

TSMC’s corporate governance practices are governed by applicable Taiwan law, specifically, the R.O.C. Company Act and R.O.C. Securities and Exchange Act, and also TSMC’s Articles of Incorporation. Also, because TSMC securities are registered with the U.S. SEC and are listed on the NYSE, TSMC is subject to corporate governance requirements applicable to NYSE-listed foreign private issuers.

Under Section 303A of the NYSE Listed Company Manual, NYSE-listed non-US companies may, in general, follow their home country corporate governance practices in lieu of most of the new NYSE corporate governance requirements. However, all NYSE-listed foreign private issuers must comply with NYSE Sections 303A.06, 303A.11, 303A.12(b), 303A.12(c) and 303A.14.

Item 16G as well as NYSE Section 303A.11 requires that foreign private issuers disclose any significant ways in which their corporate governance practices differ from US companies under NYSE listing standards. This requirement is not intended to suggest that one country’s corporate governance practices are better or more effective than another. A NYSE-listed foreign private issuer is required to provide to its US investors, a brief, general summary of the significant differences, either: (a) on the company website in English, or (b) in its annual report distributed to its US investors. To comply with NYSE Section 303A.11, TSMC has prepared the comparison in the table below.

The most relevant differences between TSMC corporate governance practices and NYSE standards for listed companies are as follows:

NYSE Standards for US Companies under Listed Company Manual Section 303A	TSMC Corporate Practices
<p>NYSE Section 303A.01 requires a NYSE-listed company to have a majority of independent directors on its board of directors.</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not require a board of directors of publicly traded companies to consist of a majority of independent directors. Taiwan law requires public companies meeting certain criteria to have at least three independent directors but no less than one fifth of the total number of directors on its board of directors. Starting from 2024, public companies that meet certain criteria are required to have a minimum of one-third of their directors serving as independent directors. In addition, Taiwan law requires public companies to disclose information pertaining to their directors, including their independence status. Please see TSMC’s annual report and Form 20-F for the relevant year filed with the Taiwan authorities and the U.S. SEC (both of which are available online at www.tsmc.com) for information on the total number of TSMC directors and directors who would be considered independent under NYSE Section 303A.02 and Taiwan law.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.02 establishes general standards to evaluate directors’ independence (no director qualifies as independent unless the board of directors affirmatively determines that the director has no material relationship with the listed company either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with the listed company).</p>	<p>Taiwan law establishes comparable standards to evaluate director independence. For further information, please consult TSMC’s Taiwan annual report for the relevant year.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.03 requires non-management directors to meet at regularly scheduled executive meetings that are not attended by management.</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not contain such a requirement. Except for meetings of sub-committees of the board of directors and those held by managing directors, Taiwan law does not allow separate board meetings of part but not all of the board of directors.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.04 requires listed companies to have a nominating/corporate governance committee comprised entirely of independent directors which committee shall have a written charter establishing certain minimum responsibilities as set forth in NYSE Section 303A.04(b)(i) and providing for an annual evaluation of the committee’s performance.</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not contain such a requirement. Pursuant to Taiwan law, TSMC’s directors must be nominated either by the shareholders or by the entire board of directors. TSMC, however, has established a Nominating, Corporate Governance and Sustainability Committee in February 2023 to assist our Board of Directors mainly in selecting candidates for nomination to be elected as independent directors to the Board and advising on corporate governance and sustainability matters. The Nominating, Corporate Governance and Sustainability Committee, by its charter, shall be composed of the Chairman of the Board and three to six independent directors.</p>

<p>NYSE Section 303A.05(a) requires listed companies to have a compensation committee comprised entirely of independent directors.</p>	<p>Taiwan law requires certain public companies, such as us, to establish a compensation committee by September 30, 2011. TSMC, however, has established its Compensation Committee since 2003, which has met the requirements under the Taiwan law. Taiwan law permits a non-director independent member, appointed by the board of directors, to serve as a member on the compensation committee, so long as such member meets the independent and other requirements under the relevant Taiwan law. Also, as required by the TWSE, the compensation committee of the companies listed on the TWSE must consist of a majority of independent directors, and all the members of the compensation committee shall elect an independent director to act as the convener and the chairperson of the meeting. Please see TSMC’s annual report and Form 20-F for the relevant year filed with the Taiwan authorities and the U.S. SEC (both of which are available online at www.tsmc.com) for further information regarding the composition and functions of its compensation committee. In February 2023, our Board of Directors approved the renaming of TSMC’s Compensation Committee as “Compensation and People Development Committee”, effective as of February 14, 2023.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.05(b) requires a compensation committee’s charter to establish certain minimum responsibilities and to provide for an annual evaluation of the committee’s performance.</p>	<p>Taiwan law requires certain public companies, such as us, to establish a compensation committee by September 30, 2011. TSMC, however, has established its Compensation Committee since 2003, which has met the requirements under the Taiwan law, and TSMC’s Compensation and People Development Committee charter contains the same responsibilities as those provided under NYSE Section 303A.05(b)(i) and mandates the committee to review the adequacy of its charter annually.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.06 requires listed companies to have an audit committee that satisfies the requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act. Foreign private issuers must satisfy the requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act by July 31, 2005.</p>	<p>TSMC voluntarily established its Audit Committee before the promulgation of related Taiwan law. Our Audit Committee fully complies with both local law requirements and corporate governance standards. Please see TSMC’s annual report and Form 20-F for the relevant year filed with the Taiwan authorities and the U.S. SEC (both of which are available online at www.tsmc.com) for further information regarding the composition of its audit committee. TSMC’s Audit Committee members are all financially literate and are assisted by a financial expert consultant. In February 2023, our Board of Directors approved the renaming of TSMC’s Audit Committee as “Audit and Risk Committee”, effective as of February 14, 2023.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.07(a) requires an audit committee to consist of at least three board members. All of its members shall be financially literate or must acquire such financial knowledge within a reasonable period and at least one of its members shall have experience in accounting or financial administration.</p>	<p>Taiwan law requires all independent directors of a public company to be members of the audit committee if the company has established such a committee of which at least one shall have accounting or financial expertise. Please see TSMC’s annual report and Form 20-F for the relevant year filed with the Taiwan authorities and the U.S. SEC (both of which are available online at www.tsmc.com) for further information regarding the composition of its audit committee. TSMC’s Audit and Risk Committee members are all financially literate and are assisted by a financial expert consultant.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.07(a) requires that if an audit committee member is simultaneously a member of the audit committee of more than three public companies, and the listed company does not limit the number of audit committees on which its members may serve, then, in each case the board of that company shall determine whether the simultaneous service would prevent such member from effectively serving on the listed company’s audit committee, and shall report its decision in the annual proxy statement of the company or in the company’s annual report on Form 10-K filed with the U.S. SEC.</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not contain such requirement. Taiwan law requires all independent directors of a public company to be members of the audit committee if the company has established such a committee. Taiwan law forbids an independent director from serving as an independent director on a total of more than four Taiwan public companies.</p>

<p>NYSE Section 303A.07(a) requires all members of the audit committee to be independent.</p>	<p>Taiwan law requires all independent directors of a public company to be members of the audit committee if the company has established such a committee.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.07(b) requires an audit committee to have a written charter establishing the duties and responsibilities of its members, including the duties and responsibilities required, at a minimum, by Rule 10A-3(b)(2), (3), (4) & (5) of the Exchange Act.</p>	<p>Taiwan law requires comparable standards. TSMC currently has a written Audit and Risk Committee charter containing the same duties and responsibilities as those provided under Section 10A-3(b)(1) of the Exchange Act.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.07(b)(iii)(B) and (C) establishes audit committee objectives: (i) to discuss the annual audited financial statements and the quarterly financial statements of the company with management and the independent auditor, including the information disclosed under the heading “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations”; and (ii) to discuss the company’s press releases relating to its earnings as well as the financial information and guidelines relating to its earnings that are supplied to analysts and rating agencies.</p>	<p>TSMC’s written Audit and Risk Committee charter establishes the same audit committee objectives.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.07(b)(iii)(G) requires an audit committee to establish clear policies for hiring external auditor’s employees.</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not contain such requirement.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.07(c) requires each company to have an internal audit function that provides to the management and to the audit committee ongoing assessments on the company’s risk management processes and internal control system.</p>	<p>Taiwan law requires public companies to establish an internal audit function. Internal auditors are subject to strict qualification standards under Taiwan law, which require the board of directors to approve the appointment of the head of a company’s internal audit function. TSMC’s internal audit function has substantially the same responsibilities as provided under NYSE Section 303A.07(d).</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.08 requires each company to give to shareholders the opportunity to vote on all equity based compensation plans and material revisions thereto with certain exceptions.</p>	<p>Taiwan law imposes a similar requirement. Employee stock option plans (“ESOPs”) are required to be approved by the board of directors. Shareholders’ approval is not required if the number of options granted under the relevant ESOP does not exceed the reservation made in TSMC’s Articles of Incorporation and if the exercise price is not below the price as determined by relevant regulations. Otherwise, any change to such reservation in the Articles requires shareholders’ approval. Employee restricted stock awards are required to be approved by the board of directors and the shareholders’ meeting with a quorum of holders of at least two-thirds of all issued and outstanding shares of common stock at which the holders of at least a majority of the common stock represented at the meeting vote in favor thereof. However, in the case of a publicly held company such as TSMC, such a resolution by the shareholders’ meeting may be adopted by the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of common stock represented at a shareholders’ meeting at which holders of at least a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock are present. TSMC currently has three equity-based compensation plans in effect, which were approved by the Board of Directors on April 22, 2021, February 15, 2022, and February 14, 2023, and by the shareholders on July 26, 2021, June 8, 2022, and June 6, 2023, respectively.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.09 requires public companies to adopt and disclose corporate governance guidelines, including several issues for which such reporting is mandatory, and to include such information on the company’s website (which website should also include the charters of the audit committee, the nominating committee, and the compensation committee.)</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not contain such requirement. TSMC, however, voluntarily adopted corporate governance guidelines in May 2023, and discloses such guidelines at www.tsmc.com.</p>

<p>NYSE Section 303A.09 requires the board of directors to make a self-assessment of its performance at least once a year to determine if it or its committees function effectively and report thereon.</p>	<p>Starting from 2020, companies listed on the TWSE are required by TWSE’s new rule to conduct self-assessment or peer assessment on the performance of the board of directors and each director every year and to submit the assessment results to TWSE by the end of the first quarter of the next year. TSMC has been conducting annual self-assessment on its Audit and Risk Committee’s performance since 2011 and on its Board of Directors as well as each director since 2020 in compliance with TWSE’s requirements. Starting from 2023, TSMC also conducts annual assessment on all its Board committees, including the Audit and Risk Committee, Compensation and People Development Committee, and Corporate Governance and Sustainability Committee.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.10 provides for the adoption of a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and sets out the topics that such code must contain.</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not contain such requirement. But, because of sound corporate governance principles, TSMC has adopted an “Ethics and Business Conduct Policy”, which complies with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act’s requirements concerning financial officers and CEO accountability.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.12(a) requires the CEO, on a yearly basis, to certify to the NYSE that he or she knows of no violation by the company of NYSE rules relating to corporate governance.</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not contain such a requirement. But, in order to comply with relevant U.S. SEC regulations, TSMC’s CEO is required to certify in TSMC’s 20-F annual report that, to his or her knowledge the information contained therein fairly represents in all material respects the financial condition and results of operation of TSMC.</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.12(b) requires the CEO to notify the NYSE in writing whenever any executive officer of the company becomes aware of any substantial non-fulfillment of any applicable provision under NYSE Section 303A.</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not contain such requirement. But, in order to be consistent with the corporate governance principles established under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, TSMC’s CEO complies with the notice provision as set forth under NYSE Section 303A.12(b).</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.12(c) requires each listed company to submit an executed Written Affirmation annually to the NYSE and Interim Written Affirmation each time a specified change occurs in the board or any of the committees subject to Section 303A.</p>	<p>Taiwan law does not contain such requirement. But, in order to comply with the corporate governance principles established under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, TSMC complies with NYSE Section 303A.12(c).</p>
<p>NYSE Section 303A.14 requires each listed company to adopt a policy for the recovery of excess incentive-based compensation earned by current or former executive officers.</p>	<p>In compliance with NYSE Section 303A.14, TSMC adopted the TSMC Clawback Policy in August 2023, available on TSMC’s website.</p>