

## **Terms and conditions of Appointment of Independent Directors**

### **1. Appointment**

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (“Act”) and other applicable laws, you will serve as an Independent Director of the Board from \_\_\_\_\_ (“date of appointment”) through \_\_\_\_\_ (“First Term”). As an Independent Director you will not be liable to retire by rotation and your appointment is subject to the approval of shareholders at the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the Company.

In terms of the Act, you may be eligible to serve as an Independent Director for another term of up to 5 years, subject to the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and passing of special resolution by the shareholders of the Company.

The terms of your appointment, as set out in this letter, are subject to the extant provisions of the (i) applicable laws, including the Act and the Listing Regulations (as amended from time to time) and (ii) Articles of Association of the Company (“AOA”).

### **2. Role, duties and responsibilities**

- A. As a member of the Board you along with the other Directors will be collectively responsible for meeting the objectives of the Board which include
- Requirements under the Companies Act, 2013,
  - Responsibilities of the Board as outlined in the Listing Regulations,
  - Accountability under the Directors’ Responsibility Statement.
- B. You shall abide by the ‘Code For Independent Directors’ as outlined in Schedule IV to Section 149(8) of the Act, and the duties of directors as provided in the Act (including Section 166) and in Regulation 4(2)(f) of the Listing Regulations.
- C. You will provide guidance in your area of expertise.

### **3. Professional Conduct for Independent Directors**

As an Independent Director, you shall

- i. uphold ethical standards of integrity and probity;
- ii. act objectively and constructively while exercising your duties;
- iii. exercise your responsibilities in a bona fide manner in the interest of the Company;
- iv. devote sufficient time and attention to your professional obligations for informed and balanced decision-making;
- v. not allow any extraneous considerations that may vitiate your exercise of objective independent judgement in the paramount interest of the Company as a whole, while concurring in or dissenting from the collective judgement of the Board in its decision-making;

- vi. not abuse your position to the detriment of the Company or its shareholders or for the purpose of gaining direct or indirect personal advantage or advantage for any associated person;
- vii. refrain from any action that could lead to a loss of your independence;
- viii. ensure that if circumstances arise under which you may lose your independence, you will immediately inform the Board accordingly;
- ix. assist the Company in implementing the best corporate governance practices.

#### **4. Role and Function of Independent Directors**

As an Independent Director you shall

- i. help in bringing an independent judgment to bear on the Board's deliberations especially on issues of strategy, performance, risk management, resources, key appointments and standards of conduct;
- ii. bring an objective view in the evaluation of the performance of the Board and the Management;
- iii. scrutinize the performance of Management in meeting agreed goals and objectives and monitor the reporting of performance;
- iv. satisfy yourself on the integrity of financial information and that financial controls and the systems of risk management are robust and defensible;
- v. safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, particularly the minority shareholders;
- vi. balance the conflicting interest of the stakeholders;
- vii. determine appropriate levels of remuneration of executive directors, key managerial personnel and senior management and have a prime role in appointing and where necessary recommend removal of executive directors, key managerial personnel and senior management;
- viii. moderate and arbitrate in the interest of the Company as a whole, in situations of conflict between Management and shareholder's interest.

#### **5. Duties**

As an Independent Director, you shall

- i. undertake the appropriate induction into the Board and regularly update and refresh your skills, knowledge and familiarity with the Company;
- ii. seek appropriate clarifications and, where necessary, seek and follow appropriate professional advice from external experts at the expense of the Company;
- iii. strive to attend every meeting of the Board and of the Board committees of which you are a member;

- iv. actively and constructively participate in the Board and Committees of the Board in which you may be a member or the Chairperson;
- v. strive to attend the general meetings of the Company;
- vi. ensure that any concerns that you may have about the running of the Company are addressed by the Board and seek inclusion of these concerns in the Board minutes to the extent these concerns are not resolved;
- vii. keep yourself well informed about the Company and the external environment in which it operates;
- viii. not unfairly obstruct the functioning of an otherwise proper Board or committee;
- ix. ensure that related party transactions are considered carefully before they are approved and are in the interest of the Company;
- x. ensure that the whistleblower function of the Company is functioning adequately;
- xi. report concerns about unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the Company's Code of Conduct and Ethics;
- xii. within your authority, assist in protecting the legitimate interests of the Company, shareholders and its employees;
- xiii. not disclose any confidential information unless such disclosure is expressly approved by the Board or required by law.

## **6. Functions of the Board of Directors**

### **1.1. Key functions of the Board of Directors-**

- Reviewing and guiding corporate strategy, major plans of action, risk policy, annual budgets and business plans, setting performance objectives, monitoring implementation and corporate performance, and overseeing major capital expenditures, acquisitions and divestments.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the listed entity's governance practices and making changes as needed.
- Selecting, compensating, monitoring and, when necessary, replacing key managerial personnel and overseeing succession planning.
- Aligning key managerial personnel and remuneration of board of directors with the longer term interests of the listed entity and its shareholders
- Ensuring a transparent nomination process to the board of directors with the diversity of thought, experience, knowledge, perspective and gender in the board of directors.
- Monitoring and managing potential conflicts of interest of management, members of the board of directors and shareholders, including misuse of corporate assets and abuse in related party transactions.
- Ensuring the integrity of the listed entity's accounting and financial reporting systems, including the independent audit, and that appropriate systems of control are in place, in

particular, systems for risk management, financial and operational control and compliance with the law and relevant standards.

- Overseeing the process of disclosure and communications.
- Monitoring and reviewing board of director's evaluation framework.

## **1.2. Other responsibilities**

- The board of directors shall provide strategic guidance to the listed entity, ensure effective monitoring of the management and shall be accountable to the listed entity and the shareholders.
- The board of directors shall set a corporate culture and the values by which executives throughout a group shall behave.
- Members of the board of directors shall act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the listed entity and the shareholders.
- The board of directors shall encourage continuing directors' training to ensure that the members of board of directors are kept up to date.
- Where decisions of the board of directors may affect different shareholder groups differently, the board of directors shall treat all shareholders fairly.
- The board of directors shall maintain high ethical standards and shall take into account the interests of stakeholders.
- The board of directors shall exercise objective independent judgement on corporate affairs.
- The board of directors shall consider assigning a sufficient number of non-executive members of the board of directors capable of exercising independent judgement to tasks where there is a potential for conflict of interest.
- The board of directors shall ensure that, while rightly encouraging positive thinking, these do not result in over-optimism that either leads to significant risks not being recognised or exposes the listed entity to excessive risk.
- The board of directors shall have ability to 'step back' to assist executive management by challenging the assumptions underlying strategy, strategic initiatives (such as acquisitions), risk appetite, exposures and the key areas of the listed entity's focus.
- When committees of the board of directors are established, their mandate, composition and working procedures shall be well defined and disclosed by the board of directors.
- Members of the board of directors shall be able to commit themselves effectively to their responsibilities.
- In order to fulfil their responsibilities, members of the board of directors shall have access to accurate, relevant and timely information.

## **7. Board Committees**

As advised by the Board, during the tenure of office, you may be required to serve on one or more of the Committees of the Board. Upon your appointment to any one or more Committees, you will be provided with the appropriate Committee charter which sets out the functions of that Committee.

## **8. Time Commitment**

Considering the nature of the role of a director, it is difficult for the Company to lay down specific parameters on time commitment. You agree to devote such time as is prudent and necessary for the proper performance of your role, duties and responsibilities as an Independent Director.

## **9. Remuneration**

As an Independent Director you will be paid sitting fees for attending the meetings of the Board and the Committees of which you are a member. The sitting fees for attending each meeting of the Board and its Committees would be as determined by the Board from time to time.

## **10. Code of Conduct**

As an Independent Director of the Company, you agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Non-Executive Directors (NEDs).

You will appreciate that all information acquired during your appointment is confidential to the Company and should not be released, communicated, nor disclosed either during your appointment or following termination (by whatever means), to third parties without prior clearance from the Company. This restriction shall cease to apply to any confidential information which may (other than by reason of your breach) become available to the public generally. You acknowledge the need to hold and retain Company information (in whatever format you may receive it) under appropriately secure conditions.

Your obligation of confidentiality shall survive cessation of your directorship with the Company.

Additionally, you shall not participate in any business activity which might impede the application of your independent judgment in the best interest of the Company.

You are required to sign a confirmation of acceptance of the Code of Conduct for NEDs as adopted by the Board on an annual basis.

We would also like to draw your attention to the applicability of both, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Code of Conduct on Prevention of Insider Trading, prohibiting communication or use of unpublished price sensitive information. Being a Director of the Company, you are classified as a designated person of the Company and hence are prohibited from dealing in the Company's securities during the period when the trading window is closed.

The trading window shall be closed for the following purposes

- 1) Declaration of financial results;
- 2) Declaration of dividend(s);
- 3) Change in capital structure;

4) Mergers, de-mergers, acquisitions, delistings, disposals and expansions of business and such other transactions;

5) Changes in Key Managerial Personnel; and

6) Material events in accordance with the Listing Regulations

The time for commencement of closure of trading window shall be decided by the Company. The trading window shall be opened 48 hours after the information referred to above becomes generally available.

Further, for the purpose of compliance with insider trading regulations, you are required to pre-clear from the Compliance Officer of the Company, trade(s) in securities of Company where the cumulative trade whether in one or more transaction, exceeds Rs.10 lacs in any financial year.

### **11. Training and Development**

The Company may, if required, conduct formal training programmes for its Independent Directors. The training programmes may include any or all of the following

- Board roles and responsibilities, whilst seeking to build working relationship among the Board members,
- Company's vision, strategic direction, core values, ethics and corporate governance practices,
- Familiarization with financial matters, management team and business operations,
- Meetings with stakeholders, visits to business locations and meetings with senior and middle management.

The Company may, as may be required, support Directors to continually update their skills and knowledge and improve their familiarity with the Company and its business. The Company will fund arrange for training on all matters which are common to the full Board.

### **12. Performance Appraisal Evaluation Process**

Annually, the Board evaluates the effectiveness of its functioning, that of the Committees and of individual Directors. The Board, through NRC, seeks feedback of Directors on various parameters such as

- Degree of fulfillment of key responsibilities towards stakeholders (by way of monitoring corporate governance practices, participation in the long-term strategic planning etc.);
- The structure, composition and role clarity of the Board and Committees;
- Extent of co-ordination and cohesiveness between the Board and its Committees;
- Effectiveness of the deliberations and process management;
- Board Committee culture and dynamics; and
- Quality of relationship between Board Members and the Management.

The Chairman of the Board will have one-on-one meetings with the Independent Directors and the Chairman of NRC will have one-on-one meetings with the Executive and Non-Executive

Directors. These meetings are intended to obtain Directors' inputs on effectiveness of the Board Committee processes.

### **13. Disclosures, other directorships and business interests**

It is accepted and acknowledged that you have business interests other than those of the Company and have declared conflicts, if any that are apparent at present. In the event that you become aware of any potential conflict of interest with your position as Director of the Company, you shall promptly disclose the same to the Chairman and the Company Secretary and provide such other disclosures and information as may be required under the applicable laws. By signing this letter, you hereby confirm that as on date of this letter, you have no such conflict of interests with your existing directorships.

Upon any change in circumstances which may affect your status as an Independent Director, you agree to promptly provide a declaration under Section 149(7) of the Act.

### **14. Memberships of other boards**

It is expected that you will not serve on the boards of competing companies. Apart from the applicable law and good corporate governance practices, there are no other additional limitations.

### **15. Information on meetings**

Dates for Board meetings in the ensuing year are decided in advance. Most Board meetings are held at the Registered Office of the. The agenda and explanatory notes are sent to the Board in advance. The Board meets at least once a quarter to review the quarterly results and other items on the agenda and also on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the shareholders. Additional meetings are held, when necessary. Committees of the Board usually meet the day before the formal Board meeting, or whenever the need arises for transacting business. The recommendations of the Committees are placed before the Board for necessary approval.

The Board has full and unfettered access to any information of the Company, and to any employee of the Company. At Board meetings, the Board invites managers of the Company when additional details into the items being discussed are required.

### **16. Independent Directors' discussion**

Annually and when required, the Independent Directors meet without the presence of Non-Independent Directors and members of the Management. At this meeting, the Independent Directors inter alia evaluate the performance of the Non-Independent Directors and the Board of Directors as a whole, evaluate the performance of the Chairman of the Board and discuss aspects relating to the quality, quantity and timeliness of the flow of information between the Company, the Management and the Board.

### **17. Changes in personal details**

During your Term, you shall promptly intimate the Company Secretary and the Registrar of Companies in the prescribed manner, of any change in address or other contact and personal details provided to the Company.



## **18. Disengagement**

You may resign as Director of the Company by giving notice in writing to the Company stating the reasons for resignation. The resignation shall take effect from the date on which the notice is received by the Company or the date, if any, specified by you in the notice, whichever is later.

## **19. Extension of Term**

Upon the expiry of your First Term and subject to your eligibility under the relevant provisions of the Act, Rules, Listing Regulations and other applicable laws, as prevailing from time to time and subject to annual performance evaluation and recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, the Board may, at its discretion, recommend to the shareholders renewal of your term.

## **20. Miscellaneous**

The terms of appointment contained in this letter along with your detailed profile shall be disclosed on the website of the Company and the relevant stock exchanges.

## **21. Acceptance of Appointment**

Please confirm your acceptance of the above terms by signing and returning the enclosed duplicate copy of this letter.

We look forward to your support and commitment towards the Company.

Yours Sincerely,

Covance Softsol Limited

Company Secretary

Place

Date

## **22. Agree and Accept**

I have read and understood the terms of my appointment as an Independent Director of the Company and I hereby affirm my acceptance to the same.

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Name

Place

Date