

Shares must have a monetary value, e.g. 1p, 10p, £1. This nominal value is set when the company is first incorporated and cannot be less than this nominal amount.

Companies may however wish to consolidate or sub-divide their shares. Therefore a company with a share of £10 can consolidate into 10 £10 shares. This means the overall amount of share capital in issue remains the same.

1. Consolidation (or reverse consolidation)

A consolidation of shares occurs when shares of a smaller nominal value are combined to become shares of a larger nominal value. For example, 100 shares of 10p each could be consolidated into one share of 100p. This reduces the number of shares a company has in issue and changes a set number of existing

2. Sub-division (or share split)

A sub-division of share capital occurs when shares of a larger nominal value are divided into shares of a smaller nominal value. For example, one 100p share could be divided into 100 shares of 1p each.

3. Why consolidate or sub-divide?

Traded public companies often consolidate or sub-divide shares for market reasons where shares trade at a price that is either too “heavy” or too “light”. This is clearly not relevant for private companies. The reason that a SME might wish to undertake a consolidation or sub-division of its share capital could be for a variety of reasons, for example, as part of a capital reorganisation to eliminate very small shareholdings following the departure of a shareholder.

4. Procedure to consolidate or sub-divide shares

The procedure to consolidate or sub-divide shares is governed by sections 618 and 619 of the Companies Act 2006. A general meeting will need to be convened to recommend an appropriate resolution. A general meeting will then be convened or more than one resolution will be put to members.

Note that the Companies Act 2006 does not require a company to consolidate or sub-divide shares. A company is considered sufficient provided it is authorised by its articles of association before considering such a resolution. One resolution can be used to authorise both a consolidation and a sub-division of shares.

This is known as a par or nominal value. A company must be registered with Companies House when it issues shares for less than this nominal value.

For example, a company with a share of £10 can consolidate into 100 shares of £1 each or sub-divide into 1000 10p shares, 10,000 1p shares. This means the overall amount of share capital in issue remains the same.

Consolidation reduces the number of shares a company has in issue and changes a set number of existing shares. For example, 100 shares of 10p each could be consolidated into one share of 100p.

Sub-division of share capital occurs when shares of a larger nominal value are divided into shares of a smaller nominal value. For example, one 100p share could be divided into 100 shares of 1p each.

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Simply-Docs' package of documents for a share consolidation resolution and a shareholder agreement has been drafted on the basis that:

- It is for use by a private company where all the shares are fully paid up;
- There are no restrictions on the company's power of consolidation or sub-division;
- There are no conditions on the company's power of consolidation or sub-division;
- The proposed consolidation or sub-division will not result in any fractional entitlements. Fractional entitlements will be rounded up to the nearest whole share.

However fractional entitlements may arise in the case of conditional consolidation or sub-division of shares and various legal and procedural complexities may arise. These are all beyond the scope of the package and independent legal advice is recommended.

Share certificates and register of members

The register of members should be updated to reflect the new number of shares and their nominal value.

All existing share certificates should be cancelled and new share certificates should then be issued.

Filing

The Registrar of Companies must be notified of the consolidation or sub-division. Form SH02 should be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

and minute to propose the ordinary resolution. The ordinary resolution has been passed.

class of shares where all the shares are fully paid up;

is preventing or restricting a company's power of consolidation or sub-division;

ation or sub-division; and
not result in any fractional entitlements governed by a company's articles of association and some new shares being issued to round up the fractional entitlements.

l of the following issues;
t are not fully paid, multiple classes of shares may mean that there are additional complexities to be considered during this process. It is recommended that independent legal advice is sought.

s of the new number of shares and their nominal value.

amendment or cancellation. New share certificates should then be issued.

y sub-division or consolidation of shares must be filed with the Registrar of Companies within one month of the date of the resolution.