section 17(2) of the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance granted by the Hong Kong Insurance Authority, the Chief Executive is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA, and for such internal control as the Chief Executive determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Executive is responsible for assessing the Branch's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Chief Executive either intends to liquidate the Branch or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Branch's financial reporting process.

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<sup>46</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

<sup>47</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Paragraph 41(b) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that when law, regulation or HKSA's expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Branch's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Chief Executive.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Chief Executive's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Branch's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Branch to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

ABC & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]  
[Auditor Address]  
[Date]



## Example 2 - unmodified auditor's report on financial statements prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards pursuant to the conditions of accounting concession

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a branch that have been prepared by the chief executive of the branch in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (a general purpose framework) to assist the branch in complying with the conditions of the accounting concession. The directors do not have a choice of financial reporting frameworks.<sup>48</sup>
- The applicable financial reporting framework is a fair presentation framework.
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the chief executive's responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210.<sup>49</sup>
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised).<sup>50</sup>
- Use of the auditor's report is restricted.
- The auditor is not required, and has otherwise not decided, to communicate key audit matters in accordance with HKSA 701.<sup>51</sup>
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information<sup>52</sup> prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- The auditor has no other reporting responsibilities required under local law or regulation.

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Branch of XYZ Insurance Company Limited

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of XYZ Insurance Company Limited's Hong Kong Branch ("the Branch") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the statement of financial position as at [Date], and the [statement of profit or loss and] the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Branch as at [Date], and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA").

<sup>48</sup> According to paragraph A14 of HKSA 706 (Revised), *Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report*, the financial statements prepared for a specific purpose may be prepared in accordance with a general purpose framework because the intended users have determined that such general purpose financial statements meet their financial information needs.

<sup>49</sup> HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*.

<sup>50</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*.

<sup>51</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*.

<sup>52</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph 12(c)

## **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Branch in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use**

We draw attention to note [X] to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to assist the Branch in complying with the conditions of the accounting concession. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the submissions by the Branch to the Hong Kong Insurance Authority and is not intended to be, and should not be, distributed to or used by anyone for any other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of our report. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.<sup>53</sup>

## **Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]**

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised), The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]*

## **Responsibilities of Chief Executive and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>54</sup>**

Pursuant to the conditions of the accounting concession under section 17(2) of the Hong Kong Insurance Companies Ordinance granted by the Hong Kong Insurance Authority, the Chief Executive is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA, and for such internal control as the Chief Executive determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Executive is responsible for assessing the Branch's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Chief Executive either intends to liquidate the Branch or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Branch's financial reporting process.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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<sup>53</sup> The above wording has been agreed with the Insurance Authority. However, auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report". Any deviation from the above wording may not be acceptable to the Insurance Authority.

<sup>54</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

THE DUTIES OF THE AUDITOR OF AN INSURER AUTHORIZED  
UNDER THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ORDINANCE

Paragraph 41(b) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that when law, regulation or HKSAs expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Branch's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Chief Executive.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Chief Executive's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Branch's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Branch to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

ABC & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants (Practising) [or Certified Public Accountants]  
[Auditor Address]  
[Date]