



## STYLAM INDUSTRIES LIMITED PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

### 1. Introduction

Stylam Industries Limited recognizes the right of every employee and volunteers to be able to attend work and to perform their duties without being subjected to any form of sexual harassment. It is the obligation and responsibility of every employee and volunteers to ensure that the workplace is free from sexual harassment. Stylam Industries Limited is fully committed to its obligation to eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace.

### 2. Purpose & Objective

The purpose of this document is to outline Stylam Industries Limited's position on sexual harassment and to document the process which is to be followed if any grievances arise. The objective in implementing and enforcing this policy is to define workplace sexual harassment, prohibit it in all forms, carry out appropriate disciplinary measures in the case of violations, and provide procedures for lodging complaints about conduct that violates this policy and investigating sexual harassment claims.

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all employees of the Company and those working for the company at all locations. All workers, including supervisors and managers, will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge, for any act of sexual harassment they commit.

### 4. Definitions

- a. **“Aggrieved Person”** means a person in relation to work place whether employed or not, who alleges to have been subject to any act of sexual harassment by the Respondent.
- b. **“Company”** means Stylam Industries Limited.
- c. **“Employee”** means a person employed at a workplace for any work on regular, temporary, ad hoc or daily wages basis, either directly or through an agent, including a contractor, with or, without the knowledge of the principal employer, whether for remuneration or not, or working on a voluntary basis or otherwise, whether the terms of employment are express or implied and includes a co-worker, a contract worker, probationer, trainee, apprentice or called by any other such name
- d. **“Internal Complaints Committee”** means a committee constituted by Company as per this Policy.
- e. **“Respondent”** means a person against whom the aggrieved person has made a complaint.
- f. **“Sexual Harassment”** includes any one or more of the following unwelcome acts or behavior (whether directly or by implication) such as:
  - i. Physical contact and advances; or
  - ii. A demand or request for sexual favors; or
  - iii. Making Sexually colored remarks; or
  - iv. Showing pornography or other offensive or derogatory pictures, cartoons, representations, graphics, pamphlets or sayings; or
  - v. Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non - verbal conduct of sexual nature; or

**Following circumstances amongst other circumstances mentioned above may constitute sexual harassment if it occurs or is present in relation or connected with any act or behavior of sexual harassment:**

- a. implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment in their employment;
- b. implied or explicit threat of detrimental treatment in their employment;
- c. implied or explicit threat about their present or future employment status;
- d. interfering with their work or creating an intimidating or offensive or hostile work environment; humiliation treatment likely to affect their health or safety.
- e. humiliating treatment likely to affect the health and safety of the aggrieved person.

In addition to the instances mentioned hereinabove, any other acts or behavior, which outrages the modesty of a female employee, will be considered as sexual harassment.

**g. "workplace"** includes any department, organization, undertaking, establishment, enterprise institution, office or branch unit. Any place visited by the employee arising out of or during the course of employment including transportation provided by the employer for undertaking such journey.

## **5. Internal complaints committee:**

Every complaint received shall be forwarded to Internal Complaint Committee formed under the policy for redressal. The investigation shall be carried out by Internal Complaints Committee constituted for this purpose.

**Internal Complaints Committee has been constituted of the following members as nominated by the Company**

- a) A woman employee employed at a senior level amongst the employees shall act as Presiding officer of the committee.
- b) Not less than **2 members** from amongst employees preferably committed to the cause of women OR who have had experience in social work OR have legal knowledge.
- c) One member shall be from amongst non-governmental organizations OR associations committed to the cause of women OR a person familiar with the issues relating to sexual harassment.

The Name of the Members of the Internal Complaints Committee is as per Annexure A of this Policy and any change in such composition shall be affected in the policy.

At least half the total members of the Committee have to be women. The Presiding Officer and every member of zonal Internal Complaints Committee shall hold office for such period, not exceeding three years, from the date of their nomination as may be specified by the employer.

The Committee members and Zonal HR representatives will be provided with necessary training inputs to handle such issues effectively and with the required sensitivity and concern.

## **6. Complaint redressal mechanism**

Any aggrieved person may make, in writing, a complaint of sexual harassment at workplace to the committee giving details of the sexual harassment meted out to her/him within a period of 3 months from the date of incident and in case of a series of incidents, within a period of 3 months from the date of last incident, which may be extended for a further period of 3 months, if circumstances warrant such extension in the opinion of the Internal Complaints Committee, for reasons to be recorded in writing.

**6.1.1** The Presiding Officer or any Member of the Internal Complaints Committee can render reasonable assistance to the person for making complaint in writing, in case they are unable to do so.

**6.1.2** On receipt of complaint, the Internal Complaints Committee shall decide the place and time for hearing the complaint and shall intimate the date, time and place of hearing to the Complainant and Respondent. The Internal Complaints Committee shall follow principles of Natural Justice while handling such complaints.

**2.1) Where the aggrieved person is unable to make a complaint on account of their physical incapacity, a complaint may be filed by-**

- a) a relative or friend; or
- b) a co-worker; or
- c) an officer of the National Commission for Women or State Women's Commission; or
- d) any person who has knowledge of the incident, with the written consent of the aggrieved person.

**2.2) Where the aggrieved person is unable to make a complaint on account of their mental incapacity, a complaint may be filed by-**

- a. a relative or friend; or
- b. a special educator' or
- c. a qualified psychiatrist or psychologist; or
- d. the guardian or authority under whose care they are receiving treatment or care; or
- e. any person who has knowledge of the incident jointly with any of the above.

**2.3) Where the aggrieved person for any other reason is unable to make a complaint, a complaint may be filed by any person who has knowledge of the incident, with their written consent.**

**2.4) Where the aggrieved person is dead, a complaint may be filed by any person who has knowledge of the incident, with the written consent of their legal heir.**

**6.1.3** Internal Complaints Committee on receipt of such written complaint, may, if required ask the aggrieved person to furnish additional information about the alleged harassment.

**6.1.4** The Complainant or person authorized on their behalf as per above provision, shall make a complaint to the Internal Complaints Committee through following mode:

- a. Copy of complaint along with supporting documents and names and address of witness shall be sent to Internal Complaints Committee at cs@stylam.com
- b. On receipt of such complaint, Internal Complaints Committee shall provide a copy along with supporting documents of such complaints to the Respondent within 7 working days
- c. Respondent shall file reply within 10 working days of receipt of the complaint along with list of documents, names and addresses of witnesses
- d. Internal Complaint Committee shall investigate in detail into the matter of the complaint. The Internal Complaint Committee shall have the right to call the person against whom the complaint is made or any other witnesses as when necessary.
- e. During the enquiry process, the Complainant and the respondent shall refrain from any form of threat, intimidation or influencing of witnesses.

- f. The Committee will conduct enquiry in accordance with the principles of natural justice and will ensure to give both parties, the aggrieved as well as the respondent, a right to be heard and present their case before the Committee.
- g. The Committee shall ensure confidentiality during the enquiry process and will ensure that sufficient care is taken to avoid any retaliation against the witnesses.
- h. Internal Complaint Committee shall have the right to terminate the enquiry or give ex-parte decision on the complaint, if the Respondent or complainant remains absent for 3 consecutive hearings, without sufficient cause, provided that such termination or ex-parte Order may not be passed without giving a notice in writing, 15 days in advance, to the party concerned.
- i. The Internal Committee must complete its investigation within a period of 90 days.
- j. The parties shall not be allowed to bring any legal practitioner to represent them in their case at any stage of the proceedings before the Internal Complaints Committee.
- k. For conducting the enquiry, the quorum of the Internal Complaints Committee shall be of 3 members including the Presiding Officer.

**6.1.5** The Internal Committee may before initiate an inquiry, and at the aggrieved person's request, attempt to settle the matter through conciliation. However, Internal Complaints Committee shall ensure that:

- a. Monetary settlement will not be made as a basis of conciliation.
- b. Where a settlement has been arrived, the settlement terms shall be signed by both the parties and shall be provided with a copy of it. Where, a settlement is arrived as mentioned hereinabove, no further enquiry shall be conducted by the Internal Complaints Committee.

**6.1.6** The Internal Complaints Committee may during such investigation may exercise the power of a civil court, vested in it, in respect of:

- a. summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him under oath;
- b. requiring discovery and production of documents;
- c. any other prescribed matter.

**6.1.7** During such enquiry, upon written request by the aggrieved person, the committee may at its discretion recommend:

- a. to transfer the aggrieved person or the respondent to any other workplace;
- b. grant leave to the aggrieved person of up to three months which is in addition to leave to which she is otherwise entitled.

Provided, the aggrieved person has to tender justified reason for such transfer or leave, such as threat to work in the workplace.

## 7. Action

- 1) The Committee shall on completion of the enquiry provide a report of its findings within 10 days from the date of completion of the enquiry and such report shall be made available to the concerned parties.
- 2) If the allegation against the respondent has not been proved, the Committee may recommend that no action needs to be taken in the matter.
- 3) If the Internal Complaints Committee arrives at the conclusion that the allegation against the respondent has been proved, or if such complaint is proved to be false or malicious, it shall recommend to take action for sexual harassment as a misconduct, as per the following punishment matrix

Penalty matrix	Disciplinary action
Minor	Warning, Reprimand, Written apology to the Complainant
Moderate	Withholding of promotions / increments, Rescinding of bonus, Carrying out community service, Transfer from present location
Stringent	Compensation or deduction from the salary / wages of the respondent or issue direction for payment; such sum as it may consider appropriate to be paid to the aggrieved person or to their legal heirs, as it may determine, Suspension, Termination / dismissal from employment, Legal action under the Criminal Code

4. Such action will be taken within 60 days of the receipt of report.

## 8. Awareness

- a) All the Employees, Agents, Customers, Vendors, Partners and Visitors shall have access to this Policy at any given point of time and clarification related to this Policy shall be addressed by the HR team.
- b) A brief shall be given to all existing employees regarding the features of this Policy immediately on formulation of the Policy and to new employees in Stylam Industries Limited during their initial Induction.
- c) The Company shall comply with all other details as set out under Section 19 of the Act to ensure that all employees are provided with the safe working environment at the workplace.
- d) Company shall display the notice showing the name of the Internal Complaints Committee members at its every establishment at a conspicuous place.

## 9. False accusations

- i. The complaint of sexual harassment made by any employee shall be taken up with utmost seriousness by Company. However, there shall be zero tolerance for any false accusation.
- ii. If the Internal Complaint Committee comes to a conclusion that the allegation was made with malicious intent or the aggrieved person or any other person making the complaint on behalf of the aggrieved person produced false or forged or misleading documents to prove his/her case, the Internal Complaint Committee may recommend action to be taken against the person who has made the complaint, including termination of service. In such a case, malicious intent has to be established after an inquiry, before any action is recommended. A mere inability to substantiate a complaint or provide adequate proof would not attract action as provided herein. A similar recommendation for taking action would be recommended against any witness whom the Internal Complaint Committee concludes, that he/she has given false evidence or produced forged or misleading documents.
- iii. It is to be noted that this statement is not intended to discourage employees from coming forward with any complaints. Stylam Industries Limited recognizes and expects that some claims may be difficult to prove or support, or may not in fact be found to raise to the level of seriousness deemed necessary to constitute Sexual Harassment. These types of complaints will not be considered to be false accusations.

## 10. Miscellaneous:

- a. Company may make any alteration or amendment or rescind any of the clauses of this Policy as and when it finds it necessary to do so as long as it complies with the Act. Any such alterations or amendment or rescinding will be intimated to the employee.
- b. Nothing contained in these rules shall operate in derogation of any law for the time being in force or to the prejudice of any right of any employee under any other Rules or Law.
- c. The Internal Complaint Committee shall prepare an annual report with the following details and shall submit the same to the Company to include in its Annual report:
  - i. Number of complaints of sexual harassment received during the year; b. Number of complaints disposed off during the year;
  - ii. Number of cases pending for more than 90 days;
  - iii. Number of workshops or awareness program against sexual harassment carried out;
  - iv. Nature of action taken by the employer.

## 11. Conclusion:

Complaints relating to Sexual Harassment shall be handled and investigations will be conducted under the principles of natural justice, basis of fundamental fairness, in an impartial and confidential manner so as to protect the identity of all viz., the person bringing the charge, potential witnesses, and the person accused of improper behavior. Also, all efforts shall be taken to ensure objectivity and thoroughness throughout the process of investigation.

The identity and address of the aggrieved person, respondent and witnesses must not be published or disclosed to the public or media.

The decision of Company shall be final and binding on all. However, the same is without prejudice to any recourse that Company or the individual concerned may have against the respondent and it shall not limit or restrict the rights of the Complainant and/or Company to pursue, nor shall they be precluded from pursuing, such further and other legal actions as may be available.

## ANNEXURE – A

### Composition of Internal Complaints Committee

Sr. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Mrs. Vandana Thakur	Presiding Officer
2.	Mrs. Saraswati Joon	Member
3.	Mrs. Purva Kansal	External Member
4.	Mrs. Kanchan Sharma	Member
5.	Mr. Devender Pathania	Member