



# Companies Act 2006

## 2006 CHAPTER 46

### PART 16

#### AUDIT

### CHAPTER 3

#### FUNCTIONS OF AUDITOR

#### *Signature of auditor's report*

#### **503 Signature of auditor's report**

- (1) The auditor's report must state the name of the auditor and be signed and dated.
- (2) Where the auditor is an individual, the report must be signed by him.
- (3) Where the auditor is a firm, the report must be signed by the senior statutory auditor in his own name, for and on behalf of the auditor.

#### **504 Senior statutory auditor**

- (1) The senior statutory auditor means the individual identified by the firm as senior statutory auditor in relation to the audit in accordance with—
  - (a) standards issued by the European Commission, or
  - (b) if there is no applicable standard so issued, any relevant guidance issued by—
    - (i) the Secretary of State, or
    - (ii) a body appointed by order of the Secretary of State.
- (2) The person identified as senior statutory auditor must be eligible for appointment as auditor of the company in question (see Chapter 2 of Part 42 of this Act).

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (3) The senior statutory auditor is not, by reason of being named or identified as senior statutory auditor or by reason of his having signed the auditor's report, subject to any civil liability to which he would not otherwise be subject.
- (4) An order appointing a body for the purpose of subsection (1)(b)(ii) is subject to negative resolution procedure.

#### **505 Names to be stated in published copies of auditor's report**

- (1) Every copy of the auditor's report that is published by or on behalf of the company must—
  - (a) state the name of the auditor and (where the auditor is a firm) the name of the person who signed it as senior statutory auditor, or
  - (b) if the conditions in section 506 (circumstances in which names may be omitted) are met, state that a resolution has been passed and notified to the Secretary of State in accordance with that section.
- (2) For the purposes of this section a company is regarded as publishing the report if it publishes, issues or circulates it or otherwise makes it available for public inspection in a manner calculated to invite members of the public generally, or any class of members of the public, to read it.
- (3) If a copy of the auditor's report is published without the statement required by this section, an offence is committed by—
  - (a) the company, and
  - (b) every officer of the company who is in default.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

#### **506 Circumstances in which names may be omitted**

- (1) The auditor's name and, where the auditor is a firm, the name of the person who signed the report as senior statutory auditor, may be omitted from—
  - (a) published copies of the report, and
  - (b) the copy of the report delivered to the registrar under Chapter 10 of Part 15 (filing of accounts and reports),if the following conditions are met.
- (2) The conditions are that the company—
  - (a) considering on reasonable grounds that statement of the name would create or be likely to create a serious risk that the auditor or senior statutory auditor, or any other person, would be subject to violence or intimidation, has resolved that the name should not be stated, and
  - (b) has given notice of the resolution to the Secretary of State, stating—
    - (i) the name and registered number of the company,
    - (ii) the financial year of the company to which the report relates, and
    - (iii) the name of the auditor and (where the auditor is a firm) the name of the person who signed the report as senior statutory auditor.