

# Whistle Blower Policy

## **OBJECTIVE:**

1. The company believes in the code of conduct of the affairs of its constituents in a fair and transparent manner by adopting highest standards of professionalism, honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour. Towards this end, the Company has adopted the Code of Conduct (“the Code”), which lays down the principles and standards that should govern the actions of the Company and its employees. Any actual or potential violation of the Code, howsoever insignificant or perceived as such, would be a matter of serious concern for the Company.
2. The Company is committed to adhere to the highest standards of ethical, moral and legal conduct of business operations. To maintain these standards, the Company encourages disclosures by its stakeholders who have concerns about suspected misconduct to come forward and express these concerns without fear of punishment or unfair treatment. This policy aims to provide an avenue for stakeholders to raise concerns about violation of law, unethical practices or gross misconduct by the employees of the Company or any leak/suspected leak of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information of the Company that can lead to financial loss or reputational risk to the organization.
3. The assurance and co-operation from the Management in safeguarding the interest of the individuals who choose to report matters of principles to the Management is reinforced by the Whistle Blower Policy. In the process, it is also ensured that the Policy is not misused.
4. The policy does not aim to address issues related to dissatisfaction with appraisal & rewards, company policies, complains regarding service conditions, improvement suggestions and gender harassment as there are separate means prescribed for them.

## **Scope**

- All employees and directors of the Company are eligible to make Protected Disclosures under the Policy. The Protected Disclosures may be in relation to matters concerning the Company.
- Assure Employees and Directors that they will be protected from reprisals and or victimization for whistle blowing in good faith.

- The policy covers malpractices and events which have taken place/suspected to take place involving:
  1. Abuse of Authority
  2. Breach of contract/Law
  3. Manipulation of company data/records
  4. Criminal offence
  5. Improper code of conduct, unethical behavior or suspected fraud.

#### DISQUALIFICATIONS:

- While it will be ensured that genuine Whistle Blowers are accorded complete protection from any kind of unfair treatment as herein set out, any abuse of this protection will warrant disciplinary action.
- Protection under this Policy would not mean protection from disciplinary action arising out of false or bogus allegations made by a Whistle Blower knowing it to be false or bogus or with a *mala fide* intention.
- Whistle Blowers, who make any Protected Disclosures, which have been subsequently found to be *mala fide*, *frivolous* or *malicious*, shall be liable to be prosecuted as per existing policy of the Company.

#### **MECHANISM OF THE POLICY :**

##### **(A) RAISING A CONCERN:**

- Whistle blowing mechanism should be used for potentially serious or sensitive issues.
- The background and history of the concern, giving names, dates and places where possible, should be set out and the reason why the individual is particularly concerned about the situation. Those who do not feel able to put their concern in writing can telephone or meet the appropriate officer.
- The complainant is not expected to prove the truth of allegation, but should be able to demonstrate that there are sufficient grounds for concern. Employees must raise concerns immediately. This will support investigation process and enable faster implementation of corrective actions, if any.
- Advice and guidance on how matters of concern may be pursued can be obtained from the Company Secretary.

## **B) PROCEDURE:**

- Upon receipt of a concern, an initial enquiry will be made to decide whether an investigation is appropriate and, if so, what form it should take. Some concerns may also be resolved by an agreed action without the need for investigation.
- After the concern has been evaluated, the Company will write to the complainant:
  - acknowledging that the concern has been received;
  - indicating how it is proposed to be dealt with;
  - informing whether further investigations will take place, and if not, why not.
- The amount of contact between the body considering the issues and the complainant will depend on the nature of the matters raised, the potential difficulties involved and the clarity of the information provided. If necessary, further information will be sought from the complainant.
- The Company will take steps to protect the Whistle Blower from victimisation and minimise any difficulties which a person reporting under Whistle Blowing may experience as a result of raising a concern.
- The Company accepts and would take such steps as may be required to assure the Whistle Blower that the matter has been appropriately addressed.

## **SAFGURDS/PRESERVATION:**

The Company, as a policy, condemns any kind of discrimination, harassment, victimization or any other unfair employment practice being adopted against Whistle Blower. Complete protection will, therefore, be given to Whistle Blower against any unfair practice like retaliation, threat or intimidation of termination/suspension of service, disciplinary action, transfer, demotion, refusal of promotion, discrimination, any type of harassment, biased behavior or the like including any direct or indirect use of authority to obstruct the Whistle Blower's right to continue to perform his duties/functions including making further Protected Disclosure. The Company will take steps to minimize difficulties, which the Whistle Blower may experience as a result of making the Protected Disclosure. Thus, if the Whistle Blower is required to give evidence in criminal or disciplinary proceedings, the Company will arrange for the Whistle Blower to receive advice about the procedure, etc.

The identity of the Whistle Blower shall be kept confidential.

Any other Employee assisting in the said investigation or furnishing evidence shall also be protected to the same extent as the Whistle Blower.



**SECRECY:**

The Company will do its best to protect an individual's identity when he/she raises a concern and does not want their name to be disclosed. It must be appreciated that a statement from the Whistle Blower may be required as part of the evidence in the investigation process.

**REPORTING:**

- A quarterly report with number of complaints received under the Policy and their outcome shall be placed before the Audit Committee and the Board.

**AMENDEMENT:**

The Company has the right to amend or modify this Policy in whole or in part, at any time without assigning any reason, whatsoever. However, no such amendment or modifications will be binding on the employees unless the same is notified to the employees in writing.

**DETAILS OF CONTACT PERSONS FOR COMMUNICATION:**

Chairman of Audit Committee