Changes Specifically affecting Private Limited Companies

Anand Banka Partner, Talati & Talati

Definition

- No. of members increased from 50 to 200
- Joint shareholders to be treated as one member
- Employees or Ex-employees are not included in the number of members
- Minimum share capital of Rs. 1,00,000

Commencement of Business

- Company not to commence business unless
 - Declaration filed with ROC that every subscriber to the MOA has paid the value of shares agreed to be taken by him
 - A verification of its registered address has been filed with ROC
- If declaration not filed within 182 days from date of incorporation, Registrar would initiate action to remove the name of the company

Further issue of shares

- Pre-emptive right of existing shareholder
- Minimum 15 days and max 30 days for acceptance of offer
- Notice of offer of rights shares can be dispatched through electronic mode
- If not right issue then -
 - To any person, if authorised by Special Resolution
 - At a price to be determined by registered valuer

Bonus shares

- Sec 205 (3) of 1956 Act permitted capitalisation of profits or reserves for issuing bonus shares
- Thus, a company can issue bonus shares by capitalisation of revaluation reserve
 - Supreme court decision in Bhagwati Developers v. Peerless General Finance & Investment Co (2005)
- SEBI (ICDR) Regulations, 2009 prohibits issue of Bonus shares by capitalisation of revaluation reserves
- Now, Companies Act 2013 also prohibits issuing Bonus shares by capitalising reserves created by revaluation of assets

Annual Return

- To be signed by Director and Company Secretary
- If no CS, then by a CS in practice
- If paid up capital > 5 crores AND Turnover > 25 crores
 - To be certified by a CS in practice
 - Stating that the company has complied with all the provisions of this Act
- Penalty on CS for non-compliance
 - Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lacs

Consolidation

- SEBI mandated consolidation
 - Only for Listed companies
 - Subsidiary, Associate and JV
- Companies Act 2013 mandated Consolidation
 - For all companies, private or public
 - Subsidiary (incl. Associate and JV)
- AS 21 was issued in 2001
- Practical exposure to SMP?
- IFRS: Private Companies net worth in excess of Rs. 500 crores

Inter-corporate Loans (Sec 185)

No company shall -

- Advance any loan (or give security or guarantee in relation to any loan)
- Including loan represented by a book debt
- To its director or any other person in whom the director is interested
 - Director of holding company
 - Partner of director
 - Firm in which director or relative is a partner
 - Pvt company in which director is a director or member
 - Any body corporate in which >= 25% voting power held by such director
 - Any body corporate BOD is accustomed to act in accordance with directions of BOD of lending company

Contd...

- Not applicable to
 - Loans to MD or WTD
 - Employee loan
 - By special resolution
 - \bullet In ordinary course of business, provided interest is charged @ bank rate declared by RBI

Notification

19 Nov 2013

• Sec 372A applicable till Sec 186 is notified

14 Feb 2014

- Sec 372A exempts loans, guarantees, security or investment by holing company to its wholly owned subsidiary
- Sec 185 prohibits guarantee, security by holding company in respect of loan taken by subsidiary company
- Hence, till Sec 186 is notified, Guarantee, security provided by holding to its subsidiary in respect of loans made by banks or financial institutions shall be exempted

Investments (Sec 186)

- Investments to be made through not more than 2 layers of investment companies
- Exemptions
 - Company incorporated outside India
 - For the purpose of meeting the requirements under any law or under any rule or regulation

-25,000 to 5 lacs - Imprisonment upto 2 years

Corporate Social Responsibility

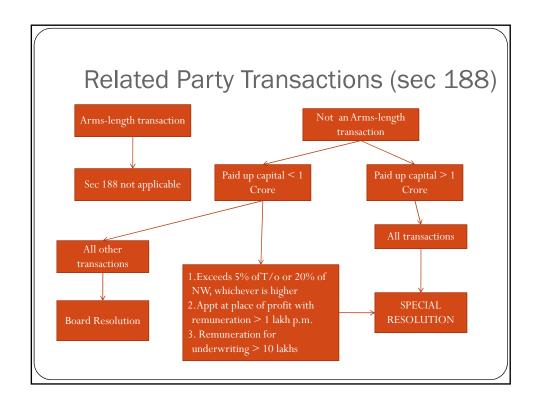
- Applicability
 - Net Worth >= 500 Cr
 - Turnover>= 1000 Cr
 - Net Profit $\geq = 5 \text{ Cr}$
- To spend 2% of Avg NP of last 3 years
- 3 Directors (incl. Independent Director)
 - 2 Directors allowed
 - Independent director not required

Director

- Atleast one director to be resident in India for more than 182 days in a calendar year
- Maximum directorships = 20 companies (max 10 public companies)
 - Previously 15 public companies (Pvt companies excluded)

Disqualification of Director

- Convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for 7 years or more
- Convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than 6 months, and 5 yrs has not elapsed since
- Convicted of offence of dealing with related party transactions at any time during the preceding 5 years
- Not obtained Director Identification Number
- Is a director of a company **whether public or private** which (Sec 274 (1) (g) of Companies Act. 956)
 - Has not filed annual accounts or returns for any continuing 3 years
 - Has failed to repay on due date its deposit or interest thereon, or redeem it debenture or pay dividend for one year or more



RPT (Sec 188) Issues

25,000 to 5 lacs

- Special resolution (Votes for = 3 * votes against)
- Pvt Company with 2 members who are also directors?
 - Interested directors cannot vote
 - Interested shareholders cannot vote
 - Hence, transaction possible only if it is at arm's length
- RPT definition different from AS 18, as in
 - KMP and directors of holding, subsidiary, associate and their relatives
 - Senior management of holding, subsidiary, associate and their relatives

Appointment of KMP

- Paid up share capital >= 5 crores
 - MD/ CEO/ Manager/ WTD
 - Whole-time Company Secretary
 - CFO
- Can be a KMP of only one company at the same time, except its subsidiary company
- Chairperson to be different from MD/ CEO, unless exempted by articles of association
- Term of MD = 5 years

Depreciation

- Component Accounting
- Depreciation based on useful life
- Example: P&M
 - Old -4.75% i.e. 20 years

• New − 15 years

Change in the useful life

Used <= 15 years

Used >= 15 years

Charge to retained earnings

1 lac to 5 lacs

Rotation of Auditors

- Proprietor = max 5 years
- Firm = max 2 tenors of 5 years each
- Cooling period of 3 years
- Confusion: what if resign in the 9th year?
- Auditor cannot provide other services
- OPC and small company excluded from rotation

Other important points...

- It cannot issue **securities** (eg. debentures) to more than 200 in a year (private placement)
- Form Stakeholders relationship committee if security holders
 1,000
- Institute Vigil Mechanism if borrowings > 50 Crores from banks and financial institutions
- Exemption from appointment of Women Director and Small Shareholder Director

ThanQ?

Contact Usl.

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