

Criteria of making payments to Non-Executive Directors

With changes in the Corporate Governance norms brought by the Companies Act, 2013 as well as SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations), the role of Non-Executive Directors (NED) (which expression includes Independent Directors) and the degree of their engagement with the Board and the Company has undergone significant changes over a period of time. The Non-Executive Directors bring in a wider perspective in the deliberations and decision-making of the Board which adds value to the Company. They also play a crucial role in the independent functioning of the Board.

Schedule V read with Regulation 34 (3) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (hereinafter referred as "Listing Regulations"), requires every Company to publish its criteria of making payments to Non- Executive Directors in its annual report. Alternatively, as per Regulation 46 (2) of Listing Regulations, this may be put up on the Company's website and reference may be drawn thereto in its annual report.

Section 197 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Regulation 17(6) (a) of Listing Regulations require the prior approval of the shareholders of a Company for making payment to its Non-Executive Directors (hereinafter referred as "NEDs").

However, the requirement of obtaining prior approval of shareholders in general meeting shall not apply to payment of sitting fees to non-executive directors, if made within the limits prescribed under Companies Act, 2013 for payment of sitting fees without approval of the Central Government.

Pursuant to the provisions of Companies Act, 2013 read with Listing Regulations, following are the criteria for making payment to Non-Executive Directors of the Company:

• Sitting Fees:

The Non-executive Director(s) shall receive Sitting fees for attending meetings of the Board or Committee thereof as required by Companies Act, 2013, the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Listing Requirements) Regulations, 2015 or any other meeting of which they may be members within the limits prescribed under Companies Act, 2013 (ie. Maximum up to Rupees One lakh per meeting of the Board or Committee)

• Reimbursement of actual expenses incurred:

NEDs may also be paid/reimbursed such sums either as fixed allowance and /or actual as fair compensation for travel, boarding and lodging and incidental and /or actual out of pocket expenses incurred by such member for attending Board/Committee Meetings/any other Meetings and such fair and reasonable expenditure, as may have been incurred by the Director while performing his/her role as a Director of the Company. This could include reasonable expenditure incurred by the Director for, site visits, induction and training (organised by the Company for Directors) and in obtaining professional advice from independent advisors in the furtherance of his/her duties as a director.

The Nomination and Remuneration Committee is entrusted with the role of reviewing the compensation of NEDs.

• Remuneration:

Section 197 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Schedule V of the Act, allows a Company to pay remuneration (excluding sitting fees) to its NEDs either by monthly payment or at a specified percentage of net profits of the Company, or partly by one way or partly by other subject to the prior approval of the shareholders of the Company. Further, the section also states that where the Company has either Managing Director or Whole-time Director or Manager, then a maximum of 1% of its net profits can be paid as remuneration to its NEDs. In case there is no managing director or whole-time director or manager, then a maximum of 3% of net profit can be paid. Thus, the basis of payment to the NEDs is the net profit of the Company. Remuneration referred to above, may be paid to Non-Executive Directors as may be decided by the Board of Directors of the Company with the prior recommendation of Nomination & Remuneration Committee from time to time, depending on the extra time that may be devoted and contributions made by the Non-Executive Directors to the Company.

• Commission:

Commission if any, is paid to the NEDs within the monetary limit approved under Companies Act, 2013 and by shareholders' approval of the Company. Amount of commission would be recommended by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee ("NRC") and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company considering the overall performance of the Company, attendance at the meetings of Board / Committees, Membership / Chairmanship of Committees, contribution by respective NEDs, profits, return to investors, shareholder value creation and such other qualitative parameters.

• Stock Options:

As per the Regulation 17 of the Listing Regulations, the shareholders' resolution shall specify the limits for the maximum number of stock options that can be granted to Non-Executive Directors, in any in financial year and in aggregate.

• Payment to Independent Directors:

An Independent Director shall not be entitled to any stock option and shall receive Sitting fees and reimbursement of expenses for participation in meetings of the Board or committee thereof and profit related Commission/remuneration up to a specified percentage of net profits in such proportion, as may be permissible under the Companies Act, 2013 and any other applicable law at the discretion of the Board on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee based upon the outcome of the evaluation process which is driven by various factors including attendance and time spent in the Board and committee meetings, individual contributions at the meetings and contributions made by Directors other than in meetings subject to approval by the members.

• Professional Fees:

Under the Companies Act, 2013, Section 197 allows a Company to pay remuneration to its NEDs for services rendered by any such Director if:

- a. The services rendered are of Professional nature;
- b. In the opinion of Nomination and Remuneration Committee the Director possess the requisite qualification for the practice of the profession.

The said remuneration be paid subject to approval requires as per The Act.

• Refund of excess remuneration paid:

If any Director draws or receives, directly or indirectly, by way of remuneration any such sums in excess of the prescribed limit or without approval required under Section 197, he shall refund such sums to the Company, within two years or such lesser period as may be allowed by the Company and until such sum is refunded, hold it in trust for the Company. The Company shall not waive the recovery of any sum refundable to it unless approved by the Company by Special Resolution within two years from the date the sum becomes refundable.

Overall remuneration should be reflective of the size of the Company, complexity of the sector/industry/company's operations and the company's capacity to pay the remuneration. And be reasonable and sufficient to attract, retain and motivate Directors aligned to the requirements of the Company (taking into consideration the challenges faced by the Company and its future growth imperatives).

The Company reserves the right to modify and/or amend this document at any time subject to the applicable provisions the Companies Act, 2013 and Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The above criteria are subject to review by the Nomination & Remuneration Committee and the Board of Directors of the Company from time to time.