

CIN: L26914KA1983PLC005401

REGD. OFF. MURUDESHWAR BHAVAN, 604/B, GOKUL ROAD, HUBLI 580 030.

Phone: 9180-42897000; Email: [cosec@naveentile.com](mailto:cosec@naveentile.com), Website: [www.naveentiles.co.in](http://www.naveentiles.co.in)

## **POLICY ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE**

### **I. COMMITMENT:**

Our Company is committed to providing work environment that ensures every employee is treated with dignity and respect and afforded equitable treatment. The Company is also committed to promoting a work environment that is conducive to the professional growth of its employees and encourages equality of opportunity. The Company will not tolerate any form of sexual harassment and is committed to take all necessary steps to ensure that its employees are not subjected to any form of harassment.

### **II. SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all categories of employees of the Company, including permanent management and workmen, temporaries, trainees and employees on contract at their workplace or at client sites. The Company will not tolerate sexual harassment, if engaged in by clients or by suppliers or any other business associates.

The workplace includes:

1. All offices or other premises where the Company's business is conducted.
2. All company-related activities performed at any other site away from the Company's premises.
3. Any social, business or other functions where the conduct or comments may have an adverse impact on the workplace or workplace relations.

### **III. DEFINITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

Sexual harassment may be one or a series of incidents involving unsolicited and unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, or any other verbal or physical conduct of sexual nature.

Sexual Harassment at the workplace includes:

1. Unwelcome sexual advances (verbal, written or physical),
2. Demand or request for sexual favours,
3. Any other type of sexually-oriented conduct,
4. Verbal abuse or 'joking' that is sex-oriented.
5. any conduct that has the purpose or the effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment and/or

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submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment and /or submission or rejection of the conduct is used as a basis for making employment decisions.

#### IV. RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

All employees of the Company have a personal responsibility to ensure that their behavior is not contrary to this policy. All employees are encouraged to reinforce the maintenance of a work environment free from sexual harassment.

#### V. COMPLAINT MECHANISM:

An appropriate complaint mechanism in the form of "Complaints Committee" has been created in the Company for time-bound redressal of the complaint made by the victim.

#### VI. COMPLAINTS RESOLVING HEAD:

The Company has given powers to AGM-HR to redress sexual harassment complaint (made by the victim) and for ensuring time bound treatment of such complaints. The AGM-HR shall report to the Managing Director about the complaints received and complaints resolved. The AGM-HR shall follow the below process to resolve the complaint

- 0 Investigating every formal written complaint of sexual harassment
- 0 Taking appropriate remedial measures to respond to any substantiated allegations of sexual harassment
- U Discouraging and preventing employment-related sexual harassment

#### VII. PROCEDURES FOR RESOLUTION, SETTLEMENT OR PROSECUTION OF ACTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT:

The Company is committed to providing a supportive environment to resolve concerns of sexual harassment as under:

A. Informal Resolution Options When an incident of sexual harassment occurs, the victim of such conduct can communicate their disapproval and objections immediately to the harasser and request the harasser to behave decently. If the harassment does not stop or if victim is not comfortable with addressing the harasser directly, the victim can bring their concern to the attention of the AGM-HR for redressal of their grievances. The AGM-HR will thereafter provide advice or extend support as requested and will undertake prompt investigation to resolve the matter.

#### B. Complaints:

1. An employee with a harassment concern, who is not comfortable with the informal resolution options or has exhausted such options, may make a formal complaint to the Managing Director. The complaint shall have to be in writing and can be in form of a letter, preferably within 15 days from the date of occurrence of the alleged incident, sent in a sealed envelope. Alternately, the employee can send complaint through an email. The employee is required to disclose their name,

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department, division and location they are working in, to enable the Managing Director to contact them and take the matter forward.

2. The Managing Director will proceed to determine whether the allegations (assuming them to be true only for the purpose of this determination) made in the complaint fall under the purview of Sexual Harassment, preferably within 30 days from receipt of the complaint. In the event, the allegation does not fall under the purview of Sexual Harassment or the allegation does not constitute an offence of Sexual Harassment, the Managing Director will record this finding with reasons and communicate the same to the complainant.

3. If the Managing Director determines that the allegations constitute an act of sexual harassment, he/ she will proceed to investigate the allegation with the assistance of the Complaints Committee.

4. Where such conduct, on the part of the accused, amounts to a specific offence under the law, the Company shall initiate appropriate action in accordance with law by making a complaint with the appropriate authority.

5. The AGM-HR shall conduct such investigations in a timely manner and shall submit a written report containing the findings and recommendations to the Managing Director as soon as practically possible and in any case, not later than 90 days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The Managing Director will ensure corrective action on the recommendations of the AGM-HR and keep the complainant informed of the same. Corrective action may include any of the following:

- a. Formal apology
- b. Counselling
- c. Written warning to the perpetrator and a copy of it maintained in the employee's file.
- d. Change of work assignment / transfer for either the perpetrator or the victim.
- e. Suspension or termination of services of the employee found guilty of the offence

6. In case the complaint is found to be false, the Complainant shall, if deemed fit, be liable for appropriate disciplinary action by the Management.

#### VIII. CONFIDENTIALITY:

The Company understands that it is difficult for the victim to come forward with a complaint of sexual harassment and recognizes the victim's interest in keeping the matter confidential.

*Reviewed and Updated in Board Meeting held on 39.05.2019*