

VARUN MERCANTILE LIMITED

Policy for Selection of Directors and determining Directors' independence

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 The Company believes that an enlightened Board consciously creates a culture of leadership to provide a long-term policy approach to improve the quality of governance. Towards this, the Company ensures constitution of a Board of Directors with an appropriate composition, size, diversified expertise and experience and commitment to discharge their responsibilities and duties effectively.
- 1.2 The Company recognizes the importance of Independent Directors in achieving the effectiveness of the Board. It aims to have an optimum combination of Executive, Non-Executive and Independent Directors.

2. Scope and purpose:

- 2.1 This Policy sets out the guiding principles for the Nomination and Remuneration Committee for identifying persons who are qualified to become Directors and to determine the independence of Directors, in case of their appointment as independent directors of the Company.

3. Terms and References:

In this Policy, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

- 3.1 "Director" means a director appointed to the Board of the company.
- 3.2 "Nomination and Remuneration Committee" means the committee constituted by the Company's Board in accordance with the provisions of Section 178 of the Companies Act, 2013.

3.3 "Independent Director" means a director referred to in sub-section (6) of Section 149 of the Companies Act, 2013.

4 Policy:

4.1 Qualifications and criteria

4.1.1 The Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) and the Board, shall review on an annual basis, appropriate skills, knowledge and experience required of the Board as a whole and its individual members. The objective is to have a Board with diverse background and experience that are relevant for the Company's operations.

4.1.2 In evaluating the suitability of individual Board members, the NRC may take into account factors, such as:

- General understanding of the Company's business dynamics, business and social perspective;
- Educational and professional background;
- Standing in the profession;
- Personal and professional ethics, integrity and values;
- Willingness to devote sufficient time and energy in carrying out their duties and responsibilities effectively.

4.1.3 The proposed appointee shall also fulfill the following requirements:

- Shall possess a Director Identification Number;
- Shall not be disqualified under the Companies Act, 2013;
- Shall give his written consent to act as a Director;
- Shall endeavor to attend all Board Meetings and wherever he is appointed as a Committee Member, the Committee Meetings;
- Shall disclose his concern or interest in any company or companies or bodies corporate, firms, or other association of individuals including his shareholding at the first meeting of the Board in every financial year and thereafter whenever there is a change in the disclosures already made;

- Such other requirements as may be prescribed, from time to time, under the Companies Act, 2013, Equity Listing Agreements and other relevant laws.

4.1.4 The NRC shall evaluate each individual with the objective of having a group that best enables the success of the Company's business.

4.2 Criteria of Independence

4.2.1 The NRC shall assess the independence of Directors at the time of appointment / re-appointment and the Board shall assess the same annually. The Board shall re-assess determinations of independence when any new interests or relationships are disclosed by a Director.

4.2.2 The criteria of independence, as laid down in Companies Act, 2013 is as below:

An independent director in relation to a company, means a director other than a managing director or a whole-time director or a nominee director

- a. who, in the opinion of the Board, is a person of integrity and possesses relevant expertise and experience;
- b. (i) who is or was not a promoter of the company or its holding, subsidiary or associate company;
(ii) who is not related to promoters or directors in the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company;
- c. who has or had no pecuniary relationship with the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company, or their promoters, or directors, during the two immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year;
- d. none of whose relatives has or had pecuniary relationship or transaction with the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company, or their promoters, or directors, amounting to two per cent or more of its gross turnover or total income or fifty lakh rupees or such higher amount as

may be prescribed, whichever is lower, during the two immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year;

- e. who, neither himself nor any of his relatives-
 - (i) holds or has held the position of a key managerial personnel or is or has been employee of the company or its holding, subsidiary or associate company in any of the three financial years immediately preceding the financial year in which he is proposed to be appointed;
 - (ii) is or has been an employee or proprietor or a partner, in any of the three financial years immediately preceding the financial year in which he is proposed to be appointed, of-
 - (A) a firm of auditors or company secretaries in practice or cost auditors of the company or its holding, subsidiary or associate company; or
 - (B) any legal or a consulting firm that has or had any transaction with the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company amounting to ten per cent or more of the gross turnover of such firm;
 - (iii) holds together with his relatives two per cent or more of the total voting power of the company; or
 - (iv) is a Chief Executive or director, by whatever name called, of any non-profit organization that receives twenty-five per cent or more of its receipts from the company, any of its promoters, directors or its holding, subsidiary or associate company or that holds two per cent or more of the total voting power of the company; or
 - (v) is a material supplier, service provider or customer or a lessor or lessee of the company.
- f. shall possess appropriate skills, experience and knowledge in one or more fields of finance, law, management, sales, marketing, administration, research, corporate governance, technical operations, corporate social responsibility or other disciplines related to the Company's business.
- g. shall possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed, from time to time, under the Companies Act, 2013.
- h. who is not less than 21 years of age.

4.2.3 The Independent Directors shall abide by the “Code for Independent Directors” as specified in Schedule IV to the Companies Act, 2013.

4.3 Other directorships / committee memberships:

4.3.1 The Board members are expected to have adequate time and expertise and experience to contribute to effective Board performance. Accordingly, members should voluntarily limit their directorships in other listed public limited companies in such a way that it does not interfere with their role as directors of the Company. The NRC shall take into account the nature of, and the time involved in a Director’s service on other Boards, in evaluating the suitability of the individual Director and making its recommendations to the Board.

4.3.2 A Director shall not serve as Director in more than 20 companies of which not more than 10 shall be Public Limited Companies.

4.3.3 A Director shall not serve as an Independent Director in more than 7 Listed Companies and not more than 3 Listed Companies in case he is serving as a Whole-time Director in any Listed Company.

4.3.4 A Director shall not be a member in more than 10 Committees or act as Chairman of more than 5 Committees across all companies in which he holds directorships.

For the purpose of considering the above limit of the Committees, Audit Committee and Stakeholders’ Relationship Committee of all Public Limited Companies, whether listed or not, shall be included and all other companies including Private Limited Companies, Foreign Companies and Companies under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 shall be excluded.