



## POLICY STATEMENT

<b>Subject:</b> Audit Committee Charter	<b>Date Issued:</b> November 6, 2009 <b>Date Amended:</b> August 16, 2011
<b>Approved by:</b> STR Board of Directors <b>Date:</b> November 6, 2009	<b>Distribution:</b>

This Audit Committee Charter was adopted by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of STR Holdings, Inc. (the “Company”) on November 6, 2009 and amended on August 16, 2011.

This Charter is intended as a component of the flexible governance framework within which the Board, assisted by its committees, directs the affairs of the Company. While it should be interpreted in the context of all applicable laws, regulations and listing requirements, as well as in the context of the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws, it is not intended to establish by its own force any legally binding obligations.

### I. Purposes

The Audit Committee (the “Committee”), in order to assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities, shall oversee: (i) management’s conduct of, and the integrity of, the Company’s financial reporting; (ii) the Company’s systems of internal control over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures; (iii) the qualifications, engagement, compensation, independence and performance of the registered public accounting firm that shall audit the annual financial statements of the Company (the “independent auditor”) and their conduct of the annual audit of the Company’s financial statements, and their engagement to provide any other services, and any other public accounting firm engaged to prepare or issue an audit report or to perform other audit, review or attest services for the Company; (iv) the Company’s internal audit function, (v) the Company’s legal and regulatory compliance; (vi) the application of the Company’s related person transaction policy as established by the Board; and (vii) the application of the Company’s Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and its Supplemental Code of Ethics for the CEO, CFO and other senior officers of the Company (the “Supplemental Ethics Code”). In connection with the foregoing, the Committee shall engage in such activities as are necessary or appropriate in order for it to render the annual report of the Committee required to be included in the Company’s annual report by the rules of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). All references in this Charter to the Company are intended to refer also to any subsidiary of the Company and any “variable interest entity” whose results of operations are consolidated with those of the Company, except where the context otherwise requires.

In discharging its role, the Committee is empowered to inquire into any matter it considers appropriate to carry out its responsibilities, with access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Company, and, subject to the direction of the Board, the Committee is authorized and delegated the authority to act on behalf of the Board with respect to any matter necessary or appropriate to the accomplishment of its purposes. In addition to retaining on behalf of the Company the Company’s independent auditor and any other accounting firm the retention of which is to prepare or issue any other audit report or to perform any other audit, review, or attest services the Committee determines is necessary or appropriate in connection with the conduct of the Company’s business and affairs, the Committee is empowered to retain legal counsel and accounting and other advisors and consultants to assist it in carrying out its activities. The Committee shall have the authority to direct and oversee the activities of, and to terminate the engagement of, the Company’s independent auditor and any other accounting firm retained by the Committee to prepare or issue any other audit report or to perform any other audit, review or attest services and any legal counsel, accounting or other advisor or consultant hired to assist the Committee, all of whom shall be accountable to the Committee. The Company shall provide adequate resources to support the Committee’s activities, including compensation of the Company’s independent auditor and any other auditor and any legal counsel, accounting or other advisor or

consultant retained by the Committee.

## **II. Committee Membership**

The Committee shall consist of three or more members of the Board, each of whom the Board shall determine to be “independent” in accordance with applicable listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”), and the rules of the SEC. All members of the Committee shall meet the financial literacy requirements of the NYSE. In addition, at least one member shall be an “audit committee financial expert” as such term is defined under applicable SEC rules. No member of the Committee may serve on the audit committee of more than three public companies, including the Company, unless the Board has determined that such simultaneous service would not impair the ability of such member to effectively serve on the Committee.

Except as otherwise directed by the Board, a director selected as a Committee member shall continue to be a member for as long as he or she remains a director or until his or her earlier death, incapacity, resignation or removal from the Committee. Any member may be removed from the Committee by the Board, with or without cause, at any time. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed from among the Committee members by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Board. The Chair shall preside at meetings of the Committee and shall have authority to convene meetings, set agendas and determine the Committee’s information needs, except as otherwise provided by action of the Committee. In the absence of the Chair at a duly convened meeting, the Committee shall select a temporary substitute from among its members to serve as chair of the meeting.

## **III. Committee Organization and Meetings**

The Committee shall meet on a regularly-scheduled basis at least four times per year and additionally as circumstances dictate, establish its own schedule of meetings and rules of procedure and maintain minutes or other records of Committee meetings and activities. In addition to meeting with senior financial management at least quarterly, the Committee shall meet separately with senior financial management (without the independent auditor present), with a member of the internal audit function (without any other member of management present) and with the independent auditor (without any member of management present) so as to enhance the opportunity for the identification and discussion of all issues warranting Committee attention. The Committee may act by unanimous written consent of its members. The Committee may form, and delegate any of its responsibilities to, a subcommittee so long as such subcommittee is solely comprised of one or more members of the Committee. Following each meeting, the Committee shall report to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

## **IV. Key Responsibilities**

The Committee’s role is one of oversight. The Company’s management is responsible for preparing the Company’s financial statements and the independent auditor is responsible for auditing the annual financial statements. The Board and Committee recognize that Company management, including the internal audit staff, and the independent auditor have more time, knowledge and detailed information about the Company than do Committee members. Consequently, in carrying out its oversight responsibilities, the Committee is not providing any expert or special assurance as to the Company’s financial statements or any certification as to the work of any auditor.

The following duties, responsibilities and functions are set forth as a guide to fulfilling the Committee’s purposes, with the understanding that the Committee may undertake other and different activities and that the Committee’s activities may diverge from those described below, as appropriate under the circumstances.

In such manner as the Committee determines to fulfill its purposes, the Committee shall:

#### A. Oversee the Engagement of the Independent Auditor

- appoint, evaluate, compensate, oversee the work of, and if appropriate terminate the appointment of, the independent auditor, who shall report directly to the Committee;
- discuss with management and the independent auditor, in connection with the annual engagement of the independent auditor, any discussion or correspondence between management and the independent auditor concerning significant issues pertaining to the application of accounting principles or auditing standards to the Company; review and approve the terms of the engagement of the independent auditor and the scope and expected timing of the annual audit; approve any audit-related and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and material terms thereof) to be provided by the independent auditor; and, in connection with approval of any permissible non-audit services, discuss with the independent auditor the potential effects of such services on the independence of the auditor;
- (i) on an annual basis, review a written report from the independent auditor delineating all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company, consistent with Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (“PCAOB”) Rule 3526, “Communications with Audit Committees Concerning Independence,” and discuss with the independent auditor any relationships or services that may impact the independent auditor’s objectivity and independence and take appropriate action in response to the independent auditor’s statement of its relationships with the Company to satisfy itself of the independent auditor’s independence; (ii) assure the regular rotation of the lead audit partner as required by law; and (iii) set clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the independent auditor;
- at least annually, review a report by the independent auditor describing: (i) the firm’s internal quality-control procedures and (ii) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review or peer review of the firm, or by any review, inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities (including the PCAOB), within the preceding five years, regarding one or more independent audits carried out by the firm, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues;

#### B. Oversee Engagements of Registered or Other Public Accounting Firms

- appoint, evaluate, compensate, oversee the work of, and if appropriate terminate the appointment of any registered or other public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services (including the resolution of any disagreements between management and the auditor regarding financial reporting), each of which firms shall report to the Committee, and, if such firm is required to be independent of the Company in accordance with PCAOB and SEC rules, review a formal written statement from the independent auditor delineating all relationships between such firm and the Company and discuss with such firm any relationships or services that may impact the objectivity and independence of the firm, and take appropriate action to satisfy itself of such firm’s independence, and approve any audit-related and permitted non-audit services (including the fees and material terms thereof) to be provided by any registered public accounting firm so engaged;

#### C. Oversee the Internal Audit Function, Internal Controls and Risk Management

- review and discuss with executive management, and recommend to the Board, the appointment or dismissal of the head of the internal audit function and consult with executive management about his or her performance evaluation and compensation and the application of the Company’s compensation policies to other internal audit personnel; review and advise the chief executive officer and the Board with respect to the appointment, dismissal and replacement of the chief financial officer and the chief accounting officer and consult with the chief executive officer about the performance evaluation and compensation of each;
- receive reports periodically from the head of the internal audit function regarding the activities of the internal audit function, including the annual internal audit workplan, discuss with the independent auditor the responsibilities, budget and staffing of the Company’s internal audit function and review periodically

the performance of the internal audit function;

- establish and oversee the effectiveness of procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting, financial reporting or auditing matters and review and, as necessary, investigate any reports provided by counsel to the Company regarding evidence of unremediated material violations of U.S. federal or state securities laws or any similar other law or a material breach of fiduciary duties by directors, officers, employees or agents of the Company arising under such laws;
- oversee management's design and maintenance of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures, including reviewing and discussing with management and the independent auditor (i) executive management's certification in the Company's periodic SEC reports concerning the Company's disclosure controls and procedures and any reports by management or the independent auditor of a material weakness or significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting, (ii) the actions taken to remedy any such material weakness or significant deficiency and any changes in circumstances that have, or are reasonably likely to have, a material effect on internal control over financial reporting, (iii) management's annual assessment of the adequacy of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, (iv) the independent auditor's annual attestation report, when required, regarding the Company's internal control over financial reporting, and (v) any identified act of fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal control over financial reporting or disclosure controls and procedures;
- (i) review and discuss with management and the independent auditor any major financial risk exposures to the Company and assess the steps and processes management has implemented to monitor and control such exposures, (ii) assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities regarding the Company's policies and guidelines with respect to risk assessment and risk management, including any significant non-financial risk exposures and (iii) review the Company's annual disclosures concerning the role of the Board in the risk oversight of the Company, such as how the Board administers its oversight function;

#### D. Oversee Financial Reporting

- review and discuss with management and the independent auditor: (i) the critical accounting policies and practices used by the Company, the accounting treatment to be applied in respect of significant new transactions or other significant events not in the ordinary course of the Company's business and any significant changes in management's selection or application of accounting principles; (ii) alternative accounting treatments within generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP") for material items that have been discussed by the independent auditor with management, including the ramifications of the use of such treatments and the treatment preferred by the independent auditor and other material written communications between the independent auditor and management such as a schedule of differences; and (iii) the effect of new regulatory and accounting initiatives on the Company's financial statements;
- review and, as appropriate, discuss with management, the independent auditor and/or a member of the internal audit function: (i) any significant difficulties encountered in the course of audit work, including any restrictions on the scope of audit activities or on access to requested information; (ii) any special audit steps adopted by the independent auditor or the internal audit function in light of any material weakness in the Company's internal control over financial reporting; (iii) any material changes required in the scope of the audit plan; and (iv) the coordination of the audit efforts of the independent auditor and the Company's internal audit function;
- oversee the Company's financial reporting, including: (i) resolve any disagreements regarding financial reporting between management and the independent auditor; (ii) review any significant findings by the auditors relating to the preparation of the Company's financial statements; (iii) review and discuss with management, the independent auditor and a member of the internal audit function, prior to public release, the Company's annual and quarterly financial statements to be filed with the SEC (including the

Company's disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations"); (iv) discuss with the independent auditor any accounting adjustments that were noted or proposed by the independent auditor but were "passed" (as immaterial or otherwise), any "management" or "internal control" letter issued, or proposed to be issued, by the independent auditor to the Company, and any significant issues (such as business conditions, plans or strategies that may affect the risk of a material misstatement in the financial statements) that were discussed or the subject of correspondence between the independent auditor and management; (v) with respect to the independent auditor's annual audit report, prior to release of the annual audited financial statements, meet with the independent auditor without any management member present to discuss the independent auditor's views about the qualitative aspects of the Company's significant accounting policies, accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures; (vi) recommend to the Board whether to include the audited annual financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K to be filed with the SEC; (vii) prior to submission to any governmental authority of (a) any financial statement of the Company that differs from the financial statements filed or to be filed by the Company with the SEC or (b) any financial statement of a subsidiary of the Company that in the Committee's judgment is material to the Company and that presents information regarding such subsidiary in a way that is materially different from the presentation of such information in the financial statements of the Company filed or to be filed with the SEC, review such financial statements and any report, certification or opinion thereon provided by an independent auditor; and (viii) periodically review the status of the Company's response to previous audit recommendations;

- review and discuss with management and the independent auditor any material off-balance sheet financing and any other material financial arrangement that does not appear in the financial statements of the Company;
- discuss with management earnings press releases and review financial information and earnings guidance (if any) (including dissemination of "non-GAAP" financial information) provided to investors, analysts or rating agencies;

#### E. Oversee Legal and Ethical Compliance

- review periodically, with legal counsel as needed: (i) legal and regulatory matters that may have a material impact on the Company's financial statements, including any material reserves for legal contingencies and any related financial statement disclosure, and (ii) the scope and effectiveness of the Company's legal and regulatory compliance policies and programs;
- in accordance with, and to the extent provided by, the pertinent policies that shall be adopted by the Board upon recommendation of the Committee, review (on an ongoing basis, as appropriate) and approve or ratify on behalf of the Company, if appropriate, any proposed, ongoing or completed transaction involving the Company and (i) any director, director nominee or executive officer of the Company; (ii) any record or beneficial owner of 5% or more of any class or series of voting shares of the Company, (iii) such other person serving as an officer or member of the senior management of the Company or as a member of the board of directors or similar governing body of any subsidiary of the Company as may be designated in accordance with such policy or (iv) any immediate member of the family of, or any company or other entity affiliated with, any such person, in each case considering any audit procedures or safeguards of the Company's interests appropriate to be instituted in connection with such transaction;
- review at least annually with management and the internal audit department compliance with, the adequacy of and any requests for waivers under, the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (and the Company's Supplemental Code of Ethics for the CEO, CFO and Other Senior Officers pursuant to SEC rules) and make a recommendation to the full Board with regard to any approval or waiver under such codes sought with respect to any executive officer or director;

#### F. Report and Self-Evaluate

- oversee the preparation and approve all reports required or appropriate in the conduct of the Committee's responsibilities, including the report for inclusion in the Company's annual meeting proxy statement or annual report required by SEC rules;
- conduct an annual self-evaluation of the performance of the Committee, including a review of the adequacy of this Charter annually, and recommend to the Board such amendments as the Committee deems appropriate; and
- report regularly to the Board on Committee findings and recommendations, including on any significant issues that arise with respect to the foregoing responsibilities, and any other matters the Committee deems appropriate or the Board requests.

G. Limitation of the Audit Committee's Role

While the Committee has the responsibilities and authorities set forth in this Charter, the Committee's role is one of oversight. It is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements and disclosures are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable rules and regulations. It is the responsibility of management to prepare the financial statements and it is the responsibility of the Company's independent public accounting firm to conduct an audit of those financial statements.

Approved by the Audit Committee

Date: August 16, 2011

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