

# Research on accounting information disclosure of listed companies

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**Abstract:** the accounting information disclosure of listed companies can not only realize the regulation of the orderly operation of the capital market, but also effectively safeguard the interests of investors. However, at present, the problems of accounting information disclosure of listed companies often occur, and there are still some problems that need to be reformed, which need to be further studied and standardized. Based on this, this paper will focus on the accounting information disclosure of listed companies.

**Key words:** listed company; Accounting information; Accounting information disclosure

Introduction: accounting information disclosure is one of the constituent foundations of the capital market, and plays a coordinating role in the relationship between listed companies and investors. With the deepening of the reform of China's securities market and the gradual improvement of the information disclosure system, the accounting information disclosure still needs further research and puts forward countermeasures for improvement.

## 1. Analysis of the concept of accounting information disclosure

Accounting information is a kind of economic information, and also information about value movement. Accounting information is generally reflected in the form of financial reports by accountants who use specific accounting procedures and methods to sort out, process and summarize the original accounting data. Accounting information is the economic information that the accounting entity uses specific language to measure its own production and business activities, form a report, and produce decision-making based on relevant national laws and regulations. Accounting information can be reused without loss. If the accounting information is applied rationally, it can also increase its value. The public disclosure of accounting information has certain legal significance. Accounting information disclosure refers to the behavior of listed companies to disclose their financial information and relevant accounting information to the public within a specified time according to certain procedures and relevant laws and regulations. This behavior is one-way, and it is also the performance of listed companies' performance of their obligations, which can effectively alleviate the problem of information asymmetry. Listed companies that fail to disclose accounting information in accordance with the law need to bear legal responsibility.

Information asymmetry is an objective problem in life. In the securities market, the company's operators will master more enterprise information, and then have information advantages. Under the background of the separation of management rights and ownership, investors can only make value judgments on the information disclosed by the company, and do not have information advantages. Such information gap will cause the management to use its advantages to obtain abnormal excess returns, which will cause the problem of damaging the interests of users. To solve this problem, the government needs to sort out the relevant information, which reflects the importance of government intervention in economic operation.

The accounting information disclosed by listed enterprises is mainly reflected in the financial and accounting report, which is presented in written form and mainly needs to serve the decision-making needs of investors. It can be roughly divided into financial information, non-financial information, audit information, etc. financial information includes the company's finance, operation, cash flow and other contents, while non-financial information refers to the company's historical changes, equity composition Risk analysis, audit information includes the documents of the board of supervisors, audit documents, etc. The annual report plays an important role in all kinds of financial reports, which contains mandatory disclosure contents such as company profile, accounting data and financial indicators, corporate governance and other issues. Generally, listed companies will consider the reduction of financing costs, the maintenance of corporate image, and the voluntary disclosure of accounting information, which can effectively strengthen the value of financial reports.

## 2. Accounting information disclosure: a case study of M listed company

### 2.1 Accounting information disclosure of M company

M company is a company listed in the United States. Its share price rose significantly on the day of listing. In the subsequent business process, affected by factors such as information disclosure and class action, it was finally hit hard and withdrew from the stock market. M company was founded in January, 1997, mainly engaged in mail order business and clothing. In that year, its development was excellent and achieved rapid development.

First of all, in order to raise the required funds, generally listed companies will falsify the disclosure of financial information, which is contrary to the operating rules of the market. Some listed companies will deceive investors and make up their own cash flow and operating conditions. Some listed companies will create false financial data due to adverse financial problems and make false performance increase. In the capital market, false information disclosure will also enable companies to obtain illegal benefits, increase the investment risk of the overall market, and have a greater impact on other investors, listed companies and creditors. Secondly, company M has made clear the financial data from July to September at the same time of submitting the IPO documents, and there is no explanation and risk warning in the prospectus; Companies listed in the United States need to disclose their financial data quarterly and within one and a half months after

the end of the quarter. However, the report disclosure of company M exceeded the specified time limit, violating the information disclosure timeliness of the United States. Moreover, the information disclosure of M company is not complete. In the IPO documents submitted by M company, the financial data of the third quarter has been received, but it has not been mentioned in the documents. It does not indicate that the write off of interest depreciation is the main factor for the growth of net profit in the third quarter. Excluding the write off of financial interest depreciation, the net profit in the third quarter will suffer a loss. This behavior misleads investors' decisions. At the same time, the inaccurate raising information applied by M company is also an important reason for it to be sued, making a large number of American investors guided by false information. Finally, the immature mechanism of information disclosure also leads to the problem of information disclosure of M company. In the information disclosure work of M company, the board of supervisors did not play its real role. Within one month of listing, M company was subject to a number of class actions, but the management of the company did not pay attention to this issue and did not understand the significance of accounting information disclosure.

2.2 Cause analysis of M company's problems

First of all, M company's untrue information disclosure behavior is mainly due to its internal share problems, which will over interfere with the company's decision-making, the company's internal mechanism is not perfect, and the constraints on major shareholders are insufficient. The problem of excessive intervention has led to problems in the company's information disclosure. Since 2007, M company has obtained a large investment from H company, and the problem of dominant share has continued. Secondly, the board of supervisors and the internal management mechanism did not play their role. The problem of M company's dominant share made it difficult for the board of supervisors to play its role. Moreover, company M did not comply with the regulatory requirements for the disclosure of accounting information. The information disclosed avoided the information with high risk and chose incomplete disclosure. From the perspective of disclosure method, it made selective disclosure and only disclosed the information beneficial to itself.

**Table 1 disclosure of financial statements of M company in the third quarter of 2011**

Financial data information	Nature of data information	Whether to disclose
Year on year growth of net profit in the third quarter of 2011	Favorable	yes
The main source of net profit growth in the third quarter of 2011 was interest depreciation	Bad news	no
Gross profit margin fell synchronously in the third quarter of 2011	Bad news	no
Year on year growth in sales and administrative expenses in the third quarter of 2011	Bad news	no

2.3 Common problems of accounting information disclosure

First of all, in terms of the false increase of profits, listed companies will, due to the pursuit of book profits, fabricate financial reports and documents and beautify financial reports when the original profits are small or no profits. Some cases are the qualification of future allotment of shares, and some cases are to increase the issuing price, but it will damage the interests of investors. Secondly, in terms of raised funds, listed companies will use the raised funds according to the prospectus, but the use of funds is inconsistent with the description and there is no announcement, which will infringe on the interests of investors. Moreover, the accounting profession also needs to standardize the audit services for the falsification of audit reports and uphold the principles of objectivity, independence and impartiality. Finally, the inadequate and untimely disclosure of accounting information and the avoidance of adverse factors for the operation and development of enterprises will lead to losses for small and medium-sized investors.

**3. Analysis on Relevant Countermeasures of accounting information disclosure of listed companies**

3.1 Strengthen punishment for illegal operation

The regulations issued in 2018 include major illegal acts such as major information disclosure, false information disclosure and fraudulent issuance in the scope of compulsory delisting. Supporting the claims of small and medium-sized investors through public welfare institutions is also one of the effective ways to restrain violators, and public welfare institutions in Securities and finance have also been approved to be established. For the accounting information violations of listed companies, the punishment needs to have the deterrent force, so that the companies that violate the rules and regulations pay the price and strengthen the criminal responsibility, not only in the economic punishment, to ensure the healthy development and orderly operation of the market. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the system construction of laws and regulations related to accounting information disclosure, strengthen the legislation of laws and administrative regulations, and improve the related work. According to the industry characteristics of different listed companies, personalized disclosure rules are issued. The law also needs to protect the interests of investors and strengthen the civil liability of listed companies and disclosure obligations. The implementation and enforcement of legal norms is the focus of strengthening the punishment. We should increase the punishment of relevant illegal acts, improve the accountability mechanism, and set no limit on fines, which can be capped.

3.2 Optimizing the securities market environment

Market economy is also a credit economy, and its operation needs to rely on the basic moral norms of integrity. Moral constraints and integrity awareness play an important role in the securities market. However, under the background of various market manipulation and false information dissemination, the problem of accounting information fraud has also hit the confidence and vitality of the market. China's securities market needs to build a harmonious and fair business ethics environment. It needs to play the role of various supervision institutions, pay attention to the cultural and professional ethics construction of listed companies, strengthen the education and guidance of

investors, and make each subject consciously abide by the norms of the market. In the market economy environment, ensuring the equality of economic subjects before the law is the guarantee for the formation of a good market environment, and establishing the awareness of integrity and morality is the basis for optimizing the market environment.

### 3.3 Guarantee the quality of accounting information

The premise of accounting information disclosure is to ensure the quality of the company's public accounting information. Without high-quality accounting information, even if the disclosure is true, it cannot play an effective role in the operation of the capital market. If the quality of accounting information is difficult to be effectively supported, investors will also face huge risks. Therefore, to improve the quality of accounting, we not only need the protection of laws and regulations and the optimization of the system, but also need listed companies to improve their internal governance and improve the basic quality of accounting personnel. The company should make it clear that as an open enterprise entity, it is an obligation to provide high-quality accounting information of listed enterprises and is also responsible for investors. First of all, listed companies should optimize the quality of accounting information. With the innovation and progress of various businesses, accounting information also needs to be improved and upgraded to meet the needs of industry transformation and upgrading and the era of Internet economy. Secondly, the professional level of accountants needs to be improved. The problems faced by accountants in listed companies are more complex. Strengthening their professional level can improve the quality of accounting information. Moreover, the regulatory system for accounting information needs to play its role, clarify its own responsibilities, avoid duplication of responsibilities with other departments, and strengthen the overall strength of regulation.

### 3.4 Improve the internal governance of the company

The improvement of corporate governance structure requires the coordination and rights arrangement among the board of directors, executives and relevant owners, which can reflect the check and balance relationship among the three parties. Specifically, it is necessary to clearly define the functions of the tasks of the general meeting of shareholders, the board of directors and senior managers, and this kind of corporate organizational structure is responsible for the internal governance of the company. Due to the separation of ownership and management rights, which is the characteristic of modern companies, the problem of agency costs will inevitably arise under the contractual relationship. In the corporate governance structure, enterprises need to establish an effective incentive mechanism and monitoring mechanism for the management to form certain constraints and improve the effectiveness of management. The disadvantage of the current incentive mechanism is that the company has basically set up short-term incentive mechanism, and has not formulated long-term mechanism, which leads to the problem of insufficient stamina. It is necessary to further build long-term incentive means linked to the company's performance. For example, the reform of the salary system for managers and the evaluation and assessment system for managers should be implemented to achieve truly effective governance. The company should adhere to the concept of common governance, make the objectives of all departments consistent, and strengthen the loyalty of managers to the company.

Summary: with the development of China's market economy, the securities market is also gradually improving, and the importance of accounting information disclosure is gradually highlighted. Listed companies need to regulate their own behavior within the scope of law, improve the quality of accounting information, improve corporate governance, and ensure their sound development path.

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