



DIVISION OF
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

December 16, 2013

Via E-mail

Toshizo Tanaka
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Canon Inc.
30-2, Shimomaruko 3-chome
Ohta-ku, Tokyo 146-8501
Japan

Re: Canon Inc.
Form 20-F for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2012
Filed March 28, 2013
File No. 1-15122

Dear Mr. Tanaka:

We have limited our review of your filing to your contacts with countries that have been identified as state sponsors of terrorism, and we have the following comments. Our review with respect to this issue does not preclude further review by the Assistant Director group with respect to other issues. At this juncture, we are asking you to provide us with information so we may better understand your disclosure.

Please respond to this letter within ten business days 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, please tell us why in your response.

After reviewing the information you provide in response to these comments, we may have additional comments.

General

1. Please tell us about any contacts with Syria and Sudan since your letter to us dated March 28, 2011. We note that your Middle East website lists a distributor for Sudan, and Syria's Puzant Yacoubian Group's website includes your logo and lists Canon as a company it represents. Your Form 20-F does not provide disclosure about Syria or Sudan. As you know, Syria and Sudan are designated by the U.S. Department of State as state sponsors of terrorism, and are subject to U.S. economic sanctions and export controls. Please describe to us the nature and extent of your past, current, and anticipated contacts with Syria and Sudan since your 2011 letter, whether through subsidiaries, affiliates, resellers, distributors, or other direct or indirect arrangements, including through major customer Hewlett-Packard. Your response should describe any products,

equipment, components, technology or services you have provided to the referenced countries, directly or indirectly, and any agreements, commercial arrangements, or other contacts with the governments of those countries or entities controlled by those governments.

2. Please discuss the materiality of any contacts with Syria and Sudan described in response to the foregoing comment, and whether those contacts constitute a material investment risk for your security holders. You should address materiality in quantitative terms, including the approximate dollar amounts of any associated revenues, assets, and liabilities for the last three fiscal years and the subsequent interim period. Also, address materiality in terms of qualitative factors that a reasonable investor would deem important in making an investment decision, including the potential impact of corporate activities upon a company's reputation and share value. Various state and municipal governments, universities, and other investors have proposed or adopted divestment or similar initiatives regarding investment in companies that do business with U.S.-designated state sponsors of terrorism. Your materiality analysis should address the potential impact of the investor sentiment evidenced by such actions directed toward companies that have operations associated with Syria and Sudan.
3. You told us in your March 28, 2011 letter that you had not sold products that had military uses into Syria and Sudan, and that you were not aware of any military use of the products by those countries. Please tell us whether those representations are true with respect to all sales into Syria and Sudan you discuss in response to the foregoing comments.

We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing 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 and its management are in possession of all facts relating to the company's disclosure, they are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosures they have 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.

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Please contact Jennifer Hardy, Special Counsel, at (202) 551-3767 or me at (202) 551-3470 if you have any questions about the comments or our review.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cecilia Blye

Cecilia Blye, Chief
Office of Global Security Risk

cc: Shinichi Aoyama
General Manager

Amanda Ravitz
Assistant Director
Division of Corporation Finance