

# **Suzlon Energy Limited**

#### CODE OF ETHICS FOR DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

This Code of Ethics for Directors, including independent directors, Key Managerial Personnel and Senior Management ("Code") shall help maintain the standards of business conduct for Suzlon Energy Limited ("Company"). The purpose of this Code is to deter wrongdoing and promote ethical conduct. Ethical business conduct is critical to our business. Accordingly, the following are expected to read and understand this Code, uphold these standards in day-to-day activities, comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations and all applicable policies adopted by the Company:

- All Directors, including Independent Directors, of the Company (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Directors");
- Key Managerial Personnel, i.e. the Chief Executive Officer or the managing director or the manager; the company secretary; the whole-time director; the Chief Financial Officer; and such other officer as may be prescribed (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "KMP");
- "Senior management" of the Company, i.e. all members of management one level below the executive directors, including all senior general managers and functional heads, as may be identified by the Company (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Senior Management");

(Directors, KMP and Senior Management are collectively referred to as the "SMPs").

## 1. Honest and Ethical Conduct

All SMPS are expected to act in accordance with the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and maintain honest and ethical conduct while working on the Company's premises at offsite locations where the Company's business is being conducted or any other place where the SMPs are representing the Company.

Apart from honest and ethical conduct, the Independent Directors, in particulars, would abide by the Code for Independent Directors as prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013, as amended, and Listing Agreement, as amended from time to time (Annexure I).

#### 2. Conflict of Interest

Each of us has a responsibility to the Company, our stockholders and each other. Although this duty does not prevent us from engaging in personal transactions and investments, it does demand that we avoid situations where a conflict of interest might occur or appear to occur.

The Company is subject to scrutiny from many different individuals and organisations. We should always strive to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. All SMPs must avoid situations involving actual or potential conflict of interest. Personal or romantic involvement with a competitor, supplier, or subordinate employee of the Company, which impairs an employee's ability to exercise good judgment on behalf of the Company, creates an actual or potential conflict of interest. Supervisor-subordinate romantic or personal relationships also can lead to supervisory problems, possible claims of sexual harassment, and morale problems.



An SMP involved in any of the types of relationships or situations described in this Code should immediately and fully disclose the relevant circumstances to his or her immediate supervisor, if any, or any other appropriate supervisor, or the Managing Director, for a determination about whether a potential or actual conflict exists. If an actual or potential conflict is determined, the Company may take whatever corrective action appears appropriate according to the circumstances. Failure to disclose facts shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

A conflict of interest exists where the interests or benefits of one person or entity conflict with the interests or benefits of the Company. Examples include:

# (i) Employment / Outside Employment

In consideration of your employment with the Company, you are expected to devote your full attention to the business interests of the Company. You are prohibited from engaging in any activity that interferes with your performance or responsibilities to the Company or is otherwise in conflict with or prejudicial to the Company. Our policies prohibit any employee from accepting simultaneous employment with the Company's supplier, customer, developer or competitor, or any other company with which the Company is in discussions or negotiations or from taking part in any activity that enhances or supports a competitor's position.

Additionally, you must disclose to the Company any interest that you have that may conflict with the business of the Company. If you have any questions on this requirement, please contact the Human Resources Department.

## (ii) Outside Directorships

It is a conflict of interest to serve as a director of any company that competes with the Company. Our policy requires that all personnel (other than Directors) obtain approval from the Managing Director before accepting a directorship. Such approval may be conditioned upon the completion of specified actions. Directors are required to disclose their directorships in other companies to the Board of Directors and the Company Secretary from time to time.

# (iii) Business Interests

If you are considering investing in a Company which is a customer, supplier, developer or competitor, you must first take great care to ensure that these investments do not compromise your responsibilities to the Company. Many factors should be considered in determining whether a conflict exists, including the size and nature of the investment; your ability to influence the Company's decisions; your access to confidential information of the Company or of the other company; and the nature of the relationship between the Company and the other company.

#### (iv) Related Parties

As a general rule, you should avoid conducting Company business with a relative, or with a business in which a relative is associated in any significant role.

Explanation: For the purposes of above, the term "Relatives" means to include relatives as defined in Section 2(77) of the Companies Act, 2013, i.e. a "relative", with reference to any person, means anyone who is related to another, if (i) they are members of a Hindu



Undivided Family; (ii) they are husband and wife; (iii) Father (which term includes step-father); (iv) Mother (which term includes step-mother); (v) Son (which term includes step-son); (vi) Son's wife; (vii) Daughter; (viii) Daughter's husband; (ix) Brother (which term includes step-bother); (x) Sister (which term includes step-sister); or (xi) one person is related to the other in such manner as may be prescribed.

All the SMPs of the Company shall disclose any related party transactions to the Board from time to time.

All related party transactions with Directors and KMP shall be subject to prior approval of Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company. All related party transactions, which are not in ordinary course of business and not at arm's length, would be further subject to prior approval of the Board of Directors of the Company. And all material related party transactions, irrespective whether the same are in ordinary course of business and / or at arm's length, would be subject to prior approval of the shareholders of the Company.

All the Related party transactions of Senior Management of a value equal to or greater than Rs.5,00,000 in any financial year must be reviewed and approved in writing in advance by the Company's Board of Directors.

The Company must report all such material related party transactions under applicable accounting rules, SEBI, Indian Companies Act, and securities market rules. Any dealings with a related party must be conducted in such a way that no preferential treatment is given to this business.

Explanation: For the purposes of above, the term "Related Party transactions" means as defined in Section 188 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Listing Agreement, as amended from time to time and includes the following:

- > sale, purchase or supply of any goods or materials;
- > selling or otherwise disposing of, or buying, property of any kind;
- leasing of property of any kind;
- > availing or rendering of any services;
- > appointment of any agent for purchase or sale of goods, materials, services or property;
- such related party's appointment to any office or place of profit in the company, its subsidiary company or associate company; and
- underwriting the subscription of any securities or derivatives thereof, of the company.

Explanation: For the purposes of above, the term "Related Party" means as defined in Section 2(76) of the Companies Act, 2013 and Listing Agreement, as amended from time to time, i.e. "related party", with reference to a company means:

- (i) a director or his relative;
- (ii) a key managerial personnel or his relative;
- (iii) a firm, in which a director, manager or his relative is a partner;
- (iv) a private company in which a director or manager is a member or director;
- (v) a public company in which a director or manager is a director and holds along with his relatives, more than two per cent. of its paid-up share capital;
- any body corporate whose Board of Directors, managing director or manager is accustomed to act in accordance with the advice, directions or instructions of a director or manager;



- (vii) any person on whose advice, directions or instructions a director or manager is accustomed to act, provided that nothing in sub-clauses (vi) and (vii) shall apply to the advice, directions or instructions given in a professional capacity;
- (viii) any company which is (A) a holding, subsidiary or an associate company of such company; or (B) a subsidiary of a holding company to which it is also a subsidiary;
- (ix) such other person as may be prescribed.

The Company discourages the employment of relatives in positions or assignments within the same department and prohibits the employment of such individuals in positions that have a financial or other dependence or influence (e.g., an auditing or control relationship, or a supervisor / subordinate relationship).

The purpose of this policy is to prevent the organisational impairment and conflicts that are a likely outcome of the employment of relatives or significant others, especially in a supervisor/subordinate relationship. If a question arises about whether a relationship is covered by this policy, the Human Resources Department is responsible for determining whether an SMP's acknowledged relationship is covered by this policy and the decision. The Human Resources Department shall advise all affected SMPs of this policy. Wilful withholding of information regarding a prohibited relationship/reporting arrangement will be subject to corrective action, up to and including termination. If a prohibited relationship exists or develops between two SMPs, the SMP in the senior position must bring this to the attention of his / her supervisor / Managing Director.

The Company retains the prerogative to separate the individuals at the earliest possible time, either by reassignment or by termination, if necessary.

#### (v) Other Situations

Because other conflicts of interest may arise, it would be impractical to attempt to list all possible situations. If a proposed transaction or situation raises any questions or doubts in your mind you should consult the Legal Department or Human Resources Department. Directors may consult the Chairman of the Board of Directors in case of any such instances. The Chairman may refer the same to the Legal Department or Human Resources Department for clarification.

# 3. Corporate Opportunities

SMPs may not exploit for their own personal gain opportunities that are discovered through the use of corporate property, information or position unless the opportunity is disclosed fully in writing to the Company's Board and the Board declines to pursue such opportunity.

# 4. Insider Trading

Obligations under Indian securities laws apply to everyone as the Company is listed on the Indian stock exchanges. In the normal course of business, SMPs of the Company may come into possession of significant, sensitive information. This information is the property of the Company. You have been entrusted with it. You may not profit from it by buying or selling securities yourself. Further you are not to tip others to enable them to profit or for them to profit on your behalf. The purpose of this Code is both to inform you of your legal responsibilities and to make clear to you that the misuse of sensitive information is contrary to Company policy and applicable Indian securities laws.



Insider trading is a crime, penalised by fines and imprisonment for individuals. In addition, the Securities and Exchange Board of India may seek the imposition of a civil penalty of up to three times the profits made or losses avoided from the trading. Insider traders must also disgorge any profits made, and are often subjected to an injunction against future violations. Finally, insider traders may be subjected to civil liability in private lawsuits.

Insider trading rules are strictly enforced, even in instances when the financial transactions seem small. You should read the Insider Trading Rules of the Company carefully, paying particular attention to the specific policies and the potential criminal and civil liability and/or disciplinary action for insider trading violations. You should comply with the Company's Insider Trading Rules, follow the pre-clearance procedures for trading and trade only during a trading window.

SMPs of the Company who violate this Policy will also be subject to disciplinary action by the Company, which may include termination of employment or of business relationship. All questions regarding the Company's Insider Trading Rules should be directed to the Legal Department.

## 5. Prohibition Against Short Selling of Company Stock

No SMP may, directly or indirectly, sell any equity security, including derivatives, of the Company in violation of the SEBI (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices Relating to Securities Market) Regulations, 2003, as amended from time to time.

## 6. Compliance with Governmental Laws, Rules and Regulations

SMPs must comply with all applicable governmental laws, rules and regulations. SMPs must acquire appropriate knowledge of the legal requirements relating to their duties and sufficient to enable them to recognize potential dangers, and to know when to seek advice from the legal department. Violations of applicable government laws, rules and regulations may subject SMPs to individual criminal or civil liability as well as to disciplinary action by the Company. Such individual violations may also subject the Company to civil or criminal liability or the loss of reputation or business.

# 7. Violations of the Code

Part of the job of an SMP is to help enforce this Code. SMPs must report all possible violations of this Code to the Human Resources department or the Legal department. SMPs must cooperate in case of any internal or external investigation of possible violations. Reprisal, threat, retribution or retaliation against any person who has, in good faith, reported a violation of law, this Code or other Company policies or against any person who is assisting in any investigation or process with respect to such a violation is prohibited.

Disciplinary action by the Company may include termination of employment or of business relationship at the sole discretion of the Company. Where the Company has suffered a loss, it may pursue its remedies against the individuals or entities responsible. Where laws have been violated the Company will cooperate fully with the appropriate authorities.



Annexure A

# **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) (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 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;
- (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.

#### 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 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.