



POLICY ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE



PURPOSE

VIP Industries Ltd (hereinafter referred to as “the Company”), is committed to provide a safe and conducive work environment for all its Employees.

Towards this it is essential that each employee deals with their colleagues and third parties with full fairness and respect and realizes that his/her behavior will be attributed to the company and can affect its reputation. Under the corporate compliance, harassment of any kind including sexual harassment is forbidden. Every employee has the right to be protected against harassment, regardless of whether the accused considers his or her own behavior to be normal or acceptable and of whether the harassed person has the opportunity to avoid the harassment. VIP Industries Ltd is committed to providing a work environment free of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of workplace harassment of a sexual nature that affects the dignity of men and women at work. Sexual harassment results in violation of fundamental rights of a woman to equality, right to life and live with dignity as provided under the Constitution of India.

The policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at workplace – 2014 has been formed to prohibit, prevent or deter the commission of acts of sexual harassment at workplace and to provide the procedure for the redressal of complaints pertaining to sexual harassment.

APPLICABILITY & SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all employees of VIP Industries Ltd, including contract, probationer, trainee or apprentice. An alleged act of sexual harassment, whether the incident has occurred during or beyond office hours within the Company’s premises. This Policy has been revised to align itself with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Rules, 2013 (hereinafter referred to as “the Rules”).

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Some of the important term used in this Policy shall have the following meaning which is aligned as per the Act and reproduced below.

- **WORKPLACE** – Workplace means all branch offices, representative offices, manufacturing plants, retail stores whether located in India or abroad, corporate office and registered office of V.I.P. Industries Limited.
- **EMPLOYEE** – Employee includes a person employed at a workplace for any work on regular, temporary, probationer, trainee, ad hoc, daily wage basis, including through a contractor and also includes an apprentice.
- **SEXUAL HARASSMENT** – Sexual harassment includes the following unwelcome acts or behavior (whether directly or by implication) namely:
 - Physical contact and advances; or
 - Demand or request for sexual favors; or
 - Making sexually colored remarks; or
 - Showing pornography; or
 - Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature. [Section 2(n)]

- AGGRIEVED WOMAN – In relation to a workplace means a woman, of any age, whether employed or not, who alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment by the respondent. [Section 2(a)]

RESPONSIBILITIES

All individuals must follow this Policy and the Human Resource and Administration Department at the respective location shall coordinate for effective implementation of this Policy.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

None of the employees of the Company shall indulge into any activities at workplace involving sexual harassment whether directly or indirectly in any manner and under any mode whatsoever.

As defined under Section 2(n) of the Act, Sexual Harassment includes such unwelcome sexually determined behavior, as physical contacts and advances, sexually colored remarks, showing pornography and sexual demands whether by words, gestures or actions. Such conduct can be humiliating and may constitute a health and safety problem. It is discriminatory when the complainant has reasonable grounds to believe that his or her objection would disadvantage them in connection with employment, including recruiting or promotion or when it creates a hostile working environment.

Sexual harassment includes such unwelcome sexually determined behavior (whether directly or by implication) as:

- Physical contact and advances;
- A demand or request for sexual favors; Sexually colored remarks;
- Showing pornography;
- Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature.

Sexual harassment is emotionally abusive and creates an unhealthy, unproductive atmosphere at the workplace. Sexual harassment cases can be classified into two categories- quid pro quo and creation of a hostile working environment.

- A** Under the quid pro quo (meaning this for that) form of harassment, a person or authority, usually the superior of the victim, demands sexual favors for getting or keeping a job benefit and threatens to fire the employee if the conditions are not met.
- B** A hostile work environment arises when a co-employee or supervisor creates a work environment through verbal or physical conduct that interferes with another co-employee's job performance or creates the workplace atmosphere which is intimidating, hostile, offensive or humiliating and experienced as an attack on personal dignity. For example an employee tells offensive jokes. No person shall indulge or caused to be indulged under instructions from superior in sexual harassment of co-employees.

However, an employee who is sexually harassed can complain about the same even if there is no adverse job consequence.

IF ANY EMPLOYEE IS BEING HARASSED:

- A** Inform the accused that his / her behavior is unwelcome and ask him/her to stop.
- B** Keep a record of incidents (dates, times, locations, possible witness, what happened, your response). It is not mandatory to have a record of events to file a complaint, however, a record can strengthen your case and help you remember the details over time, in case the complaint is not filed immediately.
- C** File a complaint as soon as possible. If, after asking the accused to stop his / her behavior, the harassment continues, report the abuse to the Internal Committee (IC) formed for this purpose.

THE INTERNAL COMMITTEE:

Internal (IC) has been Committee formed at the following locations:

1. Mumbai Corporate office
2. Nasik Manufacturing Unit
3. Noida Office
4. Kolkata Office
5. Bangalore Office

The Name of the Members of the Internal Committee is as per Annexure A of this Policy.

COMPLAINT HANDLING:

- It is the obligation of all the employees to report sexual harassment experienced by them personally. A concerned Co – employee may also inform the Internal Committee (IC) of any instance or behavior of sexual harassment by co employee towards another employee.
- The concerned employee shall give his/her complaint in writing to the Chairperson of the Committee giving details of the incident.
- Once the complaint is received, it will be kept strictly confidential.
- The person accused will be informed that a complaint has been filed against him/her and no unfair acts of retaliation or unethical action will be tolerated.
- The Committee shall ensure that a fair and just investigation is undertaken immediately.
- Both the complainant and the alleged accused initially will be questioned separately with a view to ascertain the veracity of their contentions. If required, the person who has been named as a witness will need to provide the necessary information to assist in resolving the matter satisfactorily.
- The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation. The investigation shall be completed within 90 days of the receipt of the complaint. If the investigation reveals that the complainant has been sexually harassed as claimed, the accused will undergo disciplinary actions as prescribed in this policy.
- The victim of sexual harassment has the option to seek transfer of the accused or his/her own transfer.
- Decision of the Internal Committee (IC) shall be final and binding on the employees concerned.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

Where any misconduct is found by the Committee, appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken against the accused. Disciplinary action may include transfer, withholding promotion, suspension or even dismissal or any other action as may deem fit by the Committee. This action shall be in addition to any legal recourse sought by the complainant.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

All information received shall be kept confidential. Any person (including witnesses) who breaches confidentiality shall be subject to disciplinary action.

PROTECTION AGAINST RETALIATION:

Regardless of the outcome of the complaint made in good faith, the employee lodging the complaint and any person providing information or any witness, will be protected from any form of retaliation. While dealing with complaints of sexual harassment, the Committee shall ensure that the Complainant or the witness are not victimized or discriminated against by the accused. Any unwarranted pressures, retaliatory or any other type of unethical behavior from the accused against the complainant while the investigation is in progress should be reported by the complainant to the Internal Committee as soon as possible. Disciplinary action will be taken by the Internal Committee against any such complaints which are found genuine.

DOCUMENTATION:

The Committee shall keep complete and accurate documentation of the complaint, its investigation and the resolution thereof. The incident would be documented in both the complainant's and the accused files with the full report of the Internal Committee (IC).

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY:

A copy of this Policy shall be given to all employees and to all new joiners and they shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have received, read, understood and will abide by the Policy.

COMPLAINTS MADE WITH A MALICIOUS INTENT:

This policy has been instituted to ensure that, the Company's employees have a forum to approach in cases of sexual harassment. However, if upon conclusion of the investigation it is revealed that the complaint was made with a malicious intent and with the motive of maligning the concerned individual / tarnishing his/her image in the company and to settle personal/professional scores, strict action will be taken against the complainant.

Employee who is victim of sexual harassment may, in addition to the above, seek legal remedies as may be provided under various laws for the time being in force.

ANNEXURE A**INTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS****ICC FOR CORPORATE OFFICE AND WEST ZONE**

NAME	DESIGNATION	ROLE	CONTACT INFORMATION
Pushpita Gaur	Business Head – Caprese	Presiding Officer	pushpita.gaur@vipbags.com
Smita Singla	Brand Head - Skybags	Member	smita.singla@vipbags.com
Ashish Gigoo	Channel Head - Modern Trade, CSD & CPC	Member	ashish.gigoo@vipbags.com
Gita Jaisinghani	Consultant	Member	gita.jaisinghani@gmail.com

ICC FOR EAST ZONE

NAME	DESIGNATION	ROLE	CONTACT INFORMATION
Pushpita Gaur	Business Head – Caprese	Presiding Officer	pushpita.gaur@vipbags.com
Amit Kumar Sonkar	Regional Manager - Institutional Sales	Member	amit.sonkar@vipbags.com
Pushpendra Saxena	Regional Manager - Modern Trade	Member	pushpendra.saxena@vipbags.com
Gita Jaisinghani	Consultant	Member	gita.jaisinghani@gmail.com

ICC FOR NORTH ZONE

NAME	DESIGNATION	ROLE	CONTACT INFORMATION
Pushpita Gaur	Business Head – Caprese	Presiding Officer	pushpita.gaur@vipbags.com
Salahuddin Khan	Regional Manager Commercial	Member	salahuddin.khan@vipbags.com
Mukta Chhabra	Manager - HR	Member	mukta.chhabra@vipbags.com
Gita Jaisinghani	Consultant	Member	gita.jaisinghani@gmail.com

ICC FOR SOUTH ZONE

NAME	DESIGNATION	ROLE	CONTACT INFORMATION
Pushpita Gaur	Business Head – Caprese	Presiding Officer	pushpita.gaur@vipbags.com
Saidi Reddy Morthala	Channel Manager - General Trade	Member	saidireddy.morthala@vipbags.com
B. Ramprasath	Regional Manager – General Trade & Retail Trade	Member	ram.prasath@vipbags.com
Gita Jaisinghani	Consultant	Member	gita.jaisinghani@gmail.com

ICC FOR NASHIK MANUFACTURING UNIT

NAME	DESIGNATION	ROLE	CONTACT INFORMATION
Pushpita Gaur	Business Head – Caprese	Presiding Officer	pushpita.gaur@vipbags.com
Sopan Godse	General Manager - Human Resources & Industrial Relations	Member	sopan.godse@vipbags.com
Sharmishtha Joshi	Officer – Luggage Assembly	Member	sharmishtha.joshi@vipbags.com
Gita Jaisinghani	Consultant	Member	gita.jaisinghani@gmail.com