

# **BHEL FRAUD PREVENTION POLICY**

## **1.0 Introduction**

BHEL, a public sector enterprise, is an integrated power plant equipment manufacturer and one of largest engineering and manufacturing company in India engaged in design, engineering, manufacturing, construction, testing, commissioning and servicing of a wide range of products and services for core sectors of the economy viz. Power, Transmission, Industry, Transportation, Renewable energy, Oil & Gas and Defense.

All organizations are subject to risks of fraud. Frauds negatively impact the reputation and brand value of organization. Vigilant handling of fraud cases within organisation sends clear signals to the public, stakeholders and regulators about the management attitude towards fraud risks and organisation's fraud risk tolerance.

All levels of management, staff, internal and external auditors have responsibility for dealing with fraud risk.

Section 143(3) (i) of the Company Act, 2013 requires auditors to report about the adequacy of internal Financial controls in the Company and the operating effectiveness of such controls. Further, as per General Direction issued by C&AG vide circular No. 294/CA-II/Cord/A/cs instructions/30-2008 dated 22.04.2010, auditors are required to comment on Risk of Frauds in their reports.

BHEL has already put in place various policies, systems and procedures to guide employees for undertaking various transactions within and outside organisation to conduct the same in a transparent & uniform manner e.g. Purchase Policy, Works Policy along with Delegation of Powers (DOP), HR Policy, Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules for employees, Standing Orders etc. Keeping in view the BHEL approach in following Corporate Governance principles proactively, it is appropriate that a Fraud Prevention Policy is formulated and implemented

## **2.0 Policy Objectives**

2.1 Objective of the Policy is to provide a system for detection, prevention and reporting of a fraud detected or suspected; and handling of such matters pertaining to fraud.

2.2 The Policy is expected to ensure and provide for the following:

2.2.1 To ensure that management is aware of its responsibilities for detection and prevention of fraud and for establishing procedures for preventing fraud and/or detecting fraud when it occurs.

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2.2.2 To provide a clear guidance to employees and others dealing with BHEL forbidding them from involvement in any fraudulent activity and the action to be taken by them where they suspect any fraudulent activity;

2.2.3 To conduct investigations into fraudulent or suspected fraudulent activities; and

2.2.4 To provide assurance that any and all suspected fraudulent activity/ activities will be fully investigated.

2.2.5 To provide training on fraud prevention and identification.

### 3.0 Scope of Policy

The policy applies to fraud or suspected fraud in connection with business transactions with BHEL committed by employees, ex-employees working as advisors/ consultants, persons engaged on adhoc / temporary/ contract basis, vendors, suppliers, contractors, customers, lenders, consultants, service providers, any outside agencies or their employees/ representatives, or any other parties.

### 4.0 What is Fraud?

4.1 Fraud is any intentional act or omission designed to deceive others, resulting in the victim suffering a loss and/or perpetrator achieving a gain.

4.2 As per Section.447(1) of The Companies Act, 2013 Fraud is defined as follows:

- **"fraud"** in relation to affairs of a company or anybody corporate, includes (a) any act, (b) omission, (c) concealment of any fact or (d) abuse of position committed by any person or any other person with the connivance in any manner -
  - with intent to deceive,
  - to gain undue advantage from, or
  - to injure the interests of the company or its shareholders or its creditors or any other person, whether or not there is any wrongful gain or wrongful loss
- **"Wrongful gain"** means the gain by unlawful means of property to which the person gaining is not legally entitled.
- **"Wrongful loss"** means the loss by unlawful means of property to which the person losing is legally entitled.

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### **5.0 Actions Constituting Fraud**

5.1 While fraudulent or suspected fraudulent activity could have a very wide range of coverage, the following are some of the act(s) which constitute fraud.

5.2 The list given below is only illustrative and not exhaustive:-

5.2.1 Forgery or unauthorised alteration of any document or account belonging to the Company

5.2.2 Forgery or unauthorised alteration of cheque, bank draft, E-banking transaction(s) or any other financial instrument etc.

5.2.3 Misappropriation of funds, securities, supplies or others assets by fraudulent means etc.

5.2.4 Falsification of records, submitting fake claims or claims with altered documents / supporting, removing the documents from the files and / or replacing it by a fraudulent one etc.

5.2.5 Wilful suppression of facts/deception in matters of appointment, placements, submission of reports, tender committee recommendations etc. as a result of which a wrongful gain(s) is/are made to one and wrongful loss(s) to the others.

5.2.6 Utilizing Company funds / assets for personal or other than official purposes.

5.2.7 Verification and authorization / certification of bills for payment (goods / services) without completion of supply / completion of works as per Purchase Order / Work Order.

5.2.8 Destruction, disposition, removal of records or any other assets of the Company with an ulterior motive to manipulate and misrepresent the facts so as to create suspicion/suppression/cheating as a result of which objective assessment/decision would not be arrived at.

5.2.9 Wilful delay in reporting recoveries / adjustments from suppliers / vendors bills.

5.2.10 Allowing / unauthorized use of Company assets by outsiders like vendors / suppliers / sub-contractors.

5.2.11 Any other act that falls under the gamut of fraudulent activity.

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## 6.0 Responsibility for Fraud Prevention

6.1 Following personnel's are responsible to ensure that there is no fraudulent act committed by them while performing any business transaction(s) with BHEL:

- Every employee
- Ex-employee working as advisor / consultant
- Person engaged on adhoc/temporary/contract basis
- Vendor / supplier / contractor / bidder / service provider
- Customer / Consultant
- Lender
- Any outside agency / their representative / employee who have a business relationship with BHEL

6.2 As soon as it is learnt that a fraud or suspected fraud has taken or is likely to take place, same should immediately be reported to Nodal officer

## 7.0 Nodal Officers and their Responsibility

### 7.1 Nodal Officer

Nodal officers shall be notified by management. All Direct Reporting Officers (DROs) to Unit Head / Construction Managers to be designated as Nodal Officers. List of Nodal Officer(s) would be displayed at BHEL web site / Intranet.

### 7.2 Fraud Prevention and Detection

All Nodal Officers shall be responsible for implementing the Fraud Prevention Policy of the Company and prevention and detection of fraud as per this Policy. It is the responsibility of all Nodal Officers to ensure that complete mechanism in respect of Fraud Prevention Policy is in place within his administrative / functional area of control.

#### 7.2.1 Fraud Prevention

7.2.1.1 Create an ethical and transparent environment by training and implementing policies, guidelines and procedures.

7.2.1.2 Familiarise each employee with the types of improprieties that might occur in their area.

7.2.1.3 Educate employees regarding the measures to be taken for prevention and detection of fraud.

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7.2.1.4 Create a culture whereby employees are encouraged to report any fraud or suspected fraud which comes to their knowledge, without any fear of victimization.

7.2.1.5 Promote awareness among the employees of ethical principles subscribed to by the Company through CDA Rules/Standing orders.

7.2.1.6 Maintain record of complaints/cases received and submit annual report to Nodal Officer in Corporate Finance.

### **7.2.2 Fraud Detection**

Ensure that along with preventive controls, Detective mechanism are also in place. Some examples of detective mechanism are segregation of duties, reconciliation, audits, independent reviews, physical inspection, periodic inventory check, surprise checks etc.

## **8.0 Reporting of Fraud**

8.1 All employees of BHEL, representative of vendors, suppliers, contractors, consultants, service providers or any other agencies doing any type of business with BHEL as soon as he / she comes to know of any fraud or suspected fraud or any other fraudulent activity must report such incident. Such reporting shall be made to the designated Nodal Officers.

The reporting of the fraud normally should be in writing. In case the reporter is not willing to furnish a written statement of fraud but is in position to give sequential and specific transaction of fraud / suspected fraud, then the officer receiving the information/Nodal Officer should record such details in writing as narrated by the reporter and also maintain the details about the identity of the official/ employee / other person reporting such incident.

In case the reporter ask for protection, the protection available under Clause 5.0 of Whistle Blower Policy of Company notified vide Corporate HR Circular no. 024/LLX/2014 dated 16.09.2014 shall be extended to the reporter.

8.2 All reports of fraud or suspected fraud shall be handled with utmost speed and shall be coordinated by Nodal Officers

8.3 Officer receiving input about any suspected fraud / Nodal officers shall ensure that all relevant records, documents and other evidence are immediately taken into custody and protected from being tampered with, destroyed or removed by suspected perpetrators of fraud or by any other official under his influence.

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### **9.0 Investigating Procedure**

9.1 The "Nodal Officer" shall act as co-ordinator and refer the details of the fraud/suspected fraud to Unit head for intimating the same to the concerned Director. The Director after considering report of Nodal Office / Unit head may refer the case to Internal Auditor (IA) or Corporate Vigilance for further investigation.

9.2 This input would be in addition to the intelligence, information and investigation of cases of fraud being investigated by the Vigilance Deptt. on their own as part of their day to day functioning.

9.3 After completion of the investigation, appropriate action which could include administrative action, disciplinary action, civil or criminal action or closure of the matter if it is proved that fraud is not committed etc. depending upon the outcome of the investigation shall be undertaken.

9.4 Vigilance Department or IA shall report to concerned Director the result of the investigation undertaken by them to seek orders for further action.

### **10.0 Incorporation of Fraud Prevention Policy in Tenders /MOUs etc.**

10.1 A clause may be added in all the NITs that

"The Bidder along with its associate/collaborators/sub-contractors/sub-vendors/ consultants/ service providers shall strictly adhere to BHEL Fraud Prevention Policy displayed on BHEL website <http://www.bhel.com> and shall immediately bring to the notice of BHEL Management about any fraud or suspected fraud as soon as it comes to their notice."

10.2 Fraud Prevention policy and List of Nodal Officers shall be hosted on BHEL web site, vendor portals of Units/ Regions intranet.

### **11.0 Administration and Review of the Policy**

The Chairman and Managing Director, BHEL shall be the Appropriate Authority for administration and revision of this Policy.