

## [Principle 4.9] Independence Criteria and Qualification of Independent Directors

The Company's external director is deemed to be less independent if the principal or his immediate family falls under any of the following items.

### Criteria of Independency for External Director in NSG

External Directors of NSG falling into any of the following categories are considered to lack independency as an external director.

(1) As to the External Director him/herself, where:-

- a) He/she is, has become or once served as an executive Director, executive officer, corporate officer or employee of the NSG Group (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Executive/Employee");
  - b) i) He/she has a business relationship with the Company and received from the Company the following sum during any single financial year for him/her/(it) of those past three years most recently ended or (in case where the one having such business relationship is an organization such as legal entity, then he/she serves or served as Executive/Employee of the organization), or NSG Group is a Major Business Partner for him/her/it
    - Aggregate payments equivalent to more than 1% of their consolidated sales during the subject year; OR,
  - ii) he/she has a business relationship with the Company and paid the Company the following sum during the Company's any single financial year of those past three years most recently ended, or he/she is a Major Business partner of the NSG Group (or in case where the one having such business relationship is an organization such as legal entity, then he/she serves or served as Executive/Employee of the organization);
    - Aggregate payments equivalent to more than 1% of the Company's consolidated sales during the subject year
- Note: For the purpose of this criteria protocols, the expression "Major Business Partner(s)" means, as between the NSG Group and the group having business relationship with us, those persons which could be, in terms of magnitude of its business relationship, expected to exert the same degree of influence on the decision-making process of the other as would exist among parent-subsidary relationship or affiliated group.
- c) He/she is an Certified Public Accountant retained as Accounting Auditor for the Company (or in case the accounting firm is retained as Accounting Auditor then he/she serves as partner or employee of the firm) or he/she has engaged in any audit activities of the NSG Group businesses at any time during the past three years;
  - d) He/she is one of those consultants, accountants or lawyers who have received substantial amount of cash or other financial gains (equivalent to JPY 10 million or more per financial year of the Company) from the NSG Group (or in case where an organization such as consulting, accounting or law firm is the one having received such cash or gains, then he/she belongs to any such organization);
  - e) He/she has material business relationship with or material interest in the NSG Group (or in case where an organization such as legal entity has such relationship or interest, he/she is an Executive/Employee of the organization) (For this purpose, the fact of receipt of the sum in the form of donation or loans from the NSG Group equivalent to JPY 10 million or more on an average per annum for the immediate past three financial years of the Company is deemed to constitute such material interest in the NSG Group);
  - f) He/she holds cross-Directorships or has significant links with other Directors/Executive Officers of the Company through involvement in other companies/bodies;
  - g) He/she is a major beneficial shareholder who is entitled to 10% or more of the total voting rights of the Company (or in case where the organization such as legal entity falls into such a shareholder, then he/she currently is or was employed as an Executive/Employee of the organization at any time during the past five years); or
  - h) any individual who has fallen under d), e) or f) above during the Company's any single financial year of those past three financial years most recently ended.

(2) As to the close relative(s) of the External Director (his or her spouse, or relative (s) within the second degree of kinship or who lives in the same residence ), where:-

- a) He/she is or was in the past five years an executive Director/officer or senior employee of the NSG Group (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Senior Manager");
- b) i) He/she has a business relationship with the Company and received from the Company the following sum during any single financial year for him/her/(it) of those past three years most recently ended (in case where

the organization such as legal entity has such business relationship, then he/she serves or served as a Senior Manager thereof), OR the NSG Group is a Major Business Partner for him/her/it

➤ Aggregate payments equivalent to more than 1% of their consolidated sales during the subject year ; OR

ii) He/she has a business relationship with the Company and paid the Company the following sum in any single financial year of the Company during its past three years most recently ended, or is a Major Business Partner of the NSG Group (in case where an organization such as legal entity has such business relationship, then he/she serves or served as a Senior Manager of the organization);

➤ Aggregate payments equivalent to more than 1% of the Company's consolidated sales during the subject year

c) He/she is a Certified Public Accountant retained as an Accounting Auditor (or in case the accounting firm is retained as Accounting Auditor then he/she is a partner or Senior Manager thereof) or has engaged in any audit activities of the NSG Group businesses at any time during the past three years;

d) He/she is one of those consultants, accountants or lawyers who have received substantial amount of cash or other financial gains (equivalent to JPY 10 million or more per financial year of the Company) from the NSG Group (in case where an organization such as consulting, accounting or law firm is the one having received such cash or gains, then he/she serves as partner, associate or Senior Manager of the organization);

e) He/she has material business relationship with or is materially interested in the NSG Group (in case where an organization such as legal entity has such relationship or interest, then he/she is a Senior Manager of the organization) (For this purpose, the fact of receipt of the sum in the form of donation or loans from the NSG Group equivalent to JPY 10 million or more on an average per annum for the past three financial years of the Company most recently ended is deemed to constitute such material interest in the NSG Group.);

f) He/she is a major beneficial shareholder who is entitled to 10% or more of the total voting rights of the Company (in case where the organization such as legal entity falls into such a shareholder, then he/she currently serves as Senior Manager of the organization); or

g) He/she has fallen into either or both of d) and/or e) at any time during the past three financial years of the Company most recently ended.

## **Policies and procedures for the appointment of the nomination of the director candidates**

The Nomination Committee recommends to the Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders candidates for the Board of Directors from among those who meet the following criteria:

1. Being a person of good character and high ethical standards.
2. Upholding and promoting compliance with laws and regulations.
3. Being fit to hold office and able to fulfil the duties required.
4. Possessing excellent business acumen and the ability to make judgements objectively.
5. Having abundant leadership experience and being team orientated.
6. Having no personal interest or business relationship that might affect management decisions in our Group's business areas. ("Criteria of Independency for an External Director" is defined separately at:
7. Having broad business experience globally or multi-nationally and/or such specialized knowledge in market, technology, accounting, law, succession planning or other specific fields as required by the Group.
8. Having sufficient time to participate in meetings of the Board and the Committees of which he/she would be a member, and being qualified to fulfil the duties as a member of one of any three committees on which he/she would sit: Nomination Committee, Audit Committee or Compensation Committee.