

Policy on prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace

I. Introduction:

1. This policy is being framed pursuant to the provisions of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and the rules issued thereunder (hereinafter referred to the “The Act”).

1.2. The objective of ‘Policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace’ (hereinafter referred to as “Policy”) is to create a healthy working environment for all genders of employees, in all the offices of Nelcast Limited (hereinafter referred to as “the Company”), by establishing guidelines to deter any Sexual Harassment, define the mechanism for raising concerns, their investigation and action on the findings.

II. Applicability:

2.1. This Policy is applicable to dealing with any complaint/allegation of sexual harassment at the workplace. It is clarified that Policy shall apply only when both Affected Person and Offender (both defined hereinafter) are covered under Policy. In case where any person covered under Policy is subject to sexual harassment by any person not covered under Policy, the Company shall take reasonable and necessary steps to assist the concerned affected person in terms of support and taking preventive action.

2.2. Policy is applicable to all full-time/part-time employees of the Company including trainees, consultants, and those on contractual assignments etc., by whatever name called (hereinafter referred to as “Employee(s)”).

2.3. Employees are expected to be sensitive to any circumstances or behaviour among their colleagues which appear to go against the Policy. In case occurrence of any such incidence comes to their notice, they are expected to bring the fact to the attention of Employer so that appropriate action may be taken.

2.5. Except as provided in the Act, there are no exceptions to the applicability of the Policy.

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 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.

Inappropriate conduct could also be a joke, a prank or even a compliment. These gestures also lead to harassment although the intention of the individual might not be to offend the other person.

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 COMMITTEE:

The Company has instituted an Internal Complaints Committee for redressal of sexual harassment complaint (made by the victim) and for ensuring time bound treatment of such complaints.

Initially, and till further notice, the Complaints Committee will comprise of the following four members:

1. Presiding Officer: Employee at the level of Assistant General Manager or above
2. Senior Employee from Personnel Function (Member)
3. Divisional / Plant Personnel Head or any other Senior employee of the Division/ location from where the complaint has originated (Member)

The Presiding Officer reserves the right to nominate more members of appropriate seniority and rank in the committee to conduct such enquiries to ensure equal representation of the gender as that of the complainant or for any other valid reason.

The Complaints Committee is responsible for:

- Investigating every formal written complaint of sexual harassment
- Taking appropriate remedial measures to respond to any substantiated allegations of sexual harassment
- 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 Complaints Committee for redressal of their grievances. The Complaints Committee 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 Presiding Officer of the Complaints Committee constituted by the Management. The complaint shall have to be in writing and can be in form of a letter, submitted within 3 months from the date of the incident and in case of a series of incidents, within a period of 3 months from the date of the last incident. The Complaints Committee can extend the timeline for filing the complaint, for reasons to be recorded in writing, by a period of 3 months. Alternately, the employee can send complaint through an email. The employee is required to disclose their name, department, division and location they are working in, to enable the Presiding Officer to contact them and take the matter forward.

2. The Presiding Officer of the Complaints Committee 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 Presiding Officer will record this finding with reasons, and communicate the same to the complainant.

3. If the Presiding Officer of the Complaints Committee 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 Complaints Committee shall conduct such investigations in a timely manner and shall submit a written report containing the findings and recommendations on action to be taken to the “Whistle Officer” appointed by the Company as soon as practically possible and in any case, not later than 90 days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The Whistle Officer, Head Personnel & Administration and the President of the Company will jointly take decision on the corrective action based on the recommendations of the Complaints Committee 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. To protect the interests of the victim, the accused person and others who may report incidents of sexual harassment, confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigatory process to the extent practicable and appropriate under the circumstances.

IX. ACCESS TO REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS:

All records of complaints, including contents of meetings, results of investigations and other relevant material will be kept confidential by the Company except where disclosure is required under disciplinary or other remedial processes.

X. PROTECTION TO COMPLAINANT / VICTIM:

The Company is committed to ensuring that no employee who brings forward a harassment concern is subject to any form of reprisal. Any reprisal will be subject to disciplinary action. The Company will ensure that the victim or witnesses are not victimized or discriminated against while dealing with complaints of sexual harassment. However, anyone who abuses the procedure (for example, by maliciously putting an allegation knowing it to be untrue) will be subject to disciplinary action.

XI. CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the Company reiterates its commitment to providing its employees, a workplace free from harassment/ discrimination and where every employee is treated with dignity and respect.