



## THE WHISTLE BLOWER POLICY

**Grasim Industries Limited** (“Grasim/Company”), as a part of Aditya Birla Group abide by the group values of Integrity, Commitment, Passion, Seamlessness, and Speed which form foundation for all actions and decisions we take. They set standards for the organisation and for employees’ conduct.

### **Purpose of this policy**

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the Company’s point of view on whistle blowing, the process, and the procedure to strengthen whistle blowing mechanism at the Company.

This policy:

- Provides a platform and mechanism for the Employees and Directors to voice genuine concerns or grievances about unprofessional conduct without fear of reprisal.
- It provides an environment that promotes responsible and protected whistle blowing. It reminds Employees and Directors about their duty to report any suspected violation of any law that applies to the Company and any suspected violation of the Group Values or Aditya Birla Group’s Code of Conduct.
- Above all, it is a dynamic source of information about what may be going wrong at various levels within the Company, and which will help the Company in realigning various processes and take corrective actions as part of good governance practice.

### **Coverage of this policy**

This policy is applicable to all the units/ offices in India, including all Employees and Directors.

This policy is equally applicable to the Third parties to report a concern related to a potential violation of the Company Code of Conduct.

### **Who is a whistle blower?**

Any Employee or Director who discloses or demonstrates evidence of an unethical activity or any conduct that may constitute breach of the Company’s Code of Conduct or Group Values. This whistleblower has come to the decision to make a disclosure or express a genuine concern/grievance/allegation, after due assessment of the facts of the matter.

### **Protection**

The process is designed to offer protection to the whistleblower (employees and directors) provided that the disclosure made/concern raised/allegations made (“complaint”) by a whistleblower is in good faith and the alleged action or non-action constitutes a genuine and serious breach of what is laid down in the Group Values and/or Company’s Code of Conduct and Aditya Birla Group policy.

The Company affirms that it will not allow any whistleblower to be victimised for making any complaint. Any kind of victimisation of the whistleblower brought to the notice of the Value Standards Committee will be treated as an act warranting disciplinary action.

As a Company, we condemn any kind of discrimination, harassment, victimisation, or any other unfair employment practice adopted against the whistleblowers. Complete protection will be given to the whistleblowers against any unfair practices like retaliation, threat or intimidation or termination/suspension of service, disciplinary action, transfer, demotion, refusal of promotion, or the like including any direct or indirect use of authority to obstruct the whistleblower's right to continue to perform his/her duties/functions in a free and fair manner.

### **Reporting in good faith**

Every whistleblower is expected to read and understand this policy and abide by it. It is recommended that any individual who wishes to report, do so after gathering adequate facts/data to substantiate the complaint and not complain merely on hearsay or rumour. This also means that no action should be taken against the whistleblower, if the complaint was made in good faith, but no misconduct was confirmed on subsequent investigation.

However, if a complaint, after an investigation proves to be frivolous, malicious or made with an ulterior intent, the Value Standards Committee shall take appropriate disciplinary or legal action against the concerned whistleblower.

### **List of exclusions**

The following types of complaints will ordinarily not be considered and taken up:

1. Complaints that are illegible, if handwritten.
2. Complaints that are vague, with pseudonyms.
3. Complaints that are trivial or frivolous in nature.
4. Matters which are pending before a court of Law, State, National Human Rights Commission, Tribunal or any other judiciary or sub judiciary body.
5. Any matter that is very old from the date on which the act constituting violation is alleged to have been committed.
6. Issue raised, relates to service matters or personal grievance (such as increment, promotion, appraisal etc.) or also any customer/product related grievance.

### **Dealing with anonymity**

A whistleblower may choose to keep his/her identity anonymous. In such cases, the complaint should be accompanied with strong evidence and data.

### **Confidentiality**

The Value Standards Committee will treat all complaints in a confidential and sensitive manner. In specific cases where the criticality and necessity of disclosing the identity of the whistleblower is important, it may be disclosed, on a 'need-to-know-basis', during the investigation process and only with the prior approval of the whistleblower.

### **Who is a whistle blower officer?**

For the purpose of this policy, the Company Secretary and/or Chief Legal Officer (CLO) and/ or in his absence, the Legal Head of the relevant Unit/Business would act as the Whistle Blower Officer of the relevant Values Standard Committee.

## Procedure for raising a complaint

A whistleblower can make a complaint in multiple ways:

1. Can write to the relevant Value Standards Committee. The information about name of members and list of Value Standards Committee (VSC) at various levels respective unit HR Team or Business HR OE Team.
2. A whistle blower can send a complaint to the ethics hotline by calling on a toll-free number **1800 103 9868**, or write to **abg.whistleblower@ethicshelpline.in**, or send a fax on **1800 103 9868** or mail it to P. O. Box No 71, DLF Phase 1, Qutub Enclave, Gurgaon – 122002, Haryana. This is operated by an independent third-party vendor.
3. By writing to CHRO, Unit Head or Business Head or CLO of the Company, who will forward this to the Ethics Hotline.
4. In exceptional cases, the complainant can directly report his/her complaint to the Chairperson of the Audit Committee. Details of the Chairperson is available on the Company's website.

## Reporting process

An Annual and Quarterly report will be prepared by the Business Value Standards Committee of which copies will be placed before the Audit Committee of the relevant Group Company and Organization Effectiveness portfolio at Group Human Resources.

## Guidelines for communication and implementation of this policy

An ethics hotline is made available. This toll-free number will be available for reporting of any violation or misconduct. A communication mechanism should be put in place to create awareness about this policy with the existing employees and for new joiners in all Group Companies operating in India.

It is the responsibility of the CHRO of relevant businesses of the Company to ensure that the updated names and email id of the various Business and Unit level Value Standards Committee are made available to all employees through the local intranet and/or any other communication mechanism they may adopt. A copy of this policy shall also be placed on the intranet of the Company.

This policy is equally applicable to Third parties who may wish to report a concern related to a potential violation of the Group Values or the Company Code of Conduct.

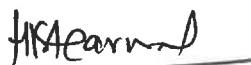
A separate, detailed Operationalizing Guideline is available for each Values Standard Committee to ensure that this policy is implemented in letter and spirit.

## Important Templates

**Annexure 1 – Template for reporting violations**

**Annexure 2 – Sample workflow /procedure for reporting, resolving and closing a case**

This policy shall be reviewed periodically for its suitability and updated, as necessary.



Harikrishna Agarwal  
Managing Director, Grasim Industries Limited  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Annexure 1 - Template for Reporting Violation**

To: Value Standards Committee <at Group/ Business or Unit level>:

Please select the applicable incident type(s) from the list below that best describes the issue(s) you are reporting. Please note that multiple issues can be selected

- 1. Misappropriation of company assets or resources
- 2. Conflict of interest
- 3. Inappropriate sharing of confidential information
- 4. Financial fraud of any nature
- 5. Violation of gifts and entertainment policy
- 6. Non-adherence to safety guidelines
- 7. Inaccurate financial reporting
- 8. Bribery & Corruption
- 9. Insider trading
- 10. Other forms of Harassment – Victimization, Bullying, Discrimination etc.
- 11. Social Media Usage
- 12. Misuse of authority
- 13. Environment, health and safety
- 14. Concurrent employment
- 15. Others


Please provide name, designation, and department of the person(s) involved?

	Name	Department	Designation
Individual 1			
Individual 2			
Individual 3			
Individual 4			

When did the incident occur? (Please provide tentative date if you do not know the exact date)

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Please confirm the location of the incident

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**How did you find out about this incident?**

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**How long has this been occurring for?**

- > Less than a month
- > 1-6 months
- > 6-12 months
- > Greater than 12 months

**Please provide a detailed description of the incident. To enable your company to act on your complaint, you are requested to provide specific information where possible including names, location, date, time etc.**

Do you have any evidence in support of your allegations?

- > Yes
- > No

Is anyone else aware of this incident?

- > Yes
- > No

Is there any additional information that would facilitate the investigation of this matter?

- > Yes
- > No

Have you reported this incident to anyone in the company?

- > Yes
- > No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Person reporting (optional):

Contact Information (including email) (optional):

The complaint should be either reported on ABG Values Microsite on Poornata or to the relevant Values Standard Committee at Unit, Business or Group level or can be shared via ethics hotline either verbally over a phone or through email. The details of the Values Standard Committee are available on Values microsite on Poornata and Onstream.

**Annexure 2 - Sample workflow for reporting, resolving and closing a case**

