# PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

# **Articles of Association**

OF

# **ROOT LIMITED**

(As adopted by Special Resolution dated 10th November 1995)

## **PRELIMINARY**

- 1. The Regulations contained in Table A in the Schedule to the Companies (Tables A to F) Regulations 1985 (SI 1985 No. 805) as amended by The Companies (Tables A to F) (Amendment) Regulations 1985 (SI 1985 No. 1052) (hereinafter referred to as "Table A") shall apply to the Company save as in so far as they are excluded or varied hereby and such Regulations (save as so excluded or varied) and these Articles hereinafter contained shall be the regulations of the Company.
- 2. Regulations 8, 64, 73 to 80, 101 and 118 of Table A shall not apply to the Company and in Regulation 1 of Table A the following words shall be inserted after the word "regulations" in line 1 thereof "and in any Articles adopting the same".

# **INTERPRETATION**

- 3. In these Articles
  - (a) the expression "the Act" means the Companies Act 1985 but so that any reference in these Articles to any provision of the Act shall be deemed to include a reference to any statutory modification or re-enactment of that provision for the time being in force.
  - (b) the words "written" and "writing" shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as including references to printing and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form and shall include any document sent by telex, facsimile, optical image transmission or other similar means of transmission.
  - (c) the words "member" and "members" shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be deemed to include both the plural and singular tenses thereof.

# **ALLOTMENT OF SHARES**

- 4. (a) In accordance with the provisions of Section 80 of the Act the Directors are unconditionally authorised to allot, grant options over, or otherwise deal with or dispose of any unissued shares and relevant securities (as defined by Section 80(2) of the Act) of the Company to such persons and generally on such terms and conditions as the Directors may determine.
  - (b) The general authority conferred by paragraph (a) of this Article shall extend to the amount of the authorised share capital with which the Company is incorporated and will expire five years from the date of incorporation unless renewed, varied or revoked at any time (subject to Section 80 of the Act) by Ordinary Resolution of the Company in General Meeting.

- (c) The Directors shall be entitled under the general authority conferred by paragraph (a) of this Article to make at any time before the expiry of such authority any offer or agreement which will or might require relevant securities of the Company to be allotted after the expiry of such authority.
- 5. In accordance with Section 91(1) of the Act, Sections 89(1) and 90(1) to 90(6) inclusive of the Act shall not apply to the Company.

## **LIEN ON SHARES**

- 6. The Company shall have a first and paramount lien on every share (whether or not it is a fully paid share) for all moneys (whether presently payable or not) called or payable at a fixed time in respect of that share and the Company shall also have a first and paramount lien on all shares (whether fully paid or not) standing registered in the name of any member whether solely or in the name of one of two or more joint holders for all moneys presently payable by him or his estate to the Company; but the Directors may at any time declare any share to be wholly or in part exempt from the provisions of this Article. The Company's lien (if any) on a share shall extend to all dividends payable thereon.
- 7. The liability of any member in default in respect of a call shall be increased by the addition at the end of the first sentence of Regulation 18 in Table A of the words "and all expenses that may have been incurred by the Company by reason of such non-payment".

# TRANSFER OF SHARES

8. The Directors may, in their absolute discretion and without assigning any reason therefore, decline to register any transfer of a share, whether or not it is a fully paid share. The Directors may also decline to register any transfer of shares on which the Company has a lien. The first sentence of Regulation 24 and all of Regulation 25 of Table A shall not apply to the Company.

#### **GENERAL MEETINGS AND RESOLUTIONS**

- 9. In accordance with Section 372(3) of the Act in every notice convening a General Meeting of the Company there shall appear with reasonable prominence a statement that a member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him and that a proxy need not be a member of the Company. Regulation 38 of Table A shall be modified accordingly and the second sentence of Regulation 59 of Table A shall not apply to the Company.
- 10. (a) If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for a General Meeting the General Meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day and at such other time and place as the Directors may determine; and if at the adjourned General Meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed therefor such adjourned General Meeting shall be dissolved.
  - (b) Regulation 41 of Table A shall not apply to the Company.

## **SINGLE MEMBER**

- 11. If and for so long as the Company shall have only one member pursuant to The Companies (Single Member Private Limited Companies) Regulations 1992 the following provisions shall apply:
  - (a) One person present in person, being the sole member of the Company or a proxy for that member or, if that member is a corporation, a duly authorised representative of such member, shall be a quorum and Regulation 40 of Table A shall be modified accordingly.

- (b) The sole member of the Company or the proxy of the sole member or authorised representative where that member is a corporation shall be the Chairman of any General Meeting of the Company and Regulation 42 of Table A shall be modified accordingly.
- (c) A proxy for the sole member of the Company may vote on a show of hands and Regulation 54 of Table A shall be modified accordingly.
- (d) All other provisions of these Articles shall (in the absence of any express provision to the contrary) apply with such modification as may be necessary in relation to a company which has only one member.
- 12. (a) If and for so long as the Company has only one member and that member takes any decision which is required to be taken in General Meeting or by means of a written resolution, that decision shall be as valid and effectual as if agreed by the Company in General Meeting save that this paragraph shall not apply to resolutions passed pursuant to Sections 303 and 391 of the Act.
  - (b) Any decision taken by a sole member pursuant to paragraph (a) above shall be recorded in writing and delivered by that member to the Company for entry in the Minute Book of the Company.

## DIRECTORS

- 13. Unless and until the Company by Ordinary Resolution shall otherwise determine, there shall be no maximum number of Directors and the minimum number of Directors shall be one. If and so long as there is a sole Director he may exercise all the powers and authorities vested in the Directors as expressed by Table A and by these Articles. The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Directors when more than one Director holds office may be fixed by the Directors but unless so fixed shall be two present in person. In the event of the minimum number of Directors fixed by or pursuant to these Articles being one, the quorum shall be one. Regulation 89 of Table A be modified accordingly.
- 14. The Directors may appoint any person who is willing to act to be a director, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Directors provided that the appointment does not cause the number of Directors to exceed any number determined in accordance with Article 13 as the maximum number of Directors and for the time being in force.
- 15. No person shall be appointed a Director at any General Meeting unless either:-
  - (a) the person is recommended by the Directors; or
  - (b) not less than fourteen days nor more than thirty-five clear days before the date appointed for the General Meeting, notice signed by a member qualified to vote at the General Meeting has been given to the Company of the intention to propose that person for appointment, together with notice signed by that person of his willingness to be appointed.
- 16. Subject to Article 15 the Company may by Ordinary Resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Director either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Directors.
- 17. Subject to the provisions of these Articles and to Section 293 of the Act any person may be appointed or elected as a Director, whatever his age, and no Director shall be required to vacate his office of Director by reason of his attaining or having attained the age of seventy years or any other age.
- 18. A Director shall not be required to hold any share qualification but shall nevertheless be entitled to receive notice of and to attend and speak at all General Meetings of the Company and at all separate general meetings of the holders of any class of shares in the Company.

In any case where as the result of the death of a sole member of the Company the Company has no members and no Directors the personal representatives of such deceased member shall have the right by notice in writing to appoint a person to be a Director of the Company and such appointment shall be as effective as if made by the Company in General Meeting pursuant to Article 16.

# **ALTERNATE DIRECTORS**

- 20. (a) A Director, or any such other person as is mentioned in Regulation 65 of Table A, may act as an alternate Director to represent more than one Director, and an alternate Director shall be entitled at any meeting of the Directors or of any committee of the Directors to one vote for every Director whom he represents in addition to his own vote (if any) as a Director, but he shall count as only one for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present.
  - (b) An alternate Director shall not be entitled as such to receive any remuneration from the Company, save that he may be paid by the Company such part (if any) of the remuneration otherwise payable to his appointor as such appointor may by notice in writing to the Company from time to time direct, and the first sentence of Regulation 66 in Table A shall be modified accordingly.

## PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS

- 21. (a) A Director may vote, at any meeting of the Directors or of any committee of the Directors, on any resolution, notwithstanding that it in any way concerns or relates to a matter in which he has, directly or indirectly, any kind of interest whatsoever, and if he shall vote on any such resolution as aforesaid his vote shall be counted; and in relation to any such resolution as aforesaid he shall (whether or not he shall vote on the same) be taken into account in calculating the quorum present at the meeting.
  - (b) Regulations 94 to 97 (inclusive) in Table A shall not apply to the Company.

#### **DISQUALIFICATION OF DIRECTORS**

22. The office of a Director shall automatically be vacated if he becomes incapable by reason of illness, injury or operation of law of managing and administering his property and affairs, and Regulation 81 in Table A shall be modified accordingly.

#### **BORROWING POWERS**

23. The Directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow money without limit as to amount and upon such terms and in such manner as they think fit, and subject (in the case of any security convertible into shares) to Section 80 of the Act to grant any mortgage, charge or security over its undertaking, property and uncalled capital, or any part thereof, and to issue debentures, debenture stock, and other securities whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Company or any third party.

#### THE SEAL

24. (a) If the Company has a seal it shall only be used with the authority of the Directors or of a committee of Directors. The Directors may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a Director and also by the Secretary or by a second Director. The obligation under Regulation 6 of Table A relating to the sealing of share certificates shall apply only if the Company has a seal.

(b) The Company may exercise the powers conferred by Section 39 of the Act with regard to having an official seal for use abroad and such powers shall be vested in the Directors.

# **INDEMNITY**

25. Subject to the provisions of Section 310 of the Act every Director or other officer of the Company shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against all losses or liabilities which he may sustain or incur in or about execution of the duties of his office or otherwise in relation thereto, including any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application under Sections 144(3) or (4) or Section 727 of the Act in which relief is granted to him by the Court, and no other Director or other officer shall be liable for any loss, damage or misfortune which may happen to or be incurred by the Company in the execution of the duties of his office or in relation thereto. In this connection the Company may pursuant to Section 310(3) of the Act purchase and maintain indemnity insurance cover for its Directors and other officers. Such indemnity shall extend to former Directors and officers of the Company.