

Date: [•]

Mr./Ms.: [•]
[Place]

Dear [•]

Sub: Appointment as an Independent Director

We are pleased to advise you that at the [•] General Meeting of the Company held on [•], the Members have approved your appointment as an Independent Director of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (the “**Company**”), for an initial term of [•] years commencing from [•] up to [•]. We are eager to have you as an integral part of the growth of our Company.

We thank you for your confirmation to the Company that you meet the “independence” criteria as envisaged in Section 149(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 (“**Act**”) and Regulation 16(1)(b) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015 (“**SEBI Listing Regulations**”).

This letter is being issued to comply with the requirements of Schedule IV of the Act pertaining to the Code for Independent Directors.

This letter sets out the broad terms of your appointment as an Independent Director, on the Board of the Company.

The terms of your appointment, as set out in this letter, are subject to the extant provisions of the (i) applicable laws, including the Act and SEBI Listing Regulations (as amended from time to time) and (ii) Articles of Association of the Company (“**AOA**”).

1. Appointment

Your appointment will be for an initial term of [•] years commencing from [•] upto [•] (“**Term**”). The Company may disengage Independent Directors prior to completion of the Term subject to compliance of relevant provisions of the Act.

As an Independent Director, you will not be liable to retire by rotation.

You may be requested to be a Member / Chairperson of any one or more Committees of the Board, which may be constituted from time to time.

As per the Board's current assessment, you are the Chairperson/Member of the following Committees of the Board:

- [•] Committee - Chairperson/Member

2. Role, duties and responsibilities

- A. As member of the Board you along with the other Directors will be collectively responsible for meeting the objectives of the Board which include:
- Requirements under the Act and SEBI Listing Regulations; and
 - Accountability under the Director's Responsibility Statement;
- B. You shall abide by the 'Code for Independent Directors' as outlined in Schedule IV to Section 149(8) of the Act, and duties of directors as provided in the Act (including Section 166). For your ready reference, the relevant provisions of Act and the SEBI Listing Regulations have been extracted and attached to this letter as Annexure A.
- C. You will also be responsible for providing guidance on the areas of your expertise. Your specific responsibilities would be discussed jointly in consultation with the Board of Directors.

3. Time Commitment

Considering the nature of the role of a director, it is difficult for a company to lay down specific parameters on time commitment. You agree to devote such time as is prudent and necessary for the proper performance of your role, duties and responsibilities as an Independent Director.

4. Remuneration

As an Independent Director you shall be paid sitting fees for attending the meetings of the Board and the Committees of which you are a Member. The sitting fees for attending each meeting of the Board and its Committees would be as determined by the Board from time to time.

In addition to the sitting fees, commission that may be determined by the Board may also be payable to you. In determining the amount of this commission, the Board supported by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee may consider performance of the Company and your performance as evaluated by the Board.

Further, the Company may pay or reimburse to you such expenditure, as may have been incurred by you while performing your role as an Independent Director of the Company. This

could include reimbursement of expenditure incurred by you for accommodation, travel and any out of pocket expenses for attending Board / Committee meetings, General Meetings, court convened meetings, meetings with shareholders / creditors / management, site visits, induction and training (organized by the Company for Directors) and in obtaining, subject to the expense being reasonable, professional advice from independent advisors in the furtherance of your duties as an Independent Director.

5. Insurance

The Company will take an appropriate Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance policy and pay the premiums for the same. It is intended to maintain such insurance cover for the Term of your appointment, subject to the terms of such policy in force from time to time. A copy of the policy document will be supplied on request.

6. Code of Conduct

As an Independent Director of the Company, you agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Non-Executive Directors ("**NEDs**"). For your reference, the Code of Conduct for NEDs as adopted by the Board, is provided in Annexure B.

Unless specifically authorised by the Company, you shall not disclose Company and business information to constituencies such as the media, the financial community, employees, shareholders, agents, franchisees, dealers, distributors and importers.

Your obligation of confidentiality shall survive cessation of your directorship with the Company.

We would also like to draw your attention to the applicability of both, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading and Code of Corporate Disclosure Practices, prohibiting disclosure or use of unpublished price sensitive information.

Additionally, you shall not participate in any business activity which might impede the application of your independent judgment in the best interest of the Company.

All Directors are required to sign a confirmation of acceptance of the Code of Conduct for NEDs, as adopted by the Board, on an annual basis.

7. Training and Development

The Company may, if required, conduct formal training program for its Independent Directors which may include any or all of the following:

- Board roles and responsibilities, whilst seeking to build working relationship among the Board members;
- Company's vision, strategic direction, core values, ethics and corporate governance practices;
- Familiarization with financial matters, management team and business operations; and

- Meetings with stakeholders, visits to business locations and meetings with senior and middle management.

The Company may, as may be required, support Directors to continually update their skills and knowledge and improve their familiarity with the Company and its business. The Company will fund/arrange for training on all matters which are common to the whole Board.

8. Performance Appraisal / Evaluation Process

As a member of the Board, your performance as well as the performance of the entire Board and its Committees will be evaluated annually. Evaluation of each director shall be done by all the other directors. The criteria for evaluation shall be disclosed in the Company's Annual Report. However, the actual evaluation process shall remain confidential and shall be a constructive mechanism to improve the effectiveness of the Board / Committee(s).

9. Disclosures, other directorships and business interests

During the Term, you agree to promptly notify the Company of any change in your directorships, and provide such other disclosures and information as may be required under the applicable laws. You also agree that upon becoming aware of any potential conflict of interest with your position as an Independent Director of the Company, you shall promptly disclose the same to the Company Secretary. By signing this letter, you hereby confirm that as on date of this letter, you have no such conflict of interest issues with your existing directorships.

During your Term, you agree to promptly provide a declaration under Section 149(7) of the 2013 Act and Regulation 16(1)(b) of the SEBI Listing Regulations, upon any change in circumstances which may affect your status as an Independent Director.

10. Changes of personal details

During the Term, you shall promptly intimate the Company Secretary and the Registrar of Companies in the prescribed manner, of any change in address or other contact and personal details provided to the Company.

11. Disengagement

You may resign from the directorship of the Company by giving a notice in writing to the Company stating the reasons for resignation. The resignation shall take effect from the date on which the notice is received by the Company or the date, if any, specified by you in the notice, whichever is later.

Your directorship on the Board of the Company shall cease in accordance with law. The Company may disengage Independent Directors prior to completion of Term (subject to compliance of relevant provisions of the Act) upon:

- Violation of any provision of the Code of Conduct as applicable to Non-Executive Directors; and

- Upon the director failing to meet the criteria for independence as envisaged in Section 149(6) of the Act and Regulation 16(1)(b) of the SEBI Listing Regulations.

12. Miscellaneous

This letter shall be disclosed on the website of the Company.

13. Acceptance of Appointment

Please confirm your acceptance of the above terms by signing and returning the enclosed duplicate copy of this letter.

We thank you for your continued support and commitment to the Company.

Yours Sincerely,

For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited

Rajiv Sabharwal
Chairman

AGREE AND ACCEPT

I have read and understood the terms of my appointment as an Independent Director of the Company and I hereby affirm my acceptance to the same.

Name: [•]
Place: [•]

Date: [•]

Annexure A

**Relevant Provisions of the Companies Act, 2013
and SEBI Listing Regulations**

PART A: SCHEDULE IV

CODE FOR INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

The Code is a guide to professional conduct for independent directors. Adherence to these standards by independent directors and fulfillment 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) 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) act within their 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.

IV. Manner of appointment:

- (1) Appointment process of independent directors shall be independent of the company management; while selecting independent directors the Board shall ensure that there is appropriate balance of skills, experience and knowledge in the Board so as to enable the Board to discharge its functions and duties effectively.
- (2) The appointment of independent director(s) of the company shall be approved at the meeting of the shareholders.
- (3) The explanatory statement attached to the notice of the meeting for approving the appointment of independent director shall include a statement that in the opinion of the Board, the independent director proposed to be appointed fulfills the conditions specified in the Act and the rules made thereunder and that the proposed director is independent of the management.
- (4) The appointment of independent directors shall be formalised through a letter of appointment, which shall set out:
 - (a) the term of appointment;
 - (b) the expectation of the Board from the appointed director; the Board-level committee(s) in which the director is expected to serve and its tasks;
 - (c) the fiduciary duties that come with such an appointment along with accompanying liabilities;
 - (d) provision for Directors and Officers (D and O) insurance, if any;
 - (e) the Code of Business Ethics that the company expects its directors and employees to follow;
 - (f) the list of actions that a director should not do while functioning as such in the company; and
 - (g) the remuneration, mentioning periodic fees, reimbursement of expenses for participation in the Boards and other meetings and profit related commission, if any.
- (5) The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall be open for inspection at the registered office of the company by any member during normal business hours.
- (6) The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall also be posted on the company's website.

V. Re-appointment:

The re-appointment of independent director shall be on the basis of report of performance evaluation.

VI. Resignation or removal:

- (1) The resignation or removal of an independent director shall be in the same manner as is provided in sections 168 and 169 of the Act.
- (2) An independent director who resigns or is removed from the Board of the company shall be replaced by a new independent director within three months from the date of such resignation or removal, as the case may be.

- (3) Where the company fulfills the requirement of independent directors in its Board even without filling the vacancy created by such resignation or removal, as the case may be, the requirement of replacement by a new independent director shall not apply.

VII. Separate meetings:

- (1) The independent directors of the company shall hold at least one meeting in a financial year, without the attendance of non-independent directors and members of management;
- (2) All the independent directors of the company shall strive to be present at such meeting;
- (3) The meeting shall:
 - (a) review the performance of non-independent directors and the Board as a whole;
 - (b) review the performance of the Chairperson of the company, taking into account the views of executive directors and non-executive directors;
 - (c) assess the quality, quantity and timeliness of flow of information between the company management and the Board that is necessary for the Board to effectively and reasonably perform their duties.

VIII. Evaluation mechanism:

- (1) The performance evaluation of independent directors shall be done by the entire Board of Directors, excluding the director being evaluated.
- (2) On the basis of the report of performance evaluation, it shall be determined whether to extend or continue the term of appointment of the independent director.

PART B:

DEFINITION: SECTION 2(60) – OFFICER IN DEFAULT

(60) “officer who is in default”, for the purpose of any provision in this Act which enacts that an officer of the company who is in default shall be liable to any penalty or punishment by way of imprisonment, fine or otherwise, means any of the following officers of a company, namely:—

- a. whole-time director;
- b. key managerial personnel;
- c. where there is no key managerial personnel, such director or directors as specified by the Board in this behalf and who has or have given his or their consent in writing to the Board to such specification, or all the directors, if no director is so specified;
- d. any person who, under the immediate authority of the Board or any key managerial personnel, is charged with any responsibility including maintenance, filing or distribution of accounts or records, authorises, actively participates in, knowingly permits, or knowingly fails to take active steps to prevent, any default;
- e. any person in accordance with whose advice, directions or instructions the Board of Directors of the company is accustomed to act, other than a person who gives advice to the Board in a professional capacity;
- f. every director, in respect of a contravention of any of the provisions of this Act, who is aware of such contravention by virtue of the receipt by him of any proceedings of the Board or participation in such proceedings without objecting to the same, or where such contravention had taken place with his consent or connivance;
- g. in respect of the issue or transfer of any shares of a company, the share transfer agents, registrars and merchant bankers to the issue or transfer;

SECTION 134(5) – FINANCIAL STATEMENT, BOARD’S REPORT, ETC

The Directors’ Responsibility Statement referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (3) shall state that:

- (a) in the preparation of the annual accounts, the applicable accounting standards had been followed along with proper explanation relating to material departures;
- (b) the directors had selected such accounting policies and applied them consistently and made judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of the financial year and of the profit and loss of the company for that period;
- (c) the directors had taken proper and sufficient care for the maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of this Act for safeguarding the assets of the company and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities;
- (d) the directors had prepared the annual accounts on a going concern basis; and

- (e) the directors, in the case of a listed company, had laid down internal financial controls to be followed by the company and that such internal financial controls are adequate and were operating effectively;

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, the term “internal financial controls” means the policies and procedures adopted by the company for ensuring the orderly and efficient conduct of its business, including adherence to company’s policies, the safeguarding of its assets, the prevention and detection of frauds and errors, the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, and the timely preparation of reliable financial information; and

- (f) the directors had devised proper systems to ensure compliance with the provisions of all applicable laws and that such systems were adequate and operating effectively.

SECTION 149(6) – COMPANY TO HAVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

An independent director in relation to a company, means a director other than a managing director or a whole-time director or a nominee director,—

- (a) who, in the opinion of the Board, is a person of integrity and possesses relevant expertise and experience;
- (b) (i) who is or was not a promoter of the company or its holding, subsidiary or associate company;
(ii) who is not related to promoters or directors in the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company;
- (c) who has or had no pecuniary relationship, other than remuneration as such director or having transaction not exceeding ten per cent. of his total income or such amount as may be prescribed, with the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company, or their promoters, or directors, during the two immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year;
- (d) none of whose relatives—
 - (i) is holding any security of or interest in the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company during the two immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year:
Provided that the relative may hold security or interest in the company of face value not exceeding fifty lakh rupees or two per cent. of the paid-up capital of the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company or such higher sum as may be prescribed;
 - (ii) is indebted to the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company or their promoters, or directors, in excess of such amount as may be prescribed during the two immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year;
 - (iii) has given a guarantee or provided any security in connection with the indebtedness of any third person to the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company or their promoters, or directors of such holding company, for such amount as may be prescribed during the two immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year; or

- (iv) has any other pecuniary transaction or relationship with the company, or its subsidiary, or its holding or associate company amounting to two per cent. or more of its gross turnover or total income singly or in combination with the transactions referred to in sub-clause (i), (ii) or (iii);
- (e) who, neither himself nor any of his relatives—
 - (i) holds or has held the position of a key managerial personnel or is or has been employee of the company or its holding, subsidiary or associate company in any of the three financial years immediately preceding the financial year in which he is proposed to be appointed;
Provided that in case of a relative who is an employee, the restriction under this clause shall not apply for his employment during preceding three financial years.
 - (ii) is or has been an employee or proprietor or a partner, in any of the three financial years immediately preceding the financial year in which he is proposed to be appointed, of—
 - (A) a firm of auditors or company secretaries in practice or cost auditors of the company or its holding, subsidiary or associate company; or
 - (B) any legal or a consulting firm that has or had any transaction with the company, its holding, subsidiary or associate company amounting to ten per cent or more of the gross turnover of such firm;
 - (iii) holds together with his relatives two per cent or more of the total voting power of the company; or
 - (iv) is a Chief Executive or director, by whatever name called, of any non-profit organisation that receives twenty-five per cent or more of its receipts from the company, any of its promoters, directors or its holding, subsidiary or associate company or that holds two per cent or more of the total voting power of the company;
or
- (f) who possesses such other qualifications as may be prescribed.

SECTION 149(8) – COMPANY TO HAVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The company and independent directors shall abide by the provisions specified in Schedule IV.

SECTION 149(12) – COMPANY TO HAVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act,—

- (i) an independent director; and
- (ii) a non-executive director not being promoter or key managerial personnel, shall be held liable, only in respect of such acts of omission or commission by a company which had occurred with his knowledge, attributable through Board processes, and with his consent or connivance or where he had not acted diligently.

SECTION 166 – DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a director of a company shall act in accordance with the articles of the company.
- (2) A director of a company shall act in good faith in order to promote the objects of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in the best interests of the company, its employees, the shareholders, the community and for the protection of environment.
- (3) A director of a company shall exercise his duties with due and reasonable care, skill and diligence and shall exercise independent judgment.
- (4) A director of a company shall not involve in a situation in which he may have a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interest of the company.
- (5) A director of a company shall not achieve or attempt to achieve any undue gain or advantage either to himself or to his relatives, partners, or associates and if such director is found guilty of making any undue gain, he shall be liable to pay an amount equal to that gain to the company.
- (6) A director of a company shall not assign his office and any assignment so made shall be void.
- (7) If a director of the company contravenes the provisions of this section such director shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees.

SECTION 188(5) – RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Any director or any other employee of a company, who had entered into or authorised the contract or arrangement in violation of the provisions of this section shall,—

- a. in case of listed company, be liable to a penalty of twenty-five lakh rupees; and
- b. in case of any other company, be liable to a penalty of five lakh rupees.

SECTION 197(5) – OVERALL MAXIMUM MANAGERIAL REMUNERATION AND MANAGERIAL REMUNERATION IN CASE OF ABSENCE OR INADEQUACY OF PROFITS

A director may receive remuneration by way of fee for attending meetings of the Board or Committee thereof or for any other purpose whatsoever as may be decided by the Board:

Provided that the amount of such fees shall not exceed the amount as may be prescribed:

Provided further that different fees for different classes of companies and fees in respect of independent director may be such as may be prescribed.

RULE 6 OF COMPANIES (APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS) RULES, 2014 : COMPLIANCES REQUIRED BY A PERSON ELIGIBLE AND WILLING TO BE APPOINTED AS AN INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR.

(1) Every individual –

(a) who has been appointed as an independent director in a company, on the date of commencement of the Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2019, shall within a period of thirteen months from such commencement; or

(b) who intends to get appointed as an independent director in a company after such commencement, shall before such appointment,

apply online to the institute for inclusion of his name in the data bank for a period of one year or five years or for his life-time, and from time to time take steps as specified in sub-rule (2), till he continues to hold the office of an independent director in any company:

Provided that any individual, including an individual not having DIN, may voluntarily apply to the institute for inclusion of his name in the data bank.

(2) Every individual whose name has been so included in the data bank shall file an application for renewal for a further period of one year or five years or for his life-time, within a period of thirty days from the date of expiry of the period upto which the name of the individual was applied for inclusion in the data bank, failing which, the name of such individual shall stand removed from the data bank of the institute:

Provided that no application for renewal shall be filed by an individual who has paid life-time fees for inclusion of his name in the data bank.

(3) Every independent director shall submit a declaration of compliance of sub-rule (1) and sub-rule (2) to the Board, each time he submits the declaration required under sub-section (7) of section 149 of the Act.

(4) Every individual whose name is so included in the data bank under sub-rule (1) shall pass an online proficiency self-assessment test conducted by the institute within a period of Two years from the date of inclusion of his name in the data bank, failing which, his name shall stand removed from the databank of the institute:

Provided that an individual shall not be required to pass the online proficiency self-assessment test when he has served for a total period of not less than three years as on the date of inclusion of his name in the data bank,-

(A) as a director or key managerial personnel, as on the date of inclusion of his name in the databank, in one or more of the following, namely:-

(a) listed public company; or

(b) unlisted public company having a paid-up share capital of rupees ten crore or more; or

(c) body corporate listed on any recognized stock exchange or in a country which is a member State of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and the regulator of the securities market in such member State is a member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions; or

(d) bodies corporate incorporated outside India having a paid-up share capital of US\$ 2 million or more; or

(e) statutory corporations set up under an Act of Parliament or any State Legislature carrying on commercial activities; or

(B) in the pay scale of Director or equivalent or above in any Ministry or Department, of the Central Government or any State Government, and having experience in handling,—

(i) the matters relating to commerce, corporate affairs, finance, industry or public enterprises; or

(ii) the affairs related to Government companies or statutory corporations set up under an Act of Parliament or any State Act and carrying on commercial activities.

(C) in the pay scale of Chief General Manager or above in the Securities and Exchange Board or the Reserve Bank of India or the Insurance Regulatory and Exchange Board or the Reserve Bank of India or the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India or the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority and having experience in handling the matters relating to corporate laws or securities laws or economic laws:

Provided further that for the purpose of calculation of the period of three years referred to in the first proviso, any period during which an individual was acting as a director or as a key managerial personnel in two or more companies or bodies corporate or statutory corporations at the same time shall be counted only once.

Explanation: For the purposes of this rule,-

(a) the expression “institute” means the ‘Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs at Manesar’ notified under sub-section (1) of section 150 of the Companies Act, 2013 as the institute for the creation and maintenance of data bank of Independent Directors;

(b) an individual who has obtained a score of not less than fifty percent. in aggregate in the online proficiency self-assessment test shall be deemed to have passed such test;

(c) there shall be no limit on the number of attempts an individual may take for passing the online proficiency self-assessment test.

Provided also that the following individuals, who are or have been, for at least ten years :—

(A) an advocate of a court; or

(B) in practice as a chartered accountant; or

(C) in practice as a cost accountant; or

(D) in practice as a company secretary,

shall not be required to pass the online proficiency self-assessment test.

RULE 12A OF COMPANIES (APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS) RULES, 2014 : DIRECTORS KYC

Every individual who holds a Director Identification Number (DIN) as on 31st March of a financial year as per these rules shall, submit e-form DIR-3-KYC for the said financial year to the Central Government on or before 30th, September of immediate next financial year

Provided that every individual who has already been allotted a Director Identification Number (DIN) as at 31st March, 2018, shall submit e-form DIR-3 KYC on or before 5th October, 2018.

Provided further that where an individual who has already submitted e-form DIR-3 KYC in relation to any previous financial year, submits web-form DIR-3 KYC-WEB through the web service in relation to any subsequent financial year it shall be deemed to be compliance of the provisions of this rule for the said financial year:

Provided also that in case an individual desires to update his personal mobile number or the e- mail address, as the case may be, he shall update the same by submitting e-form DIR-3 KYC only:

Provided also that fee for filing e-form DIR-3 KYC or web-form DIR-3 KYC-WEB through the web service, as the case may be, shall be payable as provided in Companies (Registration Offices and Fees) Rules, 2014.

PART C: SEBI Listing Regulations

Regulation 16(1)(b): Definitions

"independent director" means a non-executive director, other than a nominee director of the listed entity:

- (i) who, in the opinion of the board of directors, is a person of integrity and possesses relevant expertise and experience;
- (ii) who is or was not a promoter of the listed entity or its holding, subsidiary or associate company or member of the promoter group of the listed entity;
- (iii) who is not related to promoters or directors in the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company;
- (iv) who, apart from receiving director's remuneration, has or had no material pecuniary relationship with the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company, or their promoters, or directors, during the *three* immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year;
- (v) none of whose relatives –

(A) is holding securities of or interest in the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company during the three immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year of face value in excess of fifty lakh rupees or two percent of the paid-up capital of the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company, respectively, or such higher sum as may be specified;

(B) is indebted to the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company or their promoters or directors, in excess of such amount as may be specified during the three immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year;

(C) has given a guarantee or provided any security in connection with the indebtedness of any third person to the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company or their promoters or directors, for such amount as may be specified during the three immediately preceding financial years or during the current financial year; or

(D) has any other pecuniary transaction or relationship with the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company amounting to two percent or more of its gross turnover or total income:

Provided that the pecuniary relationship or transaction with the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company or their promoters, or directors in relation to points (A) to (D) above shall not exceed two percent of its gross turnover or total income or fifty lakh rupees or such higher amount as may be specified from time to time, whichever is lower.

(vi) who, neither himself / herself, nor whose relative(s) —

(A) holds or has held the position of a key managerial personnel or is or has been an employee of the listed entity or its holding, subsidiary or associate company or any company belonging to the promoter group of the listed entity, in any of the three financial years immediately preceding the financial year in which he is proposed to be appointed:

Provided that in case of a relative, who is an employee other than key managerial personnel, the restriction under this clause shall not apply for his / her employment.

(B) is or has been an employee or proprietor or a partner, in any of the three financial years immediately preceding the financial year in which he is proposed to be appointed, of —

(1) a firm of auditors or company secretaries in practice or cost auditors of the listed entity or its holding, subsidiary or associate company; or

(2) any legal or a consulting firm that has or had any transaction with the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company amounting to ten per cent or more of the gross turnover of such firm;

(C) holds together with his relatives two per cent or more of the total voting power of the listed entity; or

(D) is a chief executive or director, by whatever name called, of any non-profit organisation that receives twenty-five per cent or more of its receipts or corpus from the listed entity, any of its promoters, directors or its holding, subsidiary or associate company or that holds two percent or more of the total voting power of the listed entity;

(E) is a material supplier, service provider or customer or a lessor or lessee of the listed entity;

(vii) who is not less than 21 years of age.

(viii) who is not a non-independent director of another company on the board of which any non-independent director of the listed entity is an independent director:

Explanation- In case of a 'high value debt listed entity':

(a) which is a body corporate, mandated to constitute its board of directors in a specific manner in accordance with the law under which it is established, the non- executive directors on its board shall be treated as independent directors;

(b) which is a Trust, mandated to constitute its 'board of trustees' in accordance with the law under which it is established, the non-employee trustees on its board shall be treated as independent directors.

Regulation 17(10): Board of Directors

The evaluation of independent directors shall be done by the entire board of directors which shall include -

(a) performance of the directors; and

(b) fulfillment of the independence criteria as specified in these regulations and their independence from the management:

Provided that in the above evaluation, the directors who are subject to evaluation shall not participate.

Regulation 25 : Obligations with respect to Independent Directors

(1) No person shall be appointed or continue as an alternate director for an independent director of a listed entity with effect from October 1, 2018.

(2) The maximum tenure of independent directors shall be in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made thereunder, in this regard, from time to time.

(2A). The appointment, re-appointment or removal of an independent director of a listed entity, shall be subject to the approval of shareholders by way of a special resolution.

(3) The independent directors of the listed entity shall hold at least one meeting in a financial year, without the presence of non-independent directors and members of the management and all the independent directors shall strive to be present at such meeting.

(4) The independent directors in the meeting referred in sub-regulation (3) shall, inter alia-

(a) review the performance of non-independent directors and the board of directors as a whole;

(b) review the performance of the chairperson of the listed entity, taking into account the views of executive directors and non-executive directors;

(c) assess the quality, quantity and timeliness of flow of information between the management of the listed entity and the board of directors that is necessary for the board of directors to effectively and reasonably perform their duties.

(5) An independent director shall be held liable, only in respect of such acts of omission or commission by the listed entity which had occurred with his /her knowledge, attributable through processes of board of directors, and with his /her consent or connivance or where he /she had not acted diligently with respect to the provisions contained in these regulations.

(6) An independent director who resigns or is removed from the board of directors of the listed entity shall be replaced by a new independent director by listed entity at the earliest but not later than three months from the date of such vacancy.

Provided that where the listed entity fulfils the requirement of independent directors in its board of directors without filling the vacancy created by such resignation or removal, the requirement of replacement by a new independent director shall not apply.

(7) The listed entity shall familiarise the independent directors through various programmes about the listed entity, including the following:

- (a) nature of the industry in which the listed entity operates;
- (b) business model of the listed entity;
- (c) roles, rights, responsibilities of independent directors; and
- (d) any other relevant information.

(8) Every independent director shall, at the first meeting of the board in which he participates as a director and thereafter at the first meeting of the board in every financial year or whenever there is any change in the circumstances which may affect his status as an independent director, submit a declaration that he meets the criteria of independence as provided in clause (b) of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 16 and that he is not aware of any circumstance or situation, which exist or may be reasonably anticipated, that could impair or impact his ability to discharge his duties with an objective independent judgment and without any external influence.

(9) The board of directors of the listed entity shall take on record the declaration and confirmation submitted by the independent director under sub-regulation (8) after undertaking due assessment of the veracity of the same.

(10) With effect from January 1, 2022, the top 1000 listed entities by market capitalization calculated as on March 31 of the preceding financial year, shall undertake Directors and Officers insurance ('D and O insurance') for all their independent directors of such quantum and for such risks as may be determined by its board of directors.

(11) No independent director, who resigns from a listed entity, shall be appointed as an executive / whole time director on the board of the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company or on the board of a company belonging to its promoter group, unless a period of one year has elapsed from the date of resignation as an independent director.

(12) A 'high value debt listed entity' shall undertake Directors and Officers insurance (D and O insurance) for all its independent directors for such sum assured and for such risks as may be determined by its board of directors.

Annexure B

Code of Conduct for Non-Executive Directors

A. Non-Executive Directors of a Company shall:

- Always act in the interest of the company and ensure that any other business or personal association which they may have, does not involve any conflict of interest with the operations of the company and his role therein.
- Comply with all applicable laws and regulations of all the relevant regulatory and other authorities as may be applicable to such Directors in their individual capacities.
- Safeguard the confidentiality of all information received by them by virtue of their position.

B. Code for 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) 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.