DELUXE CORPORATION
DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE STANDARDS

I. Introduction and Purpose. The listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") require that the Deluxe Corporation's (the "Company") Board of Directors ("Board") be comprised of at least a majority of independent directors, and that the Board maintain Nominating/Governance, Compensation and Audit Committees comprised entirely of independent directors. The NYSE also requires the Board to make a formal determination each year as to which of its directors are independent, and to disclose these determinations in the Company's proxy statement. The purpose of this document is to outline the standards under which the Board makes its independence determinations, thereby ensuring a consistent and disciplined approach to such determinations.

II. Minimum Standards. The NYSE has established certain minimum standards of independence. According to these standards, a director is automatically disqualified from being deemed independent under the following circumstances:

A. The director has been employed by the Company, or an immediate family member[1] has been an executive officer of the Company, within the last three years;

B. The director or an immediate family member received more than $120,000 in direct compensation from the Company during any 12-month period within the last three years, with the exception of director and committee fees and pension or other forms of deferred compensation for prior service (provided such compensation is in no way contingent on continued service);

C. The director or an immediate family member is a current partner of the Company's internal or external auditor; the director is a current employee of such a firm; the director has an immediate family member who is a current employee of such a firm and who personally works on the Company's audit; or the director or an immediate family member was within the last three years a partner or employee of such a firm and personally worked on the Company's audit within that time;

D. Within the last three years, the director or an immediate family member was an executive officer of another company on whose compensation committee one of the Company's current executive officers served at the same time; or

E. The director is a current employee, or an immediate family member is a current executive officer, of a company that, within any of the last three fiscal years, has made payments to, or received payments from, the Company for property or services in an amount exceeding the greater of $1 million or 2% of such other company's consolidated gross revenues in that fiscal year. (Note that while contributions to charitable organizations are not deemed "payments" under this standard, the Company would have to disclose in its proxy statement contributions in excess of these thresholds to any charity for which a director serves as an executive officer.)

III. Assessment of Other Relationships – Categorical Standards. In addition to meeting the minimum standards set forth in Section II, no director qualifies as "independent" under the NYSE's rules unless the Board affirmatively determines that the director has no material relationship with the Company (either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an

[1] For purposes of these standards, an "immediate family member" includes a person's spouse, parents, children and siblings (whether by blood or adoption), mothers and fathers-in-law, sons and daughters-in- law, brothers and sisters-in-law, and anyone (other than domestic employees) who shares such person's home.

organization that has a relationship with the Company). The basis for determining that any relationship is not material must be disclosed in the Company's proxy statement. However, as an alternative to discussing all non-material relationships a Company might have with its directors, the NYSE allows companies to adopt and disclose categorical standards of independence and make general disclosures as to which directors meet those standards. The following categorical standards have been established to assist the Board in making its independence determinations.

A director who satisfies all of the following standards (in addition to the minimum standards set forth in Section II) may be deemed independent. A director who fails to satisfy any particular categorical standard may still be determined to be independent, but the specific basis for such a determination must be explained in the Company's proxy statement.

Categorical Standards of Independence

A. The director has never been an employee or executive officer of the Company or any affiliate. (For purposes of these standards, an "affiliate" is any person or entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another person or entity, such as subsidiaries, sibling companies and parent companies.)

B. The director is not a former executive, founder or principal of the Company, or of any affiliate, firm or entity acquired by the Company, or firm or entity that was part of a joint venture or partnership including the Company.

C. No immediate family member of the director is a current employee, or a former executive officer, of the Company or any affiliate.

D. Neither the director nor any immediate family member, nor any firm or entity with which such director or family member was affiliated in a professional capacity, has provided investment banking advice or served as the Company's primary legal advisor within the past two years.

E. Neither the director nor any immediate family member has any direct transactional relationship with the Company or its affiliates, or otherwise has an active role in providing, is a partner or principal owner of a firm or entity providing, or otherwise receives compensation based on the provision of consulting, advisory or other professional services to the Company or its affiliates or officers (except for compensation received by a director solely in his or her capacity as a director).

F. The director is the beneficial owner as that term is defined under Rule 13d of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Exchange Act") of less than ten percent (10%) of the Company's outstanding voting securities.

G. The director is not a party to any contract or arrangement regarding his or her nomination or election to the Board or requiring that the director to vote with management on proposals brought before the Company's shareholders.

IV. Committee Membership. In addition to meeting the foregoing independence requirements, directors serving on certain Board committees may be subject to additional independence requirements, as summarized below.

A. Audit Committee – All Audit Committee members must satisfy the independence requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act and related NYSE listing standards. Audit Committee members may not accept, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Company (other than director fees and pension or other deferred compensation for prior service to the

Company) or be an affiliated person of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

The prohibitions apply only to current relationships and does not extend to periods before the appointment of members to the Audit Committee.

Indirect compensatory payments include:

- payments to spouses, minor children or stepchildren or children or stepchildren sharing a home with the director; and
- payments to an entity (1) in which the director is a partner, member or officer, or occupies a similar position, and (2) which provides accounting, consulting, legal, investment banking or financial advisory services to the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

Payments by the Company to an entity in which a director is a limited partner or non-managing member (or occupies a similar passive position) are not prohibited as long as the director has no active role in providing services to the Company. Payments made in connection with commercial relationships outside the areas of accounting, consulting, legal, investment banking or financial advisory services are not prohibited.

An Audit Committee member will qualify as a non-affiliate only if the person:

- is not an executive officer of the Company (or a subsidiary of the issuer); and
- is not the beneficial owner of 10% or more of any class of voting equity securities (instead of any class of equity securities) of the Company or any of its subsidiaries.

B. Compensation Committee –All Compensation Committee members must satisfy the independence requirements of Rule 10C-1 under the Exchange Act and related NYSE listing standards. For Compensation Committee members, the Board considers fees and other factors specifically relevant to determining whether a director has a relationship to the Company which is material to that director's ability to be independent from management in connection with the duties of a Compensation Committee member, including:

- the source of compensation of such director, including any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee paid by the Company to such director; and
- whether such director is affiliated with the Company, a subsidiary of the Company or an affiliate of a subsidiary of the Company.