

Terms and Conditions of appointment of Independent Directors

The terms and Conditions of the appointment, which shall, in any event be subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ('Listing Regulations') and the Articles of Association of the Company, are set out below:

The broad terms and conditions of their appointment as Independent Directors are reproduced hereunder:

Terms of Appointment

1. The appointment will be for the period as approved by the Board and Nomination and Remuneration Committee. The Company may remove Independent Directors prior to completion of the Term subject to compliance of relevant provisions of the Companies Act 2013 and Articles of Association of the Company.
2. In compliance with provision Section 149(13) of the Companies Act, 2013, Independent Directors are not liable to retire by rotation.
3. Re-appointment at the end of the Term shall be based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and subject to the approval of the Board and the shareholders. The re-appointment would be considered by the Board based on the outcome of the performance evaluation process and the directors continuing to meet the independence criteria.
4. The directors may be requested to be a member / Chairman of any one or more Committees of the Board which may be constituted from time to time.
5. The appointment may be terminated in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association of the Company or on failure to meet the parameters of independence as defined in Section 149(6) or Listing Regulations or on the occurrence of any event as defined in section 167 of the Companies Act, 2013. Upon termination or upon resignation for any reason, duly intimated to the Company, Independent Directors will not be entitled to any compensation for loss of office.

Resignation

Independent Directors may resign from their position at any time and should they wish to do so, they are requested to serve a reasonable written notice on the Board. In terms of provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, they are required to file a copy of their resignation letter with the Registrar of Companies.

Time commitment

Independent Directors agree to devote such time as is prudent and necessary for the proper performance of their role, duties and responsibilities as Independent Director.

Role, duties and responsibilities

As members of the Board, they along with the other Directors will be collectively responsible for meeting the objectives of the Board which include:

- A. Requirements under the Companies Act, 2013 read with Schedule IV to the Companies Act, 2013,
- B. Accountability under the Director's Responsibility Statement.
- C. The role and duties of Independent Directors will be those normally required of a Non Executive Independent Director under the Companies Act, 2013 and Listing Regulations. There are certain duties prescribed for all Directors, both Executive and Non-Executive, which are fiduciary in nature and are as under:
 - I. They shall act in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association.
 - II. They shall act in good faith in order to promote the objects of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in the best interest of the Company.
 - III. They shall discharge their duties with due and reasonable care, skill and diligence.
 - IV. They shall not involve themselves in a situation in which they may have a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interest of the Company.
 - V. They shall not achieve or attempt to achieve any undue gain or advantage either to themselves or to their relatives, partners or associates.
 - VI. They shall not assign their office as Director and any assignments so made shall be void.

In addition to the above requirements, the Board of Directors also expect Independent Directors to perform the following functions:

1. Constructively challenge and help develop proposals on strategy for growth of the Company.
2. Evaluate the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives.
3. Satisfy themselves on the integrity of financial information and that financial controls and systems of risk management are effective and defensible.
4. Determine appropriate levels of remuneration of Executive Directors and play a prime role in appointing, and where necessary, removing Executive Directors and in succession planning.
5. Take responsibility for the processes for accurately reporting on performance and the financial position of the Company.
6. Keep Governance and Compliance with the applicable legislation and regulations under review and the conformity of Company's practices to accepted norms.

Status of Appointment and Remuneration

1. Independent Directors will not be employees of the Company and their appointment letter shall not constitute a contract of employment. They will be paid such remuneration by way of sitting fees for meetings of the Board and its Committees as may be decided by the Board. In addition to the sitting fees, commission that may be determined by the Board may also be payable to them. In determining the amount of this commission, the Board, supported by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, may consider performance of the Company and their performance as evaluated by the Board.
2. Independent Directors have no entitlement to any bonus during the appointment and no entitlement to participate in any employee stock option scheme operated by the Company or any Group Company.

Reimbursement of Expenses

The Company may pay or reimburse to the Director such expenditure, as may have been incurred by them while performing their role as an Independent Director of the Company. This could include reimbursement of expenditure incurred by them for accommodation, travel and any out of pocket expenses for attending Board/ Committee Meetings, General Meetings, Court Convened Meetings, Meetings with Shareholders/Creditors/Management, site visits, induction and training (organized by the Company for Directors) and in obtaining, subject to the expense being reasonable, professional advice from independent advisors in the furtherance of their duties as Independent Directors.

Independent Professional Advice

There may be occasions when Independent Directors consider that they need professional advice in furtherance of their duties as Director and it will be appropriate for them to consult independent advisers at the Company's expense. The Company will reimburse full cost of expenditure incurred in accordance with the Company's policy.

Training and Development

The Company may, if required, conduct formal training program for its Independent Directors. The Company may, as may be required, support Directors to continually update their skills and knowledge and improve their familiarity with the company and its business. The Company will fund/arrange for training on all matters which are common to the whole Board.

Insurance

The Company has Directors' and Officers' liability insurance and it is intended that the Company will assume and maintain such cover for the full term of appointment of Independent Directors.

Conflict of Interest

1. It is accepted and acknowledged that Independent Directors may have business interests other than those of the Company. As a condition to appointment, they are required to declare any such directorships, appointments and interests to the Board in writing in the prescribed form at the time of appointment.
2. In the event that circumstances seem likely to change and might give rise to a conflict of interest or, when applicable, circumstances that might lead the Board to revise its judgement that they are independent, this should be disclosed to both the Chairman and the Company Secretary.
3. They shall not participate in any business activity which might impede the application of their independent judgement in the best interest of the Company.

Performance Appraisal / Evaluation Process

As members of the Board, their performance as well as the performance of the entire Board and its Committees will be evaluated annually. Evaluation of each director shall be done by all the other directors. The evaluation process shall remain confidential and shall be a constructive mechanism to improve the effectiveness of the Board / Committee.

Disclosure of other directorships and business interests

1. During their Term, Independent Directors agree to promptly notify the Company of any change in their directorships, and provide such other disclosures and information as may be required under the applicable laws. They also agree that upon becoming aware of any potential conflict of interest with their position as Independent Directors of the Company, they shall promptly disclose the same to the Chairman and the Company Secretary.
2. During their Term, Independent Directors agree to promptly provide a declaration under Section 149(7) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Listing Regulations, upon any change in circumstances which may affect their status as an Independent Director.

Changes of personal details:

During the Term, Independent Directors shall promptly intimate the Company Secretary and the Registrar of Companies in the prescribed manner, of any change in address or other contact and personal details provided to the Company.

Code of Conduct

During the appointment, Independent Directors are required to comply with relevant regulations as contained in Schedule IV under Companies Act, 2013, including the following codes of conduct of the Company:

- i. Group Code of Conduct,
- ii. Code of Conduct for Board of Directors and Senior Management,
- iii. Code of Internal Procedures and Conduct for prevention of Insider Trading in securities of the Company and
- iv. Code of Corporate Disclosure Practices for prevention of Insider Trading. and such other requirements as the Board of Directors may from time to time specify.
- v. Code of Conduct for Independent Directors as per Companies Act, 2013. (Annexure-1)

Confidentiality

1. All information acquired during appointment is confidential to the Company and shall not be released, either during appointment or following termination (by whatever means) to third parties without prior clearance from the Company unless required by law or by the rules of any stock exchange or regulatory body. On reasonable request, Independent Directors shall surrender any documents and other materials made available to them by the Company.
2. Attention is also drawn to the requirements under the applicable regulations and the Company's Insider Trading Code which concern the disclosure of price sensitive information and dealing in the securities of the Company. Consequently Independent Directors should avoid making any statements or performing any transactions that might risk a breach of these requirements without prior clearance from the Chairman or the Company Secretary.
3. The obligation of confidentiality shall survive cessation of their respective directorship with the company. Publication of the letter of appointment In line with provisions of Clause IV(6) of Schedule IV to the Companies Act, 2013 and Listing Regulations, the Company will make public the terms and conditions of appointment of Independent Directors and will also arrange for it to be displayed on the Company's website.

CODE FOR INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

(As per Section 149 (8) and Schedule IV of the Companies Act, 2013)

The Code is a guide to professional conduct for independent directors. Adherence to these standards by independent directors and fulfilment of their responsibilities in a professional and faithful manner will promote confidence of the investment community, particularly minority shareholders, regulators and companies in the institution of independent directors.

I. Guidelines of professional conduct:

An independent director shall:

1. uphold ethical standards of integrity and probity;
2. act objectively and constructively while exercising his duties;
3. exercise his responsibilities in a *bona fide* manner in the interest of the company;
4. devote sufficient time and attention to his professional obligations for informed and balanced decision making;
5. not allow any extraneous considerations that will vitiate his exercise of objective independent judgment in the paramount interest of the company as a whole, while concurring in or dissenting from the collective judgment of the Board in its decision making;
6. not abuse his position to the detriment of the company or its shareholders or for the purpose of gaining direct or indirect personal advantage or advantage for any associated person;
7. refrain from any action that would lead to loss of his independence;
8. where circumstances arise which make an independent director lose his independence, the independent director must immediately inform the Board accordingly;
9. assist the company in implementing the best corporate governance practices.

II. Role and functions:

The independent directors shall:

1. help in bringing an independent judgment to bear on the Board's deliberations especially on issues of strategy, performance, risk management, resources, key appointments and standards of conduct;
2. bring an objective view in the evaluation of the performance of board and management;
3. scrutinise the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives and monitor the reporting of performance;
4. satisfy themselves on the integrity of financial information and that financial controls and the systems of risk management are robust and defensible;
5. safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, particularly the minority shareholders;
6. balance the conflicting interest of the stakeholders;
7. determine appropriate levels of remuneration of executive directors, key managerial personnel and senior management and have a prime role in appointing and where necessary recommend removal of executive directors, key managerial personnel and senior management;
8. moderate and arbitrate in the interest of the company as a whole, in situations of conflict between management and shareholder's interest.

III. Duties :

The independent directors shall—

1. undertake appropriate induction and regularly update and refresh their skills, knowledge and familiarity with the company;
2. seek appropriate clarification or amplification of information and, where necessary, take and follow appropriate professional advice and opinion of outside experts at the expense of the company
3. strive to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Board committees of which he is a member;
4. participate constructively and actively in the committees of the Board in which they are chairpersons or members;
5. strive to attend the general meetings of the company;
6. where they have concerns about the running of the company or a proposed action, ensure that these are addressed by the Board and, to the extent that they are not resolved, insist that their concerns are recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting;
7. keep themselves well informed about the company and the external environment in which it operates;
8. not to unfairly obstruct the functioning of an otherwise proper Board or committee of the Board;
9. pay sufficient attention and ensure that adequate deliberations are held before approving related party transactions and assure themselves that the same are in the interest of the company;
10. ascertain and ensure that the company has an adequate and functional vigil mechanism and to ensure that the interests of a person who uses such mechanism are not prejudicially affected on account of such use;
11. report concerns about unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct or ethics policy;
12. acting within his authority, assist in protecting the legitimate interests of the company, shareholders and its employees;
13. not disclose confidential information, including commercial secrets, technologies, advertising and sales promotion plans, unpublished price sensitive information, unless such disclosure is expressly approved by the Board or required by law.

IV. Manner of appointment:

1. Appointment process of independent directors shall be independent of the company management; while selecting independent directors the Board shall ensure that there is appropriate balance of skills, experience and knowledge in the Board so as to enable the Board to discharge its functions and duties effectively.
2. The appointment of independent director(s) of the company shall be approved at the meeting of the shareholders.
3. The explanatory statement attached to the notice of the meeting for approving the appointment of independent director shall include a statement that in the opinion of the Board, the independent director proposed to be appointed fulfils the conditions specified in the Act and the rules made thereunder and that the proposed director is independent of the management.
4. The appointment of independent directors shall be formalised through a letter of appointment, which shall set out :
 - a) the term of appointment;
 - b) the expectation of the Board from the appointed director; the Board-level committee(s) in which the director is expected to serve and its tasks;
 - c) the fiduciary duties that come with such an appointment along with accompanying liabilities;
 - d) provision for Directors and Officers (D and O) insurance, if any;
 - e) the Code of Business Ethics that the company expects its directors and employees to follow;
 - f) the list of actions that a director should not do while functioning as such in the company; and
 - g) the remuneration, mentioning periodic fees, reimbursement of expenses for participation in the Boards and other meetings and profit related commission, if any.
5. The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall be open for inspection at the registered office of the company by any member during normal business hours.
6. The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall also be posted on the company's website.

V. Re-appointment:

The re-appointment of independent director shall be on the basis of report of performance evaluation.

VI. Resignation or removal:

The resignation or removal of an independent director shall be in the same manner as is provided in sections 168 and 169 of the Act.

An independent director who resigns or is removed from the Board of the company shall be replaced by a new independent director within a period of not more than one hundred and eighty days from the date of such resignation or removal, as the case may be.

Where the company fulfils the requirement of independent directors in its Board even without filling the vacancy created by such resignation or removal, as the case may be, the requirement of replacement by a new independent director shall not apply.

Separate meetings:

1. The independent directors of the company shall hold at least one meeting in a year, without the attendance of non-independent directors and members of management;
2. All the independent directors of the company shall strive to be present at such meeting;
3. The meeting shall:
 - a) review the performance of non-independent directors and the Board as a whole;
 - b) review the performance of the Chairperson of the company, taking into account the views of executive directors and non-executive directors;
 - c) assess the quality, quantity and timeliness of flow of information between the company management and the Board that is necessary for the Board to effectively and reasonably perform their duties.

VII. Evaluation mechanism:

1. The performance evaluation of independent directors shall be done by the entire Board of Directors, excluding the director being evaluated.
2. On the basis of the report of performance evaluation, it shall be determined whether to extend or continue the term of appointment of the independent director.