

# National Standard (India) Limited

## Code of Business Conduct for Directors and Management Personnel

### INTRODUCTION

The Company is committed conducting business in accordance with the highest standards of business ethics and compliant of all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

The Company believes that a good corporate governance structure would not only enhance stakeholders value creation but also provide accountability and control systems commensurate with the risks involved.

*“The Company’s Board and Management are responsible for and are committed to setting; observing & implementing the standards of conduct contained in this Code and to ensure their continuing relevance, effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of domestic and international investors and all other stakeholders as also to reflect corporate, legal and regulatory developments. This Code should be adhered to in letter and in spirit.”*

### 1. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS

The Company is committed to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and guidelines in all jurisdictions of operations.

It is, therefore, desirable that Directors / Management Personnel possess / acquire appropriate knowledge of the legal requirements relating to their roles and duties to enable them to be in compliance thereof and to recognize and mitigate potential risks.

Directors / Management Personnel shall ensure due adherence of this code for every activity undertaken under their supervision and authority.

Directors / Management Personnel shall extend full co-operation to regulatory authorities and disclose information as may be required.

### 2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

(a) The term "conflict of interest" pertains to situations in which personal financial or other consideration(s) may compromise, or have the

appearance of compromising the professional judgement of Directors / Management Personnel. A conflict of interest exists where the interests or benefits of Directors or Management Personnel or of people or entities related to them conflict with the interests or benefits of the Company.

- (b) Directors / Management Personnel are prohibited from engaging in any activity that interferes with the performance or discharge of responsibilities towards the Company or is otherwise in conflict with the interest or prejudicial to the Company.
- (c) In addition to mandatory disclosures, all Non-Executive and Independent Directors shall disclose their association with any other company which may lead to conflict of interest with the Company.
- (d) Directors / Management Personnel are prohibited from conducting the Company's business with a relative, or with a business in which a relative is associated in any significant role without prior approval of the Board. All interest shall be disclosed at the time of joining.
- (e) If there are any transactions proposed with such related parties within the knowledge of Directors / Management Personnel, they must report the same to the Compliance Officer. If determined to be material to the Company, the transactions shall be placed before the Audit Committee for review. Any dealings with a related party must be conducted on an arms length basis and on commercial terms and no preferential treatment shall be given.
- (f) If a proposed transaction or situation raises any question or doubts, the Compliance Officer should be consulted.

### **3. DUTIES OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR**

- a) undertake appropriate induction and regularly update and refresh their skills, knowledge and familiarity with the company;
- b) 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;
- c) strive to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Board committees of which he is a member;

- d) participate constructively and actively in the committees of the Board in which they are chairpersons or members;
- e) strive to attend the general meetings of the company;
- f) 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;
- g) keep themselves well informed about the company and the external environment in which it operates;
- h) not to unfairly obstruct the functioning of an otherwise proper Board or committee of the Board;
- i) 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;
- j) 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;
- k) report concerns about unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct or ethics policy;
- l) acting within his authority, assist in protecting the legitimate interests of the company, shareholders and its employees;
- m) 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.

#### **4. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS**

The Company expects all its business to be conducted in a legal and ethical manner. Profits by no means justify use of unfair / unethical business practices.

Directors / Management Personnel shall not make any promises or commitments that the Company does not intend or would not be able to honour. Also, they should not be engaged, directly or indirectly, in any act, dealing or conduct likely to bring discredit to the Company.

Directors / Management Personnel must uphold the highest standards of integrity and ethics in every kind of business dealings. They shall not give, offer, or authorize the offer, directly or indirectly, of anything of value (tangible or intangible) to any third party to obtain any improper advantage.

A contribution or entertainment shall not be offered to anyone in the course of business that might create the appearance of an impropriety.

**5. PROTECTION AND PROPER USE OF COMPANY'S ASSETS AND RESOURCES**

Directors / Management Personnel shall as far as practicable, protect the Company's assets from loss, damage, misuse or theft and ensure that the assets are only used for business purposes and other purposes specifically approved by the Management and must never be used for unauthorized purposes.

Directors / Management Personnel shall apply the Company's assets / resources and/or proprietary information solely for the benefit of Company and not for personal benefit and/or for the benefit of any other related party.

**6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) broadly covers patented or potentially patentable inventions, trademarks, service marks, trade names, copyrightable subject matter, and trade secrets.

Directors / Management Personnel shall make their best efforts to protect all such Intellectual Properties related to the Company, as it is critical to the Company's overall success.

It is advisable to highlight and consult the Chairman / Compliance Officer for determining the appropriate course of action whenever there is lack of clarity and issue of any kind related to IPR.

**7. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

"Confidential information" includes all information of the Company not authorized by the management for public dissemination. This includes information on trade, trade secrets, confidential and privileged information regarding customers, employees, information relating to mergers and acquisitions, stock splits and divestitures; non-public information about discussions and deliberations relating to business issues and decisions, between and among employees, officers and Directors in formal meetings or otherwise, and will include all such information which is not available in the public

domain at that point of time.

The Company believes that protection of all confidential information is essential and is committed to protecting business and personal information of confidential nature obtained from clients, associates and employees. Directors / Management Personnel shall ensure that no confidential information is disclosed inadvertently or otherwise.

Confidential information shall be disclosed to persons, both internal and external, only on a 'need to know' basis and public disclosure shall be made with appropriate approval or as legally mandated.

Directors / Management Personnel shall ensure that all confidential information available to them by virtue of the office they hold is never directly or indirectly released to any person or entity, or made public, otherwise than as stated above.

Company shall not authorise the receipt of confidential information of any other purpose/competitor received in an unauthorised manner.

#### **8. CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES**

Except as may be approved by the Board of Directors or a Committee thereof, Directors / Management Personnel are prohibited from:

- taking for themselves personally, opportunities that belong to either the Company or are discovered through the use of Company's property, information or position;
- using the Company's property, information, or position for personal gain;
- competing with the Company.

#### **8. INTERACTION WITH MEDIA**

The managing director and/or the deputy managing director of the Company or any person duly authorised by such person shall be the official spokesperson and are allowed to interact with media on specified subjects. Any other person wishing to communicate or disseminate on behalf of the Company an official statement, policy or opinion must first consult with and obtain the approval of the aforesaid person.

#### **9. FRAUDULENT AND UNFAIR PRACTICES IN THE SECURITIES MARKET**

The Company's securities are listed on the major Stock Exchange. The

Company is committed to comply with securities laws in all jurisdictions in which its securities are listed.

The Company prohibits its Directors / Management Personnel from fraudulent and unfair trade practices in the securities market, with regard to the securities of the Company or of any other company with whom the Company has business dealings to the best of their knowledge.

**10. FAIR DEALING**

Director / Management Personnel shall not take a discriminatory stance towards or give unfair advantage to the Company's employees, customers, suppliers, or competitors through manipulation, concealment, abuse of privileged information, misrepresentation of material facts, or any other unfair-dealing practice.

No discrimination shall be done on the basis of caste, religion, sex, nationality or disability of any kind towards any employees, customers, suppliers, or any business partner.

**11. HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT**

The Company believes in sustainable development and is committed to be a responsible corporate citizen.

To uphold the Company's interest and preserve the quality of life of all concerned, the business and operations of the Company shall be conducted in an environmentally friendly manner and provide a safe and healthy working environment to its employees.

Directors / Management Personnel shall ensure compliance with all applicable environmental, safety and health laws and regulations and internal policies.

**12. FREE AND FAIR COMPETITION / ANTITRUST**

Most countries including India have well-developed bodies of law designed to encourage and protect free and fair competition. The Company is committed to obeying both the letter and spirit of these laws.

As a general rule, contacts with competitors should be limited to formal forums and should always avoid casual / careless mention on subjects such as business plans, prices or other terms and conditions of sale, customers, and suppliers.

**13. REPORTING OF ILLEGAL OR UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Company shall promote ethical behaviour in all its business activities.

Employees are free to report existing/probable violations of laws, rules, regulations or unethical conduct to their immediate supervisor or such other person as may be notified by the management to the workgroups. Such reports received will be reviewed by the Compliance Officer and the Audit Committee of Directors from time to time. Directors and Management Personnel shall not attempt to suppress/conceal any such view or reporting.

Those reporting violations shall be protected and they shall not be subjected to any discriminatory practices.

#### **14. APPLICABILITY OF THE CODE**

This is a comprehensive code and applies to all Directors and Management Personnel. However, the provisions shall apply to Executive and Non-Executive Directors including independent Directors, only to such extent, as may be applicable depending on their respective roles and responsibilities.

Directors / Management Personnel shall communicate any suspected violations of the Code promptly to the Whole-time Director/Chairman. Suspected violations will be investigated by or at the direction of the Board and appropriate action will be taken in the event that violation is confirmed.

The Code does not specifically address every potential form of unacceptable conduct, and it is expected that Directors / Management Personnel will exercise good judgment in compliance with the principles set out in this Code. Every Director and Management Personnel has a duty to avoid any circumstances that would violate the letter or spirit of this Code.

The Compliance Officer, as designated by the Board, will be the Principal Officer for this Code and will report to the Chairman of the Board on any matter relating to the implementation of the Code. The Compliance Officer should be consulted if there is any doubt or lack of clarity about any aspect in the Code. The Chairman of the Board may also be consulted wherever required. In case of any doubt, as to the course of action to be taken, the following test may be applied:

*Is it legal?*

*Is it ethical?*

*Could it cause a negative perception of the Company?*

**15. AMENDMENT, MODIFICATION & WAIVERS**

This Code may be amended, modified, or waived by the Board, subject to appropriate applicable provisions of law, rules, regulations and guidelines.

As a general policy, the Board will not grant waivers to the Code. However, in extraordinary situations and for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Board may grant exemption from any one or more of the provisions of this Code.

**16. ANNUAL CERTIFICATION**

Every Director and Management Personnel of the Company will be required to certify compliance with the Code within 15 days of the close of the financial year of the Company. Such certification shall be in the form provided in Annexure I to this Code.



To

The Compliance Officer,  
National Standard (India) Limited

**Compliance Certificate**

I \_\_\_\_\_, being a member of the Board of Directors / Management Personnel of National Standard (India) Limited ("the Company") hereby acknowledge, confirm and certify that :

- i. I have received, read and understood the Code of Business Conduct for Directors and Management Personnel of the Company;
- ii. I am bound by the said Code to the extent applicable to my functions as a member of the Board of Directors / Management Personnel of the Company;
- iii. During the financial year \_\_\_\_\_, I have complied with the provisions of the said Code;
- iv. I am not aware of nor am I a party to any non-compliance with the said Code.

Signed:

Name:

Designation:

Date: