

COMMERCIAL METALS COMPANY

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

This Audit Committee Charter (Charter) sets forth the purpose and membership requirements of the Audit Committee (the Committee) of the Board of Directors (the Board) of Commercial Metals Company (CMC or Company) and establishes the authority and responsibilities delegated to it by the Board.

1. Purpose.

The purpose of the Committee is to oversee:

- The integrity of the Company's financial statements and disclosures,
- The Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements,
- The qualifications, independence and performance of the Company's independent auditing firm (the Independent Auditor),
- The performance of the Company's internal audit function,
- The Company's internal control systems, and
- The Company's procedures for monitoring compliance with its Code of Business Conduct (Code of Conduct).

2. Committee Members.

2.1. Composition and Appointment.

The Committee shall consist of three (3) or more members of the Board. The members and Chairman of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee (Governance Committee). The Board shall fill vacancies on the Committee and may remove a Committee member from the membership of the Committee at any time without cause. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed by the Board.

2.2. Qualifications.

Each member of the Committee shall be independent. To be "independent," a director may not have a relationship with the Company or its management or a private interest in the Company that in any way may interfere with the exercise of such Director's independence from the Company and its management. In addition, each member of the Committee must meet the independence requirements of applicable federal laws, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, (the Act), securities laws,

including the rules and regulations of the SEC and of the NYSE as such requirements are interpreted by the Board in its business judgment.

2.3. Financial Literacy and Expertise.

Each member of the Committee shall, in the Board's judgment, be financially literate or must become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after such member's appointment to the Committee. At least one member of the Committee shall, in the Board's judgment, have accounting or related financial management expertise. In addition, in connection with the preparation of any reports regarding the financial experience of the members of the Committee to be included in the Company's periodic public reports, the Board shall determine with respect to each member of the Committee whether or not, in the Board's judgment, such member is an "audit committee financial expert," as such term is defined by the SEC. As expressly provided by SEC rules, the Board's designation of an "audit committee financial expert" will not be deemed an expert for any other purpose including Section 11 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1933 and that designation shall not impose any additional duties, obligations or liability on such designee nor affect the duties, obligations of liability of any other member of the Committee.

2.4. Simultaneous Service on Other Audit Committees.

If a member of the Committee serves on the audit committee (or, in the absence of an audit committee, the board committee performing equivalent functions, or, in the absence of such committee, the board of directors) of more than four (4) public companies in addition to the Company, the Board must affirmatively determine that such simultaneous service on multiple audit committees will not impair the ability of such member to serve on the Committee. The basis for the Board's determination shall be disclosed in the Company's proxy statement prepared in connection with its annual meeting of stockholders.

2.5. Compensation.

The members of the Committee shall not receive any direct or indirect compensation from the Company, other than director's fees. Members of the Committee shall, at the discretion of the Board, be entitled to receive fees for service on the Committee or for service as Chairman of the Committee in addition to the normal fees paid to all directors.

3. Authority.

3.1. Continuing Education.

To help ensure that the members of the Committee have the proper knowledge to perform their responsibilities, Committee members shall have the authority, at the Company's expense, to attend outside educational programs, retain outside professionals to conduct educational programs and undertake other appropriate steps to keep current

with developments in accounting, disclosure, risk management, internal controls, auditing and other matters that are relevant to the carrying out of the Committee's responsibilities.

3.2. Advisors.

The Committee shall have the authority (i) to retain, at the Company's expense, accounting, legal, financial and other advisors (Advisors) it deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities, and (ii) determine the compensation of such Advisors.

3.3. Investigations.

The Committee shall have the authority to conduct investigations that it deems necessary to fulfill its responsibilities.

3.4. Information.

The Committee shall have the authority to require any officer, director or employee of the Company, the Company's outside legal counsel and the Independent Auditor to meet with the Committee and any of its advisors and to respond to their inquiries. The Committee shall have full access to the books, records and facilities of the Company in carrying out its responsibilities.

3.5. Funding.

The Committee shall have the authority to determine, on behalf of the Company, the compensation of (i) the Independent Auditor for its services in rendering an audit report, and (ii) any Advisors employed by the Committee pursuant to Section 3.2.

3.6. Subcommittees.

The Committee shall have the authority to delegate authority and responsibilities to subcommittees provided that no subcommittee shall consist of less than two members.

4. Meetings.

4.1. Periodic Meetings.

The Committee shall meet at least once each fiscal quarter of the Company in connection with (i) its review of the Company's earnings releases, financial statements and the disclosures that are to be included in its Form 10-Q and Form 10-K filings with the SEC, including the disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and (ii) its preparation of the Committee's report to be included in the Company's proxy statement in connection with the Company's annual meeting of stockholders. The Chairman may call a special meeting at any time as he or she deems advisable.

4.2. Executive Sessions.

The Committee shall maintain free and open communication with (i) the Company's chief executive officer (CEO), (ii) the Company's chief financial officer (CFO), (iii) the Company's director of internal audit (Internal Auditor), (iv) the Independent Auditor, and (v) the Company's general counsel (General Counsel) and shall periodically meet, in its sole discretion, in separate executive (private) sessions with each such person to discuss any matters that the Committee or any of them believes should be discussed privately with the Committee.

4.3. Minutes.

Minutes of each meeting of the Committee shall be kept to document the discharge by the Committee of its responsibilities.

4.4. Quorum.

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Committee's members. The act of a majority of the Committee members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Committee.

4.5. Agenda.

The Chairman of the Committee shall prepare an agenda for each meeting of the Committee in consultation with the Committee members and any appropriate member of the Company's management or staff. Appropriate members of the Company management and staff shall assist the Chairman with the preparation of any background materials necessary for any Committee meeting. Any Committee member may request that an item be placed on an agenda or that additional pre-meeting material be furnished the Committee.

4.6. Presiding Officer.

The Chairman of the Committee shall preside at all Committee meetings. If the Chairman is absent at a meeting, a majority of the Committee members present at a meeting shall appoint a different presiding officer for that meeting.

5. General Oversight.

The Committee's responsibilities shall include review of (i) major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentation, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles, and major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies, (ii) any analyses prepared by management or the Independent Auditor setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements, including any analyses of the effects of alternative generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) methods on the presentation of the Company's financial statements, and (iii) the effect of regulatory and accounting industry

initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures, on the Company's financial statements. The Committee shall periodically discuss, which need not be in advance of the press release or presentation, the types of information to be disclosed in press releases that contain information with respect to the historical or projected financial performance of the Company (with particular attention on the use of pro forma, or adjusted non-GAAP, information), as well as any other financial information provided to a financial analyst or a rating agency.

6. Independent Auditor Oversight.

6.1. Selection and Evaluation.

The Committee shall have the responsibility and sole authority for the appointment (subject to stockholder ratification), retention, oversight, termination and replacement of the Independent Auditor and for the approval of all audit and engagement fees. The Committee shall annually, following the completion of the audit reports and at such other times as it deems appropriate, evaluate the performance of the Independent Auditor, including a specific evaluation of the Independent Auditor's lead (or coordinating) and concurring audit partners having responsibility for the Company's audit.

6.2. Pre-Approval of Independent Auditor Services.

6.2.1. *Committee Pre-Approval.* No audit services or non-audit services shall be performed by the Independent Auditor for the Company unless first pre-approved by the Committee and unless permitted by applicable federal securities laws and the rules and regulations of the SEC. If the Committee approves an audit service within the scope of the engagement of the Independent Auditor, such audit service shall be deemed to have been pre-approved for purposes of this Section.

6.2.2. *Delegation of Pre-Approval Authority.* The Committee may delegate to one (1) or more members of the Committee the authority to grant pre-approval of non-audit services required by this Section. The decision of any member to whom such authority is delegated to pre-approve non-audit services shall be reported to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

6.3. Independence.

The Committee shall periodically meet with the Independent Auditor to assess and satisfy itself that the Independent Auditor is "independent" in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. The Committee shall annually obtain from the Independent Auditor a written statement delineating (i) all relationships between the Independent Auditor and the Company that may impact the Independent Auditor's objectivity and independence, (ii) confirmation that the Company's CEO, CFO, controller, chief accounting officer, Internal Auditor, or any person serving in an equivalent position to any of the foregoing for the Company, was not employed by the Independent Auditor and participated in any capacity in the audit of the Company during the one (1) year period preceding the date of the initiation of the audit for which the Independent Auditor is engaged, and (iii) all the disclosures required by Independence

Standards Board Standard No. 1 or any other applicable requirements including those of the PCAOB. The Committee shall establish a policy regarding the Company's hiring of any employee or former employee of the Independent Auditor.

6.4. Quality Control.

The Committee shall annually obtain from the Independent Auditor a written report describing (i) the Independent Auditor's internal quality-control procedures, and (ii) any material issues raised by (a) the Independent Auditor's most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review or (b) any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, in each case, within the preceding five years, respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the Independent Auditor, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues.

6.5. Audit Partner Rotation.

The Committee shall annually obtain from the Independent Auditor a written statement disclosing the names of all members of the audit engagement team constituting "audit partners," including those designated as the "lead" and "concurring" audit partners as such terms are defined by the rules and regulations of the SEC. The statement shall confirm that the "lead," "concurring" and each of the "audit partners" is eligible under all applicable partner rotation rules and regulations (including effective date and transition provisions) to provide audit services to the Company during the audit period. If the Independent Auditor relies on the effective date or transition provisions permitted under the rules and regulations of the SEC to permit a "lead" or "concurring" audit partner to perform audit services for more than five (5) consecutive years or to permit any "audit partner" to perform audit services for more than seven (7) consecutive years the statement shall describe the basis for such determination.

6.6. Review of Independent Auditor Reports.

The Committee shall review with management, the Internal Auditor and the Independent Auditor all reports required to be made by the Independent Auditor under applicable federal securities laws and the rules and regulations of the SEC regarding (i) all critical accounting policies and practices used by the Company, (ii) all alternative treatments of the Company's financial information within GAAP that have been discussed with management, the ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments and the treatment preferred by the Independent Auditor, (iii) all other material written communications between the Independent Auditor and management, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences, and (iv) management's assessment of the Company's internal controls.

6.7. Internal Control Assessment.

The Committee shall, effective with the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2004, annually obtain from the Independent Auditor a written report in which the Independent Auditor attests to and reports on the assessment of the Company's internal controls made by the Company's management.

6.8. Non-Audit Services.

The Committee shall review with management and decide whether to approve the retention of the Independent Auditor for any non-auditing services proposed to be rendered to the Company, including assessing their compatibility with maintaining the Independent Auditor's independence. No non-audit services may be provided to the Company by the Independent Auditor unless approved in advance by the Committee under Section 6.2 above. The Independent Auditor shall not provide to the Company, and the Committee shall not have the authority to approve the provision to the Company by the Independent Auditor of, those services described in Section 201 of the Act or any other service that the PCAOB established under the Act determines, by regulation may not be provided to the Company by the Independent Auditor.

6.9. Accountability.

The Independent Auditor shall report directly to the Committee and shall be ultimately accountable to the Committee. The Committee shall obtain an annual written statement from the Independent Auditor confirming its direct accountability to the Committee.

6.10. Audit Assessment.

The Committee shall review with management, the Internal Auditor and the Independent Auditor any problems or difficulties encountered in connection with the audit process, including any restrictions on the scope of the Independent Auditor's activities or on access to requested information, any accounting adjustments that were noted or proposed by the Independent Auditor but that were passed (as immaterial or otherwise), any communications between the Independent Auditor's team assigned to the Company's audit and the Independent Auditor's national office respecting auditing or accounting issues presented by the Company's audit, and any "management" or "internal control" letter issued, or proposed to be issued, by the Independent Auditor to the Company.

6.11. Required Communications.

The Committee shall discuss with the Independent Auditor the matters required to be discussed under Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 or any applicable requirements including those of the PCAOB.

6.12. Disagreements.

The Committee shall periodically inquire of management and the Independent Auditor as to any disagreements that may have occurred between them relating to the Company's financial statements or disclosures. The Committee shall have sole responsibility for the resolution of any disagreements between management and the Independent Auditor regarding financial reporting.

7. Internal Auditing Oversight.

7.1. Internal Auditing Staff.

The Committee shall annually evaluate the performance of the internal auditing department with management and the Independent Auditor.

7.2. Internal Audit Process.

The Committee shall meet periodically with the Internal Auditor, the Independent Auditor and management to review (i) plans for the internal audit program (including scope, responsibilities, budget and staffing) for the coming year, (ii) the coordination of such plans with the work of the Independent Auditor, and (iii) the progress and results of the internal auditing process.

7.3. Internal Audit Reports.

The Committee shall meet periodically with the Internal Auditor to review any significant reports to management prepared by the internal auditing staff. The Internal Auditor shall provide a summary of all significant internal audit reports to the Committee each quarter.

8. Financial Statements and Disclosure Oversight.

8.1. SEC Filings and Earnings Releases and Guidance.

Prior to the filing by the Company with the SEC of any annual report on Form 10-K or any quarterly report on Form 10-Q, the Committee shall review with management and the Independent Auditor the financial statements and the disclosure under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" contained therein. The Committee shall periodically review with management and the Independent Auditor the Company's procedures (including types of information to be disclosed and the type of presentation to be made) with respect to press releases and with respect to financial information and earnings guidance provided to financial analysts and rating agencies. The Committee shall review management certifications as required by Sections 302 and 906 of the Act.

8.2. Accounting Changes.

The Committee shall, before their implementation, review with management and the Independent Auditor and approve all significant changes proposed to be made in the Company's accounting principles and practices.

8.3. Adequate Disclosure.

The Committee shall periodically inquire of management, the Independent Auditor, the General Counsel and, if the Committee deems it appropriate, outside legal counsel as to whether the Company's financial statements comport with the disclosure

requirements of federal securities laws, notwithstanding their conformity to accounting principles and practices.

8.4. Criticisms.

The Committee shall periodically inquire of management, the General Counsel and the Independent Auditor as to their knowledge of any criticism of the Company's financial statements or disclosures by any financial analysts, rating agencies, media sources or other reliable third-party sources. The Committee shall establish procedures for (i) the receipt, retention, investigation and resolution of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and (ii) the confidential anonymous submission by the Company's employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

9. Internal Controls, Legal Compliance and Code of Conduct Oversight.

9.1. Internal Controls and Compliance Policies.

For the purpose of assessing their adequacy and effectiveness, the Committee (i) shall periodically review and assess with management, the Internal Auditor, the General Counsel and the Independent Auditor (a) the internal control systems of the Company, including whether such controls are reasonably designed to ensure that appropriate information comes to the attention of the Committee in a timely manner, prevent violations of law and corporate policy and permit the Company to prepare accurate and informative financial reports, (b) the Company's policies on compliance with laws and regulations, and (c) the methods and procedures for monitoring compliance with such policies, and (ii) shall elicit from them any recommendations for the improvement of the Code of Conduct and such controls, policies, methods and procedures. The Committee shall review with management and the Independent Auditor, prior to its annual filing, the internal control report (containing the annual assessment of the effectiveness of the internal control structure and procedures of the Company for financial reporting) that is required to be filed by the Company with the SEC on Form 10-K.

9.2. Information Security.

The Committee shall periodically review and assess with management and the Independent Auditor the adequacy of the security for the Company's information systems and the Company's contingency plans in the event of a systems breakdown or security breach.

9.3. Code of Conduct.

The Committee shall periodically inquire of management, the Internal Auditor and the Independent Auditor as to their knowledge of (i) any violation of the Code of Conduct, (ii) any waiver of compliance with the Code of Conduct, and (iii) any investigations undertaken with regard to compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any waiver of the Code of Conduct with respect to a director or executive officer may only be

granted by the Committee. All waivers granted by the Committee shall be promptly reported to the entire Board and disclosed as required by rules and regulations of the SEC and NYSE.

9.4. Misconduct Allegations.

The Committee shall periodically inquire of management and the General Counsel of their knowledge of any allegations of Director or officer misconduct or misconduct by the Company (whether made by employees or third parties).

9.5. Disagreements.

The Committee shall inquire of management, the General Counsel and, if appropriate, outside legal counsel of any disagreements that may have occurred between management and legal counsel regarding any public disclosures or any other legal compliance issue.

10. Risk Management Oversight.

10.1. Risk Exposure.

The Committee shall periodically meet with management and the Independent Auditor to review the Company's major risks or exposures and to assess the steps taken by management to monitor and control such risks and exposures.

10.2. Insurance.

The Committee shall periodically review and assess with management and the General Counsel insurance coverage, including Directors and Officers Liability, property and casualty loss, and surety bonds.

10.3. Special-Purpose Entities and Off-Balance Sheet Transactions.

The Committee shall periodically meet with management, the Internal Auditor, the General Counsel and the Independent Auditor to review and assess all "special-purpose" entities of the Company and all complex financing transactions involving the Company, including all related off-balance sheet accounting matters.

10.4. Consultation with Legal Counsel.

The Committee shall periodically receive reports from, and review with the General Counsel and, if the Committee deems appropriate, outside legal counsel legal matters (including material claims, pending legal proceedings, government investigations and material reports, notices or inquiries received from governmental agencies) that may have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements or risk management.

11. Reports and Assessments.

11.1. Board Reports.

The Chairman of the Committee shall report regularly to the Board on Committee actions and on the fulfillment of the Committee's responsibilities under this Charter. Such reports shall include any issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance and independence of the Company's Independent Auditors and the performance of the Company's internal audit function.

11.2. Charter Assessment.

The Committee shall annually review and assess the adequacy of this Charter and advise the Board and the Governance Committee of its assessment and of its recommendation for any changes to the Charter.

11.3. Committee Self-Assessment.

The Committee shall annually review and make a self-assessment of its performance and shall report the results of such self-assessment to the Board and the Governance Committee.

11.4. Proxy Statement Report.

The Committee shall prepare an annual report as required by the rules and regulations of the SEC and submit it to the Board for inclusion in the Company's proxy statement prepared in connection with its annual meeting of stockholders.

11.5. Recommend Action.

The Committee shall annually make a determination as to whether to recommend to the Board that the audited financials (certified by the Independent Auditor) be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for filing with the SEC.

11.6 Board Access to Independent Auditor.

The Committee shall, whenever the Board of Directors or the Committee deems it appropriate, have the Independent Auditor attend a meeting of the full Board to discuss specific issues and to answer questions from the Directors.

12. General.

12.1. Financial Statement Responsibility.

The Company's management is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of the Company's financial statements and disclosures, and the Independent Auditor is responsible for auditing year-end financial statements and reviewing quarterly financial

statements and conducting other procedures. It is not the duty of the Committee to certify the Company's financial statements, to guarantee the Independent Auditor's report, or to plan or conduct audits. Since the primary function of the Committee is oversight, the Committee shall be entitled to rely on the expertise, skills and knowledge of management, the Internal Auditor and the Independent Auditor and the accuracy of information provided to the Committee by such persons in carrying out its oversight responsibilities. Nothing in this Charter is intended to change the responsibilities of management and the Independent Auditor.

12.2. Charter Guidelines.

While the responsibilities of the Committee set forth in Section 4 through 11 above are contemplated to be the principal recurring activities of the Committee in carrying out its oversight function, these responsibilities are to serve as a guide with the understanding that the Committee may diverge from them as it deems appropriate given the circumstances.