

13. Compliance with Section 409A

Awards granted under the Plan shall be designed and administered in such a manner that they are either exempt from the application of, or comply with, the requirements of Section 409A of the Code. To the extent that the Committee determines that any award granted under the Plan is subject to Section 409A of the Code, the Award Agreement shall incorporate the terms and conditions necessary to avoid the imposition of an additional tax under Section 409A of the Code upon a Participant. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan or any Award Agreement (unless the Award Agreement provides otherwise with specific reference to this Section 13): (a) an Award shall not be granted, deferred, accelerated, extended, paid out, settled, substituted, modified or adjusted under the Plan in a manner that would result in the imposition of an additional tax under Section 409A of the Code upon a Participant; and (b) if an Award is subject to Section 409A of the Code, and if the Participant holding the award is a “specified employee” (as defined in Section 409A of the Code, with such classification to be determined in accordance with the methodology established by the Company), then, to the extent required to avoid the imposition of an additional tax under Section 409A of the Code upon a Participant, no distribution or payment of any amount shall be made before the date that is six (6) months following the date of such Participant’s “separation from service” (as defined in Section 409A of the Code) or, if earlier, the date of the Participant’s death. Although the Company intends to administer the Plan so that Awards will be exempt from, or will comply with, the requirements of Section 409A of the Code, the Company does not warrant that any Award under the Plan will qualify for favorable tax treatment under Section 409A of the Code or any other provision of federal, state, local, or non-United States law. The Company shall not be liable to any Participant for any tax, interest, or penalties the Participant might owe as a result of the grant, holding, vesting, exercise, or payment of any Award under the Plan.

14. Performance Objectives

- a. In General. As provided in the Plan, the vesting, exercisability and/or payment of any Award may be conditioned upon the achievement of one or more Performance Objectives (any such Award, a “Performance Award”). Any Performance Objectives shall be based on the achievement of one or more criteria selected by the Committee, in its discretion, which may include, but shall not be limited to, the following: earnings, cash flow, cash flow return on gross capital, revenues, financial return ratios, market performance, shareholder return and/or value, operating profits, net profits, earnings per share, operating earnings per share, profit returns and margins, share price, working capital, and changes between years or periods, or returns over years or periods that are determined with respect to any of the above-listed performance criteria.
- b. Establishment of Performance Objectives. With respect to any Performance Award, the Committee shall establish in writing the Performance Objectives, the performance period, and any formula for computing the payout of the Performance Awards. Such terms and conditions shall be established in writing during the first ninety days of the applicable performance period (or by such other date as may be determined by the Committee, in its discretion).
- c. Certification of Performance. Prior to payment, exercise or vesting of any Performance Award, the Committee will certify in writing whether the applicable Performance Objectives and other material terms imposed on such Performance Award have been satisfied, and, if they have, ascertain the amount of the payout or vesting of the Performance Award.
- d. Adjustments. If the Committee determines that a change in the Company’s business, operations, corporate structure or capital structure, or in the manner in which it conducts its business, or other events or circumstances render the Performance Objectives unsuitable, the Committee may, in its discretion and without the consent of any Participant, adjust such Performance Objectives or the related level of achievement, in whole or in part, as the Committee deems appropriate and equitable, including, without limitation, to exclude the effects of events that are unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence (as determined in accordance with applicable financial accounting standards), cumulative effects of tax or accounting changes, discontinued operations, acquisitions, divestitures and material restructuring or asset impairment charges.