

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF
APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT
DIRECTORS**

**XED EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT
LIMITED**

Terms and Conditions of Appointment of Independent Directors (Pursuant to the provisions of Schedule IV of the Companies Act, 2013)

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

1. Appointment:

The appointment of the Independent Directors will be for a period of five years commencing from the respective date of their appointment by the Board, subject to the approval of the Members at the subsequent Annual General Meeting (“Term”). The Company may disengage Independent Directors prior to completion of their Term, subject to compliance of relevant provisions of the 2013 Act.

Independent Directors will not be liable to retire by rotation.

Re-appointment at the end of the Term shall be based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and subject to the approval of the Board and the Members. The re-appointment would be considered based on the outcome of the performance evaluation process and the Independent Director continuing to meet the independence criteria.

2. Roles, responsibilities and Duties:

- A. As Members of the Board, they along with the other Directors, will be collectively responsible for meeting the objectives of the Board which inter alia, include:
 - Requirements under the Companies Act, 2013, as amended or re-stated for the time being in force
 - Accountability under the Director’s Responsibility Statement.
- B. They shall abide by the ‘Code for Independent Directors’ as outlined in Schedule IV to Section 149(8) of the 2013 Act, and duties of directors as provided in the 2013 Act (including but not limited to Section 166). For ready reference, the relevant provisions have been extracted and attached to this policy as **Annexure A**.
- C. They will be particularly requested to provide guidance in their area of expertise.
- D. They shall ensure that the Company’s Goals are clearly established, and that strategies are in place for achieving them.
- E. They shall monitor the performance of the management of the Company.

- F. They shall ensure that the Company's financial statements are true and fair and otherwise confirm with law.
- G. They shall ensure that the Company adheres to high standards of ethics and corporate behaviour.
- H. They shall decide on whatever steps are necessary to protect the Company's financial position and the ability to meet its debts and other obligations when they fall due, and ensuring that management is proactively seeking to build the business through innovation, initiative, technology, new products and the development of its business capital.

All directors are expected to make objective decisions in the best interests of the Company. The Board, as a collective body, holds shared responsibility for the Company's success. It is important to note that all directors, including non-executive directors, have the same general legal obligations.

3. 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. They agree to devote such time as is prudent and necessary for the proper performance of their roles, duties and responsibilities as Independent Directors.

4. Remuneration

As Independent Directors they shall be paid sitting fees for attending the meetings of the Board and the Committees, as may be applicable, of which they are members. The sitting fees for attending each meeting of the Board and its Committees would be as determined by the Board from time to time. In addition to the sitting fees, commission and/or remuneration that may be determined by the Board may also be payable to Independent Directors. In determining the amount of this commission, the Board, supported by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, may consider the performance of the Company and their performance as evaluated by the Board. Further, the Company may pay or reimburse to the Director such expenditure, as may have been incurred while performing their role as an Independent Director of the Company. This could include reimbursement of expenditure incurred for accommodation, travel and any out-of-pocket expenses for attending Board/ Committee meetings, General Meetings, court convened meetings, meetings with Members/ creditors/ management, site visits, induction and training (organized by the Company for Directors) and in obtaining, subject to the expense being reasonable, professional advice from independent advisors in the furtherance of the duties as an Independent Director.

5. Code of Conduct

The Independent Director of the Company, shall agree to comply with the Company's Code of Conduct for Non-Executive Directors (NEDs). Unless specifically authorised by the Company, they shall not disclose Company and its Business information to constituencies such as the media, the financial community, employees, Members, agents, franchisees, dealers, distributors and importers.

Their obligation of confidentiality shall survive cessation of their directorship with the Company.

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

6. Training and Development

The Company shall conduct familiarization programs for its Independent Directors which 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.

7. Performance Appraisal/Evaluation Process:

As a member of the Board, their performance as well as the performance of the entire Board and its Committees will be evaluated annually. Evaluation of each director shall be done by all the other directors. The criteria for evaluation shall be disclosed in the Company's Annual Report. However, the actual evaluation process shall remain confidential and shall be a constructive mechanism to improve the effectiveness of the Board / Committee.

8. Disclosures, other Directorships and business interests:

During the Term, they agree to promptly notify the Company of any change in their directorships, Memberships and provide such other disclosures and information as may be required under the applicable laws. They also agree that upon becoming aware of any potential conflict of interest with their position as Independent Director of the Company, they shall promptly disclose the same to the Chairman and the Company Secretary.

During their Term, they agree to promptly provide a declaration under Section 149(7) of the 2013 Act, upon any change in circumstances which may affect their status as an Independent Director.

9. Disengagement:

They may resign from the directorship of the Company by giving a 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 in the notice, whichever is later.

Their directorship on the Board of the Company shall cease in accordance with law. The Company may disengage Independent Directors prior to completion of Term (subject to compliance of relevant provisions of the 2013 Act) upon

- Violation of any provision of the company's Code of Conduct as applicable to Non-Executive Directors.
- Upon the director failing to meet the criteria for independence as envisaged in Section 149(6) of the 2013 Act

Annexure – A
Schedule IV
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.

1. 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.

2. 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) scrutinise 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 those 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;
- (7) 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;
- (8) moderate and arbitrate in the interest of the company as a whole, in situations of conflict between management and shareholder's interest.

3. 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 behaviour, 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.

4. 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 formalised 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.

5. Re-appointment:

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

6. 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 "three months" 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.

7. Separate Meetings:

- (1) The independent Directors of the company shall hold at least one meeting "in a financial 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.

8. 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.