

Internal Control Report 2008

The Board of Directors' report on internal control relating to the financial reporting for the 2008 financial year

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Swedish Companies Act and the Swedish Code for Corporate Governance, the Board of Directors is responsible for internal control. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Swedish Code for Corporate Governance, sections 3.7.2 and 3.7.3, and is, therefore, limited to internal control relating to the financial reporting. This report does not form part of the formal annual accounts documents.

DESCRIPTION

The base for internal control relating to financial reporting consists of the control environment within the organisation, decision-making routes, authorities and responsibilities which are documented and communicated through the controlling document. These relate primarily to the Boards' of Directors working procedures, the Managing Director's working procedure and approvals instructions. G & L Beijer is a company with strong owner influence. The owners are represented on the Board of Directors and in executive positions within the company. G & L Beijer is decentralised in its nature and the individual companies' own organisations fulfil important functions relating to company culture and the control environment through the short decision-making routes which exist and the strong presence of local management. The legal organisation coincides with the operational organisation and there are, therefore, no decision-making fora which are disengaged from the responsibilities regulated in civil law which are vested in the different legal entities. The management work is based on the work of the Board of Directors which is the backbone of the company management. This starts from G & L Beijer AB's Board of Directors and goes out, via the business area Boards of Directors, into the organisation's different company Boards of Directors. The rules and regulations which deal with company management, such as the Companies Act, form the foundation for how the Board work is carried out and, as a result of this, to the working procedures, authorities and responsibilities which are regulated through this legislation. The decisions made by the Boards of Directors are documented and carefully monitored. Senior Executives from Group and business area management teams are represented in Boards of Directors at the underlying organisational level and also in individual companies of significance. The so-called grandfather principle is applied throughout the Group. This means that, in critical matters such as important personnel matters, organisational matters, etc., the nearest manager goes to his or her manager to get support for decisions before they are made.

The principle about far-reaching decentralisation is of great importance. It creates within the different companies' a feeling for their importance of their work and it increases their work motivation. The distribution of responsibilities and authorities leads to a strong will to live up to these responsibilities and the ensuing expectations.

Risk evaluation is made continually to map out risk areas relating to the financial reporting. The current position is assessed and points for improvement established. The control activities are also evaluated on a continuous basis.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' STANDPOINT IN RELATION TO AN INTERNAL AUDIT

In accordance with the regulations in item 3.7.3, the Board of Directors of G & L Beijer AB has taken a stand with regards to the need for a special internal audit function. The Board of Directors has found that there is currently no need to create this organisation within the G & L Beijer Group. The background to the standpoint is the company's size and risk picture as well as the control functions which are built into the company's structure. These include proactive Boards of Directors in all companies, a high level of representation by local management teams, board representation by the management at the level above, etc.

No statement has been made about how well the internal control has functioned and no auditor examination has been carried out.