## MUELLER INDUSTRIES, INC. AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

## **Purpose**

The Audit Committee (the "Audit Committee") of the Board of Directors of Mueller Industries, Inc. (the "Company") is appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to (i) corporate accounting, disclosure and reporting practices and legal and regulatory compliance of the Company, (ii) the quality and integrity of the Company's financial statements and (iii) the qualifications, independence and performance of the Company's internal audit function and independent auditors.

## **Organization**

The Audit Committee shall be comprised of not less than three members of the Board of Directors who shall meet the compensation, independence, experience, financial expertise and other requirements of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") and applicable federal and state securities laws and regulations. The members of the Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors from time to time after considering the recommendation of the Company's Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and upon a determination by the Board of Directors that the nominees meet all required qualifications for Audit Committee membership. The members of the Audit Committee may be removed by the Board of Directors. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors will designate, the Chairman of the Committee.

## **Committee Authority and Responsibilities**

The Audit Committee will maintain flexible policies and procedures and meeting schedules, consistent with the requirements of this Charter and the Company's by-laws, to enable the Audit Committee to react to changing circumstances and provide that the Company's accounting, disclosure and reporting practices are in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements. The Chairman of the Audit Committee may call meetings during the year as necessary, but shall call a meeting at least once each fiscal quarter.

The Committee will provide for free and open communication between the Committee and the Company's directors, independent auditors, internal auditors and management.

Both the Company's internal auditors and independent auditors are ultimately accountable to the Board of Directors and the Audit Committee as representatives of the Company's shareholders.

The Audit Committee, in its capacity as a committee of the Board of Directors, shall be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, evaluation and oversight of the work (including resolution of disagreements between management and the auditor regarding financial reporting) of the Company's independent auditors for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work. The Audit Committee shall have sole responsibility for engaging or terminating the relationship with the Company's independent auditors and the independent auditors shall report directly to the Audit Committee. The Company shall provide appropriate funding, as determined

by the Audit Committee, for payment of fees and expenses to the independent auditors for the purpose of rendering an audit report.

The Audit Committee has authority to retain special legal, accounting or other consultants to advise the Audit Committee as the Audit Committee may determine appropriate. The Audit Committee may require any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's legal counsel or independent auditors to attend Audit Committee meetings or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Audit Committee. The Company shall provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Audit Committee, in its capacity as a committee of the Board of Directors, for payment of all fees and expenses to any advisors employed by the Audit Committee pursuant to its authority under this Charter or applicable law or regulations.

The Audit Committee shall establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, as well as the confidential, anonymous submissions by Company employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

To the extent not inconsistent with its obligations and responsibilities, the Audit Committee may form subcommittees and delegate authority hereunder as it deems appropriate.

The Audit Committee shall make regular reports to the Board of Directors.

In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the Audit Committee shall:

- Review and assess the adequacy of this Charter annually and submit any recommended changes to the Board of Directors for approval, including changes necessary to satisfy any applicable requirements of the NYSE and any other legal or regulatory requirements.
- Appoint and engage independent auditors that meet NYSE and applicable securities law and regulatory requirements to audit the audited financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries and the Company's employees benefit plans.
- Review written statements from the independent auditors delineating all non-audit relationships between the independent auditors and the Company, review with the independent auditors the effect of any disclosed relationships or services on objectivity and independence of the independent auditors, take appropriate action to ensure the independence of the appointed independent auditors and approve the compensation arrangements and proxy statement disclosures of compensation, fees and expenses paid to the independent auditors.
- Receive and review, at least annually, a report by the independent auditors describing (i) the auditor's internal quality-control procedures and (ii) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the independent auditors, or by any inquiry or investigation by a governmental or professional authority involving one or more independent audits carried out by the auditors in the preceding five years and any steps or procedures taken to deal with any such issues.

- Approve in advance, as a Committee of the whole or by delegation of authority to one or more members of the Committee, any permitted non-audit services performed by the Company's independent auditors, including tax services, and cause such approval to be disclosed in the Company's periodic filings as required by applicable regulations.
- Discuss with the independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 and other applicable laws and regulatory requirements relating to the conduct of the audit.
- Meet with the independent auditors and financial management of the Company to review the scope of the proposed audit for the upcoming year and the audit procedures to be used and at the conclusion of the year review such audit, including any comments or recommendations of the independent auditors.
- Review with the Company's independent auditors, internal auditors, and financial and
  accounting personnel the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal controls and
  disclosure controls and procedures of the Company, and elicit any recommendations for
  the improvement of such internal controls and disclosure controls and procedures or
  particular areas where new or more detailed controls and procedures are desirable.
- Review the internal audit function of the Company, including its organizational structure, authority and independence of reporting obligations, department budget, qualification of personnel and the proposed audit plans for the coming year, and the coordination of such plans with the outside auditors. Review and concur with the appointment, reassignment or dismissal of the director of the Company's internal audit function.
- Receive, review and discuss with the Company's independent auditors, and internal auditor as appropriate: (i) a summary of significant findings from completed internal audits, together with management's response, and periodic progress reports, with explanation for any deviations from the original plan; (ii) all critical accounting policies and practices to be used; (iii) all alternative treatments of financial information within GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) that have been discussed with management; (iv) ramifications of alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the auditors; and (v) other material written communications between the independent auditors and management.
- Review and discuss: (i) significant financial risks; (ii) the financial statements; (iii) the Company's Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for the relevant period and draft earnings press releases with management and the independent auditors, prior to the issuance thereof or the filing or distribution thereof to shareholders; and (iii) financial information and earnings guidance, if any, provided to analyst and rating agencies. Among the items to be discussed are: (i) accounting principles, practices and judgments; (ii) whether the independent auditors are satisfied with the disclosure and content of the financial statements to be presented to the shareholders; and (iii) any changes in accounting principles.

- Provide sufficient opportunity for the Committee to meet separately in executive session with: (i) management; (ii) the independent auditors; and (iii) the internal auditor (or other personnel responsible for the internal audit function). Among the items to be discussed in these meetings are the auditors' evaluation of the Company's financial, accounting and auditing personnel, the auditors' judgments about the Company's accounting principles as applied to its financial reporting, the level of management cooperation that the outside auditors received during the course of the audit and management's assessment of the auditors' performance.
- Set clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the independent auditors.
- Receive reports concerning any non-compliance with the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics by any director or executive officer of the Company and approve any waivers therefrom.
- Report on significant matters discussed at each Committee meeting to the Board of Directors.
- Investigate, as appropriate, any matter brought to its attention within the scope of its duties, with the power to retain outside counsel or a second independent accountant, at the expense of the Company, for this purpose if, in its judgment, that is appropriate.
- Prepare an appropriate Audit Committee report to shareholders to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement that is consistent with applicable law and Securities and Exchange Commission requirements.
- Perform any other activities consistent with this Charter, the Company's By-Laws, and governing law and regulations, as the Committee or the Board of Directors deems necessary or appropriate.

While the Audit Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Audit Committee to prepare financial statements, plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements are complete and accurate and are in accordance with GAAP and applicable rules and regulations.

A copy of this Charter will be made available on the Company's website at www.muellerindustries.com.

Effective: February 12, 2004