

HUGHES DRILLING LTD

SECURITY TRADING POLICY

Introduction

This document sets out the Company's policy on the sale and purchase of its securities by its Directors, employees and contractors.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- impose "Black-out" periods at various times during the year, particularly in periods leading up to an announcement of results, during which trading of the Company's securities by Directors is prohibited; and
- set out procedures to reduce the risk of insider trading.

A basic explanation on insider trading is provided together with the steps taken by the Company to prevent the practice, including:

- a description of what conduct may constitute insider trading.
- the windows when Directors, employees and contractors are permitted to buy or sell securities in order to minimise the risk of insider trading.
- the steps to take when buying or selling securities in the Company.

Definition of Insider Trading

Prohibition

Insider trading is a criminal offence. A person will be guilty of insider trading if:

- (a) That person possesses information in relation to a company which is not generally available to the market, and if it were generally available to the market, would be likely to affect the price or value of that company's securities (i.e. information that is "price sensitive") and
- (b) That person:
 - (i) buys or sells securities in the company;
 - (ii) procures someone else to buy or sell securities in the company; or
 - (iii) passes on that information to a third party where that person knows, or ought reasonably to know, that the third party would be likely to deal in the securities or procure someone else to deal in the securities of the company.

Examples

Price sensitive information means information relating to the Company that would, if the information were publicly known, be likely to:

- Have a material effect on the price or value of the its shares
- Influence persons who invest in securities in deciding whether or not to buy or sell the company's shares

The following are examples of price sensitive information which, if made available to the market, would be likely to affect the price of the Company's securities:

- The Company is considering the acquisition of another company,
- Product testing results confirming (or falling short of) the market's expectations.

Dealing Through Third Parties

A person does not need to be a Director, employee of Company to be guilty of insider trading in relation to securities in the Company. The prohibition extends to dealings by anyone, including Directors' and employees' nominees, agents or other associates, such as family members, family trusts and family companies, as well as customers and suppliers.

Contractors and External Advisors

Contractors employed by the Company shall be informed of this policy when they are appointed and are required to adhere to the policy so long as they are contracted by the Company. Breach of the policy may lead to termination of contract arrangements.

The Company's staffs dealing with external advisers needs to ensure that the advisers are aware of the insider trading rules and where these dealings cover material matters, that the issue of insider trading is covered in confidentiality documents.

Meaning of Securities

The rules covers shares in the Company, derivatives related to the Company's shares, whether issued by the company or not and to any traded company options. It also applies to the exercise of options, including employee options.

Related Companies

Directors, employees and contractors , where they possess inside information, should also not deal in securities of other companies with which the Company might have an association or be about to enter such association such as joint venture or farm in partners.

Guidelines for Trading in the Company's Securities

Approval Process

Directors, employees and contractors can deal in securities of the Company in the following circumstances:

- (a) they have satisfied themselves that they are not in possession of any price sensitive information that is not generally available to the public;
- (b) they have contacted the Chairman or in his absence, the Managing Director and notified them of their intention to do so and the Chairman or Managing Director indicates that there is no impediment to them doing so.

Where the Chairman wishes to deal in securities, he has contacted the Managing Director, or in his absence, the Company Secretary and notified them of their intention to do so and the Managing Director or Company Secretary indicates that there is no impediment to them doing so.

The Chairman will generally not allow directors, employees and contractors to deal in securities of the Company as a matter of course in the following periods:

- (a) within the period of 14 days prior to the release of annual, half yearly or quarterly results;
- (b) within the period of 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting; and
- (c) if there is in existence price sensitive information that has not been disclosed because of an ASX Listing Rule exception.

Directors and executives are also excluded from dealing in securities within the period from receipt of the Board Pack and the Directors' Meeting.

Directors, employees and contractors should wait at least 2 days after the relevant release before dealing in securities so that the market has had time to absorb the information.

This notification obligation operates at all times and applies to dealings in the Company's securities by family members and other associates of Directors, employees and contractors as well as to personal dealings by Directors and employees. It does not apply to any issue of securities by the Company pursuant to a prospectus or like disclosure under the Corporations Law, or under employee share and option plans.

Directors, employees and contractors must not at any time engage in short-term trading in securities of the Company.

Directors, employees and contractors must not communicate price sensitive information to a person who may deal in securities of the Company. In addition, a Directors, employees and contractors should not recommend or otherwise suggest to any person (including a spouse, relative, friend, trustee of a family trust or directors of a family company) the buying or selling of securities in the Company.

This policy does not apply to trading which does not result in a change in beneficial control of the Company's shares eg. transferring a personal holding of the Company's shares to a superannuation fund.

Hedging unvested entitlements

- (a) Entitlements under the Company's equity based incentive plans (if any) are subject to the satisfaction of various time and/or performance hurdles to ensure alignment of employee rewards with the Company's objectives and performance. Transactions which "hedge" the value

of entitlements could distort the proper functioning of these hurdles and reduce the intended alignment with shareholder interests.

- (b) Directors, and executives participating in an equity-based executive incentive plan, are prohibited from entering into any transaction which would have the effect of hedging or otherwise transferring to any other person the risk of any fluctuation in the value of any unvested entitlement in the Company's securities.

Notwithstanding the restriction imposed by paragraph (b) above, Directors may enter into hedging transactions in respect of the Company securities held by them outside any equity based performance plan or once the securities have been vested.

However, Directors should ensure that entry into any hedging transaction occurs outside the Company's black-out periods and otherwise complies with the Security Trading Policy.

Dealing in Exceptional Circumstances

In specific circumstances however, such as financial hardship, the Chairman may waive the requirement of a Directors, employees and contractors to deal in securities outside blackout periods on the condition that the Directors, employees and contractors can demonstrate to him that they are not in possession of any price sensitive information that is not generally available to the public. In such circumstances, the Director, employee or contractor must provide a written statement to the Chairman setting out the relevant exceptional circumstances, confirming that they are not in possession of any information which is price sensitive and which would have a material effect on the price or value of the securities.

Consequences of Breach of the Security Trading Policy

Breach of the Security Trading Policy by any the Company's employees or their family members would be exposed to criminal and civil liability.

The Company will regard breach of insider trading law or this policy as serious misconduct.

ASX Notification by Directors

ASX obliges a Director to notify the ASX within the 5 days after any dealings in Company's securities (either personally or through a third party) which results in a change in the relevant interests of the Director in Company's securities.

Accordingly, Directors must notify the Company Secretary immediately on acquiring or disposing of a relevant interest in any securities in the Company.

It is the individual responsibility of Directors to ensure they comply with this requirement.