

ARKA FINCAP LIMITED

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BAPAT MARG, | MUMBAI 400013

2021

Policy on Appointment of Auditors of the Company

POLICY DOCUMENT – 047

Policy on 046 - Policy on Appointment of Auditors of the Company

Action	Entity	Signature
Created by	Amit Gupta	
Reviewed by	NA	
Approved by	CEO	
Approved by	Board / RMC	
Release Date		
Version	1.0	

Version History

Version No.	Particulars	Details
1.0	Original Policy approved by Board	

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Purpose

In line with provisions of Companies Act, 2013, the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India from time to time and good corporate governance practices to ensure independence of auditors, this policy outlines broad parameters including qualification, eligibility and tenor, to be considered for appointment and continuation of Statutory Auditors, Internal Auditors and Secretarial Auditors of the Company.

Reference

The Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines dated April 27, 2021, RBI/2021-22/25 Ref. No. DoS. CO. ARG/ SEC.01/ 08.91.001/ 2021-22 for appointment of Statutory Auditor of the Company. Pursuant to point no 10 of the guidelines, every company has to adopt the Statutory Audit Policy and Appointment Procedure.

A. STATUTORY AUDITOR

Number of Statutory Auditor

Considering the size and spread of assets, accounting and administrative units, complexity of transactions, level of computerization, availability of other independent audit inputs, statutory audit of the Company shall be conducted by one Statutory Auditor till asset size reaches INR 15,000 crore.

Process, Eligibility Criteria and Independence of Auditors

Process and Eligibility:

- The Company shall shortlist minimum of 2 audit firms for every vacancy of Statutory Auditor so that even if a firm at first preference is found to be ineligible/refuses appointment, the firm at second preference can be appointed and the process of appointment of Statutory Auditor does not get delayed.
- Statutory Auditors shall comply with eligibility criteria prescribed under provisions of (i) the Companies Act, 2013, (ii) Guidelines for appointment of Statutory Auditors issued by the Reserve Bank of India, as amended from time to time; and (iii) circulars, notifications, guidelines or directions issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- *Concurrent auditors [if any] of the Company should not be considered for appointment as Statutory Auditors of the Company.
- The audit of the Company and any entity with large exposure¹, to the Company for the same reference year should also be explicitly factored in while assessing independence of the auditor.
- The incoming audit firm shall not be eligible if such audit firm is associated with the outgoing auditor or audit firm under the same network of audit firms.

In order to ensure a sound and robust liquidity risk management system, the Board of Arka has liquidity risk management framework which ensures that it maintains sufficient liquidity, including a cushion of unencumbered, high quality liquid assets to withstand a range of stress events, including those involving the loss or impairment of both unsecured and secured funding sources.

- The Company shall obtain a certificate, along with relevant information as prescribed by RBI from the audit firm(s) proposed to be appointed as Statutory Auditors to the effect that the audit firm(s) complies with all the eligibility norms prescribed by RBI for the purpose. Such certificate should be signed by the main partner/s of the audit firm proposed for appointment as Statutory Auditors, under the seal of the said audit firm.

Independence:

- Audit Committee shall monitor and assess the independence of the auditors and conflict of interest position in terms of relevant regulatory provisions, standards and best practices. Any concerns in this regard shall be flagged by the Audit Committee to the Board of Directors of the Company and concerned Senior Supervisory Manager (SSM)/Regional Office (RO) of RBI.
- *The time gap between any non-audit works (services mentioned at Section 144 of Companies Act, 2013, Internal assignments, special assignments, etc.) by the Statutory for the Company or any audit/non-audit works for group entities should be at least one year, before or after its appointment as Statutory Auditors. However, during the tenure as Statutory Auditor, the firm may provide such services to the Company which may not normally result in a conflict of interest, which are also approved by the Audit Committee. A conflict would not normally be created in the case of the following special assignments (indicative list):
 - (i) Tax audit, tax representation and advice on taxation matters,
 - (ii) Audit of interim financial statements,
 - (iii) Certificates required to be issued by the statutory auditor in compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements,
 - (iv) reporting on financial information or segments thereof.

Professional Standards and reporting of lapse

- Statutory Auditors shall be strictly guided by the relevant professional standards in discharge of the audit responsibilities with highest diligence.
- The Audit Committee of the Company shall review the performance of Statutory Auditors on an annual basis. Any serious lapses/negligence in audit responsibilities or conduct issues on part of the Statutory Auditors or any other matter considered as relevant shall be reported to RBI within two months from completion of the annual audit. Such reports should be sent with the approval/recommendation of the Audit Committee, with the full details of the audit firm.
- In the event of lapses in carrying out audit assignments resulting in misstatement of the Company's financial statements, and any violations/lapses vis-à-vis the RBI's directions/guidelines regarding the role and responsibilities of the Statutory Auditors, the Statutory Auditors would be liable to be dealt with suitably under the relevant statutory/regulatory framework.

Tenure and Rotation

In order to protect the independence of the audit firm, the Company shall appoint Statutory Auditors for a continuous period of three years, subject to the Auditor satisfying the eligibility norms each year. In case the Company removes its Statutory Auditors before completion of three years tenure, it shall inform concerned SSM/RO at RBI along with reasons/justification for the same, within a month of such a decision being taken.

* this restriction shall also apply to an audit firm under the same network of audit firms or any other audit firm having common partners
An audit firm would not be eligible for reappointment in the Company for six years (two tenures) after completion of full or part of one term of the audit tenure.

Audit Fees and Expenses

- The audit fees for Statutory Auditors shall be decided by the Audit Committee or persons authorised by the Audit Committee under update to Audit Committee.
- The audit fees for Statutory Auditors of the Company shall be reasonable and commensurate with the scope and coverage of audit, size and spread of assets, accounting and administrative units, complexity of transactions, level of computerization, identified risks in financial reporting, etc.

REVIEW OF POLICY

The Policy shall be reviewed at least once a year