

# SINGULARITY HOLDINGS LIMITED

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## RISK MANAGEMENT AND CREDIT RISK POLICY

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<b>7<sup>th</sup> Review</b>	<b>13.02.2026</b>

**PART – A**

**RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**PREAMBLE:**

Singularity Holdings Limited (“the Company”) is an Investment and Credit Company (ICC). The Company’s primary activity is investing in securities, mobilization of Capital and lending. The Company is prone to inherent business risks like any other organization.

The Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Company has adopted the Risk Management Policy (“This Policy”) which encompasses practices relating to identification, assessment, monitoring and mitigation of various risks to the business. This Policy of the Company seeks to minimize unfavorable impact on the business objectives and develop stakeholder value and it mainly covers the risks associated with the primary business of the Company. Further, the risk management practices seek to sustain and enhance long-term competitive advantage for the Company.

This is in compliance with Companies Act, 2013, the relevant Master Directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governing Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), as amended from time to time (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “RBI Master Directions”) and Reserve Bank of India (Information Technology Governance, Risk, Controls and Assurance Practices) Directions, 2023; which requires the Company to lay down procedures about the risk assessment and risk minimization.

**PURPOSE OF POLICY:**

The purpose of this Policy is to address unanticipated and unintended losses to the human resources & financial assets of the Company without unnecessarily limiting the activities that advance its mission and goals and to ensure that all the current and future material risk exposures of the company are identified, assessed, quantified, appropriately mitigated, minimized and managed i.e. to ensure adequate systems for risk management.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- **“Board”** means Board of Directors of the Company.
- **“Company”** means Singularity Holdings Limited
- **“Directors”** mean individual Director or Directors on the Board of the Company except Non-executive Independent Directors.
- **“Policy”** means Risk Management and Credit Risk Policy
- **“RBI”** means Reserve Bank of India
- **“RCM”** means Risk Control Matrix

**POLICY:**

The Company recognizes that Risk management as one of the key drivers of growth and further to enhance corporate governance. Accordingly, the Board has framed the following Risk Management Policy:

- To continuously thrive for available risks in the organization which directly or indirectly affect the functioning of the organization.
- Selecting, maintaining and enhancing the risk management tools used by the Program to provide analyses that inform and support the investment actions of the entire Organization.

**MAXIMUM INVESTMENT:**

The Company shall have Concentration of credit/ investment exposure limit of 25% for single borrower/ party and 40% for single group of borrowers/ parties i.e. Investment made by the Company in any one script will be restricted to 25% of Net owned funds and group wise investment in one script will be 40% of Net owned funds of the Company.

The Company shall take cognizance while applying in any Initial Public offer (IPO) and it shall make sure that the allotment received pursuant to the IPO shall not be more than 25% of the Net owned funds.

**MAXIMUM BORROWING LIMITS:**

The Company shall not borrow more than two times of the Net worth of the Company.

**RISK TOLERANCE:**

The Company shall try to maintain 50% of its total investments in quoted securities. The investments of the Company shall be monitored quarterly by the Asset Liability Management committee of the Company. If any deviation arises, the same shall be ratified in the next Asset Liability Management committee review.

The Board shall put efforts to diversify its portfolio and also quarterly review sectoral exposure of the total investments made by the Company.

**MINIMUM INSTRUMENT RATING:**

The Company shall invest in debt products which are with 'investment grade'. If the Company proposes to invest in debt products which are below investment grade then prior approval of Risk Management committee would be required.

**EXIT STRATEGY:**

The Company shall have its set target price while deciding to invest in any securities and the target prices along with the proportionate exit price shall be reviewed periodically. The Company shall also discuss and review any loss making scripts on periodical basis and accordingly their exit strategy shall also be reviewed.

**ENTERPRISE-WIDE FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFICATION, MEASUREMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF RISK:**

- Management's responsibility is to operationalize the Risk Management Program and ensure that formal procedures are put in place to identify and define risk with input from representatives across the businesses.
- Measurement of risk is completed considering both quantitative and qualitative means using the likelihood and impact criteria as developed by Management.
- The management has identified certain inherent and residual risks which have been divided in accordance with likelihood and its impact on the business.

- Following risks have been identified by the organization:
  1. **Strategic Risk** - This risk is related to the overall business strategies and the related economic / business environment.
  2. **Operational Risk** - Arising out of technology failure, fraud, error, inadequate financial capacity to fulfill obligations and/ or to provide remedies, outsourcing of activities to vendors.
  3. **Market Risk** - Risks related to changes in various markets in which the Company operates.
  4. **Financial Risk** - These risks includes movement in interest rates and also liquidity risk inherent to the business.
  5. **Reputational Risk** - Where the practices followed by the Company are not in consonance with industry as well as internally prescribed standards.
  6. **Credit Risk** - Where the overall industry has considerable exposure to one service provider and hence the NBFC may lack control over the service provider.
  7. **Regulatory & Compliance Risk** - Where privacy, consumer and prudential laws are not adequately complied with by the service provider.
  8. **Information Technology (IT) Related Risk** - These risks include Cyber Security Risk and Information Security Risk. The cyber-attacks such as phishing, spoofing may lead to adverse effects to the Company.
- Pursuant to the risk management framework the risk management committee will review above mentioned relevant risk factors and measures to mitigate the same on quarterly basis.

**RISK CATERGORIZATION AND MITIGATION FACTORS:**

The following broad categories of risks have been identified in our Risk ManagementFramework along with possible mitigation factors:

- **STRATEGIC RISK:**
  - **Risk:** It is the risk to earnings and capital arising from lack of responsiveness to changes in the business environment and/or adverse business decisions, besides adoption of wrong strategies and choices.
  - **Mitigation:** The management is proactive in its approach towards changes in economic/business environment as the business strategies are regularly discussed with the senior officials of the organization so that adequate steps can be taken.
- **REPUTATIONAL RISK:**
  - **Risk:** Reputational risk is related to adverse perception of the image of the Company, on the part of the Stakeholders which includes customers, counterparties, shareholders, investors and regulators. It refers to the potential adverse effects, which can arise from the company's reputation getting tarnished due to factors such as unethical practices, regulatory actions, customer dissatisfaction and complaints leading to negative publicity. This Risk may also arise

from the parties other than stakeholders which include media; the negative opinion from such parties may influence the decision of the stakeholders leading to the negative perception and may damage the Reputation of the Company.

The risk can emanate from:

- Non-Compliance with Regulations
- Customer Dissatisfaction
- Misrepresentation of facts and figures in public

This risk could result in loss of revenues, diminished shareholder value and could even result in fines being levied by the relevant regulators.

- **Mitigation:** Considering the business model the following aspects have been put in place to reduce vulnerability related to reputational risk:

- **Compliance with Fair Practices Code:** All employees are trained and instructed to follow fair practices as per RBI prescribed guidelines in all their dealings with the customers.
- **Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM):** The Company has a defined GRM in place and the same is communicated to all customers at the time of sanction of loan.
- **Delinquency Management:** The Company does not resort to any coercive recovery practices and all recoveries are made in accordance with the Fair Practice Code of the Company.
- **Compliance with Policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment:** The Company has in place Policy on Sexual Harassment to protect the employees from unwelcome behavior at workplace.

• **MARKET RISK:**

- **Risk:** It is the risk of losing value on financial instruments on the back of adverse price moments driven by changes in equities, interest rates due to the volatility in market.

- **Mitigation:** The management carries out regular competitive analysis of its peers in the industry so as to remain in competition and change its markets if required.

• **Investment Risk**

- **Risk:** It is defined as the probability or uncertainty of losses rather than expected profit from investment due to a fall in the fair price of securities.

**Mitigation:** The Management mitigates this risk by relying on Investment policy of the Company, diversifying its portfolio in various segments & industries and internal research. The Management follows concentration norms prescribed under RBI (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Concentration Risk Management) Directions, 2025 for each party exposure limit.

• **OPERATIONAL RISK:**

- **Risk:** Risks inherent to business operations including those relating to client acquisition, service delivery to clients, business support activities, information security, physical security, human resource and business activity disruptions.

- **Mitigation:**

- **Document Storage and Retrieval:** The Company recognizes the need for proper storage of documents as also for their retrieval for audit and statutory requirements.
- **Physical Storage:** All the documents / papers are stored in safe condition at the registered office of the Company or any other place in India as approved by the Board of Directors.
- **Scanned Copies:** All the documents / papers of the loan are stored in scanned copies for easy retrieval especially for audit purposes where physical documents are not required.

• **FINANCIAL RISK:**

- **Interest Risk:** Interest rate risk is the risk where changes in market interest rates might adversely affect an NBFC's financial condition. The immediate impact of changes in interest rates is on company's earnings (i.e. reported profits) by changing its Net Interest Income (NII). As such the Company is into providing of loans which are mostly fixed rate loans. The Company manages this risk on NII by pricing its loan products to customers at a rate which covers interest rate risk.

- **Liquidity Risk:** Measuring and managing liquidity needs are vital for effective operations of an NBFC. The importance of liquidity transcends individual institutions, as liquidity shortfall in one institution can have repercussions on the entire system. Though assets commonly considered as liquid, like government securities and other money market instruments, could also become illiquid when the market and players are unidirectional. Therefore, liquidity has to be tracked through maturity or cash flow mismatches.

- **Maturity Mismatch:** Liquidity Risk arises largely due to maturity mismatch associated with assets and liabilities of the company.

- **Funding Concentration Risk:** Concentration of a single source of funds exposes the Company to an inability to raise funds in a planned and timely manner and resort to high cost emergency sources of funds. Further, concentration of funding sources can also result in a skewed maturity profile of liabilities and resultant Asset-Liability mismatch.

- **Asset-Liability Mismatch:** A skewed asset-liability profile can lead to severe liquidity shortfall and result in significantly higher costs of funds; especially so during times of crises.

- **Leverage Risk:** A high degree of leverage can severely impact the liquidity profile of the Company and lead to default in meeting its liabilities.

- **Mitigation:** The key liquidity management policies being followed by the Company include:

- **Capital Adequacy:** The Company targets to maintain healthy levels of Capital Adequacy. The Company maintains a strong capital position with the capital ratios well above the thresholds defined by the regulatory authorities through continuous and timely capital infusion.

• **CREDIT RISK:**

- **Risk:** A risk of loss due to failure of a borrower/counterparty to meet the contractual obligation of repaying his debt as per the agreed terms is commonly known as Credit Risk / Risk of Default. Any lending activity by the Company is exposed to Credit Risk. Despite best efforts, there can be no assurance that repayment default will not occur. A failure to recover the expected value of collateral security could expose the Company to a potential loss. Any

such losses could adversely affect the Company's financial condition and results of operations.

- **Mitigation:** A strong credit risk management process helps in containing the portfolio quality of the company. Key elements of the credit risk management include a structured and standardized credit approval process supported by a strong system, legal and technical due diligence, monitoring and robust credit risk management strategy at a senior management level. The Company shall carry out due diligence by analyzing factors about a borrower's creditworthiness, such as their current debt loan and income.

**"A DETAILED CREDIT RISK MECHANISM IS PROVIDED IN PART B OF THIS POLICY"**

- **REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE RISK:**

- **Risk:** The Company is exposed to risk attached to various statutes and regulations. The Company shall be compliant in terms of regulatory norms and therefore shall effectively manage Regulatory and Compliance Risk. Effective Customer Redressal Mechanism and Fair Practices Code shall keep legal risk under control. Non- Compliance can result in stringent actions and penalties from the Regulator and/or Statutory Authorities and which also poses a risk to Company's reputation.

These risks can be:

- Non-Compliance with RBI Regulations
- Non-Compliance with Statutory Regulations
- Non-Compliance with covenants laid down by Lenders

- **Mitigation:**

- Regular Review of legal compliances shall be carried out through internal as well as external compliance audit.
- The compliance status of the Company is quarterly reported to the Board.

- **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) RELATED RISK:**

- **Risk:** The business risk associated with the use, ownership, operation, involvement, influence and adoption of IT within an enterprise. In this digital era, as organizations use automated Information Technology (IT) Systems to process their information; it is exposed to IT-related risks. Risk Management plays a critical role in protecting an organization's information assets, from IT-related risks.

Some of the key risk areas are given below:

- Infrastructure management poses considerable risk to business
- Cyber Security is a major threat to any organization which conducts business over internet
- Security Threats and Vulnerabilities
- Data management and protection risk
- IT Architecture risk
- Technology vendor and third-party risk
- Ability to up skill or reskill existing individuals in fast changing technology landscape

- **Mitigation:** To address the above mentioned key risk areas, the Company has established a robust IT and Information Security Risk Management Framework covering, inter alia, the following aspects:

- i. Implementation of comprehensive Information Security management function, internal controls and processes (including applicable insurance covers) to mitigate/ manage identified risks. The implemented controls and processes must be reviewed periodically on their efficacy in a risk environment characterized by change;
- ii. Definition of roles and responsibilities of stakeholders (including third-party personnel) involved in IT Risk Management. Areas of possible role conflicts and accountability gaps must be specifically identified and eliminated or managed;
- iii. Identification of critical information systems of the organization and fortification of the security environment of such systems; and
- iv. Definition and implementation of necessary systems, procedures and controls to ensure secure storage/ transmission/ processing of data/ information.

Further, the IT Strategy Committee (ITSC) is entrusted with the responsibility of providing a framework for the IT Policy, drafting and recommending the same to the Board and the Board will further implement the Policy & framework for IT Governance. The Information Security and System Audit (IS Audit) is also undertaken periodically to ensure that the Company remains protected from any threats that may have cropped during the course of the year and also to ensure that all the policies and procedures, as laid out, are followed properly.

In addition to the above mitigation factors, the IT related Risks shall be further assessed as under:

- a) The risk assessment for each information asset within the Company's scope will be guided by appropriate security standards/ IT control frameworks.
  - b) The Company shall ensure that all staff members and service providers comply with the extant information security and acceptable-use policies as applicable to them.
  - c) The Company will review their Security Infrastructure and Security Policies periodically, factoring in their own experiences and emerging threats and risks. The Company shall take steps to adequately tackle cyber-attacks including phishing, spoofing attacks and mitigate their adverse effects.
- **RISK RELTAED TO WILFUL DEFAULTER:**
    - **Risk:** The Company is exposed to various risks which also includes Wilful Defaulter Risk. When the Borrower default in meeting payment/ repayment obligations to the Lender and any one or more features are noticed that the borrower has the capacity to pay diversion of funds and siphoned off the funds, disposal of immovable or movable assets provided for securing credit or failure to infuse equity despite having the ability to do so, then such Borrower is considered as Wilful Defaulter.
    - **Mitigation:** The Company will check the name of the Borrower in the List of Wilful Defaulter (LWD) at the time of granting loan and regularly monitor whether the name of Borrower appears in the LWD.

#### **AUDIT TRAIL:-**

As per Rule 3(1) of the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014, every Company which uses the

accounting software for maintaining its books of account, shall use only such accounting software which has a feature of recording audit trail of each and every transaction, creating an edit log of each change made in the books of account along with the date when such changes were made and ensuring that the audit trail cannot be disabled. 1Following are the prime responsibility of the Management; (a). Use only such accounting software which has the following features: Records an audit trail of each and every transaction, Creating an edit log of each change made in the books of account along with the date when such changes were made; (b). Ensuring that audit trail is not disabled and there is no option to disabled; (c). Effective Implementation.

The Company is using the Tally Solution Software which has the features of audit trail in it. During the process of back up of accounting records the back up of audit trail occurred simultaneously. The Company had various systems to take back up of all data as follows:

- Harddrive and backup server is preserved at 1 & 2, Western India House, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sir P.M. Road, Fort Mumbai - 400 001.
- Storage device 'NAS (Network Attached Storage)' device is preserved at 5103 51<sup>st</sup> Floor, The Imperial South Tower, B. B. Nakashe Road, Tardeo, Mumbai – 400 034.

The aforementioned places where the backup is being kept are fire proof and are under 24 hours CCTV surveillance (motion detect). Section 128(5) of the Companies Act, 2013 which requires books of account to be preserved by Companies for a minimum period of eight years, the Company retains the audit trail for a minimum period of eight years.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Periodically updated information materially affecting the risk profile (e.g. market developments) will be provided which will enable the Board to understand the likely future risk profile of the Company. These will be reported to the Board by top management personnel as soon as practicable.

**PART - B CREDIT RISK POLICY**

A risk of loss due to failure of a borrower/counterparty to meet the contractual obligation of repaying his debt as per the agreed terms is commonly known as Credit Risk / Risk of Default. Any lending activity by the Company is exposed to Credit Risk. Despite best efforts, there can be no assurance that repayment default will not occur. A failure to recover the expected value of collateral security could expose the Company to a potential loss. Any such losses could adversely affect the Company's financial condition and results of operations. Thus in order to mitigate such loss the Company has laid down some check in process before loans are sanctioned.

As per the business operations of the Company, the lending is categorized as below:

- **Inter Corporate Loans / Other Corporate Lending:** Inter corporate lending consists of unsecured lending to the Related Parties which includes Group Companies and secured lending to other Body Corporates.
- **Revolving Loan Facility**
- **Loan against Securities/Property**

**CREDIT APPROVAL AUTHORITY:**

Credit Approval Authority resides ultimately with the Chief Financial Officer, Risk Management Committee and Board of the Company.

**CREDIT PORTFOLIO NORMS:**

While evaluating the credit proposals, the Board will also keep in mind certain exposure norms. These are in addition to the norms on single borrower and group exposures and similar guidelines that have been imposed by the RBI.

**CREDIT CONCENTRATION NORMS**

RBI vide circular dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 has issued guidelines for Investment Concentration Norms – Credit Risk Transfer.

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Exposure Limits</b>
Single borrower/party limit	25% of Total Exposure
Single group of borrowers/parties	40% of Total Exposure

For the purpose of this section, following shall be considered: -

- a) In the above exposure limits, the investment exposure shall also be considered.
- b) **“Companies in the group”** shall mean an arrangement involving two or more entities related to each other through any of the following relationships: Subsidiary – parent, Joint venture, Associate, Promoter-promotee (as provided in the SEBI (Acquisition of Shares and Takeover) Regulations, 1997) for listed companies, a related party, Common brand name, and investment in equity shares of 20 percent and above. The terms parent, subsidiary, joint venture, associate and related party shall be as defined/ described in applicable accounting standards.
- c) **“Total Exposure”** shall mean Tier I Capital as defined under RBI (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Concentration Risk Management) Directions, 2025.
- d) The above concentration norms shall not apply for lending to subsidiaries and companies within the group to the extent they have been reduced from Owned funds for calculation of Net Owned Fund.

**FINANCING TENOR:**

The final maturity of financings shall be adhered by the Company to the following limits:

- Secured Financing : Maximum 5 years
- Unsecured Financing : Less than 1 year or as agreed by the Borrower and the Company

**CREDIT APPROVAL PROCESS FLOW:**

The credit approval for external lending (other than Lending to Related Parties) will include the below process / steps:

- A. Approval by Chief Financial Officer
- B. Approval by Risk Management Committee
- C. Approval by Board
- D. Completion of KYC
- E. Physical Verification by the Company
- F. Execution of Security Documentation
- G. Disbursal of financing

The Company is lending mainly to its Related Parties, Corporates with strong promoter background and High Net worth Individuals.

**NON PERFORMING ASSETS (NPA):**

In accordance with the Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Governance) Directions, 2025 read with Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning) Directions, 2025, an asset of Middle Layer NBFC (NBFC-ML) shall be classified as non-performing asset if it fulfills the following conditions:

- i. an asset, in respect of which, interest has remained overdue for a period of more than 90 days.
- ii. a term loan inclusive of unpaid interest, when the instalment is overdue for a period of more than 90 days or on which interest amount remained overdue for a period of more than 90 days.
- iii. a demand or call loan, which remained overdue for a period of more than 90 days from the date of demand or call or on which interest amount remained overdue for a period of more than 90 days.
- iv. a bill which remains overdue for a period of more than 90 days.
- v. the interest in respect of a debt or the income on receivables under the head 'other current assets' in the nature of short-term loans/ advances, which facility remained overdue for a period of more than 90 days.
- vi. any dues on account of sale of assets or services rendered or reimbursement of expenses incurred, which remained overdue for a period of more than 90 days.
- vii. the lease rental and hire purchase instalment, which has become overdue for a period of more than 90 days.
- viii. in respect of loans, advances and other credit facilities (including bills purchased and discounted), the balance outstanding under the credit facilities (including accrued interest) made available to the same borrower/ beneficiary when any of the above credit facilities becomes non-performing asset.

**QUICK MORTALITY LOAN:**

It is obligatory on every person concerned to appraise the proposal with due care, take necessary steps to ensure that the borrower comply with all the terms of sanction, appropriate end-use of funds, adequate and close monitoring of accounts, etc., so that quality of advance account does not deteriorate. However, the Company will take sufficient and utmost care at Initial Stages of Loans, viz. Pre-sanction Appraisal, Post-sanction Monitoring, etc., so that they do not become cases of quick mortality and extant guidelines with regard to compliance of terms and conditions will be strictly adhered to.

**REVIEW OF THE POLICY:**

The Policy shall be periodically reviewed and updated as prescribed by RBI or any Act or Rules as amended from time to time (if any) by the Board of the Directors.

## PART C – POLICY ON FRAUD RISK MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the framework for prevention, early detection and timely reporting of incidents of fraud within the company in compliance with the Master Directions on Fraud Risk Management for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

### Governance for Fraud Risk Management



#### Process to be followed on detections of Fraud: -

1. Issuance of a detailed Show Cause Notice (SCN) to the Persons (Including Third Party Service Providers and Professionals such as architects, valuers, chartered accountants, advocates, etc.), Entities and its Promoters / whole-time and Executive Directors against whom allegation of fraud is being examined. The SCN shall provide complete details of transactions / actions / events basis which declaration and reporting of a fraud is being contemplated under these Directions.
2. Examination of Responses made by the Persons/Entities prior to declaring such Persons / Entities as fraudulent.
3. A reasoned Order shall be served on the Persons / Entities conveying the decision of the company regarding declaration / classification of the account as fraud or otherwise. Such Order(s) must contain relevant facts / circumstances relied upon, submission made against the SCN and the reasons for classification as fraud or otherwise.
4. In the entire process for handling frauds, the company will ensure that the principles of natural justice are strictly adhered to before classifying / declaring an account as fraud.
5. Reporting the fraud with regulatory authorities.

**Special Committee of the Board for Monitoring and Follow-up of cases of Fraud (SCBMF): -**

The Committee of Executives (CoE) is constituted of minimum of three members of which at least one of whom shall be a Whole-time director or equivalent rank Official for the purpose of performing the roles and responsibilities as detailed below: -

1. Overseeing the effectiveness of the fraud risk management.
2. Reviewing and monitoring the cases of frauds, including root cause analysis, and suggest mitigating measures for strengthening the internal controls, risk management framework and minimizing the incidence of frauds. (The periodicity of such review shall be determined by the Board.)

**Role of Senior Management**

Senior management shall be responsible for: -

1. Implementation of the fraud risk management policy
2. Placing periodic review of incidents of fraud before Board / Audit Committee (as appropriate) of Board.
3. Any other areas as may be determined by this policy or in any other manner with respect to fraud risk management.

**Mechanism for Whistle Blower Complaints**

The Special Committee shall ensure that a transparent mechanism to ensure that Whistle Blower complaints on possible fraud cases / suspicious activities in account(s) are examined and concluded appropriately under their Whistle Blower Policy.

**Framework for Early Warning Signals (EWS) for Detection of Frauds**

Risk Management Committee shall oversee the effectiveness of the framework for EWS. The Senior Management shall be responsible for implementation of a robust Framework for EWS within the Company.

The Company will identify appropriate early warning indicators for monitoring credit facilities / loan accounts and other financial transactions. These indicators shall be reviewed periodically for their effectiveness. Suspicion of fraudulent activity thrown up by the presence of one or more EWS indicators shall alert / trigger deeper investigation from potential fraud angle and initiating preventive measures.

The EWS framework shall provide for: -

1. A system of robust EWS which is integrated with operational systems.
2. Initiation of remedial action on triggers / alerts from EWS System in a timely manner.
3. Periodic review of credit sanction and monitoring processes, internal controls and systems.
4. Quantitative and qualitative indicators to make the framework robust and effective.
5. Generation of EWS alert(s) / trigger(s) shall necessitate examination whether the account needs to be investigated from potential fraud angle.
6. Identifying suitable indicators and parameterizing them in their EWS system for monitoring other financial / non-credit related transactions.
7. Continuously upgrade to the EWS system for enhancing its integrity and robustness, monitor other financial / non-credit related transactions efficiently and prevent fraudulent activities.
8. Testing the EWS system periodically.

9. The design and specification of EWS system shall be robust and resilient to ensure that integrity of the system is maintained, personal and financial data of customers are secure and transaction monitoring for prevention / detection of potential fraud is on real-time basis. The company will remain vigilant in monitoring transactions / unusual activities, specifically in the non-KYC compliant and money mule accounts etc., so as to contain unauthorised / fraudulent transactions and to prevent misuse of banking / financial channel.
10. Dedicated MIS will be setup to extensively monitor and analyse financial transactions, including transactions carried out through digital platforms / applications, in order to identify unusual patterns and activities which could alert the company.

The broad indicators which the EWS system may illustratively capture could be based on: -

1. The transactional data of accounts (like manner in which funds are drawn down)
2. Financial performance of borrowers (like net worth of the borrower being eroded and still drawing down further funds)
3. Key financial metrics (like borrower showing excessive valuation of closing stock every year)
4. Conduct of the borrowers (like co-operation of borrower with the lender)

#### **Illustrative List of Early Warning Signals indicating Fraud Risk**

- Frequent changes in accounting policies
- Non-compliance with statutory dues
- Frequent loan restructuring
- Frequent delays in repayment
- Frequent changes in key management
- Borrower's inability to provide sufficient documentation
- Legal disputes

#### **Credit facility / Loan account / Other financial transactions - indication of fraudulent activities**

The company will monitor activities in credit facility / loan account / other financial transactions and remain alert on activities which could potentially turn out to be fraudulent.

In case where there is a suspicion / indication of wrongdoing or fraudulent activity, the company will use an external audit or an internal audit (as may be decided by the risk management committee) for further investigation in such accounts.

#### **Third Party Service Providers**

The Company will incorporate necessary terms and conditions in their agreements with third-party service providers to hold them accountable in situations where wilful negligence / malpractice by them is found to be a causative factor for fraud.

#### **Staff Accountability**

The Company will initiate and complete the examination of staff accountability in all fraud cases in a time-bound manner.

### **Closure of Fraud Cases Reported to RBI**

The Company shall close fraud cases using 'Closure Module' where the actions as stated below are complete:

- i. The fraud cases pending with authorities are disposed of; and
- ii. The examination of staff accountability has been completed.

In case of cases below the threshold limit as determined by the board, the cases may be closed ensure compliance with the Master Directions on Fraud Risk Management in Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) (including Housing Finance Companies).

### **Legal Audit of Title Documents in respect of Large Value Loan Accounts**

The title deeds and other related title documents in respect of all credit facilities of Rs. ₹1 crore and above to periodic legal audit and re-verification, till the loan is fully repaid.

### **Treatment of Accounts classified as Fraud and sold to other Lenders / Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)**

The Company will complete the investigation from fraud angle before transferring the loan account / credit facility to other lenders / ARCs. In cases where the company concludes that a fraud has been perpetrated in the account, they shall report it to RBI before selling the accounts to other lenders / ARCs.

## PART D - OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE

Operational Risk: Risk of loss due to inadequate internal processes, people, systems, or external events. It's inherent in all financial products and activities.

Operational Resilience: The ability to deliver critical functions despite disruptions. It involves identifying threats, mitigating risks, responding to disruptions, recovering, and learning from them

Operational Risk Management and Operational Resilience have been built on three pillars which are as follows:-

- i. Prepare and Protect
- ii. Build Resilience
- iii. Learn and Adapt

Broad areas across all the pillars are as follows: -

	<b>Pillar 1: Prepare and Protect</b>	<b>Pillar 2: Build Resilience</b>	<b>Pillar 3: Learn and Adapt</b>
<b>Broad areas/topics across these pillars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance and Risk Culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Continuity Planning and Testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure and Reporting</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibilities of Board of Directors and Senior Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping Interconnections &amp; Interdependencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons Learned Exercise and Adapting</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Management: Identification and Assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third party dependency management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuous improvement through Feedback Systems</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident management</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and Reporting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT including cyber security</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control and Mitigation</li> </ul>		

The key principles followed by the company for operational risk management and operational resilience are as follows: -

1. The Board of Directors and Senior Management will establish a corporate culture guided by strong risk management, set standards and incentives for professional and responsible behaviour, and ensure that staff receives appropriate risk management and ethics training. Senior management will set clear expectations for integrity and ethical values of the highest standard, identify acceptable business practices, and prohibit conflicts of interest or the

inappropriate provision of financial services. Also, necessary training will be provided to ensure operational risk is addressed.

2. The Operational Risk Management Framework (ORMF) adopted by the company will depend on a range of factors like: -
  - Nature
  - Size
  - Complexity and
  - Risk profile.

The company will ensure its existing governance structure to establish, oversee and implement an effective operational resilience approach that enables them to respond and adapt to, as well as recover and learn from, disruptive events in order to minimize their impact on delivering critical operations through disruption. Understanding the nature and complexity of the risks inherent in the portfolio of company's new business initiatives, products, services, activities, processes, and systems, forms a fundamental premise of sound risk management. This is particularly important for Operational Risk, as it is inherent in all business products, services, activities, processes, and systems.

3. Senior Management will implement a process to regularly monitor Operational Risk profiles and material operational exposures. Appropriate reporting mechanisms should be in place at the Board of Directors, Senior Management, and business unit levels to support proactive management of Operational Risk.  
The company will review the impact of operational risk under both normal and stressed market conditions.
4. A company's public disclosures should allow stakeholders to assess its approach to Operational Risk management and its Operational Risk exposure. The company will, wherever necessary, ensure that all the necessary stake holders are informed of significant operational loss events.

Other principles for operational risk management and operational resilience are as follows: -

1. The Board of Directors will approve and periodically review this framework and Operational Resilience approach, and ensure that Senior Management implements the policies, processes and systems of the ORMF and Operational Resilience approach effectively at all decision levels.
2. The Board of Directors will approve and periodically review the risk appetite and tolerance statement for Operational Risk that articulates the nature, types and levels of Operational Risk the company is willing to assume. The Board of Directors will also review and approve the criteria for identification and classification as critical operations as well as of impact tolerances for each critical operation, in order to enhance the company's Operational Resilience.
3. Senior Management will develop for approval by the Board of Directors a clear, effective and robust governance structure with well-defined, transparent and consistent lines of responsibility. Senior Management is responsible for consistently implementing and maintaining throughout the organization policies, processes and systems for managing Operational Risk in all of the company's material products, activities, processes and systems consistent with its risk appetite and tolerance statement.
4. Senior Management will ensure the comprehensive identification and assessment of the Operational Risk inherent in all material products, activities, processes and systems to make sure the inherent risks and incentives are well understood. Both internal and external threats and

potential failures in people, processes and systems will be assessed promptly and on an ongoing basis. Assessment of vulnerabilities in critical operations should be done in a proactive and prompt manner. All the resulting risks should be managed in accordance with operational resilience approach.

5. Senior Management will ensure that the company's change management process is comprehensive, appropriately resourced and adequately articulated between the relevant lines of defence.
6. The company will have a strong control environment that utilizes policies, processes and systems; appropriate internal controls; and appropriate risk mitigation and/or transfer strategies.
7. Once the company has identified its critical operations, it will map the internal and external interconnections and interdependencies that are necessary for the delivery of critical operations consistent with its approach to operational resilience.
8. The company will manage their dependencies on relationships, including those of, but not limited to, third parties (which include intragroup entities), for the delivery of critical operations.
9. The company will have business continuity plans in place to ensure their ability to operate on an ongoing basis and limit losses in the event of a severe business disruption. Business continuity plans will be linked to the company's ORMF. The company will conduct business continuity exercises under a range of severe but plausible scenarios in order to test their ability to deliver critical operations through disruption.
10. The company will develop and implement response and recovery plans to manage incidents that could disrupt the delivery of critical operations in line with the company's risk appetite and tolerance for disruption. The company will continuously improve their incident response and recovery plans by incorporating the lessons learned from previous incidents.
11. The company will implement a robust Information and Communication Technology (ICT) risk management programme in alignment with their ORMF and ensure a resilient ICT including cyber security that is subject to protection, detection, response, and recovery programmes that are regularly tested, incorporate appropriate situational awareness and convey relevant timely information for risk management and decision-making processes to fully support and facilitate the delivery of the company's critical operations.
12. Lessons learned exercise will be conducted after a disruption to a critical or important business service to enhance the company's capabilities to adapt and respond to future operational events.
13. The company will promote an effective culture of learning and continuous improvement as operational resilience evolves through effective feedback systems.

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