



## Vigil Mechanism Policy of Patil Automation Limited

### **1. PREFACE:**

The Company believes in the conduct of its affairs in a fair and transparent manner by adopting highest standards of professionalism, honesty, integrity and ethical behavior.

In accordance with Section 177(9) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Meetings of Board and Its Powers) Rules, 2014 which has come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, every listed company shall have to establish a vigil mechanism for Directors and Employees to report their genuine concerns or grievances.

The revised Clause 49 of the Listing Agreement between listed companies and the Stock Exchanges which will be effective from 1st October 2014, inter-alia, mandates all listed companies to have a Whistle Blower policy providing for the following:

- a) Establishing a vigil mechanism for directors and employees to report concerns about unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct or ethics policy.
- b) The mechanism should also provide for adequate safeguards against victimization of director(s) /employee(s) who avail of the mechanism and also provide for direct access to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.
- c) The details of establishment of such mechanism shall be disclosed by the company on its website and in the Board's report.

Towards this end, the Company has formulated the Patil Vigil Mechanism Policy ("the Policy") which lays down the principles and standards that should govern the actions of the Company, its employees and directors; and for employees (including Directors) to report to the management any actual or possible violation of this policy.

### **2. DEFINITIONS:**

- a) "**Audit Committee**" means the Audit Committee constituted by the Board of Directors of the Company in accordance with Section 177 of the

Companies Act, 2013, and read with revised Clause 49 of the Listing Agreement with the Stock Exchanges.

- b) **“Employee”** means every employee who is on the payroll of the Company, whether located in or outside India and who is subject to the control and direction of the Company, including regular and contractual employees. Employees will also include the Directors of the Company.
- c) **“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.
- d) **“Subject”** means a person or group of persons against or in relation to whom a Protected Disclosure is made or evidence gathered during the course of an investigation under this Policy.
- e) **“Whistleblower”** is someone who makes a Protected Disclosure under this Policy.
- f) **“Company”** means, “Patil Automation Limited.”
- g) **“Investigator(s)”** means those persons authorized, appointed, consulted or approached by Audit Committee, which may include the auditors of the Company and the police.

### **3. SCOPE**

Employees of the Company are eligible to make Protected Disclosures under the Policy pertaining to unethical behavior, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company’s code of conduct / terms and conditions of employment.

### **4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

To ensure that this Policy is adhered to, and to assure that the concern will be acted upon seriously, the Company will:

- a) Ensure that the Whistleblower and/or the person processing the Protected Disclosure is not victimized.

- b) Ensure full confidentiality of the Whistleblower.
- c) Not make any attempt to conceal evidence submitted in the Protected Disclosure.
- d) Provide an opportunity of being heard to the persons involved especially to the Subject.
- e) To provide for direct access by the Whistleblower to the Chairman of the Audit Committee in exceptional cases.
- f) Anonymous disclosures made by individuals without identifying themselves will not be given cognizance to. Whistleblowers must put their names to the Protected Disclosures, as follow-up questions and investigation may not be possible unless the source of the information is identified.

## **5. PROTECTION TO WHISTLEBLOWER**

If one raises a concern under this Policy, he/she will not be at risk of suffering any form of reprisal or retaliation. Retaliation includes discrimination, reprisal, harassment or vengeance in any manner. Company's employee will not be at the risk of losing her/ his job or suffer loss in any other manner like transfer, demotion, refusal of promotion, or the like including any direct or indirect use of authority to obstruct the Whistleblower's right to continue to perform his/her duties/functions including making further Protected Disclosure, as a result of reporting under this Policy.

The protection is available provided that the communication/ disclosure is made in good faith. An employee shall be deemed to be communicating in "good faith" if there is a reasonable basis for communication of unethical and improper practices or any other alleged wrongful conduct. Good Faith shall be deemed lacking when the employee does not have personal knowledge on a factual basis for the communication or where the employee knew or reasonably should have known that the communication about the unethical and improper practices or alleged wrongful conduct is malicious, false or frivolous.

The identity of the Whistle Blower shall be kept confidential to the extent possible and permitted under law. Whistle Blowers are cautioned that their identity may become known for reasons outside the control of the Audit Committee (e.g. during investigations carried out by Investigators).

Any other Employee assisting in the said investigation shall also be protected to the same extent as the Whistleblower.

An employee who knowingly makes false allegations of unethical & improper practices or alleged wrongful conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment, in accordance with Company rules, policies and procedures. Further this policy may not be used as a defense by an employee against whom an adverse personnel action has been taken independent of any disclosure of intimation by him and for legitimate reasons or cause under Company rules and policies.

In case of repeated frivolous complaints being filed by an employee, the Audit Committee may take suitable action against the concerned employee.

## **6. PROCEDURE**

- a. All Protected Disclosures should be addressed to the Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Company.
- b. Protected Disclosures should be reported in writing so as to ensure a clear understanding of the issues raised and should either be typed or written in a legible handwriting in English, Hindi or in the regional language of the place of employment of the Whistle Blower.
- c. The Protected Disclosure should be forwarded under a covering letter which shall bear the identity of the Whistle Blower, along with the contact details. The Chairman of the Audit Committee shall detach the covering letter and forward only the Protected Disclosure to the Investigators for investigation.
- d. Protected Disclosures should be factual and not speculative or in the nature of a conclusion, and should contain as much specific information as possible to allow for proper assessment of the nature and extent of the concern and the urgency of a preliminary investigative procedure.

## **7. INVESTIGATION**

- a. Protected Disclosures will be investigated by the Audit Committee itself.
- b. The Audit Committee may at its discretion, consider involving any Investigators for the purpose of investigation.
- c. The decision to conduct an investigation by itself not an accusation and is to be treated as a neutral fact-finding process. The outcome of the investigation may not support the conclusion of the Whistle Blower that an improper or unethical act was committed.

- d. The identity of a Subject will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the legitimate needs of law and the investigation.
- e. Subjects will normally be informed of the allegations at the outset of a formal investigation and have opportunities for providing their inputs during the investigation.
- f. Subjects shall have a duty to co-operate with the Investigators during investigation to the extent that such co-operation sought does not merely require them to admit guilt.
- g. Subjects have a responsibility not to interfere with the investigation. Evidence shall not be withheld, destroyed or tampered with, and witnesses shall not be influenced, coached, threatened or intimidated by the Subjects.
- h. Unless there are compelling reasons not to do so, Subjects will be given the opportunity to respond to material findings contained in an investigation report. No allegation of wrongdoing against a Subject shall be considered as maintainable unless there is good evidence in support of the allegation.
- i. Subjects have a right to be informed of the outcome of the investigation. If allegations are not sustained, the Subject should be consulted as to whether public disclosure of the investigation results would be in the best interest of the Subject and the Company.
- j. The investigation shall be completed normally within 45 days of the receipt of the Protected Disclosure

## **8. INVESTIGATORS**

- a. Investigators are required to conduct a process towards fact-finding and analysis. Investigators shall derive their authority and access rights from the Audit Committee when acting within the course and scope of their investigation.
- b. Technical and other resources may be drawn upon as necessary to augment the investigation. All Investigators shall be independent and unbiased both in fact and as perceived. Investigators have a duty of fairness, objectivity, thoroughness, ethical behavior, and observance of legal and professional standards.
- c. Investigations will be launched only after a preliminary review which establishes that:
  - i. the alleged act constitutes an improper or unethical activity or conduct, and
  - ii. either the allegation is supported by information specific enough to be investigated, or matters that do not meet this standard may be worthy of

management review, but investigation itself should not be undertaken as an investigation of an improper or unethical activity.

**9. DECISION**

If an investigation leads the Audit Committee to conclude that an improper or unethical act has been committed, the Audit Committee shall direct the management of the Company to take such disciplinary or corrective action as the Audit Committee deems 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.

**10. REPORTING**

The Audit Committee shall submit a report to the Board on a regular basis about all Protected Disclosures referred to him/her since the last report together with the results of investigations, if any.

**11. RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS**

All Protected Disclosures in writing or documented along with the results of investigation relating thereto shall be retained by the Company for a minimum period of seven years.

**12. AMENDMENT**

This policy will be subject to company law and the rules framed thereunder from time to time.

**Amendment to Law any subsequent amendment / modification in the SEBI Listing Regulations, Act and all other applicable laws in this regard shall automatically apply to this Policy.**

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This policy was approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company at its Meeting held on December 25, 2024.