

# **ASIAN PAINTS LIMITED**

## **POLICY ON DEALING WITH AND MATERIALITY OF RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

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**1. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY**

This policy is called "ASIAN PAINTS LIMITED – POLICY ON DEALING WITH AND MATERIALITY OF RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS" ("RPT Policy").

Asian Paints Limited ("the Company") enters into transactions with Related Parties to carry on its day-to-day business activities. This RPT Policy shall apply while dealing with the Related Parties.

**2. OBJECTIVE**

Regulation 23 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, *inter alia*, provides, that the Company shall formulate a Policy on dealing with and materiality of Related Party Transactions.

This Policy intends to comply with the requirements of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI LODR") and the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") read with Rules and Regulations made thereunder, as may be amended from time to time, to ensure that the transactions with related parties are undertaken in compliance with the legal requirements and necessary structure for reporting is in place. The Company has been entering into transactions with related parties, for its business purposes from time to time. These transactions primarily include purchase of raw materials, finished goods, packing materials, intermediaries, and such other transactions permissible and provided for under the provisions of the Act, the SEBI LODR and the Income Tax laws. This Policy encompasses the mechanism to regulate transactions with related parties in a fair and transparent manner.

**3. MEANING OF TERMS USED**

- a. "**Act**" means the Companies Act, 2013, including the Rules, Regulations, schedules, clarifications and guidelines issued and amended by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, from time to time.
- b. "**Arm's length Transaction**", means a transaction between two related parties that is conducted as if they were unrelated, so that there is no conflict of interest.
- c. "**Audit Committee**" shall mean the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the SEBI LODR.
- d. "**Board**" refers to Board of Directors of Asian Paints Limited or any Committee of the Board authorized for the purpose of this Policy.
- e. "**Company**" or "**Asian Paints**" refers to Asian Paints Limited pursuant to this Policy, having its Registered Office at 6A & 6B, Shantinagar, Santacruz (East), Mumbai – 400 055, Maharashtra, India.
- f. "**Material transaction**" means a transaction with a Related Party where any transaction(s) to be entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year which exceeds the thresholds prescribed in the SEBI LODR including all amendments and modifications thereof from time to time.
- g. "**Related Party**" shall have the meaning ascribed to it under the SEBI LODR and the Act, including all amendments and modifications thereof from time to time.
- h. "**Related Party Transaction or RPT**" shall have the meaning ascribed to it under the SEBI LODR

and the Act, including all amendments and modifications thereof from time to time.

- i. **“Material Modification”** means any modification in the original contract or arrangement with a Related Party that would result in an increase of five percent or more on the originally approved transaction value or any modification of other material terms including non-financial terms like credit period, scope of contract etc. which were determined during approval of the contract or arrangement, specifically defined as such by the Audit Committee.

In case a modification is required pursuant to amendment to the applicable laws, it shall not be regarded as a material modification.

- j. **“Ordinary Course of business”** for the purpose of this RPT Policy, shall include those transactions which are entered in accordance with the business objectives of the Company as included in the objects clause of the memorandum of association of the Company and necessary for the Company’s operations and includes but is not limited to activities that are normal/incidental and/or facilitative activities of the business of the Company. The satisfaction of any of the following tests shall determine whether a transaction is in the ‘ordinary course of business’ of the Company:

- (i) The activity in question should be in furtherance of the business objectives of the Company and there should be a proximity of the activity in question with the normal business activities of the Company.
- (ii) There is a historical practice to carry out such activities;
- (iii) There is a pattern of frequency to conduct such activities over a period of time;
- (iv) The transaction is not an exceptional or extra ordinary activity; and
- (v) It meets any other parameters/criteria as decided by the Audit Committee and/or Board of Directors of the Company.

- k. **“Rules”** means the Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014 including any modifications or amendments thereof.

- l. **“SEBI LODR”** means the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and any amendment thereto and/or modification thereof from time to time, and includes any circulars, guidelines, directions and industry standards issued thereunder or in relation thereto.

- m. **“Threshold Limits”** are financial limits for transaction(s) with Related Party(s) in the ordinary course of business and on an arm’s-length basis as approved by the Board of Directors from time to time for seeking approval of the Audit Committee under the Omnibus route or otherwise and which is documented as part of the internal framework for related party transactions. -

Words, terms, and expressions used and not defined in this Policy or SEBI LODR shall have the meaning as set out in the (i) Act, (ii) Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, (iii) Securities Contracts (Regulations) Act, 1956, (iv) Depositories Act, 1996 and/or the rules thereof and regulations made thereunder, for the time being in force and/or as may be restated and/or modified from time to time.

#### **4. POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION**

##### **4.1. Identification of Related Parties and Related Party Transactions**

- a. Before the commencement of each financial year, the Company shall draw up a list of Related

Party(s) in accordance with the definition as per SEBI LODR and the Act. Any changes to the list during the financial year shall be made as and when the Company receives information in this regard.

- b. All Directors and Key Managerial Personnel are responsible for informing the Company of their interest (including their indirect interest) in other companies, firms, trusts, body corporate(s) or concerns at the beginning of every financial year and of any change in such interest during the year. In addition, all Directors and Key Managerial Personnel are responsible for providing notice to the Company Secretary of any potential Related Party Transaction involving him directly or indirectly.
- c. The Audit Committee, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer and/or the Company Secretary, will review and determine whether any transaction with such Party(s) would constitute a Related Party Transaction requiring compliance under this RPT policy. Any member of the Audit Committee or Board who is directly or indirectly interested in any Related Party Transaction shall recuse himself and shall not be present in the meeting during discussions on related party transactions and shall not be entitled to vote on such an item under consideration by the Audit Committee and Board, as the case may be.

#### **4.2. Approvals required for Transaction(s) with Related Party(s)**

##### **A. Related Party(s) transactions and any subsequent modifications in the ordinary course of business and on an arm's-length basis:**

- (i) All Related Party(s) transactions and any subsequent material modifications thereto in the ordinary course of business and at arm's length shall be subject to the prior approval of the Audit Committee and within the Threshold Limits. Further, any subsequent modification to any terms of conditions of the transactions with related parties shall require approval of the Audit Committee. Only Independent Directors who are members of the Audit Committee shall approve Related Party Transactions.
- (ii) Related Party Transaction above Rs. 1 crore whether entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year, to which the subsidiary of the Company is a party, but the Company is not a party, shall require prior approval of the Audit Committee of the Company if the value of such transaction whether entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year exceeds the lower of the following:
  - i. ten percent of the annual standalone turnover of the subsidiary as per the last audited financial statements of the subsidiary; OR
  - ii. the threshold for material related party transactions of listed entity as specified in the definition of Material Transaction under this policy.

In the event the subsidiary does not have audited financial statements for a period of at least one year, prior approval of the Audit Committee shall be obtained if the value of the such transaction exceeds the lower of the following:

- i. ten percent of the aggregate value of paid-up share capital and securities premium account of the subsidiary; OR
- ii. the threshold for material related party transactions of listed entity as

specified in the definition of Material Transaction under this policy.

The aggregate value of paid-up share capital and securities premium account of the subsidiary shall be taken as on a date, not older than three months prior to the date of the Audit Committee meeting in which the approval will be accorded.

The approval of the Audit Committee of the Company shall not be required for the transactions entered into between the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary or between two wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company, whose accounts are consolidated with the Company and placed before the shareholders at the general meeting for approval. Further, transactions involving payment of statutory dues, statutory fees or statutory charges entered into between the Company and the Central Government or any State Government of any combination thereof, shall not require approval of the Audit Committee.

It is further clarified that the following transactions shall not require approval of the Audit Committee:

- a. Transactions that have been approved by the Board as per other specific provisions of the Act e.g., merger or amalgamation, investment, loans, guarantee or providing security in connection with any loan, etc. to its wholly owned subsidiaries.
  - b. Transactions involving corporate restructuring, mergers, demergers, etc. wherein the Board has approved such transactions, and restructuring is subject to approval of Tribunals / Courts of competent jurisdiction.
  - c. Transactions involving corporate actions, which are uniformly applicable/offered to all shareholders in proportion to their shareholding:
    - i. payment of dividend;
    - ii. subdivision or consolidation of securities;
    - iii. issuance of securities by way of a rights issue or a bonus issue; and
    - iv. buy-back of securities.
  - d. Transactions involving payment of remuneration and sitting fees by the Company or its subsidiary to its director, key managerial personnel or senior management, except who is part of promoter or promoter group, provided the same is not material.
  - e. Transaction involving retail purchases from the Company or its subsidiary by its directors or key managerial personnel of the listed entity or its subsidiary, and relatives of such directors or key managerial personnel, without establishing a business relationship and at the terms which are uniformly applicable/offered to all employees, directors, key managerial personnel and relatives of directors or key managerial personnel.
- (ii) The Company shall not enter into any transaction with a Related Party beyond the Threshold Limits, without the prior approval of the Board. The Board may approve the Threshold Limits of any transaction not defined or mentioned under this Policy. The Board shall review the Threshold Limits at least once in every three years and make changes as and when necessary.
- (iii) The Audit Committee may grant omnibus approval for Related Party Transactions within the overall Threshold Limits, proposed to be entered into by the Company or its subsidiary and such approval shall be subject to the following:
- i. The Audit Committee shall lay down the criteria for granting omnibus approval in line with this Policy and within the threshold limits, for Related Party Transactions which

are repetitive in nature.

- ii. The Audit Committee shall satisfy itself regarding the need for such omnibus approval and that such approval is in the interest of the Company;
- iii. the omnibus approval shall specify:
  - (a) the name(s) of the related party, nature of transaction, period of transaction, maximum amount of transactions that shall be entered into;
  - (b) the indicative base price / current contracted price and the formula for variation in the price if any; and
  - (c) such other conditions as the Audit Committee may deem fit.

Provided that where the need for related party transaction cannot be foreseen and aforesaid details are not available, the Audit Committee may grant omnibus approval for such transactions subject to their value not exceeding Rs. 1 crore per related party during a financial year.

The Audit Committee shall review on a quarterly basis, the details of the Related Party Transactions entered into by the Company or its subsidiary pursuant to the omnibus approvals granted. The omnibus approvals granted by the Audit Committee shall be valid for a period of not exceeding one year and shall require fresh approvals after the expiry of one year.

Omnibus approval shall not be made for transactions in respect of selling or disposing of the undertaking of the Company.

The omnibus approval granted by the shareholders for material transactions as per the Listing Regulations in the Annual General Meeting shall be valid until the date of the subsequent Annual General Meeting held within the timelines prescribed under Section 96 of the Act, or rules, notifications, or circulars issued thereunder from time to time. Further, in case of omnibus approvals for material transaction as per the Listing Regulations, granted by shareholders in general meetings other than annual general meeting, the validity of such omnibus approvals shall not exceed one year from the date of such approval.

**B. Transactions with Related Party(s) not in the ordinary course of business and/or on arm's-length basis:**

Transaction(s) with Related Party(s) not in the ordinary course of business and/or not at arm's length shall require prior approval of the Audit Committee as well as the Board and in accordance with the provisions of Section 188 of the Act, SEBI LODR and other applicable laws.

Transaction(s) crossing the limits set out in Rule 15 of the Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014, as may be amended from time to time, shall require prior approval of the shareholders of the Company in addition to the prior approval of the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors, in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 188 of the Act. For the purpose of such transaction(s), the limits shall apply for transaction or transactions to be entered into either individually or taken together with the previous transactions during a financial year.

**C. Material Transactions with Related Party(s) under Listing Regulations:**

Material Transaction(s) with Related Party(s) and any subsequent material modification shall require prior approval of the Audit Committee, Board, and the shareholders of the Company.

In compliance with the SEBI LODR, approval of the shareholders through resolution shall be taken for all such Material Transactions with Related Party(s) and such Related Party(s), irrespective of whether the entity is a party to a particular transaction or not, shall not vote to approve such resolutions.

**4.3. Information to be provided at the time of seeking approval of the Audit Committee and/or Board, and the Shareholders of the Company, as the case may be:**

The Audit Committee and/or Board, as the case may be, shall be provided with the information as specified in the Act, SEBI LODR, Industry Standards on “Minimum information to be provided for review of the audit committee and shareholders for approval of a related party transaction” and Framework on Related Party Transactions, while placing any proposal for review and approval for entering into Transactions with Related Party(s).

Further, the Audit Committee and/or Board may call for such additional information as may be deemed to be fit for granting approval for such transactions.

The notice being sent to the shareholders seeking approval for any proposed RPT shall, in addition to the requirements under the Act and SEBI LODR, include the following information as a part of the explanatory statement:

- a. Minimum information as prescribed under the Industry Standards;
- b. The Audit Committee and Board of Directors, while providing information to the shareholders, may approve redaction of commercial secrets and such other information that would affect the competitive position of the Company and affirm that, in its assessment, the redacted disclosures still provides all the necessary information to the public shareholders for an informed decision making.
- c. Justification for why the proposed transaction is in the interest of the Company, basis for determination of price and other material terms and conditions of RPT.;
- d. Disclosure of the fact that the Audit Committee reviewed the certificates provided by the CEO/ Managing Director/ Whole Time Director/ Manager and CFO of the Company as required under the Industry Standards;
- e. Disclosure that the material RPT or any material modification thereto, that had been approved by the Audit Committee and the Board of Directors recommended the proposed transaction to the shareholders for their approval;
- f. Provide web-link and QR Code, through which shareholders can access the valuation report or other external report, if any, considered by the Audit Committee while approving the RPT; and
- g. Any other information that may be relevant.

**4.4. Review of Related Party Transactions:**

The Management shall lay down an appropriate framework including the pricing mechanism to ensure arm’s length pricing for dealing with the Related Party(s). The Management shall institute appropriate administrative mechanism to ensure that all Related Party Transactions are in compliance with and reviewed in accordance with these policies and procedures including maintenance of proper records in this regard.

All the transactions with Related Parties shall be referred to the Audit Committee for review at its scheduled quarterly meetings or as may be called upon by the Audit Committee from time to time along with all relevant information of such transaction(s). Further, certificates from the CEO/

Managing Director/Whole Time Director/Manager and CFO of the Company shall be placed before the Audit Committee confirming that the terms of RPTs proposed to be entered into are in the interest of the Company.

The Audit Committee may, at its discretion, comment on information provided by the management. Such comments and the rationale for not approving a RPT shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee may seek any additional information from the management, as it deems necessary and reasonable, to evaluate the proposed RPT.

The Audit Committee may refer any of the Related Party Transactions brought before it or any such transaction being mandatory under any law, for approval of the Board. The Board may on its own accord also decide to review any Related Party Transaction.

The Audit Committee may seek advice from external consultants and experts on determining whether a particular transaction which is being considered by the Audit Committee would be regarded on an arms' length basis or otherwise. Further, the Company would engage with external auditors once every two years to review material transactions.

Further, the Statutory Auditors of the Company shall review the material related party transactions of the Company to be in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Act & SEBI LODR as per the auditing and reporting requirements and confirm it to the Audit Committee.

#### **5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION NOT APPROVED UNDER THIS POLICY**

In the event any transaction exceeding rupees one crore, has been undertaken/is being undertaken with a Related Party without obtaining requisite approval under this Policy, such transactions should be immediately reported to the Chief Financial Officer and/or the Company Secretary. Such transactions shall be reviewed by the Audit Committee in the subsequent meeting. The Audit Committee shall be provided with all the relevant facts and circumstances for entering into such a transaction with a related party. Based on the information provided, the Audit Committee shall evaluate and take such necessary steps, as it may deem fit. The Audit Committee shall keep the Board apprised of any instances of such transactions entered into with any related party in contravention of this Policy and recommend the same to Board for its consideration and approval.

##### **5.1. Ratification of Related Party Transactions**

The members of the Audit Committee, being independent directors, may ratify transactions entered with related party, within three months from the date of the transaction or at the next meeting of the Audit Committee, whichever is earlier, subject to the following conditions:

- i. the value of the ratified transaction(s) with a related party, whether entered into individually or taken together, during a financial year shall not exceed rupees one crore;
- ii. the transaction is not material;
- iii. rationale for inability to seek prior approval for the transaction shall be placed before the Audit Committee at the time of seeking ratification;
- iv. the details of ratification shall be disclosed along with the disclosures of related party transactions given in accordance with Regulation 23(9) of the SEBI LODR;
- v. Any other condition as specified by the Audit Committee.

It is further clarified that failure to seek ratification of the Audit Committee shall render the transaction voidable at the option of the Audit Committee and if the transaction is with a related party to any director, or is authorised by any other director, the director(s) concerned shall indemnify the Company against any loss incurred by it.

**6. AMENDMENTS TO THE POLICY**

The Company is committed to continuously reviewing and updating its policies and procedures. Therefore, this Policy is subject to modification. This Policy will be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the Company once in every three (3) years and any amendment of any provision of this Policy shall be promptly disclosed on the Company's website at [www.asianpaints.com](http://www.asianpaints.com).

In case of any amendment(s), clarification(s), circular(s) etc. issued by the relevant authorities, not being consistent with the provisions laid down under this Policy, then such amendment(s), clarification(s), circular(s) etc. shall prevail upon the provisions hereunder and this Policy shall stand amended accordingly from the effective date as laid down under such amendment(s), clarification(s), circular(s) etc.