

Listing in Korea

A Guide to Listing on the Korean Exchange



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Introduction

Korea Exchange (KRX)

- In 1956, the Korean stock market opened with the start of Korea Stock Exchange. In January 2005, through integration of Korea Stock Exchange and two other domestic markets, the Korea Exchange (KRX) was created.
- There are four markets in the KRX; Main Board (KOSPI Market), KOSDAQ (Korea Securities Dealers Automated Quotation), KONEX (Korea New Exchange) and the derivatives market.
- The KRX is one of the most liquid stock exchanges. Numerous companies from various industries completed their IPOs successfully on KRX.
- Since 2007, the KRX has been actively promoting foreign companies' inbound IPOs to grow as an international stock exchange, be popular among foreign companies, and attract international investors.
- In order to further enhance its credibility on the international platform and be a leading global capital market, KRX has also signed MOUs with other global stock exchanges for mutual cooperation in areas such as information sharing, IT consulting, market links, development of new products, and any other mutually beneficial projects.

Main Board (KOSPI Market)

- The KOSPI market is the main board of KRX and many of the larger domestic and international companies such as Samsung Electronics, LG Energy Solution, SK Hynix, Samsung BioLogics, Celltrion are listed on KOSPI.
- As of December 31, 2023, 839 companies are listed with total market capitalization amounting to KRW 2,126 trillion and the transaction volume in 2023 amounting to KRW 2,352 trillion.

KOSDAQ Market

- The KOSDAQ market opened in 1996 to support venture and small and medium-sized companies' smooth financing.
- IPO requirement for the KOSDAQ market is less rigorous than the requirements for the KOSPI market, enabling 1,702 of middle-sized companies with high potential to be listed. As of December 31, 2023, total market capitalization amounts to KRW 431 trillion and the transaction volume in 2023 amounts to KRW 2,456 trillion.

KONEX Market

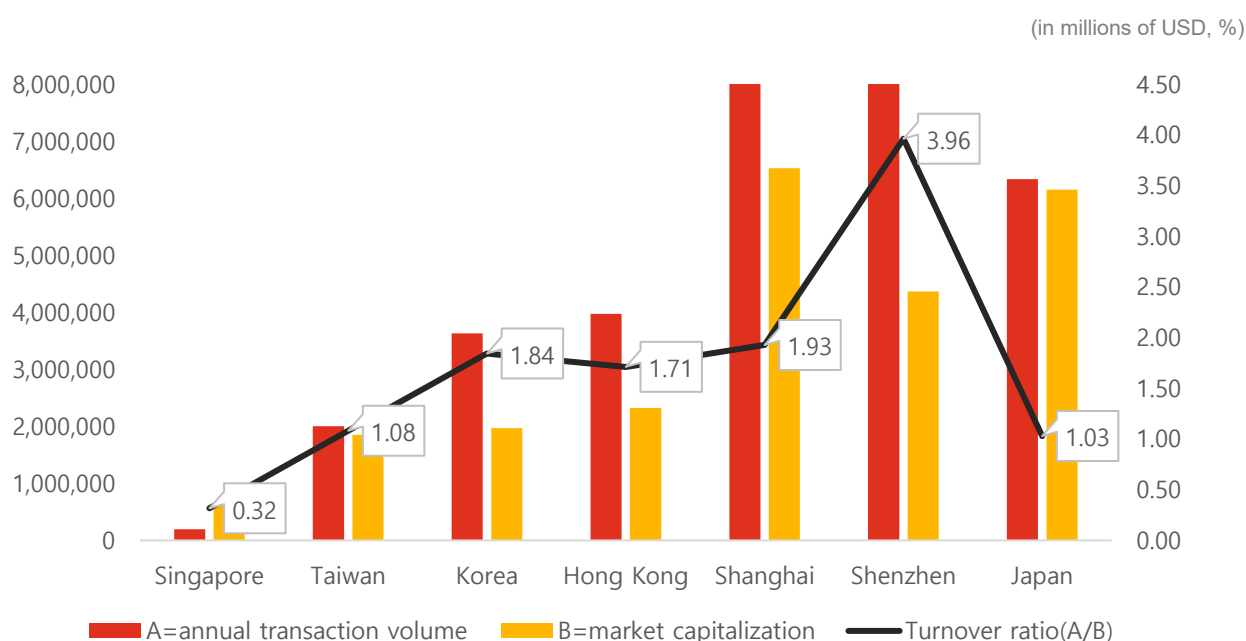
- The KRX opened KONEX market in 2013 to support small and middle-sized start-ups to raise capital.
- IPO requirement for the KONEX market is less rigorous than the requirements for the KOSDAQ market, enabling 129 of small and middle-sized or start-up companies with high potential to be listed. As of December 31, 2023, total market capitalization amounts to KRW 3.8 trillion and the transaction volume in 2023 amounts to KRW 0.6 trillion.



Comparison with major Asian stock exchanges

“The Korea exchange is one of the most liquid markets in the Asia region”

KRX is one of the most liquid markets in the Asia region. Also, the Korea exchange is open to foreign companies. The exchange witnessed more than doubling of trade volume since 2020.



Performances as at year end 2023

(in millions of USD, %)

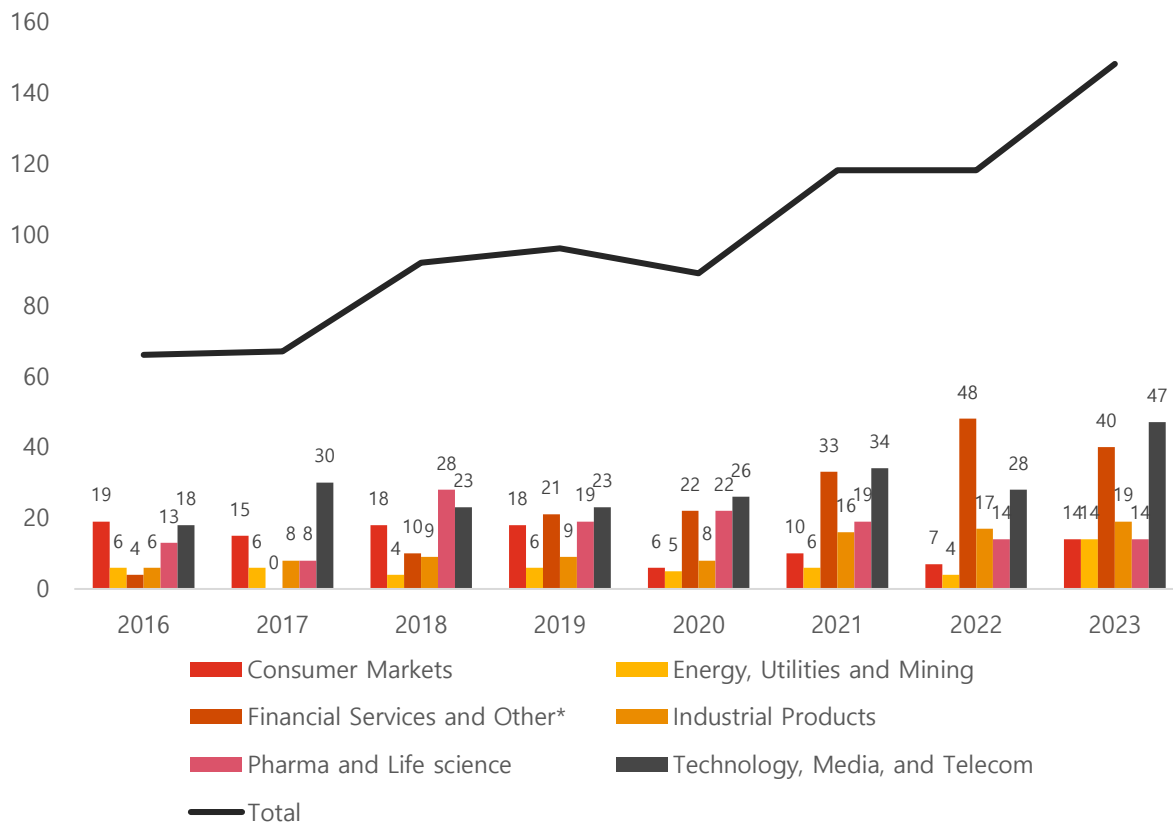
	Singapore	Taiwan	Korea	Hong Kong	Shanghai	Shenzhen	Japan
A annual transaction volume	192,748	2,003,694	3,628,718	3,974,783	12,576,227	17,305,482	6,333,214
B market capitalization	608,306	1,852,620	1,967,998	2,321,892	6,524,757	4,367,476	6,149,200
A/B turnover ratio	0.32	1.08	1.84	1.71	1.93	3.96	1.03

Sources: The World Bank Group – databank.worldbank.org, SGX, TWSE, SSE, and SZSE.



Number of IPOs on KRX (2016~2023)

The number of IPOs in 2023 shows a slight increase compared to the IPO in 2022, while the total amount of offering in 2023 decreased. In 2022, the offering amount for LG Energy Solution's IPO was USD 10 billion.



Number of IPOs by industry (2015~2022)

Year	Consumer Markets	Energy, Utilities and Mining	Financial Services and Other*	Industrial Products	Pharma and Life science	Technology, Media, and Telecom	Total
2016	19	6	4	6	13	18	66
2017	15	6	0	8	8	30	67
2018	18	4	10	9	28	23	92
2019	18	6	21	9	19	23	96
2020	6	5	22	8	22	26	89
2021	10	6	33	16	19	34	118
2022	7	4	48	17	14	28	118
2023	8	7	40	13	12	40	120

* 'Financial Services and Other' includes Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPAC)
Sources: KRX and Bloomberg



Overview by market & industry (December 31, 2023)

(in millions of USD)

Market	Industry Group	General Market Cap	2023 IPO Market Cap
KOSPI Market	Consumer Markets	191,737	-
	Energy, Utilities & Mining	150,876	627
	Financial services & REITs	176,708	540
	Industrial Products	328,488	9,508
	Pharma & Life Sciences	106,740	-
	TMT	737,318	96
KOSDAQ Market	Consumer Markets	22,234	753
	Energy, Utilities & Mining	21,475	563
	Financial services & REITs	6,386	551
	Industrial Products	57,439	2,838
	Pharma & Life Sciences	77,710	1,837
	TMT	112,731	4,774

Sources: KRX

Taking the lead in 2023 IPOs are Industrial Products, TMT, and Pharma & Life Sciences industries as they stand strong with high market capitalization.

Industrial Products, TMT and Pharma & Life Sciences industry sectors dominated the 2023 IPO market capitalization having raised USD 12.3 billion, USD 4.8 billion, and USD 1.8 billion respectively. Furthermore, in 2023, KOSPI and KOSDAQ markets had over USD 369 billion increase in aggregate market capitalization.



PER (Price-Earnings Ratio, June 30, 2024)

Market	Index	PE Ratio
KOSPI 200	KOSPI 200	19.03
	Consumer Markets	22.11
	Industrial Products	21.00
	Healthcare	49.46
	Information Technology	68.82
KOSDAQ 150	KOSDAQ 150	192.92
	Consumer Markets	40.40
	Industrial Products	78.50
	Healthcare	620.58
	Information Technology	111.57

Sources: KRX

Valuations in Healthcare and Information Technology sectors were very strong as of June 30, 2024.

Valuations in some sectors are relatively strong and competitive compared to other global markets. Especially, PE ratio in Healthcare and IT sectors on the KOSDAQ remains very high. PER of KOSDAQ 150 Healthcare sector was 621 and PER of KOSDAQ 150 IT sector was 112 as of June 30, 2024.



01. Status of foreign issuers in Korea

As of June 30, 2024, foreign companies listed on KRX are as follows.

(in millions of USD)

No	Market	Name	Country	Listing Date	Offer Price ^{*1} (KRW)	Price ^{*1} of Jun'24 (KRW)	Revenue ^{*2}	Net Income ^{*2}
1	KOSDAQ	Global SM Tech	Hong Kong	2009.12	3,200	441	84	3
2	KOSDAQ	CKH Food & Health Limited	Cayman Islands	2010.03	3,700	100	55	6
3	KOSDAQ	Ameridge Corp	United States	2010.04	7,500	836	29	(27)
4	KOSDAQ	East Asia Holdings Investment Ltd	Hong Kong	2010.04	5,000	89	48	2
5	KOSPI	LVMC Holdings Co Ltd	Vietnam	2010.11	4,800	2,515	200	(32)
6	KOSDAQ	SBI FinTech Solutions Co Ltd	Japan	2012.12	3,600	3,005	40	0
7	KOSDAQ	Access Bio Inc	United States	2013.05	4,500	6,640	267	-4
8	KOSDAQ	China Crystal New Material Hldgs Co Ltd	China	2016.01	3,000	1,126	63	7
9	KOSDAQ	Rothwell International Co Ltd	Hong Kong	2016.06	3,200	804	281	12
10	KOSDAQ	Heng Sheng Holding Group Ltd	Hong Kong	2016.08	3,600	291	85	(1)
11	KOSDAQ	Englewood Lab Inc	United States	2016.10	6,000	22,900	158	16
12	KOSDAQ	Cayman Golden Century Wheel Group Ltd	Cayman Islands	2016.10	3,500	97	31	(126)
13	KOSDAQ	Great Rich Technologies Ltd	Hong Kong	2016.10	5,000	3,455	589	45
14	KOSDAQ	Organic Tea Cosmetics Holdings Co Ltd	Hong Kong	2016.11	4,000	103	138	(62)
15	KOSDAQ	Coloray International Investment Co Ltd	Hong Kong	2017.08	3,800	757	35	4
16	KOSDAQ	Kolon TissueGene, Inc	United States	2017.11	27,000	13,990	3	(13)
17	KOSDAQ	JTC Inc	Japan	2018.04	8,500	5,430	116	16
18	KOSDAQ	Wing Yip Food China Holdings Group Ltd	Hong Kong	2018.11	2,000	2,385	136	12
19	KOSDAQ	Psomagen Inc	United States	2020.07	11,000	3,930	25	(3)
20	KOSDAQ	Me2Zen Ltd	Hong Kong	2020.08	27,000	10,000	76	16
21	KOSPI	Prestige Biopharma Ltd	Singapore	2021.02	32,000	8,650	0	(2)
22	KOSDAQ	Neoimmunetech Inc	United States	2021.03	7,500	1,600	0	(41)

Delisted companies are excluded

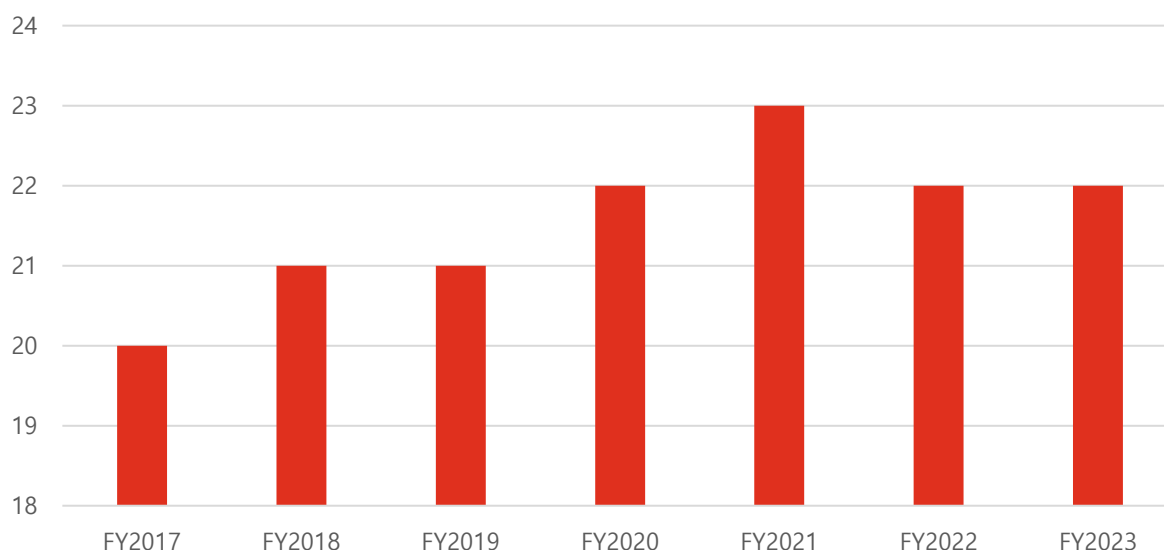
*1 Price per share

*2 Financial information of 2023 is converted into USD using fiscal year-end exchange rate.

Source: Bloomberg, DART



IPOs of foreign companies on KRX by year



	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	Jul-24	Total
Newly Listed	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	38
Delisted*	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	16
Accumulation	20	21	21	22	23	22	22	22	44

*Certain companies delisted voluntarily, and the others due to disclaimer audit opinion, embezzlement, or failing to meet the market capitalization requirement.

Listing requirement for foreign companies

All the necessary documents for listing should be written in Korean.

- Companies should submit both preliminary examination application for listing and other relevant documents in Korean.
- English based financial statements prepared in accordance with IFRS can be attached for information purpose.

Introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

- Since 2011, KRX accepts accounting standard under IFRS to list on KOSPI and KOSDAQ market.



02. Listing requirements

Listing standards

KRX is mainly divided into two types of market, KOSPI market and KOSDAQ market; and based on the company's industry group and size, it will select one of the two markets.

Listing requirements of KOSPI market and KOSDAQ market include both qualitative and quantitative aspects which are discussed further in detail over the next few pages.

Qualitative requirements for both markets

1. Company's continuity

- Stability: stability of operation, stability of financial position, operating history, and level of customer satisfaction.
- Growth potential: periodic cycle of industry growth, diversification of sales item and customers, R&D and new product development
- Case of a lawsuit, legal dispute: Impact which major lawsuits (feud over patent or management control) have on business

2. Management's transparency

- Structure of corporate governance: major shareholder, management, outside director, audit committee
- Internal control system: internal control system including internal accounting control system, transaction between related parties, transaction with major shareholder
- Transparency in accounting: establishment of accounting system, accounting standard and external auditor, audit opinion, and accounting supervision

3. Investor protection

- Transparency in disclosure: staff and organization for public announcement
- Protection of small shareholders: excessive shares of major shareholder, issue of convertible debt, right of small shareholders, safeguard deposit
- wholeness of liquidity and stock market: diversification, protection of liquidity, settlement of argument for duplicate listing
- Professional expertise of lead underwriter: professional execution, calculation of public offering price



Quantitative requirements for KOSPI market

Criteria	Requirements
Operating history	At least 3 years
Capital size	Over KRW 30 billion of shareholders' equity
	Over 1 million shares to be listed
	A. to meet any one of the following shares requirements:
	1. At least 25% of shares or 5 million shares held by public shareholders (for companies with 50 million or more shares to be publicly offered, 10% of the total shares to be held by public shareholders)
	2. At least 25% of shares or 5 million shares to be publicly offered (for companies with 50 million or more shares to be publicly offered, 10% of the total shares to be publicly offered)
	3. At least 10% of shares to be publicly offered & At least the No. of the public offered shares should be as follows
	- 1 million shares: KRW 50~100 billion Equity Capital or KRW 100~200 billion Market Capitalization
	- 2 million shares: KRW 100~250 billion Equity Capital or KRW 200~500 billion Market Capitalization
	- 5 million shares: KRW 250~500 billion Equity Capital or more than KRW 500 billion Market Capitalization
	4. In case of the simultaneous offering in Korea and abroad, At least 10% of shares and 1 million shares to be publicly offered
Share distribution (to satisfy A,B and C)	B. At least 500 public shareholders
	C. No restriction placed on the transfer of shares
	A. To meet all of the following 'Sales & Profit requirements'
Financial requirements (to choose one of the options)	1. Sales of KRW 100 billion for the latest fiscal year and average sales of KRW 70 billion for the recent 3 years
	2. Positive operating income, income from continuing operations before tax and net income for the latest fiscal year
	3. ROE and income (Either i, ii or iii)
	i. ROE: 5% of ROE for the latest fiscal year and 10% of ROE for the recent 3 years
	ii. Income: Net income of KRW 3 billion for the latest fiscal year and an aggregate of KRW 6 billion in the recent 3 years
	iii. For a company over KRW 100 billion of shareholders' equity : 3% of ROE or net income of KRW 5 billion for the latest fiscal year and positive cash flow from operating activities
	B. To meet all of the following 'Sales & Market capitalization requirements'
	1. Sales: Higher than KRW 100 billion of the latest fiscal year 2. Market capitalization: Higher than KRW 200 billion



	C. To meet all of the following 'Net income & Market capitalization requirements' 1. Net income: Higher than KRW 5 billion of the latest fiscal 2. Market capitalization: Higher than KRW 200 billion
	D. To meet all of the following 'Market capitalization & Equity capital requirements' 1. Market capitalization: Higher than KRW 500 billion 2. Equity Capital: Higher than KRW 150 billion
Audit opinion	1. Unqualified opinion for the latest fiscal year
	2. Unqualified opinion or qualified opinion (excluding the qualified opinion due to scope limitation) for the recent two prior years
Change of auditors	Auditors should not be changed within 3 years from the application year for listing eligibility review
Corporate governance	1. Non –executive directors should be at least 1/4 of total number of directors (A company with total asset of KRW 2 trillion, the number of non-executive directors should be at least 3 directors and 1/2 of total number of directors)
	2. For a company with total assets of KRW 2 trillion, an audit committee is required and at least 2/3 of the committee members should be non-executive directors
	3. For a company with total assets of KRW 100 billion, it is required to have a full-time internal auditor
Accounting standards	K-IFRS (IFRS as adopted by Korea)



Quantitative requirements for KOSDAQ market

Criteria	Requirements	
	General Company [Venture Company*]	Technology Growth Company
Operating history	No requirements	
Capital size	No requirements	
Share distribution (fall under any of the following items)	1. Number of minority shareholders at least 500, at least 25% of shares are held by minority shareholders, and at least 5% of shares to be publicly offered	
	2. Number of minority shareholders at least 500, over KRW 50 billion of shareholders' equity, and at least the No. of shares should be as follows;	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 million shares: KRW 50~100 billion Equity capital or KRW 100~200 billion Market capitalization - 2 million shares: KRW 100~250 billion Equity capital or KRW 200~500 billion Market capitalization - 5 million shares: KRW 250~500 billion Equity capital or more than KRW 500 billion Market capitalization 	
	3. Number of minority shareholders at least 500, and at least 25% of shares to be publicly offered	
Financial performance requirements (fall under any of the following items)	A. Profitability, sales or others: to meet any one of the following	A. Equity capital of KRW 1 billion or B. Market capitalization of KRW 9 billion
	1. i) Income from continuing operations before tax of KRW 2 billion [VC: 1 billion] and ii) market capitalization of KRW 9 billion	<u>Technology assessment:</u> the result of technology assessment provided by the professional appraisal agency and expert group are <u>A & BBB grades or above</u> (Foreign companies: A & A grades or above) within 6 months from preliminary examination application
	2. i) Income from continuing operations before tax of KRW 2 billion [VC: 1 billion] and ii) equity capital of KRW 3 billion [VC: 1.5 billion]	
	3. i) Positive income from continuing operations before tax, ii) market capitalization of KRW 20 billion, and iii) sales of KRW 10 billion [VC: 5 billion]	
	4. Income from continuing operations before tax of KRW 5 billion	
	B. Market valuation/Potential growth – Tesla policy : to meet any one of the following	<u>Sponsor recommendation:</u> Foreign companies shall be recommended by qualified listing sponsors who have; i) listing track record in recent three years ii) no record of the sponsored companies being delisted after two years from the listing date, in recent three years
	1. i) Market capitalization of KRW 50 billion, ii) sales of KRW 3 billion, and iii) average growth rate of 20% in recent two years	
	2. i) Market capitalization of KRW 30 billion, and ii) sales of KRW 10 billion [VC:	



	5 billion]	iii) if ii) are not satisfied, then IB will temporarily lose its eligibility to sponsor the foreign company.
	3. i) Market capitalization of KRW 50 billion, and ii) PBR of 200% after offering	
	4. Market capitalization of KRW 100 billion	
	5. Equity capital of KRW 25 billion	
Audit opinion	Unqualified opinion for the latest fiscal year **	
Restriction on transfers of shares	No restriction placed on the transfer of shares	
Change of auditors	Auditors should not be changed within 3 years from the application year for listing eligibility review	
Corporate governance	1. At least 3 directors should be appointed with outside/non-executive directors making up at least 1/4 of total number of directors (a company with total assets of KRW 2 trillion or more, should appoint at least 3 directors with the number of non-executive directors making up at least 1/2 of total number of directors)	
	2. For a company with total assets of KRW 2 trillion or more, an audit committee is required with at least 2/3 of the audit committee members being outside/non-executive directors	
	3. For a company with total assets of KRW 100 billion or more, a full-time internal auditor is required	
Accounting standards	K-IFRS (IFRS as adopted by Korea)	

* Classification as a Venture Company needs to be certified by the Korea Venture Business Association

** However, in practice, unqualified opinion for the recent two prior years is advised for a successful listing
Foreign companies shall be established in the "Qualified countries". Qualified countries are where qualified stock exchanges (such as, NYSE, NASDAQ, Euronext, Hong Kong, and etc.) are located.



Separate requirements for foreign applicants

Internal Accounting Control System

In order to enhance transparency in accounting, foreign companies should build and operate internal accounting control system (for the recent 3 months) prior to date of preliminary examination and should have operating reports that indicate the followings

- Internal accounting control system policies and organization structure with management and operating function of internal accounting controls
- Internal accounting control system operating status report which has been addressed to the Board of Directors and Audit Committee (or internal auditor)
- Assessment report on the above 'Internal accounting control system operating status report' reported to the Board of Directors by the Audit Committee (or internal auditor)
- Review report from the external auditors on internal accounting control system
- The authentication (signature) of the CEO regarding appropriate operation of the internal accounting control system

For foreign registrant, auditor attestation strengthened to include audit of Internal Accounting Control System with gradual adoption from the annual periods of 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023 depending on the total assets size.

Coverage of internal accounting control system

- If the company build and operate internal accounting control system under the domestic law, materials relating to domestic law, instead of the documents mentioned, can be submitted.
- For the maintenance of internal accounting control system after IPO, the documents relating to internal accounting control system should be provided at the time of submission of annual report
- In the case of foreign companies that have already been listed, it should be applied to submit the documents relating to internal accounting control system at the time of submission of annual report

Internal accounting control system in major countries

- United States of America: to strengthen internal controls after big accounting frauds like Enron's collapse, Sarbanes Oxley Act was legislated in 2002
- Japan: following SOX laws of the United States, internal control system was reflected on the law of Financial Instruments and Exchange in 2005, and enforced in April 2008
- China: "Notifications for quality improvement of a listed company" in CSRC 2005, required the internal control for listed companies.
- India: Audit opinion on effectiveness of internal control system is required to all listed companies and non-listed companies based on Companies Act, 2013 and ICAI.

Comfort Letter on the preliminary registration statement

In the past, the auditor's comfort letter was not required for preliminary examination application documents (preliminary registration statement), but now the external auditor's comfort letter should be provided as a required document for examination.



External Auditor Requirements

Criteria	Requirements
A. Korean Audit Firm	
Operating history	Should have existed for more than 5 years
Number of experts	Should have more than 50 CPAs
Revenue	Should have revenue of KRW 10 billion for the latest fiscal year
Ability to compensation	Should have more than KRW 2 billion of compensation reserve fund and compensation joint fund in total
International alliances	<p>For companies not located in qualified countries[*] : Audit quality management agreement with an international accounting firm with offices over 100 countries and over 100,000 qualified accountants, globally</p> <p>For companies not located in qualified countries[*] : Audit quality management agreement with an international accounting firm with offices over 30 countries and over 2,000 qualified accountants</p>
Actions of financial authorities	No registration cancellation or suspension of all or part of services by Securities & Futures Commission for the recent 3 years
B. Foreign Audit Firm	
Operating history	Should have existed for more than 5 years
Number of experts	Should have more than 50 CPAs
Revenue	Should have revenue of KRW 10 billion for the latest fiscal year
International alliances	<p>For registrant not listed in the overseas securities market or companies not located in qualified countries[*] : Audit quality management agreement with an international accounting firm with offices over 100 countries and over 100,000 qualified accountants</p> <p>For registrant listed in the overseas securities market or companies located in qualified countries[*] : Audit quality management agreement with an international accounting firm with offices over 30 countries and over 2,000 qualified accountants</p>

^{*} Foreign SPCs located other than Qualified countries are required to appoint the major international accounting firms.

^{**} When foreign companies go IPO, companies shall appoint the same external auditors for 3 years including the application year for listing eligibility review ("Newly listed audit years"). After Newly listed audit years, foreign registrant shall appoint an auditor to conduct an audit for three consecutive years.

^{***} Foreign registrant shall appoint auditors within three months from the date of commencement of business year.



03. Listing Structure for Foreign Companies

Introduction of foreign companies' IPO system through the establishment of domestic holding company (SPC)

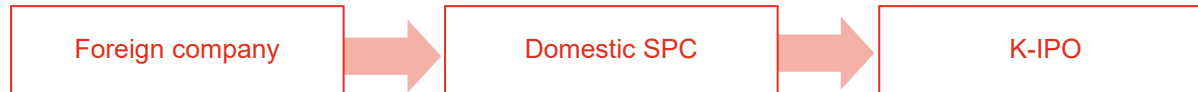
There are several listing structures options for companies to list on KRX such as use of foreign SPC to overcome the insufficient legal system.

1) Use of Foreign SPC

Foreign applicant in a country with potential legal conflicts or uncertainty may consider using its holding company for listing on KRX. If the company has not yet established a holding company, it is recommended to use an SPC located in already proven countries such as Hong Kong or the Cayman Islands. The Companies not located in Qualified countries are allowed to list their shares on KRX only through the establishment of Korean holding company since July 2019 submission of preliminary examination application.

2) Use of SPC in Korea

Foreign applicants are allowed to list their shares on KRX through the establishment of domestic holding company (SPC) dominating the subsidiaries of the foreign companies, to boost corporate value and ensure investor confidence. However, in order to protect investor and go on disclosure work smoothly, they should establish a business office in Korea and have sufficient computational facilities and personnel.



Foreseen benefits would be as follows:

- If foreign companies do IPO through the establishment of domestic holding company (SPC), better communication with investors by the domestic SPC will ensure investors' trust and get positive effect on stock prices
- New means for foreign companies do KRX IPO; holding company exemption can be applied, so that KRX IPO by national firms in appearance can be facilitated.
- IPO system through the establishment of domestic SPC; companies operated overseas are expected to promote KRX IPO more actively.

3) Issuance of KDR (Korean Depositary Receipt)

Issuance of KDR takes two steps: first, the underlying shares are kept in a safekeeping organization in a foreign jurisdiction and second, based on the safekeeping, the KSD issues DR for investors participating in the IPO. Sometimes KDR is issued inevitably due to inconsistency in regulations between Korean and foreign jurisdiction (including actual shareholder system) and difference in depository system. Just like in case of share listing, KDR also requires a foreign applicant to revise articles of incorporation and, if allowed under the law of the foreign jurisdiction, to take measures for investor protection such as holding shareholders meeting in Korea. In case of primary listing, the issuer must execute a securities administrative agent agreement with the KSD; in case of KDR, the company should execute a depository agreement with the KSD.



04. Listing procedures

Key listing procedures for KRX IPO

The key listing procedures and period by stages for IPO on KRX are outlined as follows:

Stage	Period	Procedures
Pre-IPO	1 year ~ 2 years	Consultation with KRX
		Preparation of timetable for IPO
		Formation of working group including auditor, underwriter, legal council
		Preparation of financial statements with required GAAP
		Audit of 3 financial years
Offering Process	6 months ~ 1 year	Select underwriter
		Set the articles of incorporation and internal control systems
		Contract transfer agent
		Organize employee stock ownership association
		Audit and review of legal documents
		Due Diligence
		Drafting offering circular/registration statement and comfort letter
Listing Eligibility Review	3 months (12 weeks)	Application for listing eligibility review (about 12 weeks examination period for foreign companies)*
		Result notification from KRX
Public Offering	1 month ~3 months	Filing of the registration statement (effect after 15 days)
		Investor relations meetings and finalizing offering circular
		Determining the issue price
		Subscription and allotment, payment and after paying registration
		Reports on results of issuing securities
Listing	3 days	Application for initial listing
		Listing approval & trading

* KRX sends the notice of eligibility clearance within three months (65 business days) in case of an application being filed by a foreign applicant in case of an IPO, but within two months (45 business days) in case of secondary listing

It generally takes at least 12 months for foreign companies from signing of a principal underwriting agreement to completion of KRX IPO.



05. Continuing obligation

Public disclosure

As important information of a listed company may have impact on investors' decision making process, it should be disclosed publicly. Prompt and timely disclosure of corporate governance, accounting transparency and business affairs can settle inequality of information, ensure fairness of stock exchange and protect investors.

Periodic disclosure

Listed companies should release their operating performance and financial position together with other information regularly.

- Annual report: release the annual business report within 120 days after fiscal year-end (90 days for domestic companies)
- Semi-annual/quarterly report: release semi-annual/quarterly reports within 60 days after semi/quarter end (45 days for domestic companies)

Note: In case of a foreign company primarily listed on an overseas exchange, it should publish the annual business report and semi-annual/quarterly reports within 10 days from date of reporting to the overseas exchange.

Timely disclosure

The listed company should disclose the significant events concerning its financial status, change of management, operational and production activities, receivables and liabilities, investment activities, profit and loss analysis, financial settlements and legal actions, and further disclose significant events of its holding and subsidiary companies.

Special Disclosure

The listed company should disclose the information relating to major corporate events such as a merger, stock exchange, business or major assets transfer, repurchase and disposal of treasury stock, etc.

Inquired disclosure

The listed company should answer to the disclosure inquiries from KRX on occasion of market rumors and media coverage on its operational performance or sudden or abnormal fluctuation in its stock price and trading volume.

Voluntary disclosure

The listed company may disclose in its discretion the information that might have impact on its business or the investors' investment decision.

Fair disclosure

The listed company should disclose future business plans and profit forecast prior to provision of the same to a specific third party, such as institutional investors.



Investor protection policy regarding foreign applicants

Basis	Type	Details
Capital Market Act	Corporate disclosure	Registration statement, annual business report, semi-annual report, quarterly report etc.
	Change of management disclosure	Public tender, 5% rule, report of shares held by executives etc.
	Prohibition of unfair trade	Stock price manipulation, insider trading, fraudulent trading etc.
	Financial exemption for listed companies	Financial management standard, Measurement standard of Financial Services Commission
Listing Regulation	Essential items in articles of incorporation	Outside director, audit committee, restriction of third party allotment etc.
	Enhancement of transparency in accounting	Qualification restriction of external auditor, restriction of change in accounting standard etc.
	Prior-consultation	Preliminary discussion at the time of application, appointment of listing agent, etc.
Disclosure Regulation	Corporate disclosure	Timely disclose the significant events



o6. What help you should seek

Accounting firm

- Evaluation of approach and plans to access the capital market in Korea
- Issuing audit opinion on the financial statements in accordance with local regulatory auditing requirements to be included in the registration statement
- Advisory on GAAP conversion (K-IFRS, IFRS or US GAAP)
- (Once selected, the accounting standard may not be changed after listing)
- Analyze and determine optimal IPO vehicle and deal structure, to maximize IPO value
- Advisory on Internal control over financial reporting (i.e., risk and control mapping, segregation of duty analysis, GAP analysis, and operation support)
- Review of registration statements and offering documents
- Issuance of comfort letters on the registration statement

Underwriter

- Investigation and confirm the data of applicant's business performance and related issues
- Consultation with respect to the listing requirements
- Performance of due diligence and analysis of securities
- Marketing the shares offered
- Check the details on all aspects of the offering documents
- Book-building and pricing of the shares to be offered and underwriting the shares floated

Legal councils

- Review of registration statements and offering documents
- Performance of legal due diligence on the issuer
- Preparation of underwriting agreements
- Co-ordination of the comfort letter process on behalf of the underwriters



07. What we can do

For many years, Samil PwC Capital Markets Group ('CMG') has provided services in relation to debt and equity security offerings on the Korean capital market. We provide a 'one-stop' service, which is comprehensive and continuous from the initial stage to completion of their offering, to our clients.

Services provided by Samil PwC relating to KRX IPO

Stage	Services
Pre-offering Support/Advice	Analyze and advise on listing requirements of the Korea Stock Exchange
	Formulate offering strategy
	Financial audits/reviews
	Advise on procedures and roles of various working parties involved in the offering (issuing company, accountant, underwriter, legal councils)
	Assist in GAAP conversion (adoption of IFRS)
	Assist in financial reporting infrastructure improvements (Financial audits for listing eligibility review)
	Participate and support various meetings (i.e. kick-off meeting, due diligence meeting, offering circular drafting sessions, etc.)
During offering	Support client for effective communication with working parties
	Support client with review of offering documents
	Issue requested letters (i.e. comfort letter, bring-down letter) with circle-up on financial information included in offering documents
	Financial audits/reviews
On-going support	Advise regulations required by Korean regulators to our clients and advise on the best alternatives
	Financial audits/reviews
	Review and advise on going disclosures and document filings
	Offer financial reporting training services in order to comply with all the changes to IFRS, US GAAP or K-IFRS



o8. PricewaterhouseCoopers

PricewaterhouseCoopers('PwC'), the world's largest professional services organization, has been creating value for our clients, our people and the communities we live and work in. PwC together has one common purpose – to build trust in society and solve important problems.

Samil PwC, the Korean network firm of PwC, is contributing to a successful global business of the clients. Samil PwC has more than 3,000 devoted professionals committed to providing innovative solutions which enable our clients to gain competitive advantages in highly volatile circumstances in three areas:

Assurance

- ✓ Audit and attestation services
- ✓ Accounting Advisory Services
- ✓ IFRS Conversions and Adoptions
- ✓ Cross-Border IPO and Capital Market Services
- ✓ Risk Assurance Services (data, 3rd-party, IT risk assurance)
- ✓ Internal Audit Services
- ✓ Internal Control Advisory Services

Tax

- ✓ Domestic and International Tax Advisory
- ✓ Transfer Pricing
- ✓ Assistance with the drafting of the ruling requests and explanations of facts and issues to the relevant authorities
- ✓ Real Estate Investment and Development Consulting
- ✓ Overseas Solution

Deal Business

- ✓ Corporate Finance and M&A Advisory
- ✓ Acquisitions and Financial Due Diligence Advisory
- ✓ Private M&A Deal Advisory
- ✓ Real Estate and Infrastructure Advisory
- ✓ Corporate Valuation Consultings
- ✓ Business Dispute Analysis and Investigation
- ✓ M & A strategy and post-merger integration services
- ✓ Corporate and Financial Institutions Restructuring Advisory
- ✓ Energy and Resource Development Advisory



09. Our Experts

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