# VIGIL MECHANISM POLICY AND WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY

### **PREAMBLE**

Section 177(9) and (10) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 7 of the Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014 requires every Listed company and such class or classes of companies, as may be prescribed to establish a vigil mechanism (Whistle Blower Policy) for the directors and employees to report genuine concerns in such manner as may be prescribed.

Further Regulation 22 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, inter alia, provides for a mandatory requirement for all listed companies to establish a Vigil mechanism called "Whistle Blower Policy" for employees to report to the management instances of unethical behavior, actual or suspected, fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct.

#### **POLICY**

In compliance of the above requirements, Shardul Securities Limited being a Listed Company has established a Vigil (Whistle Blower) Mechanism and formulated a Policy in order to provide a framework for responsible and secure whistle blowing/vigil mechanism.

# **POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The Vigil (Whistle Blower) Mechanism aims to provide a channel to the Directors and employees to report genuine concerns about unethical behaviour, 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 Directors and employees to avail of the mechanism and also provide for direct access to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

This 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.

## **DEFINITIONS**

"Audit Committee" means the committee constituted by the boards of Directors of Shardul Securities Limited in accordance with Section 177 of Companies Act 2013, which has responsibility for supervising the development and implementation of this policy.

"Protected Disclosure" means a written communication of a concern made in good faith, which discloses or demonstrates information that may evidence an unethical or improper activity as mentioned in the scope of this policy with respect to the Company. It should be factual and not speculative and should contain as much specific information as possible to allow for proper assessment of the nature and extent of the concern.

"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.

"Whistle Blower" is a Director or employee who makes a Protected Disclosure under this Policy and also referred in this policy as complainant.

#### SCOPE

The Policy is an extension of the Code of Conduct for Directors & Senior Management Personnel and covers disclosure of any unethical and improper or malpractices and events which have taken place/ suspected to take place involving:

- 1. Breach of the Company's Code of Conduct
- 2. Breach of Business Integrity and Ethics
- 3. Breach of terms and conditions of employment and rules thereof
- 4. Intentional Financial irregularities, including fraud, or suspected fraud
- 5. Deliberate violation of laws/regulations
- 6. Gross or Willful Negligence causing substantial and specific danger to health, safety and environment
- 7. Manipulation of company data/records
- 8. Pilferation of confidential/propriety information
- 9. Gross Wastage/misappropriation of Company funds/assets

# **ELIGIBILITY**

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

#### **PROCEDURE**

All Protected Disclosures should be reported in writing by the complainant as soon as possible, not later than 30 days after the Whistle Blower becomes aware of the same and should either be typed or written in a legible handwriting in English.

All Protected Disclosures should be addressed to the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

The contact details of the Chairman of the Audit Committee are as under:-

Name and Address – Mr. Devesh Vasavada G-12, Tulsiani Chambers, Nariman point, Mumbai-4000021 Tel: 40090500

Fax: 66308609 / 22846585

Email id: investors@shriyam.com

#### **INVESTIGATION**

All Protected Disclosures under this policy will be recorded and thoroughly investigated.

The Audit Committee, if deems fit, may call for further information or particulars from the complainant and at its discretion, consider involving any other/additional Officer of the Company and/or Committee and/ or an outside agency for the purpose of investigation.

The investigation by itself would not tantamount to an accusation and is to be treated as a neutral fact finding process.

The investigation shall be completed normally within 90 days of the receipt of the protected disclosure and is extendable by such period as the Audit Committee deems fit.

Any member of the Audit Committee or other officer having any conflict of interest with the matter shall disclose his/her concern /interest forthwith and shall not deal with the matter.

## **DECISION AND REPORTING**

If an investigation leads to a conclusion that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the Chairman of the Audit Committee shall recommend to the Board of Directors of the Company to take such disciplinary or corrective action as it may deem fit.

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.

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

## CONFIDENTIALITY

The complainant, Members of Audit Committee, the Subject and everybody involved in the process shall, maintain confidentiality of all matters under this Policy, discuss only to the extent or with those persons as required under this policy for completing the process of investigations and keep the papers in safe custody.

# **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.

## ACCESS TO CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Whistle Blower shall have right to access Chairman of the Audit Committee directly in exceptional cases and the Chairman of the Audit Committee is authorized to prescribe suitable directions in this regard.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Directors and Employees shall be informed of the Policy by publishing on the website of the Company.

#### 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 period of 5 (five) years or such other period as specified by any other law in force, whichever is more.

## **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. However, no such amendment or modification will be binding on the Directors and employees unless the same is not communicated in the manner described as above.

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