# BAMPSL SECURITIES LIMITED VIGIL MECHANISM/WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY

# 1. Preface

Pursuant to Clause 49 of Listing Agreement and as per applicable provisions of Section 177 of the Companies Act, 2013 every listed company requires to establish a Whistle Blower policy / vigil mechanism for the directors and employees to report genuine concerns or grievances about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's Code of Conduct or Ethics Policy.

The Company has adopted a Code of Conduct for Directors and Senior Management Personnel ("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, is a matter of serious concern for the Company. Such a vigil mechanism shall provide for adequate safeguards against victimization of persons who use such mechanism and also make provision for direct access to the chairperson of the Audit Committee in appropriate or exceptional cases.

Under these circumstances, Bampsl Securities Limited, being a Listed Company proposes to establish a Whistle Blower Policy/ Vigil Mechanism and to formulate a policy for the same.

#### 2. Definitions

The definitions of some of the key terms used in this Policy are given below:

- a. "**Audit Committee**" means a Committee constituted by the Board of Directors of the Company in accordance with the guidelines of Listing Agreement and Companies Act, 2013.
- b. **"Protected Disclosure**" means a concern augmented by an employee or group of employees of the Company, through a written communication and made in good faith which discloses or demonstrates information about an unethical or improper activity.
- c. **"Subject**" means a person or group of persons against or in relation to whom a Protected Disclosure is made or evidence gathered during the course of an investigation.
- d. "**Investigators**" mean those persons authorised, appointed, consulted or approached by the Audit Committee and include the auditors of the Company.
- e. **"Vigilance Officer"** means an officer appointed to receive protected disclosures from whistle blowers, maintaining records thereof, placing the same before the Audit Committee for its disposal and informing the Whistle Blower the result thereof.
- f. **"Whistle Blower**" means an Employee making a Protected Disclosure under this Policy and also referred in this policy as complainant.

# 3. Policy Objectives

A Whistle Blower (Vigil) mechanism aims to provide a channel to the Directors and employees to report genuine concerns about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the Codes of conduct or policy.

The Company is committed to adhere to the highest standards of ethical, moral and legal conduct of business operations and in order to maintain these standards, the Company encourages its employees who have genuine concerns about suspected misconduct to come forward and express these concerns without fear of punishment or unfair treatment.

The mechanism provides for adequate safeguards against victimization of employees to avail of the mechanism and also provide for direct access to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

## 4. Scope of the Policy

This Policy is an extension of the Bampsl Securities Limited Code of Business Conduct and covers disclosure of any unethical and improper or malpractices and events which have taken place / suspected to have taken place, misuse or abuse of authority, fraud or suspected fraud, violation of company rules, manipulations, negligence causing danger to public health and safety, misappropriation of monies, and other matters or activity on account of which the interest of the Company is affected and formally reported by whistle blowers concerning its employees.

The policy neither releases employees from their duty of confidentiality in the course of their work nor can it be used as a route for raising malicious or unfounded allegations about a personal situation.

# 5. Eligibility

All Directors and employees of the Company are eligible to make "Protected Disclosures" under the Policy in relation to matters concerning the Company.

#### 6. 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 under Company's Code of Conduct.

#### 7. Procedure

a. All Protected Disclosures should be reported in writing by the complainant as soon as possible after the Whistle Blower becomes aware of the same so as to ensure a clear understanding of the issues raised and should either be typed or written in a legible handwriting in English. b. The Protected Disclosure should be submitted in a closed and secured envelope and should be super scribed as "Protected disclosure under the Whistle Blower policy".

Alternatively, the same can also be sent through email with the subject "Protected disclosure under the Whistle Blower policy". If the complaint is not super scribed and closed as mentioned above, it will not be possible for the Audit Committee to protect the complainant and the protected disclosure will be dealt with as if a normal disclosure.

- c. In order to protect identity of the complainant, any acknowledgement shall not be issued to the complainants and they are advised not to write their name / address on the envelope or enter into any further correspondence with the management.
- d. On receipt of the protected disclosure the Vigilance Officer/ Chairman of the Audit Committee as the case may be, shall detach the covering letter bearing the identity of the Whistle Blower and process only the Protected Disclosure.
- e. All Protected Disclosures should be addressed to the Audit Committee, through the Vigilance Officer of the Company or to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in appropriate and exceptional cases.

## 8. Investigation

- a. The Audit Committee may at its discretion, consider involving any Investigator(s) for the purpose of investigation.
- b. All Protected Disclosures reported under this Policy will be thoroughly investigated by the Investigator(s) appointed by the Audit Committee who will investigate the matter under the authorization of the Audit Committee.
- c. The identity of a Subject will be kept confidential to the extent possible keeping in mind the legitimate needs of law and the investigation.
- d. Subjects will normally be informed of the allegations at the outset of a formal investigation and given opportunities for providing their inputs during the investigation.
- e. Subjects shall have a duty to co-operate with the Audit Committee or any of the Investigator(s) during investigation to the extent that such co-operation sought does not merely require them to admit guilt.
- f. Subjects have a right to consult with a person or persons of their choice, other than the Vigilance Officer/Investigator(s) and/or members of the Audit Committee and/or the Whistle Blower. Subjects shall be free at any time to engage counsel at their own cost to represent them in the investigation proceedings.
- g. Subjects have a right to be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

#### 9. Investigators

Investigator(s) are required to conduct a process towards fact-finding and analysis. Investigator(s) shall derive their authority and rights from the Audit Committee when acting within the course and scope of their investigation. Technical and other resources may be drawn upon as necessary to augment the investigation. All Investigators shall be independent and unbiased. Investigators will have a duty of fairness, objectivity, thoroughness, ethical behaviour, and observance of legal and professional standards.

Investigations will be launched only after a preliminary review which establishes that: a) The alleged act constitutes an improper or unethical activity or conduct and b) The allegation is supported by information specific enough to be investigated.

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## **10. Decision**

If an investigation leads the Audit Committee to conclude that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the Audit Committee shall recommend such disciplinary or corrective action as it deems fit. It is clarified that any disciplinary or corrective action initiated against the Subject as a result of the findings of an investigation pursuant to this Policy shall adhere to the applicable personnel or staff conduct and disciplinary procedures.

## **11. Reporting and Review**

- 1. The Investigator(s) shall submit a report of the protected disclosures, received and of the investigation conducted, and of the action taken to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company.
- 2. The Audit Committee shall have power to review any action or decision taken by the Competent Authority.

# 12. Protection

No unfair treatment will be meted out to a Whistle Blower by virtue of his/her having reported a Protected Disclosure under this Policy. The Company, as a policy, condemns any kind of discrimination, harassment, victimization or any other unfair employment practice being adopted against Whistle Blowers. Complete protection will, therefore, be given to Whistle Blowers against any unfair practice like retaliation, threat or intimidation of termination / suspension of service, disciplinary action, transfer, demotion, refusal of promotion, 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 to the extent possible and permitted under law.

## **13. Retention Of Documents**

All Protected Disclosures in writing or documented along with the results of investigation relating thereto shall be retained by the Company for a reasonable period of time.

#### 14. Amendment

The Company reserves its right to amend or modify this Policy in whole or in part, at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.