

Internal control over financial reporting

Cloetta's internal control over financial reporting is based on the framework published by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO framework). The key objectives of Cloetta's internal control environment for financial reporting are that it is appropriately structured and effective, provides reliable reports and complies with any applicable laws and regulations.

The Board of Directors has defined policies regarding processes, roles and responsibilities that are vital for financial reporting and the internal control environment of the company.

Roles and responsibilities

The Board of Directors is responsible for establishing fundamental rules and guidelines for internal control. The audit committee assists the Board of Directors with its oversight of the performance of the company's risk management function and internal control insofar as these affect the company's quality and integrity of financial reporting. The Board of Directors and the audit committee interact directly with the external auditors.

Where the Board of Directors is responsible for establishing fundamental rules and guidelines, the President and CEO is responsible for the design effectiveness, implementation and supervision of monitoring of the internal control environment within the Group. The CFO is responsible for the design and operating effectiveness of the internal control environment within the Group. At a local level, the design and operating effectiveness of the internal control environment is the responsibility of each of the area Presidents and local and regional finance teams.

Control environment

The foundation for Cloetta's internal control environment is the company's corporate culture and behaviour, amongst others, which are reflected in:

- Performing our business with integrity and ethical values. Cloetta's Code of Conduct, fraud and whistleblower policy, anti-bribery and anti-corruption policy and trade control policy form the platform for a set of

guidelines and principles built on Cloetta's core values that govern financial reporting.

- The management's conduct and working methods based on a clearly defined working process described in documents such as:
 - Rules of procedure for the Board of Directors
 - Instructions for the President and CEO
 - Instructions for financial reporting
 - Finance policy
 - Rules of procedure for and instructions to the audit committee
- Rules for representations, commitments and disbursements to third parties clearly defined in the Group's authorization framework
- Processes for leading and developing employees in the organization and the attention dedicated to these matters by Cloetta's Board of Directors

Financial reporting competencies

The Group Management Team and local management teams ensure that the company has employees with the right competency in all key (financial) positions and that there are procedures in place to ensure that employees in key (financial) positions have the requisite knowledge and skills.

Human Resources (HR)

The guidelines and processes for management of human resources play a fundamental role in Cloetta's system of internal control and help ensure the effectiveness of internal control. Key processes include compensation and benefits, HR development, recruitment, allocation of resources, performance management and routines for feedback to the employees.

Risk assessment

Central and local risk assessments are prepared and monitored periodically. In these assessments the likelihood that risks could occur and the potential impact they may have are assessed. Furthermore, the velocity at which a risk could occur is considered. Business risks as well as financial reporting and other risks are considered in the risk assessments.

Central and local financial reporting risks are assessed with respect to account balance assertions such as existence, completeness, rights and obligations, valuation and allocation, presentation and disclosure assertions and financial impact. The internal control environment is designed to mitigate risks identified to a level considered acceptable by management.

Certain specific risks, for example risks related to taxes and legal matters and other financial risks, are reviewed proactively on a periodic basis. Risks and risk management are reported on separately in more detail in the annual report, on pages 69–72. Tax, legal and other financial risks are reflected based on management's best estimate and judgement, and in accordance with the applicable accounting standards in the consolidated financial statements.

Fraud risk

Cloetta's Group Management Team, local management teams and the central finance team are responsible for addressing the risk of fraud and for carrying out a continuous assessment of the risk for fraud with respect to the prevailing attitudes, incentives and opportunities to commit fraud. The Board of Directors issued a fraud and whistleblower policy aimed at preventing dishonest and/or fraudulent activity and to establish procedures for reporting fraudulent activities to Cloetta's management and/or audit committee.

In addition to the fraud and whistleblower policy, Cloetta has adopted an anti-bribery and anti-corruption policy. The purpose of the policy is to prevent bribery and corruption by any employee or third party acting on behalf of Cloetta.

The trade control policy summarizes potentially applicable sanctions and export control rules, and compliance procedures to be followed by all Cloetta employees. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to ensure compliance with all local trade control laws and regulations including countries through which shipments or financial transactions flow.

Basis for risk assessment

Existence, reported assets and liabilities exist on the reporting date.

Completeness, all transactions during the reporting period are recorded and reported.

Rights and obligations, assets are the rights of the organization and the liabilities are its obligations as of a given date.

Valuation and allocation, all items in the financial reporting are reported in compliance with IFRS valuation principles and are correctly calculated and summarized and appropriately recorded.

Presentation and disclosure, items in the financial reports are properly described, sorted and classified.

Process for financial reporting

Monthly

Collection of information

Local units report monthly according to an established timeframe in compliance with the applicable laws, regulations and accounting practices and the Group's accounting manual.

Controls

The Group's reporting system contains embedded controls. In addition, the central finance team carries out analytical controls as well controls of completeness and reasonability.

Processing and consolidation

Any corrections are implemented in dialogue with the affected parties. Reconciliation occurs.

Reporting

Reporting of operational and financial information to the Board of Directors and the Group Management Team.

Quarterly

Audit committee

The auditor attends every quarterly meeting. Possible actions are carried out in respect of the audit report.

External reporting

Cloetta publicly discloses its interim and year-end reports through press releases and publication on the company's website.

Control activities

Control activities are the policies and procedures that help ensure that management's directives are carried out and that the necessary actions are taken to address risks that may hinder the achievement of the company's objectives. Control activities occur throughout the organization, at all levels and in all functions. They include a range of activities as diverse as approvals, authorizations, verifications, reconciliations, reviews of operating performance, security of assets and segregation of duties.

Control activities are embedded in Cloetta's business processes and play a key role in ensuring effective internal control in the company. Local management is responsible for having all required control activities in place and maintained within their organizations. The CFO is responsible for ensuring that control activities are designed and operating effectively and are maintained at the central level. The control environment is based on a balanced mix of preventive and detective controls and of automated and manual controls. In addition to a standard set of automated controls embedded in Cloetta's central ERP system, local management teams are encouraged to have as many automated controls as possible, especially for routine transactions. Nevertheless, there are also manual control activities in place to verify that the automated controls function as intended and for non-routine transactions.

Continuous reviews are performed by the Group Management Team and local management teams to safeguard proper and accurate financial reporting. These reviews are incorporated into the business processes and are an important part of Cloetta's monitoring controls. The local management teams are responsible for ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations in their respective areas of responsibility. All identified financial reporting risks are covered by one or more control activities.

Monitoring and improvement

Cloetta continuously strengthens its internal control environment by evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of the environment. During the year, procedures are performed to verify the design and operating effectiveness in specific areas. These procedures are performed on a central and a local level and are intended to address any weaknesses or inefficiencies in the internal control environment. Internal control deficiencies detected through the ongoing monitoring activities or separate evaluations are reported upstream and corrective actions are taken to ensure continuous improvement of the internal control environment. On a quarterly basis the follow up and status of any weaknesses identified by internal procedures or external audits are reported and discussed with the persons involved and members of Cloetta's Group Management Team.

Reporting routines

An effective system for internal control requires sufficient, up-to-date and reliable information both of a financial and non-financial nature. As far as possible, management reporting is directly linked to the financial reporting and to the consolidation tool.

Local management teams report their financial results periodically and in accordance with the Group's accounting and reporting policies. This reporting is the basis for Cloetta's internal and external reporting and serves as a basis for legal and business reviews. The business reviews are carried out according to a structure in which sales, earnings, cash flow and other key ratios and trends of importance to the Group are compiled and form a basis for analysis and actions by the management and controllers at different levels. Other important and group-wide components of internal control and reporting routines include the annual business planning process and the monthly and quarterly forecasts.

To ensure the efficiency of internal control over financial reporting, reviews are

carried out by the Board of Directors, the audit committee, the President and CEO, the Group Management Team, the central finance and treasury team and the Group's various subsidiaries. Every month, financial reports are reviewed against budget and established targets, and the results of self-assessments in the Group's companies are reported. This review includes follow-up of observations that are reported by Cloetta's auditor.

The company's financial situation is discussed at each Board of Directors meeting. The Board's audit committee has important monitoring and control duties with regard to loans, investments, financial management, financial reporting and internal control. The audit committee and Board of Directors review and formally approve interim reports and the annual report prior to publication. In addition, the audit committee receives regular reports from the independent auditor.

Communication

Internal communication

Effective communication ensures the information flows in the organization. Separate communication channels are used to communicate internally, based on what is most effective.

External communication

It is also important to maintain communication about relevant policies with external parties such as customers, suppliers, regulators and shareholders.

External communication is carried out in accordance with legal requirements and the Corporate Communications and IR policy.

Evaluation of the need for a separate internal audit function

There is currently no internal audit function at Cloetta. The Board of Directors has reviewed this matter and determined that the existing structures for monitoring and evaluation provide a satisfactory basis for control. For certain special audit activities, external resources are used.