

# SBEC SUGAR LIMITED

## VIGIL MECHANISM

VIGIL MECHANISM / WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY  
SBE SUGAR LIMITED

## **1. PREFACE**

Pursuant to clause 49 of Listing Agreement and as per provisions of section 177 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") requires every listed company shall establish a Whistle Blower policy / Vigil Mechanism for the directors and employees to report genuine concerns or grievances about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the Company's Code of Conduct or Ethics Policy. 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. Any actual or potential violation of the Code, howsoever insignificant or perceived as such, would be a matter of serious concern for the Company. Such a vigil mechanism shall provide for adequate safeguards against victimization of directors and employees who avail of such mechanism and also make provisions for direct access to the Chairperson of Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

Under these circumstances, SBEC Sugar Limited ("SSL"), being a Listed Company proposes to establish a Whistle Blower Policy/ Vigil Mechanism and to formulate a policy for the same.

## **2. POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The Vigil (Whistle Blower) Mechanism aims to provide a channel to the Directors and employees to report genuine concerns about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the Codes of Conduct or policy.

The Company is committed to adhere to the highest standards of ethical, moral and legal conduct of business operations and in order to maintain these standards, the Company encourages its employees who have genuine concerns about suspected misconduct to come forward and express these concerns without fear of punishment or unfair treatment.

The mechanism provides for adequate safeguards against victimization of Directors and employees to avail of the mechanism and also provide for direct access to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

## **3. DEFINITIONS**

(a) "**Audit Committee**" means the Audit Committee constituted by the Board of Directors of the Company in accordance with Section 292A / 177 of the Companies Act, 1956/ Companies Act 2013 and read with revised Clause 49 of the Listing Agreement with the Stock Exchanges.

(b) **“Protected Disclosure”** means a concern raised by a written communication made in good faith that discloses or demonstrates information that may evidence unethical or improper activity. Protected Disclosures should be factual and not speculative in nature.

(c) **“Unethical & improper practices”** shall mean:

- An act, which does not conform to approved standard of social and professional behaviour;
- An act, which leads to unethical business practices;
- Improper refers to unethical conduct;
- Improper refers to unethical conduct;

(d) **“Code”** mean Conduct for Directors and Senior Management Personnel adopted by SBEC Sugar Limited

(e) **“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

(g) **“Vigilance Officer/Vigilance Committee or Committee”** is a person or Committee of persons, nominated/appointed to receive protected disclosures from whistle blowers, maintaining records thereof, placing the same before the Audit Committee for its disposal and informing the Whistle Blower the result thereof.

(h) **“Whistle Blower”** is a Director or employee who makes a Protected Disclosure under this Policy.

(j) **“Company”** means SBEC Sugar Limited.

#### **4. SCOPE OF THE POLICY**

The Policy is an extension of the Code of Conduct for Directors & Senior Management Personnel and covers disclosure of any unethical and improper or malpractices and events which have taken place/ suspected to take place involving:

1. Breach of the Company’s Code of Conduct
2. Breach of Business Integrity and Ethics
3. Breach of terms and conditions of employment and rules thereof
4. Intentional Financial irregularities, including fraud, or suspected fraud

5. Deliberate violation of laws/regulations
6. Gross or Willful Negligence causing substantial and specific danger to health, safety and environment
7. Manipulation of company data/records
8. Pilferation of confidential/propriety information
9. Gross Wastage/misappropriation of Company funds/assets

#### **5. ELIGIBILITY**

All Directors and Employees of the Company are eligible to make Protected Disclosures under the Policy in relation to matters concerning the Company.

#### **6. RECEIPT AND DISPOSAL OF PROTECTED DISCLOSURES:**

All Protected Disclosures should be reported in writing by the complainant as soon as possible, not later than 30 days after the Whistle Blower becomes aware of the same and should either be typed or written in a legible handwriting in English.

The Protected Disclosure should be submitted under a covering letter signed by the complainant in a closed and secured envelope and should be super scribed as “**Protected disclosure under the Whistle Blower policy**” or sent through email with the subject “**Protected disclosure under the Whistle Blower policy**”. If the complaint is not super scribed and closed as mentioned above, the protected disclosure will be dealt with as if a normal disclosure.

All Protected Disclosures should be addressed to the Vigilance Officer of the Company or to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.

The contact details of the Vigilance Officer are as under:-

**Name and Address – Mr. Ankit K. Srivastava  
Company Secretary  
SBEC Sugar Limited**

**Email-** investors@sbecsugar.com

Protected Disclosure against the Vigilance Officer should be addressed to the Chairman of the Company and the Protected Disclosure against the Chairman/ CEO of the Company should be addressed to the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Name and Address of Chairman (Audit Committee):

**Sh. Vijay K. Modi  
SBEC Sugar Limited  
Email-** investors@sbecsugar.com

**Name and Address of CEO& Chairman:** Shri U.K Modi

On receipt of the protected disclosure the Whistle and Ethics Officer / Chairman/ CEO/ Chairman of the Audit Committee, as the case may be, shall make a record of the Protected Disclosure and also ascertain from the complainant whether he was the person who made the protected disclosure or not. The record will include:

Brief facts;

- Whether the same Protected Disclosure was raised previously by anyone, and if so, the outcome thereof;
- Whether the same Protected Disclosure was raised previously on the same subject;
- Details of actions taken by Whistle Officer / Chairman/ CEO for processing the complaint
- Findings of the Audit Committee
- The recommendations of the Audit Committee/ other action(s).

In order to protect the identity of the complainant, the Vigilance Officer will not issue any acknowledgement to the complainants and they are not advised neither to write their name / address on the envelope nor enter into any further correspondence with the Vigilance Officer.

Anonymous / Pseudonymous disclosure shall not be entertained by the Vigilance Officer.

## **7.INVESTIGATION**

All Protected Disclosures under this policy will be recorded and thoroughly investigated. The Vigilance Officer will carry out an investigation either himself/herself or by involving any other Officer of the Company/ Committee constituted for the same /an outside agency before referring the matter to the Audit Committee of the Company.

The Audit Committee, if deems fit, may call for further information or particulars from the complainant and at its discretion, consider involving any other/additional Officer of the Company and/or Committee and/ or an outside agency for the purpose of investigation.

The investigation by itself would not tantamount to an accusation and is to be treated as a neutral fact finding process. The investigation shall be completed normally within 90

days of the receipt of the protected disclosure and is extendable by such period as the Audit Committee deems fit.

Any member of the Audit Committee or other officer having any conflict of interest with the matter shall disclose his/her concern /interest forthwith and shall not deal with the matter.

## **8. DECISION**

If an investigation leads the Whistle and Ethics Officer / Chairman of the Audit Committee to conclude that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the Whistle Officer / Chairman of the Audit Committee shall recommend to the management of the Company to take such disciplinary or corrective action as he 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.

If the report of investigation is not to the satisfaction of the complainant, the complainant has the right to report the event to the appropriate legal or investigating agency. A complainant who makes false allegations of unethical & improper practices or about alleged wrongful conduct of the subject to the Whistle Officer or the Audit Committee shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the rules, procedures and policies of the Company.

## **9. REPORTING**

The Whistle & Ethics officer 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

## **10. SECRECY &CONFIDENTIALITY**

The complainant, Vigilance Officer, Members of Audit Committee, the Subject and everybody involved in the process shall, maintain confidentiality of all matters under this Policy, discuss only to the extent or with those persons as required under this policy for completing the process of investigations and keep the papers in safe custody.

## **11. PROTECTION**

No unfair treatment will be meted out to a Whistle Blower by virtue of his/ her having reported a Protected Disclosure under this policy. Adequate safeguards against victimization of complainants shall be provided. The Company will take steps to minimize difficulties, which the Whistle Blower may experience as a result of making the Protected Disclosure.

The identity of the Whistle Blower shall be kept confidential to the extent possible and permitted under law. Any other employee assisting in the said investigation shall also be protected to the same extent as the Whistle Blower.

## **12. DISQUALIFICATIONS**

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.

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.

Whistle Blowers, who make any Protected Disclosures, which have been subsequently found to be mala fide, frivolous or malicious, shall be liable to be prosecuted.

## **13. ACCESS TO CHAIRMAN OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Whistle Blower shall have right to access Chairman of the Audit Committee directly in exceptional cases and the Chairman of the Audit Committee is authorized to prescribe suitable directions in this regard.

## **14. COMMUNICATION**

Directors and Employees shall be informed of the Policy by publishing on the notice board and the website of the Company.

## **15. DISCLOSURE IN ANNUAL REPORT**

The details of establishment of Whistle Blower Mechanism/Vigil Mechanism shall be disclosed by the Company in its Annual Report under the "Board's Report".

## **16. AMENDMENT**

The Company reserves its right to amend or modify this Policy in whole or in part, at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever. However, no such amendment or modification will be binding on the Employees and Directors unless the same is notified to them in writing.