

VIGIL MECHANISM (Whistle Blower Policy) OF TCI FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Office: Plot No. 20, Survey No. 12, 4th Floor, Kothaguda, Kondapur,
Hyderabad – 500 081, Telangana, India

CIN : L65910TG1973PLC031293, **Tel:** 040-71204284, 27844284,

Fax: 040-23112316, **Website:** www.tcifli.in, **Email:** investors@tcifl.in

1. Preface

a. The Company believes in the conduct of the affairs of its constituents in a fair and transparent manner by adopting highest standards of professionalism, honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour.

Towards this end, the Company has adopted the TCI Finance Code of Conduct ("the Code"), which lays down the principles and standards that should govern the actions of the Company and its employees.

Any actual or potential violation of the Code, howsoever insignificant or perceived as such, would be a matter of serious concern for the Company. The role of the employees in pointing out such violations of the Code cannot be undermined. There is a provision under the Code requiring employees to report violations, which states:

" . Reporting Concerns"

Every employee of the Company shall promptly report to the management any actual or possible violation of the Code or an event he becomes aware of that could affect the business or reputation of TCI Finance Ltd or any of its subsidiary/ group companies.

b. Section 177 of the Companies Act, 2013 requires every listed company to establish a vigil mechanism for the directors and employees to report genuine concerns in such manner as may be prescribed. The Company has adopted a Code of Conduct for Directors and Senior Management Executives ("the Code"), which lays down the principles and standards that should govern the actions of the Company and its employees.

c. The SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI (LODR) Regulations") inter alia, provides for all listed companies to establish a Vigil Mechanism /Whistle Blower Policy enabling stakeholders, including individual employees and their representative bodies to freely communicate their concerns about illegal or unethical practices and to report to the management instances of unethical behaviour, actual or suspected, fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct.

Regulation 9A (6) of the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 as amended requires every listed company to have a whistle blower policy to report instances of leak of unpublished price sensitive information. The Company has adopted an Insider Trading Policy and allied policies ("ITP Policy") in accordance with Regulation 8(1) and Regulation 9(1) of SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015, which provides for the measures to deal with the unpublished price sensitive information of the Company.

Accordingly, this Whistle Blower Policy (“the Policy”) has been formulated with a view to provide a mechanism for employees of the Company to approach the Ethics Counsellor / Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Company.

2. Policy

The Vigil Mechanism / Whistle Blower policy intends to cover serious concerns that could have grave impact on the operations and performance of the business of the Company including its reputation and goodwill. A Vigil (Whistle Blower) mechanism provides a channel to the stakeholders, employees and Directors to report to the management concerns about illegal, unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the Code of conduct or policy including ITP Policy. The mechanism provides for adequate safeguards against victimization of employees and Directors to avail of the mechanism and also provide for direct access to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

The policy neither releases employees or stakeholders 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 against people in authority and / or colleagues in general.

3. Definitions

The definitions of some of the key terms used in this Policy are given below. Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them under the Code.

a. **“Alleged wrongful conduct”** shall mean violation of law, infringement of Company’s rules, misappropriation of monies, actual or suspected fraud, substantial and specific danger to public health and safety or abuse of authority.

b. **“Audit Committee”** means the Audit Committee constituted by the Board of Directors of the Company in accordance with Section 177, Chapter XII of the Companies Act, 2013 and read with Regulation 18 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015.

c. **“Board”** means Board of Directors of the Company.

d. **“Employee”** means every employee of the Company (whether working in India or abroad), including the Directors in the employment of the Company.

e. **“Code”** means the TCI Finance Code of Conduct.

f. **“Investigators”** mean those persons authorised, appointed, consulted or approached by the Ethics Counsellor/Chairman of the Audit Committee and includes the auditors of the Company and the police.

g. **“Protected Disclosure”** means a concern raised by an employee or group of employees of the Company or any stakeholder in the Company, through a written communication and made in good faith which discloses or demonstrates information about an unethical or improper activity under the title **“SCOPE OF THE POLICY”** with respect to the Company. It should be factual, objective and should contain as much specific information as possible to allow for proper assessment of the nature and extent of the concern. It should not be: (i) speculative; or (ii) in the nature of an interpretation / conclusion.

h. **“Subject”** means a person against or in relation to whom a Protected Disclosure has been made or evidence gathered during the course of an investigation.

i. **“Whistle Blower”** means as any Personnel who has or had access to data, events or information about an actual, suspected or anticipated Reportable Matter within or by the organisation, and, whether anonymously or not, makes or attempts to make a deliberate, voluntary and protected disclosure or complaint of organisational malpractice.

4. Scope

- a. This Policy will be an extension of the TCI Finance Code of Conduct. The Whistle Blower’s role is that of a reporting party with reliable information. They are not required or expected to act as investigators or finders of facts, nor would they determine the appropriate corrective or remedial action that may be warranted in a given case.
- b. Whistle Blowers should not act on their own in conducting any investigative activities, nor do they have a right to participate in any investigative activities other than as requested by the Ethics Counsellor or the Chairman of the Audit Committee or the Investigators.
- c. Protected Disclosure will be appropriately dealt with by the Ethics Counsellor or the Chairman of the Audit Committee, as the case may be.

5. Eligibility

All Employees of the Company are eligible to make Protected Disclosures under the Policy. The Protected Disclosures may be in relation to matters concerning the Company or any other Group Company.

6. Coverage of Policy

The Policy covers malpractices and events which have taken place/ suspected to take place involving:

- 1. Abuse of authority
- 2. Breach of contract⁵
- 3. Negligence causing substantial and specific danger to public health and safety
- 4. Manipulation of company data/records
- 5. Financial irregularities, including fraud, or suspected fraud
- 6. Criminal offence
- 7. Pilferation of confidential/propriety information

8. Deliberate violation of law/regulation
9. Wastage/misappropriation of company funds/assets
10. Breach of employee Code of Conduct or Rules
11. Any other unethical, biased, favoured, imprudent event

6.2 Policy should not be used in place of the Company grievance procedures or be a route for raising malicious or unfounded allegations against colleagues.

7. Anonymous Allegation

Whistle Blowers must put their names to allegations and investigation may not be possible unless the source of the information is identified. Disclosures expressed anonymously will ordinarily NOT be investigated.

8. Disqualifications

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. Whistle Blowers, who make any Protected Disclosures, which have been subsequently found to be mala fide or malicious or Whistle Blowers who make 3 or more Protected Disclosures, which have been subsequently found to be frivolous, baseless or reported otherwise than in good faith, will be disqualified from reporting further Protected Disclosures under this Policy.

9. Procedure

- a. All Protected Disclosures concerning financial/accounting matters should be addressed to the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Company for investigation.
- b. In respect of all other Protected Disclosures, those concerning the Ethics Counsellor and employees at the levels of Vice Presidents and above should be addressed to the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Company and those concerning other employees should be addressed to the Ethics Counsellor of the Company.
- c. The contact details of the Chairman of the Audit Committee are as under:

Mr. Rajesh Kundra

Chairman of Audit Committee

Rkundra211@gmail.com

The contact details of the Chief Ethics Counsellor are as under:

Mr. Amit Kumar Ray
amit.ray@tcifl.in

(Manager of the company)

- d. If a protected disclosure is received by any executive of the Company other than Chairman of Audit Committee or the Ethics Counsellor, the same should be forwarded to the Company's Ethics Counsellor or the Chairman of the Audit Committee for further appropriate action. Appropriate care must be taken to keep the identity of the Whistle Blower confidential.
- e. Protected Disclosures should preferably be reported in writing so as to ensure a clear understanding of the issues raised and should either be typed or written in a legible handwriting in English, Hindi or in the regional language of the place of employment of the Whistle Blower.
- f. The Protected Disclosure should be forwarded under a covering letter which shall bear the identity of the Whistle Blower. The Chairman of the Audit Committee / Ethics Counsellor, as the case may be shall detach the covering letter and forward only the Protected Disclosure to the Investigators for investigation.
- g. Protected Disclosures should be factual and not speculative or in the nature of a conclusion, and should contain as much specific information as possible to allow for proper assessment of the nature and extent of the concern.
- h. For the purpose of providing protection to the Whistle Blower, the Whistle Blower should disclose his/her identity in the covering letter forwarding such Protected Disclosure.

10. Investigation

- a. All Protected Disclosures reported under this Policy will be thoroughly investigated by the Ethics Counsellor / Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Company who will investigate / oversee the investigations under the authorization of the Audit Committee.
- b. The Ethics Counsellor / Chairman of the Audit Committee may at his discretion, consider involving any Investigators for the purpose of investigation.
- c. The decision to conduct an investigation taken by the Ethics Counsellor / Chairman of the Audit Committee is by itself not an accusation and is to be treated as a neutral fact-finding process. The outcome of the investigation may not support the conclusion of the Whistle Blower that an improper or unethical act was committed.

- d. The identity of a Subject and the Whistle Blower will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the legitimate needs of law and the investigation.
- e. Subjects will normally be informed of the allegations at the outset of a formal investigation and have opportunities for providing their inputs during the investigation.
- f. Subjects shall have a duty to co-operate with the Ethics Counsellor / Chairman of the Audit Committee or any of the Investigators during investigation to the extent that such co-operation will not compromise self-incrimination protections available under the applicable laws. .
- g. Subjects have a right to consult with a person or persons of their choice, other than the Ethics Counsellor / Investigators and/or members of the Audit Committee and/or the Whistle Blower. Subjects shall be free at any time to engage counsel at their own cost to represent them in the investigation proceedings. However, if the allegations against the subject are not sustainable, then the Company may see reason to reimburse such costs.
- h. Subjects have a responsibility not to interfere with the investigation. Evidence shall not be withheld, destroyed or tampered with, and witnesses shall not be influenced, coached, threatened or intimidated by the Subjects.
- i. Unless there are compelling reasons not to do so, Subjects will be given the opportunity to respond to material findings contained in an investigation report. No allegation of wrongdoing against a Subject shall be considered as maintainable unless there is good evidence in support of the allegation.
- j. Subjects have a right to be informed of the outcome of the investigation. If allegations are not sustained, the Subject should be consulted as to whether public disclosure of the investigation results would be in the best interest of the Subject and the Company.
- k. The investigation shall be completed normally within 45 days of the receipt of the Protected Disclosure.

11. Protection

- a. No unfair treatment will be meted out to a Whistle Blower by virtue of his/her having reported a Protected Disclosure under this Policy. The Company, as a policy, condemns any kind of discrimination, harassment, victimization or any other unfair employment practice being adopted against Whistle Blowers. Complete protection will, therefore, be given to Whistle Blowers against any unfair practice like retaliation, threat or intimidation of termination/suspension of service, disciplinary action, transfer, demotion, refusal of promotion, or the like including any direct or indirect use of authority to obstruct the Whistle Blower's right to continue to perform his duties/functions including making further Protected Disclosure. The Company will take steps to minimize difficulties, which the

Whistle Blower may experience as a result of making the Protected Disclosure. Thus, if the Whistle Blower is required to give evidence in criminal or disciplinary proceedings, the Company will arrange for the Whistle Blower to receive advice about the procedure, etc.

- b. A Whistle Blower may report any violation of the above clause to the Chairman of the Audit Committee, who shall investigate into the same and recommend suitable action to the management.
- c. The identity of the Whistle Blower shall be kept confidential to the extent possible and permitted under law.
- d. Any other Employee assisting in the said investigation shall also be protected to the same extent as the Whistle Blower.

12. Investigators

- a. Investigators are required to conduct a process towards fact-finding and analysis. Investigators shall derive their authority and access rights from the Ethics Counsellor / Audit Committee when acting within the course and scope of their investigation.
- b. Technical and other resources may be drawn upon as necessary to augment the investigation. All Investigators shall be independent and unbiased both in fact and as perceived. Investigators have a duty of fairness, objectivity, thoroughness, ethical behavior, and observance of legal and professional standards.
- c. Investigations will be launched only after a preliminary review by the Chairman of the Audit Committee or the Ethics Counsellor, as the case may be, which establishes that:
 - i. the alleged act constitutes an improper or unethical activity or conduct, and
 - ii. the allegation is supported by information specific enough to be investigated or in cases where the allegation is not supported by specific information, it is felt that the concerned matter is worthy of management review. Provided that such investigation should not be undertaken as an investigation of an improper or unethical activity or conduct.

13. Decision

If an investigation leads the Ethics Counsellor / Chairman of the Audit Committee to conclude that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the Ethics Counsellor / Chairman of the Audit Committee shall recommend to the management of the Company to take such disciplinary or corrective action as the Ethics Counsellor / Chairman of the Audit Committee may deem fit. It is clarified that 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.

14. Reporting

The Ethics Counsellor shall submit a report to the Chairman of the Audit Committee on a regular basis about all Protected Disclosures referred to him/her since the last report together with the results of investigations, if any.

15. 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 minimum period of seven years.

16. Amendment

The Company reserves its right to amend or modify this Policy in whole or in part, at any time without assigning any reasons, whatsoever and shall be binding on the Directors and the Employees of the Company on the date the same is displayed on www.tcifl.in.