

Vigil Mechanism



Let's fly high together!

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A. Preamble

As per the provision of Section 177 of Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 7 of the Companies, (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014, every company having borrowed money from banks in excess of Rs. 50 Crores shall establish a vigil mechanism for their directors and employees to report their genuine concern and grievances in such manner as may be prescribed.

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 Directors and Senior Management Personnel.

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/Finance Committee in appropriate or exceptional cases.

B. Policy Objectives

In compliance of the above requirements, DAFFPL has established a Vigil Mechanism and formulated a Policy in order to provide a framework for responsible and secure vigil mechanism.

The 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 Directors and employees to avail of the mechanism and also provide for direct access to the Chairman of the Audit/Finance 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.

C. Definitions

- *“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 under the title “SCOPE OF THE 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.

- *“Vigilance Officer/Vigilance Committee or Committee”* is a person or Committee of persons, nominated/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.
- *“Whistle Blower”* is a Director or employee who makes a Protected Disclosure under this Policy and also referred in this policy as complainant.

D. Scope of the Policy

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:

- a) Breach of the Company’s Code of Conduct
- b) Breach of Business Integrity and Ethics
- c) Breach of terms and conditions of employment and rules thereof
- d) Intentional Financial irregularities, including fraud, or suspected fraud
- e) Deliberate violation of laws/regulations
- f) Pilferation of confidential/propriety information
- g) Manipulation of company data/records
- h) Gross or willful negligence causing substantial and specific danger to health, safety and environment
- i) Gross Wastage/misappropriation of Company funds/assets

The Policy does not cover the followings:-

- a) Frivolous and bogus complaints
- b) Business and financial decisions taken by the Company that do not involve wrong doing or illegality
- c) Any matter already addressed pursuant to disciplinary or other procedures of the Company
- d) Career or employment related
- e) Other personal grievances

E. Eligibility

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

F. 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.
- The Protected Disclosure should be submitted under a covering letter signed by the complainant in a closed and secured envelope and should be super scribed as “Protected disclosure under the Whistle Blower policy” or 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, the protected disclosure will be dealt with as if a normal disclosure.

All Protected Disclosures should be addressed to the CEO or in exceptional cases the Chairman of the Audit/Finance Committee.

In order to protect the identity of the complainant, the Vigilance Officer will not issue any acknowledgement to the complainants and they are not advised neither to write their name / address on the envelope nor enter into any further correspondence with the Vigilance Officer.

Anonymous / Pseudonymous disclosure shall not be entertained by the Vigilance Officer.

On receipt of the protected disclosure the Vigilance Officer shall detach the covering letter bearing the identity of the Whistle Blower and process only the Protected Disclosure.

G. Investigation

- All Protected Disclosures under this policy will be recorded and thoroughly investigated. The Vigilance Officer will carry out an investigation either himself/herself or by involving any other Officer of the Company/ Committee constituted for the same /an outside agency before referring the matter to the Audit/Finance Committee of the Company.
- The Audit/Finance 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/Finance 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.

H. Decision and Reporting

- If an investigation leads to a conclusion that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the Chairman of the Finance/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/Finance Committee and the Board.

A complainant who makes false allegations of unethical & improper practices or about alleged wrongful conduct of the Subject to the Vigilance Officer or the Audit Committee shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the rules, procedures and policies of the Company.

I. Confidentiality

The complainant, Vigilance Officer, Members of Audit/finance 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.

J. 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.

K. 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.

L. 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.