



UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

March 16, 2012

Via E-Mail

Lesley Peng, Esq.
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
425 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017

**Re: AXIS Capital Holdings Limited
Schedule TO-I filed March 12, 2012
SEC File No. 005-79165**

Dear Ms. Peng:

We have limited our review of the filing to those issues we have addressed in our comments. In some of our comments, we may ask you to provide us with information so we may better understand your disclosure.

Please respond to this letter by amending your filing, by providing the requested information, or by advising us when you will provide the requested response. If you do not believe our comments apply to your facts and circumstances or do not believe an amendment is appropriate, please tell us why in your response.

After reviewing any amendment to your filing and the information you provide in response to these comments, we may have additional comments.

Schedule TO

Item 10. Financial Statements

1. We note that you incorporated your financial statements by reference to your annual report on Form 10-K. Please revise your disclosure to include the summarized financial information required by Item 1010(c) of Regulation M-A. See instruction 6 to Item 10 of Schedule TO.

Item 13. Information Required by Schedule 13E-3

2. Please provide us your detailed legal analysis of the applicability of Rule 13e-3 to this transaction.

Offer to Purchase

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward Looking Statements, page iii

3. We note the disclaimer that you do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statements. This disclaimer is inconsistent with the requirements of General Instruction F of Schedule TO and your obligations under Rule 13e-4(c)(3) to amend the Schedule to reflect a material change in the information previously disclosed. Please revise the offer to purchase to delete this statement and confirm that you will avoid using this statement in all future communications.

Conditions of the Offer, page 11

4. We note that the offer is not completely financed and is subject to a financing condition. Generally, when an offer is not financed, or when a bidder's ability to obtain financing is uncertain, a material change will occur in the information previously disclosed when the offer becomes fully financed. Under Rule 13e-4(c)(3), a bidder is required to promptly file an amendment to its Schedule TO disclosing this material change. Please confirm that you will disseminate the disclosure of this change in a manner reasonably calculated to inform security holders as required by Rule 13e-4(d). In addition, please confirm that five business days will remain in the offer following disclosure of the change or that the offer will be extended so that at least five business days remain in the offer. Refer to Exchange Act Release Nos. 23421 (July 11, 1986 at footnote 70) and 24296 (April 3, 1987).
5. Refer to the disclosure in the last paragraph of this section. This language suggests that once an offer condition is triggered, you must decide whether or not to waive the condition. Note that when a condition is triggered and you decide to proceed with the offer anyway, we believe that this constitutes a waiver of the triggered condition(s). Depending on the materiality of the waived condition and the number of days remaining in the offer, you may be required to extend the offer and recirculate new disclosure to security holders. You may not, as this language seems to imply, simply fail to assert a triggered offer condition and thus effectively waive it without officially doing so. Please confirm your understanding supplementally.
6. Please see our comment above. When an offer condition is triggered by events that occur during the offer period and before the expiration of the offer, the bidder should inform security holders how it intends to proceed promptly, rather than wait until the end of the offer period, unless the condition is one where satisfaction of the condition may be determined only upon expiration. Please confirm your understanding in your response letter.

Additional Information, page 13

7. We note your attempt to incorporate by reference “any future filings made by [you] pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to the termination of the offering described” in the offer to purchase. Schedule TO does not expressly authorize such “forward incorporation by reference.” Rather, General Instruction F specifies how you may incorporate by reference in a Schedule TO. Please revise.

Certain Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences, page 15

8. Provide an analysis supporting your reference to Treasury Department Circular 230 or delete the legend here and in your letter of transmittal.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filings to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable Exchange Act rules require. Since the company is in possession of all facts relating to the disclosure, it is responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures it has made.

In responding to our comments, please provide a written statement from the company acknowledging that:

- the company is responsible for the adequacy and accuracy of the disclosure in the filing;
- staff comments or changes to disclosure in response to staff comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the filing; and
- the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States.

Please direct any questions to me at (202) 551-3619. You may also contact me via facsimile at (202) 772-9203. Please send all correspondence to us at the following ZIP code: 20549-3628.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel F. Duchovny
Daniel F. Duchovny
Special Counsel
Office of Mergers & Acquisition