

**A.M. CASTLE & CO.  
AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibility relating to the Company's accounting and reporting practices, the quality and integrity of its financial reports, the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, adherence to the Company's ethics policy, the adequacy of internal controls, the effectiveness of risk management, the independence, qualifications and performance of the Company's independent public accounting firm, and the performance of the internal audit function. In doing so, it is the responsibility of the Audit Committee to maintain free and open means of communication between the Committee, the independent public accounting firm, the internal auditor, and the management of the Company. The Audit Committee will periodically hold private sessions with management, the internal auditor and representatives of the independent public accounting firm.

**Organization:**

The Audit Committee's membership, including the number, qualifications and independence of its members, its written charter and its responsibilities shall comply with the requirements of the federal securities laws and the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the listing requirements of the New York Stock Exchange. The Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, shall appoint the members of the Audit Committee, as well as its chairman. Audit committee members shall not simultaneously serve on the audit committee of more than two other public companies unless the Board of Directors determines that such service will not impair the director's ability to effectively serve on the Audit Committee of the Company.

The Committee shall meet as often as it determines necessary, but not less than four times annually. Meetings of the Committee may be called at any time by the chairman of the Committee or by any member of the Committee. The Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's outside counsel or a representative of the Company's independent public accounting firm to attend any meeting of the Committee or to meet with any member of or consultant to the Committee.

**Responsibilities and Duties:**

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Audit Committee believes its policies and procedures should remain flexible in order to best react to changing conditions and to evidence to the directors and shareholders that the accounting and reporting practices of the Company continue to comply with all of the applicable requirements and that they

remain of the highest quality practicable. The Committee will review and reassess at least annually the Audit Committee's charter in light of then current circumstances and changes in regulations, and recommend any proposed changes to its charter to the Board of Directors.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Audit Committee shall:

(a) be directly responsible for the appointment, retention, compensation and oversight of the work of the Company's independent public accounting firm. The Committee may, if it so determines advisable, seek shareholder ratification of the appointment. The Company's independent public accounting firm will report directly to the Committee.

(b) pre-approve all auditing and non-audit services provided by the Company's independent public accounting firm. The Committee may delegate to one or more designated members of the Committee the authority to grant such pre-approvals, which shall be presented to the full Committee for its ratification at its next meeting.

(c) discuss with representatives of the independent public accounting firm and management the proposed scope and staffing of the annual audit and quarterly reviews for the current year.

(d) at least annually, obtain and review a report from the independent public accounting firm describing (i) the firm's quality control procedures, (ii) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality review or peer review of that firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the firm and any steps taken by the firm to deal with such issues and (iii) from an independence perspective, all relationships between the independent public accounting firm and the Company. After reviewing such report and the independent public accounting firm's work throughout the year, the Committee shall evaluate the independent public accountant's qualifications, performance and independence. Such review shall also include an evaluation of the lead partner of the independent public accounting firm. In making its evaluation, the Committee will take into account the input of management and the Company's internal auditor. The Committee will then present its conclusions with respect to the independent public accounting firm to the full board.

(e) ensure that the rotation of the partner having primary responsibility for the audit as well as the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit is in conformity with governmental rules and regulations as to the number of years in which they can serve in such roles. In this connection, the Committee shall consider whether, to assure continuing auditor independence, it is appropriate to adopt a policy of rotating the independent public accounting firm on a periodic basis.

The Committee shall have the authority, to the extent that it deems necessary or appropriate, to retain independent legal, accounting or other advisors. The Company shall

provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment of compensation for any such advisors or consultants.

The Committee shall set clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the Company's independent public accounting firm which are consistent with SEC rules and regulations.

**Financial and Disclosure Matters:**

The Committee shall review and discuss with management and representatives of the independent public accounting firm the Company's annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements, including the Company's specific disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations", to determine significant financial reporting issues, any changes made in the application of accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates, the clarity of disclosures and the existence of significant or unusual transactions.

In that connection, the Committee will receive reports from the Company's independent public accounting firm on:

- (a) all critical accounting policies and practices followed by the Company;
- (b) all alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles which have been discussed with management including the ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures or treatments and the method preferred by the independent public accounting firm; and
- (c) any other written communications between the independent public accounting firm and management, including any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences resulting from the firm's audit or review.

Prior to the release of the Company's quarterly or annual press releases, the Committee shall discuss with management the content of such releases including the use of any non-GAAP information, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies.

Prior to the filing of each quarterly Form 10-Q and annual Form 10-K, the Committee shall discuss with representatives of the independent public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 relating to the conduct of the audit, including any difficulties encountered in the course of the audit work, any restrictions on the scope of such audit work including access to requested information, and any significant disagreement with management.

The Committee will discuss with management the disclosures made by the Company's CEO and CFO during their certification process for the Form 10-Qs and Form 10-K

relating to any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or material weaknesses therein, and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal control system.

**Internal Audit Function:**

The Committee, on a regular basis, will review the internal audit function of the Company, including its independence and authority, the proposed plan for the coming year and the coordination of such plans with the independent public accounting firm. In that connection, the Committee will review on an annual basis the budget and staffing plans as well as any changes made to them.

The Company's senior internal audit executive will have a direct reporting responsibility to the Audit Committee. In that connection, the Committee will review and approve the appointment of that executive, including his or her annual compensation.

The Committee will review the internal audit activities and receive summaries of all internal audit reports together with management's responses and proposals for changes in policies and procedures, if any, including target dates for implementation.

**Other Matters:**

The Committee will review and approve procedures established for the receipt and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential anonymous submission by employees of the Company, through the "hotline" or otherwise, of any concerns which might bear on accounting or auditing matters or financial controls.

The Committee will discuss with management and representatives of the independent public accounting firm any correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies and any published reports which raise material concerns regarding the Company's financial statements or compliance policies.

At least annually, the Committee will discuss with management significant financial risks and exposures facing the Company, including, but not limited to, key liquidity, credit and market risks facing the Company. The Committee will also review the steps management has taken to monitor and control such risks and exposures, including the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies and the Company's insurance programs.

The Committee will discuss with the Company's General Counsel and/or outside counsel, at least on an annual basis, any legal or regulatory matters which may have a material impact on the financial statements or the Company's compliance policies.

The Committee will, at least annually, perform a self-evaluation of its performance and provide a report thereof to the governance committee of the board of directors.

The Committee will review the Company's code of ethics and activities designed to ensure compliance.

The Committee will coordinate with the human resources committee of the board of directors with respect to financial information used in executive compensation arrangements.

The Committee will report regularly on its activities and findings to the board of directors.

The Committee will perform any other actions necessary to comply with the regulations of the SEC or any other governing body to whom the Company's financial statements are required to be submitted.

The Committee will prepare the report of the audit committee required by the SEC to be included in the Company's annual meeting proxy statement.

**Limitation of Audit Committee Role:**

While the Audit Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to prepare the Company's financial statements such that disclosures are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and any applicable rules and regulations. These are the responsibility of management and the Company's independent public accounting firm.