



DENTA WATER AND INFRA SOLUTIONS LIMITED

**Policy Of Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace
(POSH)**

CIN: U70109KA2016PLC097869

**Registered Office: # 40, 3rd Floor, Sri Lakshminarayana Mansion, South End Road,
Basavanagudi Bangalore, South Bangalore, Karnataka 560 004, India**

1. Preamble

We, Denta Water and Infra Solutions Limited (hereinafter referred to as "DWAISL") are committed to provide a safe working environment and prohibit any form of sexual harassment at the workplace. Hence any act of sexual harassment at work place or related retaliation against or by any associate is unacceptable. This policy therefore intends to prohibit such occurrences and details procedures to be followed when an associate believes that a violation of the policy has occurred within the ambit of all applicable regulations regarding sexual harassment.

The making of a false complaint of sexual harassment or providing false information regarding a complaint will also be treated as a violation of policy. We remain bound by local, national, and other applicable laws regarding this policy at every work place.

2. Scope & Applicability

This policy applies to all directors, employees at all levels, vendors, associates and/or advisors etc. of the Company, including all , affiliated companies and relevant third parties. In the context of this policy, the relevant third parties refer to any contractor, supplier, vendor, advisor, actual and potential client, customers, supplies, business contacts, individual or organizations with whom DWAISL deals in connection with its business or otherwise. It also refers to agents, advisors, joint ventures, government, and public bodies. representatives and officials thereof to the extent permitted by law.

The policy is applicable to the following areas also.

- a) Any external location visited by associates due to or during their employment with DWAISL such as business locations of other companies/entities, guest houses etc.
- b) Any mode of transport provided by DWAISL (or a representative of DWAISL) for undertaking a journey to and from the locations. This policy is applicable in all the work places where DWAISL has its operations. Where local customs, standards, laws, or other local policies apply that are stricter than the provision of this policy, the stricter rules must be complied with. Provisions of this policy are in addition to local customs, standards, laws, or other local policies which are in place against sexual harassment.

3. Definitions

- a) "Aggrieved Associate" means, in relation to a workplace, any individual of any age whether employed with DWAISL or not, who alleges to have been subjected to any act of Sexual Harassment.
- b) "Employer" means, in any workplace, any person responsible for the management, supervision and control of the workplace.
- c) "Sexual harassment" includes any unwelcome sexually determined behaviour (direct or implied) such as physical contact and advances, unwelcome communications or invitations, demand or request for sexual favours, sexually cultured remarks, showing pornography, creating a hostile work environment and any other unwelcome sexually determined behaviour (physical, verbal, or non-verbal conduct) of a sexual nature.
 - i. Sexual Harassment would also mean: Quid pro quo sexual harassment, which means something in return or an exchange of one thing for another. In the workplace, quid pro quo sexual harassment takes place if sexual favours are asked in exchange for any kind of special treatment on the job. Threatening an Associate about his/her present or future

employment status if he/she does not consent to such sexual advances or a favour also amounts to sexual harassment. The act of asking may either be verbal or implied and the sexual conduct may be verbal or physical. But, in either case, it must be unwelcome. For e.g.: Direct or implied requests or offers by any associate for sexual favors in exchange for actual or promised job benefits such as favourable reviews, salary increases, promotions, increased benefits, or continued employment constitutes sexual harassment.

- ii. Hostile work environment includes Hostile environment sexual harassment occurs when either speech or conduct of a sexual nature takes place, and is seen or perceived as offensive and interferes with the work performance of the recipient, or any one or more Associates Hostile environment sexual harassment may also include intimidating or harassing conduct that is directed at an individual, or a group of individuals It will also mean related retaliation which includes marginalizing someone in the workplace with regard to his/her roles and responsibilities, socially ostracizing, intimidating someone physically, psychologically, and emotionally or someone close to or related to the victim, to the extent that the humiliation or intimidation affects the health or safety.

This is only an indicative list of the possible acts which could be treated as sexual harassment and is in no way intended to be construed as an exhaustive list.

In countries where local laws / regulations have clearly defined sexual harassment and procedure to address any complaint relating to it, the interpretation of sexual harassment & the investigation procedure shall be guided in accordance with the local laws/ regulations as applicable.

4. Complaint Mechanism / Redressal Committee

DWAISL shall have an [Internal Complaints Committee] to specifically address any complaints of sexual harassment. The Committee will be constituted by DWAISL and would be headed by a Presiding Officer, who shall be a woman associate employed at a senior level at workplace from amongst the associates. In case the senior level officer is not available. Presiding Officer shall nominate the senior level officer from other locations.

The Internal Complaints Committee shall comprise of the following members:

- a) Not less than two members from amongst associates preferably committed to the cause of women or who have had experience in social work or have a legal knowledge; and,
- b) One member from amongst non-governmental organization or associations committed to the cause of women or a person familiar with the issues relating to sexual harassment.

Provided that, at least one-third of the total members so nominated shall be women.

In addition to handling complaints of sexual harassment, the committees will also co-ordinate preventive activities to create a sexual harassment free atmosphere via:

- Common information mailers
- Floating articles on the same, from time to time; display at any conspicuous place in the workplace the penal consequences of sexual harassments; and the order constituting the Committee; and organize workshops and awareness programs at regular intervals for sensitizing the associates with the provisions of the Act and orientation programs for the members of the Committee in the manner as may be prescribed.

The Presiding Officer and every Member of the Committee shall hold office for a period not exceeding three years, from the date of their nomination. Inclusion or removal of Committee Members shall be on the following grounds:

- Contravention of the Policy or the legal provisions of the act; or;

- Convicted for an offence or an inquiry into an offence under any law for the time being in force in pending against him, or;
- Found guilty in any disciplinary proceeding or a disciplinary proceeding is pending against him/her, or;
- Abused his positions as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest, or;
- provided that the same has been approved by the Directors I Authority delegated by them.

Guidelines for Internal Complaints Committee

Role of the Committee

- a) Review the complainant's complaint in a fair and objective manner.
- b) Help the complainant and the respondent find a way of solving the problem.
- c) Determine the facts of the case with the individuals concerned and the witnesses, if any, and prepare a report with the findings.
- d) Be bound by the principle of natural justice and be unbiased in their evaluation.

Committee Members

The committee members are listed on the company notice board in Annexure A.

5. Procedure for Dealing with complaints

If any one believes that (s)/he has been subjected to sexual harassment, such aggrieved associate may file a written complaint with any member of the Committee as per attached "Annexure A" or send an email to info@denta.co.in within three (3) months from the date of incident or in case of series of incidents, within a period of three (3) months from the date of last incident and within 180 calendar days for ex-employees of DWASISL.

The Committee for reasons to be recorded in writing, may extend the time limit not exceeding three months, if it is satisfied that the circumstances were such which prevented the aggrieved Associate from filing a complaint within the said period.

In case the complaint cannot be made in writing, the Presiding Officer, or any member of the Committee shall render all reasonable assistance to the aggrieved associate for making the complaint in writing. Where the aggrieved associate is unable to make a complaint on account of its physical or mental incapacity or death or otherwise, their legal heir and in case of a woman the complaint can be made by such other person, as per the definition provided herein under clause "Complaint of Sexual Harassment", as may be prescribed may make a complaint under this Policy.

The Committee may, before initiating an inquiry and at the request of the aggrieved associate take steps to settle the matter between the aggrieved associate and the respondent through conciliation, provided that no monetary settlement shall be made as a basis of conciliation.

Where a settlement is arrived, no further inquiry shall be conducted by the Committee and it shall provide the copies of the settlement as recorded to the aggrieved associate, respondent and DWASISL, for records.

In case the conciliation fails to arrive at a settlement or if the aggrieved associate informs the Committee that the terms and conditions of the settlement have not been complied with by the respondent, the Committee shall proceed to make an inquiry into the complaint filed before the Committee.

Complaints brought after that time period will not be pursued. The determination of whether the complaint was timely or whether extraordinary circumstances exist to extend the complaint period must be made by the Committee in conjunction with the Legal team of the Company.

Every attempt will be made to get the aggrieved associate to provide the complaint in writing. The complaint shall include the circumstances giving rise to the complaint, the dates of the alleged occurrences, and names of witnesses, if any. The complaint shall be signed by the aggrieved associate.

Complaints made anonymously or by a third party must also be investigated to the extent possible.

Where the aggrieved associate is unable to make a complaint on account of her/his physical or mental incapacity or death or otherwise, her/his legal heir or such other person as may be prescribed may make a complaint within 3 months of the incident.

If the complaint does not rise to the level of sexual harassment, the Committee may determine to dismiss the complaint without further investigation after consultation with Legal Team.

6. Process of Enquiry

The Committee will ask the aggrieved associate to prepare a detailed statement of incidents / allegations. The aggrieved associate may be required to submit six (6) copies of the complaint along with supporting documents and the names and addresses of the witnesses. The statement of allegations will be shared with the respondent within seven (7) working days.

- a) The respondent will be asked to prepare a response to the statement of allegations, along with the list of documents and names and addresses of the witnesses and submit to the Committee within a period not exceeding ten (10) working days of receipt of the complaint.
- b) The statements and other evidence obtained in the inquiry process will be kept confidential.
- c) The Committee will organize verbal hearings with the complainant and the respondent, in accordance with the principle of natural justice.
- d) During the course of inquiry, the Committee shall make a copy of the findings available to both the parties enabling them to make representations against the findings before the Committee.
- e) The Committee will take testimonies of other relevant persons and review the evidence wherever necessary. The committee should ensure that sufficient care is taken to avoid any retaliation against the witnesses.
- f) During the inquiry process, the complainant and the respondent shall refrain from any form of threat, intimidation or influencing of witnesses.
- g) The committee will conduct inquiry in accordance with the practices of natural justice, i.e., the Complainant will be offered to the respondent for cross-examination and vice-versa.
- h) The Committee will arrive at a decision after carefully and fairly reviewing the circumstances, evidence, and relevant statements.
- i) The Committee will ensure confidentiality during the inquiry process and will ensure that while investigating a complaint:
 - (i) Both parties will be given reasonable opportunity to be heard along with witnesses and to produce any other relevant documents;
 - (ii) Upon completion of the investigation, both parties will be informed of the results of the investigation.

- j) The Committee will be empowered to do all things necessary to ensure a fair hearing of the complaint including all things necessary to ensure that victims or witnesses are neither victimized nor discriminated against while dealing with a complaint of sexual harassment. In this regard the Committee will also have the discretion to make appropriate interim recommendations in relation to a respondent person (pending the outcome of a complaint) including suspension, transfer, leave, change of work location etc.
- k) The Committee shall have the right to terminate the inquiry proceedings or to give ex-parte decision on the complaint, if the aggrieved associate or respondent fails, without sufficient cause, to present herself or himself for three consecutive hearing convened by the Presiding officer, provided fifteen (15) days advance notice is provided to the party concerned. Such termination or ex-parte order may not be passed without giving a notice in writing, fifteen days in advance, to the party concerned.
- l) The investigation into a complaint will be conducted in such a way as to maintain confidentiality to the extent practicable under the circumstances.
- m) For the purpose of making an inquiry, the Committee shall have the same powers as are vested in the civil court under Code of Civil Procedure,1908.
- n) The committee will investigate and prepare an enquiry report with recommendations within ninety (90) days.
- o) The parties to the complaint shall not be allowed to bring in any legal practitioner to represent them in their case at any stage of the proceedings before the Committee.
- p) In conducting the inquiry, a minimum of three members of the Committee including the Presiding Offer, shall be present for the hearing or participate through audio calls.

7. Complaint of Sexual Harassment

For the purpose of this clause:

- a) Where the aggrieved associate is unable to make a complaint on account of his/her physical incapacity, a complaint may be filled by;
 - i. His/her relative or a friend; or,
 - ii. His/her co-worker; or,
 - iii. An officer of National Commission for Woman or State Women's Commission; or,
 - iv. Any person who has knowledge of the incident, with the written consent of the aggrieved associate;
- b) Where the aggrieved associate is unable to make a complaint on account or his/her mental incapacity, a complaint may be filled by:
 - i. His/her relative or friend; o,
 - ii. A special educator; or,
 - iii. A qualified psychiatrist or psychologist or,
 - iv. The guardian or authority under whose care he/she is receiving treatment or care; or,

- v. any person who has knowledge of the incident jointly with his/her relative or friend.
- c) Where the aggrieved associate 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 the written consent of the aggrieved associate;
- d) Where the aggrieved associate is dead, a complaint may be filled by a person who has knowledge of the incident, with the written consent of the legal heir of the aggrieved associate.

8. 8. Decision and Auction

During the pendency of inquiry, on a written request made by the aggrieved associate, the Committee, may recommend to the Company to-

- a) Transfer the Aggrieved associate or the respondent to any other workplace; or,
- b) grant leave to the aggrieved associate; or,
- c) grant such other relief to the aggrieved associate, as may be prescribed.

The leave granted to the aggrieved associate under this section shall be in addition to the leave he/she would be entitled to otherwise, if the case is proved.

Once the investigation is completed, the Committee shall provide a report of its findings to the Company, within ten (10) days from the date of completion of the inquiry and such report shall be made available to the concerned parties. The Company shall act upon the recommendation of the Committee with sixty (60) days of receipt of the report of the Committee.

The Committee shall decide regarding the validity of the harassment allegations. If it is determined that the harassment has not occurred, it shall recommend to the Company that no action is required to be taken in this matter. If it is determined that harassment has occurred, prompt remedial action will be taken. The Committee will share the investigation details and the findings thereof with the appropriate functional Head / HR and agree on the applicable disciplinary action. This may include some or all the following:

- (a) Restore any lost terms, conditions, or benefits of employment to the aggrieved associate.
- (b) Discipline the respondent. This discipline can include deduction from the salary or wages the amount to be paid to the aggrieved associate, demotion, suspension, and termination.

The disciplinary action will be carried out by the HR department concerned. Such disciplinary action may even include transfer, demotion, termination or where the conduct of an accused amounts to a specific offence under the State/Central Laws or under any other Law, appropriate action shall be initiated in accordance with the specific law. All related documents will be maintained in the associate's folder, ensuring confidentiality.

This policy shall not, however, be used to raise malicious complaints. If a complaint has been made in bad faith, as demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence, disciplinary action which may include demotion, suspension, termination or under the State/Central Laws or any other Law, appropriate action shall be initiated in accordance with the specific law will be taken against the person raising the malicious/ false complaint.

As per the provisions of -The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the employer shall include in its report the number of cases filed, if any, and their disposal under this Act in the annual report of the Company or where no such report is required to be prepared, intimate such number of cases, if any to the district officer or Directorate of Industrial Health and Safety Department.

9. Determination of Compensation

For the purpose of determining the sums to be paid to the aggrieved associate, the Committee shall have to regard the following:

- a) The mental trauma, pain, suffering, and emotional distress caused to the aggrieved associate;
- b) The loss in the career opportunity due to the incident of sexual harassment; medical expenses incurred by the victim for physical or psychiatric treatment;
- c) The income and financial status of the respondent; and feasibility of such payment in lump sum or instalments.

10. Prohibition of publication or making known content of complaint or inquiry

The contents of the complaint made under the Policy, identity and addresses of the aggrieved associate, respondent and witnesses, any information relating to conciliation and inquiry proceedings, recommendations of the Committee and the action taken by the Company shall not be published, communicated, or made known to the public, press and media in any manner, if information may be disseminated regarding the justice secured to any victim of sexual harassment without disclosing the name, address, identity, or any other particulars calculated to lead to the identification of the Aggrieved Associate, respondent, and witnesses.

11. Duties of the Employer

DWAISL shall:

- a) provide a safe working environment at the workplace which shall include safety from the persons coming into contact at the workplace;
- b) To display at any conspicuous place in the workplace, the. penal consequences of sexual harassments;
- c) organize workshops and awareness programs at regular intervals for sensitizing the Associates with the provisions of the Act and orientation programs for the members of the Committee in the manner as may be prescribed;
- d) provide necessary facilities to the Committee for dealing with the complaint ,1nd conducting an inquiry;
- e) assist in securing the attendance of respondent and witnesses before the Committee;
- f) make available such information to the Committee as it may require with regards to the complaint made;
- g) Aid the aggrieved associate if he/she so chooses to file a complaint against the respondent in relation to the offence under the Indian Penal Code or any other law being in force at that time;
- h) initiate action, under the Indian Penal Code or any other law being in force at that time, against the perpetrator, or if the aggrieved associate so desires, where the perpetrator is not an associate in the workplace at which the incident of sexual harassment took place;
- i) treat sexual harassment as a grave misconduct and initiate action for such misconduct as per the law and the policy of DWAISL;
- j) monitor the timely submission of reports by the Committee.

12. Sexual Harassment and Vendors

DWAISL encourages its clients/partners to have a commitment to a sexual-harassment free working atmosphere within their companies. DWAISL may play a facilitating role in redressal of complaints of sexual harassment in such circumstances, if requested.

13. **Responsibility**

The below is only an indicative list of basic Do's and Don'ts and is in no way intended to be construed as an exhaustive list.

DO'S

- a) Know DWAISL Policy on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the workplace.
- b) Be aware of inappropriate behaviours and avoid the same.
- c) Say "NO" if asked to go to places do things or participate in situations that make you uncomfortable.
- d) Trust your instincts. Walk away from uncomfortable situations.
- e) Say "NO" to offensive behaviour as soon as it occurs.
- f) Refrain from taking discriminatory actions or decisions which are contrary to the spirit of this policy.
- g) Maintain confidentiality regarding any aspect of an inquiry to which you may be party to.

DON'TS

Verbal Harassment

- a) Sexually suggestive comments or comments on physical attributes.
- b) Offensive language that insults or demeans a colleague, using terms of endearment.
- c) Singing or humming vulgar songs.
- d) Requests for sexual favours, sexual advances, coerced acts of a sexual nature.
- e) Requests for dates or repeated pressure for social contact.
- f) Discussing sexual activities, sexual prowess or intruding on the privacy of an associate.
- g) Sexually coloured propositions, insults, jokes, pranks.
- h) Graffiti in the office premises.

Non-Verbal Harassment

- a) Offensive gestures, staring, leering, or whistling with the intention to discomfort another.
- b) Even if not directly done to a particular individual, uttering a word, making a gesture, or exhibiting any object with the intention that such word, gesture, or object be heard or seen by associates.
- c) Sounds, gestures, display of offensive books, pictures, cartoons, magazines, calendars, or derogatory written materials at one's workplace.

- d) Showing or mailing pornographic posters, Internet sites, cartoons, drawings.
- e) Suggestive letters, phone calls, SMS, electronic instant messaging, or e-mail messages.

Physical Harassment

- a) Physical contact or advances.
- b) Intentional touching of the body, e.g., Hugs, kisses, brushing, fondling, pinching etc. that make others uncomfortable.
- c) Any display of affection that make others uncomfortable or are inappropriate at the workplace.

14. Exception

Any exceptions to the norms laid down in this policy shall be at the discretion of the Directors or any appropriate authority delegated by them.

15. Amendment of the Policy

The Company may, from time to time, review and update its policy and procedures based on learnings. HR Dept. will monitor the effectiveness and review the implementation of this policy, regularly considering its suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness. Any improvements identified for strengthening this policy will be made as soon as possible. Therefore, this document is subject to modification. Provisions of this policy are in addition to all applicable laws and in no way restrict, derogate, or limit any provisions of law.

All queries and clarifications on this policy and procedures may be referred to the HR Department.

Effective Date: 2nd November, 2023

Annexure A
Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the workplace Internal Complaint Committee
POSH-ICC

Name of the Committee Member	Designation	Internal Extension No.	Contact No.
Nista U Shetty	<i>Director</i>	<i>NA</i>	080 4210 6509