

KOGTA FINANCIAL (INDIA) LIMITED

TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR

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TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR

The terms and conditions for the appointment of Independent Director, which shall, in any event be subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Articles of Association of the Company.

The broad terms and conditions of their appointment as Independent Directors are mentioned as under:

1. Term of Appointment

The term of appointment of Independent Directors will be decided by the Board of Directors (“**the Board**”) which shall be subject to the approval of shareholders. The Independent Directors are not liable to retire by rotation. Re-appointment at the end of their tenure shall be considered by the Board based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and the performance evaluation process, subject to the Directors continuing to meet the independence criteria and as per provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

The Independent Directors may be nominated to be a Member or Chairman of any one or more Committees of the Board.

The manner of appointment shall be in accordance with the provisions of Schedule IV of the Companies Act, 2013.

2. Role, functions and duties

- a) As member of the Board, the Directors shall be collectively responsible for meeting the objectives of the Board, which includes:
- i. Responsibilities prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013,
 - ii. Responsibilities as outlined in Master Directions of Reserve Bank of India, SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 with stock exchanges and other applicable acts/regulations, as may be applicable from time to time on the Company,
 - iii. Accountability under the Directors’ Responsibility Statement,
 - iv. Overseeing the maintenance of values and ethical conduct of business.
- b) Independent Directors are expected to:
- i. take decisions objectively and solely in the interests of the Company;
 - ii. facilitate Company’s adherence to high standards of ethics and corporate behavior;
 - iii. guide the Board in monitoring and managing potential conflicts of interest of Management, Board Members and Stakeholders, including misuse of corporate assets and abuse in related party transactions;
 - iv. guide the Board in ensuring the integrity of the Company’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.

3. Code of Conduct

- a) During the appointment, Independent Director will comply with all relevant regulations as may be issued by the Government of India and such other authorized bodies as set up by the Government on its behalf including Code of Conduct & Ethics for Directors and such other requirements as the Board of Directors may from time to time specify.

- b) Independent Director shall also abide by the “**Code for Independent Directors**” as outlined in Schedule IV to the Companies Act, 2013, and duties of directors as provided in the said Act. For your ready reference, the relevant provisions have been extracted and attached to this letter as **Annexure A**.

4. Time Commitment

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

5. Remuneration

The remuneration of the Independent Director of the company shall be paid in the manner prescribed below: -

- a) Independent Director will be paid such remuneration by way of sitting fees for attending meetings of the Board and its Committees as may be decided by the Board.
- b) Independent Directors of the Company shall not be entitled to any stock option and may be paid remuneration by way of profit related commission or otherwise.
 - i. In addition to the remuneration payable to them in pursuance of the Act, the directors may be paid all travelling, hotel and other expenses incurred by them for attending meetings of the Board of Directors or any committee thereof or general meetings of the Company and expenses, which incurred in connection with the business of the Company.

6. Disclosures

Every independent director shall at the first meeting of the Board in which he participates as a director and thereafter at the first meeting of the Board in every financial year or whenever there is any change in the circumstances which may affect his status as an independent director, give a declaration that he meets the criteria of independence.

7. Performance Appraisal / Evaluation Process

As members of the Board, the performance of the Independent Directors as well as the performance of the Board, its Committees and individual directors will be evaluated annually. Evaluation of each Independent Director shall be done by the Board of Directors, excluding the director being evaluated. The criteria for evaluation shall be specified by the Nomination & Remuneration committee (“**NRC**”).

On the basis of the report of performance evaluation, it shall be determined whether to extend or continue the term of appointment of the independent director.

8. Re-appointment

The re-appointment of independent director shall be on the basis of report of performance evaluation. An independent director shall hold office for a term up to five consecutive years on the Board of a company, but shall be eligible for reappointment on passing of a special resolution by the company and disclosure of such appointment in the Board's report.

9. Training and Development

The Company may, if required, conduct formal training program for its Independent Directors. 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 whole Board.

10. Confidentiality

Independent Directors shall have access to confidential information, whether or not the information is marked or designated as “confidential” or “proprietary”, relating to the Company and its business including legal, financial, technical, commercial, marketing and business related records, data, documents, reports, etc., client information, intellectual property rights (including trade secrets), (“**Confidential Information**”). All information acquired during their appointment are confidential and should not be released, either during their appointment or following termination (by whatever means) to third parties.

If any Confidential Information is required to be disclosed by the Independent Director, in response to any summons or in connection with any litigation, or in order to comply with any applicable law, order, regulation or ruling, then any such disclosure should be, to the extent possible, with the prior consent of the Board.

Annexure A
SCHEDULE IV TO THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
[See section 149(8)]
CODE FOR INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

The Code is a guide to professional conduct for independent directors. Adherence to these standards by independent directors and fulfilment of their responsibilities in a professional and faithful manner will promote confidence of the investment community, particularly minority shareholders, regulators and companies in the institution of independent directors.

I. Guidelines of professional conduct:

An independent director shall:

1. uphold ethical standards of integrity and probity;
2. act objectively and constructively while exercising his duties;
3. exercise his responsibilities in a bona fide manner in the interest of the company;
4. devote sufficient time and attention to his professional obligations for informed and balanced decision making;
5. not allow any extraneous considerations that will vitiate his exercise of objective independent judgment in the paramount interest of the company as a whole, while concurring in or dissenting from the collective judgment of the Board in its decision making;
6. not abuse his 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;
7. refrain from any action that would lead to loss of his independence;
8. where circumstances arise which make an independent director lose his independence, the independent director must immediately inform the Board accordingly;
9. assist the company in implementing the best corporate governance practices

II. Role and functions:

The independent directors shall:

1. 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;
2. bring an objective view in the evaluation of the performance of board and management;
3. scrutinize the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives and monitor the reporting of performance;
4. satisfy themselves on the integrity of financial information and that financial controls and the systems of risk management are robust and defensible;
5. safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, particularly the minority shareholders;
6. balance the conflicting interest of the stakeholders; 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;
7. moderate and arbitrate in the interest of the company as a whole, in situations of conflict between management and shareholder's interest.

III. Duties:

The independent directors shall—

1. undertake appropriate induction and regularly update and refresh their skills, knowledge and familiarity with the company;
2. seek appropriate clarification or amplification of information and, where necessary, take and follow appropriate professional advice and opinion of outside experts at the expense of the company;
3. strive to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Board committees of which he is a member;
4. participate constructively and actively in the committees of the Board in which they are chairpersons or members;
5. strive to attend the general meetings of the company;
6. where they have concerns about the running of the company or a proposed action, ensure that these are addressed by the Board and, to the extent that they are not resolved, insist that their concerns are recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting;
7. keep themselves well informed about the company and the external environment in which it operates;
8. not to unfairly obstruct the functioning of an otherwise proper Board or committee of the Board;
9. pay sufficient attention and ensure that adequate deliberations are held before approving related party transactions and assure themselves that the same are in the interest of the company;
10. ascertain and ensure that the company has an adequate and functional vigil mechanism and to ensure that the interests of a person who uses such mechanism are not prejudicially affected on account of such use;
11. report concerns about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct or ethics policy;
12. acting within his authority, assist in protecting the legitimate interests of the company, shareholders and its employees;
13. not disclose confidential information, including commercial secrets, technologies, advertising and sales promotion plans, unpublished price sensitive information, unless such disclosure is expressly approved by the Board or required by law.

IV. Manner of appointment:

1. Appointment process of independent directors shall be independent of the company management; while selecting independent directors the Board shall ensure that there is appropriate balance of skills, experience and knowledge in the Board so as to enable the Board to discharge its functions and duties effectively.
2. The appointment of independent director(s) of the company shall be approved at the meeting of the shareholders.
3. The explanatory statement attached to the notice of the meeting for approving the appointment of independent director shall include a statement that in the opinion of the Board, the independent director proposed to be appointed fulfils the conditions specified in the Act and the rules made thereunder and that the proposed director is independent of the management.
4. The appointment of independent directors shall be formalized through a letter of appointment, which shall set out:
 - a) the term of appointment;
 - b) the expectation of the Board from the appointed director; the Board-level committee(s) in which the director is expected to serve and its tasks;
 - c) the fiduciary duties that come with such an appointment along with accompanying liabilities;
 - d) provision for Directors and Officers (D and O) insurance, if any;
 - e) the Code of Business Ethics that the company expects its directors and employees to follow;
 - f) the list of actions that a director should not do while functioning as such in the company; and
 - g) the remuneration, mentioning periodic fees, reimbursement of expenses for participation in the Boards and other meetings and profit related commission, if any.

5. The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall be open for inspection at the registered office of the company by any member during normal business hours.
6. The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall also be posted on the Company's website.

V. Re-appointment:

The re-appointment of independent director shall be on the basis of report of performance evaluation.

VI. Resignation or removal:

1. The resignation or removal of an independent director shall be in the same manner as is provided in sections 168 and 169 of the Act.
2. An independent director who resigns or is removed from the Board of the company shall be replaced by a new independent director within a period of not more than one hundred and eighty days from the date of such resignation or removal, as the case may be.
3. Where the company fulfils the requirement of independent directors in its Board even without filling the vacancy created by such resignation or removal, as the case may be, the requirement of replacement by a new independent director shall not apply.

VII. Separate meetings:

1. The independent directors of the company shall hold at least one meeting in a year, without the attendance of non-independent directors and members of management;
2. All the independent directors of the company shall strive to be present at such meeting;
3. The meeting shall:
 - a) review the performance of non-independent directors and the Board as a whole;
 - b) review the performance of the Chairperson of the company, taking into account the views of executive directors and non-executive directors;
 - c) assess the quality, quantity and timeliness of flow of information between the company management and the Board that is necessary for the Board to effectively and reasonably perform their duties.

VIII. Evaluation mechanism:

1. The performance evaluation of independent directors shall be done by the entire Board of Directors, excluding the director being evaluated.
2. On the basis of the report of performance evaluation, it shall be determined whether to extend or continue the term of appointment of the independent director.