

No.C.31011/7/2021-CVO / 3433
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
CONFIDENTIAL AND CABINET DEPARTMENT
(CHIEF VIGILANCE OFFICE)

Puducherry, dt. 25.10.2023

CIRCULAR/I.D.NOTE

Sub: CVO – CVC order for adoption of Integrity Pact in major Govt. Procurement activities & revised SOP therefor - Communicated - Reg.

Ref: This office Circular/I.D. Note of even no. dt.03.08.23

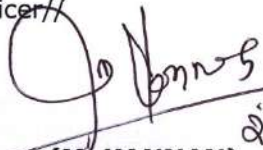
Attention is invited to the Circular/I.D. Note cited above wherein the CVC's recommendation for the Integrity Pact (IP) concept, which envisages a panel of Independent External Monitors (IEM) in respect of major procurements of the Government Organizations and revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to adopt the Integrity Pact has been communicated and instructed all Govt. Organizations to submit compliance report after adoption.

2. In continuation of the above Circular/I.D. Note, it is informed that the threshold value of the procurement for which the Integrity Pact used would be ₹.1.00 crore and above. The provision of Integrity Pact is to be included in the procurements that meet the threshold value i.e. ₹.1.00 crore and above. Integrity Pact would be implemented by appointing Independent External Monitors (IEMs) which should be nominated with the approval of the Commission. Following guidelines have been suggested by the Commission its Circular No.24/8/08 dated 05.08.2008 as detailed below;

- i) Adoption of Integrity Pact (IP) is voluntary for the organization, but once adopted, it should cover all procurements above the specified threshold value of ₹.1.00 crore and above.
- ii) IP would be operative from the stage of invitation of bids (NIT) till the final payment or a still later stage, covered thro' warranty, guarantee etc.
- iii) IEMs are vital to the implementation of IP and at least one IEM should be invariably cited in the NIT. However, for ensuring the desired transparency and objectivity in dealing with the complaints arising out of any tendering process, the matter should be referred to the full panel of IEMs, who would examine the records, conduct the investigation and submit a report to the management, giving joint findings.

3. In this regard, all the Circulars of Central Vigilance Commission are hosted in the official website <https://cvo.py.gov.in>. The instructions of CVC are to be adopted and implemented by all Govt. and submit compliance report in this regard.

//By order of the Chief Vigilance Officer//


(M. KANNAN)
25.10.23
UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVT.

To

All Head of Departments/Offices, Puducherry.

All Local Bodies/Societies/Corporations/Autonomous Institutions, Puducherry.

Copy to

All Secretaries/Special Secretaries to Govt., Puducherry.

All Deputy Secretaries/Under Secretaries to Govt., Puducherry.

No. 008/CRD/013
Government of India
Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, Block-A,
GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi-110023.
Dated: 18/5/09

Circular No. 10/5/09

Subject:- Adoption of Integrity Pact-Standard Operating Procedure-reg.

The Commission has formulated "Standard Operating Procedure" for adoption of Integrity Pact in major Govt. Department/organisations. A copy of the same is enclosed for information and necessary action.

Sd/-

(Shalini Darbari)
Director

All Chief Vigilance Officers

NOTE: SECTION 6.02 (i) & 6.02 (ii) OF THE SOP ON INTEGRITY PACT HAS BEEN DELETED WITH CIRCULAR No. 31/08/10 DATED 13.8.10.

Subject:- Adoption of Integrity Pact -Standard Operating Procedure-reg.

1.0 Background

1.01 The Central Vigilance Commission has been promoting Integrity, transparency, equity and competitiveness in Government/PSU transactions and as a part of vigilance administration and superintendence. Public procurement is a major area of concern for the Central Vigilance Commission and various steps have been taken to put proper systems in place. Leveraging technology, especially wider use of the web sites for disseminating information on tenders, clearly defining the pre qualification criteria and other terms and conditions of the tender are some of the steps recently taken at the instance of the Commission. In this context, Integrity Pact (IP), a vigilance tool conceptualized and promoted by the Transparency International, has been found to be useful. The Commission has, through its Office Orders No. 41/12/07 dated 04.12.07 and 43/12/07 dated 28.12.07 and Circulars No. 18/05/08 dated 19.05.08 and 24.08.08 dated 05.08.2008 (copies appended), recommended adoption of Integrity Pact and provided basic guidelines for its implementation in respect of major procurements in the Government Organizations.

2.0 Integrity Pact

2.01 The pact essentially envisages an agreement between the prospective vendors/bidders and the buyer, committing the persons/officials of both sides, not to resort to any corrupt practices in any aspect/stage of the contract. Only those vendors/bidders, who commit themselves to such a Pact with the buyer, would be considered competent to participate in the bidding process. In other words, entering into this Pact would be a preliminary qualification. The essential ingredients of the Pact include:

- Promise on the part of the principal not to seek or accept any benefit, which is not legally available;
- Principal to treat all bidders with equity and reason;
- Promise on the part of bidders not to offer any benefit to the employees of the Principal not available legally;
- Bidders not to enter into any undisclosed agreement or understanding with other bidders with respect to prices, specifications, certifications, subsidiary contracts, etc.
- Bidders not to pass any information provided by Principal as part of business relationship to others and not to commit any offence under PC/IPC Act;
- Foreign bidders to disclose the name and address of agents and representatives in India and Indian Bidders to disclose their foreign principals or associates;

- Bidders to disclose the payments to be made by them to agents / brokers or any other intermediary.
- Bidders to disclose any transgressions with any other company that may impinge on the anti corruption principle.

2.02 Integrity Pact, in respect of a particular contract, would be operative from the stage of invitation of bids till the final completion of the contract. Any violation of the same would entail disqualification of the bidders and exclusion from future business dealings.

3.0 Implementation procedure:

3.01 Adoption of IP is voluntary for any organization, but once adopted, it should cover all tenders / procurements above a specified threshold value.

3.02 The threshold value for the contracts to be covered through IP should be decided after conducting proper ABC analysis and should be fixed so as to cover 90-95% of the total procurements of the organization in monetary terms.

3.03 Apart from all high value contracts, any contract involving complicated or serious issues could be brought within the ambit of IP, after a considered decision of the management

3.04 The Purchase / procurement wing of the organization would be the focal point for the implementation of IP.

3.05 The Vigilance Department would be responsible for review, enforcement, and reporting on all related vigilance issues.

3.06 It has to be ensured, through an appropriate provision in the contract, that IP is deemed as part of the contract so that the parties concerned are bound by its provisions.

3.07 IP should cover all phases of the contract, i.e. from the stage of Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)/pre-bid stage till the conclusion of the contract, i.e. the final payment or the duration of warranty/guarantee.

3.08 IP would be implemented through a panel of Independent External Monitors (IEMs), appointed by the organization. The IEM would review independently and objectively, whether and to what extent parties have complied with their obligations under the Pact.

3.09 Periodical Vendors' meets, as a familiarization and confidence building measure, would be desirable for a wider and realistic compliance of the principles of IP.

3.10 Information relating to tenders in progress and under finalization would need to be shared with the IEMs on monthly basis.

4.0 Role /Functions of IEMs :

4.01 IEM would have access to all Contract documents, whenever required. Ideally, all IEMs of an organization should meet in two months to take stock of the ongoing tendering processes.

4.02. It would be desirable to have structured meeting of the IEMs with the Chief Executive of the organization on a monthly basis to discuss/review the information on tenders awarded in the previous month.

4.03 The IEMs would examine all complaints received by them and give their recommendations/views to the Chief Executive of the organization, at the earliest. They may also send their report directly to the CVO and the Commission, in case of suspicion of serious irregularities requiring legal/administrative action.

4.04 At least one IEM should be invariably cited in the NIT. However, for ensuring the desired transparency and objectivity in dealing with the complaints arising out of any tendering process, the matter should be examined by the full panel of IEMs, who would look into the records, conduct an investigation, and submit their joint recommendations to the Management

4.05 The recommendations of IEMs would be in the nature of advice and would not be legally binding. At the same time, it must be understood that IEMs are not consultants to the Management. Their role is independent in nature and the advice once tendered would not be subject to review at the request of the organization.

4.06 The role of the CVO of the organization shall remain unaffected by the presence of IEMs. A matter being examined by the IEMs can be separately investigated by the CVO in terms of the provisions of the CVC Act or Vigilance Manual, if a complaint is received by him or directed to him by the Commission.

5.0 Appointment of IEMs

5.01 The IEMs appointed should be eminent personalities of high integrity and reputation. The Commission would approve the names of IEMs out of the panel of names, initiated by the organization concerned, in association/consultation with the CVO.

5.02 While forwarding the panel, the organization would enclose detailed bio-data in respect of all names proposed. The details would include postings before superannuation, special achievements, experience, etc., in Government sector. It is desirable that the persons proposed possess domain experience

of the PSU activities or the relevant field with which they may be required to deal.

5.03 A maximum of three IEMs would be appointed for Navratna PSUs and up to two IEMs for others.

5.04 Organizations could propose a panel of more than three names for the consideration of the Commission.

5.05 Persons appointed as IEMs in two organizations would not be considered for a third organization.

5.06 For PSUs having a large territorial spread or those having several subsidiaries, there could be more IEMs, but not more than two IEMs would be assigned to one subsidiary.

5.07 Remuneration payable to the IEMs would be equivalent to that admissible to an Independent Director in the organization. This remuneration would be paid by the organization concerned.

5.08 The terms and conditions of appointment, including the remuneration payable to the IEMs, should not be included in the Integrity Pact or the NIT. They could be communicated individually to the IEMs concerned.

5.09 The normal term of appointment for an IEM would be 3 years, and it would be subject to renewal by the Commission thereafter.

6.0 Review System :

6.01 An internal assessment of the impact of IP shall be carried out periodically by the CVOs of the organizations and reported to the Commission.

6.02 Two additional reviews are envisaged for each organization in due course.

- (i) Financial impact review, which could be conducted through an independent agency like auditors, and
- (ii) Physical review, which could be done through an NGO of tested credibility in the particular field.

6.03 It is proposed to include the progress in the implementation of IP in the Annual Report of the Commission. CVOs of all organizations would keep the Commission posted with the implementation status through their monthly reports or special reports, wherever necessary.

7.0 All organizations are called upon to make sincere and sustained efforts to imbibe the spirit and principles of the Integrity Pact and carry it to its effective implementation.

Enclosures: All earlier guidelines, issued by the Central Vigilance Commission, on the subject.

No.007/VGL/033
Government of India
Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, Block-A
GPO complex, INA,
New Delhi-110023
Dated the 4th December 2007

Office Order No.41/12/07

Subject: Adoption of Integrity Pact in major Government Procurement Activities- regarding.

Ensuring transparency, equity and competitiveness in public procurement has been a major concern of the Central Vigilance Commission and various steps have been taken by it to bring this about. Leveraging technology specially wider use of the web-sites for disseminating information on tenders, tightly defining the pre-qualification criteria and other terms and conditions of the tender are some of the steps recently taken at the instance of the Commission in order to bring about greater transparency and competition in the procurement/award of tender.

2. In this context, Integrity Pact, a vigilance tool first promoted by the Transparency International, has been found to be useful. The Pact essentially envisages an agreement between the prospective vendors/bidders and the buyer committing the persons/officials of both the parties, not to exercise any corrupt influence on any aspect of the contract. Only those vendors/bidders who have entered into such an Integrity Pact with the buyer would be competent to participate in the bidding. In other words, entering into this Pact would be a preliminary qualification. The Integrity Pact in respect of a particular contract would be effective from the stage of invitation of bids till the complete execution of the contract.

3. The Integrity Pact envisages a panel of Independent External Monitors (IEMs) approved for the organization. The IEM is to review independently and objectively, whether and to what extent parties have complied with their obligations under the Pact. He has right of access to all project documentation. The Monitor may examine any complaint received by him and submit a report to the Chief Executive of the organization, at the earliest. He may also submit a report directly to the CVO and the Commission, in case of suspicion of serious irregularities attracting the provisions of the PC Act. However, even though a contract may be covered by an Integrity Pact, the Central Vigilance Commission may, at its discretion, have any complaint received by it relating to such a contract, investigated.

4. The Commission would recommend the Integrity Pact concept and encourage its adoption and implementation in respect of all major procurements of the Govt. organizations. As it is necessary that the Monitors appointed should be of high integrity and reputation, it has been decided that the Commission would approve the names of the persons to be included in the panel. The Government Organizations are, therefore, required to submit a panel of names of eminent persons of high integrity and repute and experience in the relevant field, through their administrative Ministry, for consideration and approval by the Commission as Independent External Monitors. The terms and conditions including the remuneration payable to the Monitors need not be a part of the Integrity Pact and the same could be separately communicated. It has also

to be ensured by an appropriate provision in the contract, that the Integrity Pact is deemed as part of the contract in order to ensure that the parties are bound by the recommendation of the IEMs, in case any complaint relating to the contract, is found substantiated.

5. A copy of the Integrity Pact, which the SAIL got vetted by the Addl. Solicitor General is available on the Commission's web-site i.e. www.cvc.nic.in as an attachment to this Office Order in downloadable form, which may be used in original or may be suitably modified in order to meet the individual organization's requirements.

Sd/-

(Vineet Mathur)
Deputy Secretary

All Secretaries to the Govt. of India
All CMDs of PSUs All
CMDs of PSBs
All CVOs

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) hereinafter referred to as "The Principal".

And

.....hereinafter referred to as "The Bidder/Contractor"

Preamble

The Principal intends to award, under laid down organizational procedures, contract/s forThe Principal values full compliance with all relevant laws of the land, rules, regulations, economic use of resources and of fairness/transparency in its relations with its Bidder(s) and /or Contractor(s).

In order to achieve these goals, the Principal will appoint an Independent External Monitor (IEM), who will monitor the tender process and the execution of the contract for compliance with the principles mentioned above.

Section 1- Commitments of the Principal.

1. The Principal commits itself to take all measures necessary to prevent corruption and to observe the following principles:-
 - a. No employee of the Principal, personally or through family members, will in connection with the tender for, or the execution of a contract, demand, take a promise for or accept, for self or third person, any material or immaterial benefit which the person is not legally entitled to.
 - b. The Principal will during the tender process treat all Bidder(s) with equity and reason. The Principal will in particular, before and during the tender process, provide to all Bidder(s) the same information and will not provide to any Bidder(s) confidential/additional information through which the Bidder(s) could obtain an advantage in relation to the process or the contract execution.
 - c. The Principal will exclude from the process all known prejudiced persons.
2. If the Principal obtains information on the conduct of any of its employees which is a criminal offence under the IPC/PC Act, or it there

be a substantive suspicion in this regard, the Principal will inform the Chief Vigilance Officer and in addition can initiate disciplinary actions.

Section2- Commitments of the Bidder(s)/ Contractor(s)

1. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) commit himself to take all measures necessary to prevent corruption. He commits himself to observe the following principles during his participation in the tender process and during the contract execution.
 - a. The Bidder(s) / contractor(s) will not, directly or through any other persons or firm, offer promise or give to any of the Principal's employees involved in the tender process or the execution of the contract or to any third person any material or other benefit which he/she is not legally entitled to, in order to obtain in exchange any advantage or during the execution of the contract.
 - b. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) will not enter with other Bidders into any undisclosed agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal. This applies in particular to prices, specifications, certifications, subsidiary contracts, submission or non submission of bids or any other actions to restrict competitiveness or to introduce cartelization in the bidding process.
 - c. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) will not commit any offence under the relevant IPC/PC Act; further the Bidder(s) /Contractors will not use improperly, for purposes of competition or personal gain, or pass on to others, any information or document provided by the Principal as part of the business relationship, regarding plans, technical proposals and business details, including information contained or transmitted electronically.
 - d. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) of foreign origin shall disclose the name and address of the Agents/representatives in India, if any. Similarly, the bidder(s)/contractor(s) of Indian Nationality shall furnish the name and address of the foreign principals, if any. Further details as mentioned in the "Guidelines on Indian Agents of Foreign Suppliers" shall be disclosed by the Bidder(s)/Contractor(s). Further, as mentioned in the Guidelines all the payments made to the Indian agent/representative have

to be in Indian Rupees only. Copy of the "Guidelines on Indian Agents of Foreign Suppliers" as annexed and marked as Annexure.

- e. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) will, when presenting his bid, disclose any and all payments he has made, is committed to or intends to make to agents, brokers or any other intermediaries in connection with the award of the contract.
2. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) will not instigate third persons to commit offences outlined above or be an accessory to such offences.

Section 3: Disqualification from tender process and exclusion from future contracts

If the Bidder(s)/Contractor(s), before award or during execution has committed a transgression through a violation of Section 2, above or in any other form such as to put his reliability or credibility in question, the Principal is entitled to disqualify the Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) from the tender process or take action as per the procedure mentioned in the "Guidelines on Banning of business dealings". Copy of the "Guidelines on Banning of business dealings" is annexed and marked as Annex-"B".

Section 4: Compensation for Damages

1. If the Principal has disqualified the Bidder(s) from the tender process prior to the award according to Section 3, the Principal is entitled to demand and recover the damages equivalent to Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security.
2. If the Principal has terminated the contract according to Section 3, or if the Principal is entitled to terminated the contract according to Section 3, the Principal shall be entitled to demand and recover from the Contractor liquidated damages of the Contract value or the amount equivalent to Performance Bank Gurantee.

Section 5: Previous Transgression

1. The Bidder declares that no previous transgressions occurred in the last three years with any other company in any country conforming to the anti corruption approach or with any other public sector enterprise in India that could justify his exclusion from the tender process.
2. If the bidder makes incorrect statement on this subject, he can be disqualified from the tender process for action can be taken as per the procedure mentioned in "Guidelines on Banning of business dealings".

Section 6: Equal treatment of all Bidders/Contractors/Subcontractors.

1. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) undertake(s) to demand from all subcontractors a commitment in conformity with this Integrity Pact, and to submit it to the Principal before contract signing.
2. The Principal will enter into agreements with identical conditions as this one with all bidders, contractors and subcontractors.
3. The Principal will disqualify from the tender process all bidders who do not sign this Pact or violate its provisions.

Section 7: Criminal charges against violation Bidder(s)/ Contractor(s)/Sub contractor(s).

If the Principal obtains knowledge of conduct of a Bidder, Contractor or Subcontractor, or of an employee or a representative or an associate of a Bidder, Contractor or Subcontractor which constitutes corruption, or if the Principal has substantive suspicion in this regard, the Principal will inform the same to the Chief Vigilance Officer.

Section 8: Independent External Monitor/Monitors

- (1) The Principal appoints competent and credible Independent External Monitor for this Pact. The task of the Monitor is to review independently and objectively, whether and to what extent the parties comply with the obligations under this agreement.
- (2) The Monitor is not subject to instructions by the representatives of the parties and performs his functions neutrally and independently. He reports to the Chairman, SAIL.
- (3) The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) accepts that the Monitor has the right to access without restriction to all project documentation of the Principal including that provided by the Contractor. The Contractor will also grant the Monitor, upon his request and demonstration of a valid interest, unrestricted and unconditional access to his project documentation. The same is applicable to Subcontractors. The Monitor is under contractual obligation to treat the information and documents of the Bidder(s)/Contractor(s)/Subcontractor(s) with confidentiality.
- (4) The Principal will provide to the Monitor sufficient information about all meetings among the parties related to the Project

provided such meetings could have an impact on the contractual relations between the Principal and the Contractor. The parties offer to the Monitor the option to participate in such meetings.

- (5) As soon as the Monitor notices, or believes to notice, a violation of this agreement, he will so inform the Management of the Principal and request the Management to discontinue or take corrective action, or to take other relevant action. The monitor can in this regard submit non-binding recommendations. Beyond this, the Monitor has no right to demand from the parties that they act in a specific manner, refrain from action or tolerate action.
- (6) The Monitor will submit a written report to the Chairman, SAIL within 8 to 10 weeks from the date of reference or intimation to him by the Principal and, should the occasion arise, submit proposals for correcting problematic situations.
- (7) Monitor shall be entitled to compensation on the same terms as being extended to / provided to Independent Directors on the SAIL Board.
- (8) If the Monitor has reported to the Chairman SAIL, a substantiated suspicion of an offence under relevant IPC/PC Act, and the Chairman SAIL has not, within the reasonable time taken visible action to proceed against such offence or reported it to the Chief Vigilance Officer, the Monitor may also transmit this information directly to the Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- (9) The word 'Monitor' would include both singular and plural.

Section 9 - Pact Duration

This pact begins when both parties have legally signed it. It expires for the Contractor 10 months after the last payment under the contract, and for all other Bidders & months ---- the contract has been awarded.

If any claim is made / lodged during this time, the same shall be binding and continue to be valid despite the lapse of this pact as specified above, unless it is discharged / determined by Chairman of SAIL.

Section 10 - Other provisions

- This agreement is subject to Indian Law, Place of performance and jurisdiction is the Registered Office of the Principal, i.e. New Delhi.
- Changes and supplements as well as termination notices need to be made in writing. Side agreements have not been made.
- If the Contractor is a partnership or a consortium, this agreement must be signed by all partners or consortium members.
- Should one or several provisions of this agreement turn out to be invalid, the remainder of this agreement remains valid. In this case, the parties will strive to come to an agreement to their original intentions.

(For & on behalf of the Principal)

(For & On behalf of Bidder/
Contractor)

(Office Seal)

(Office Seal)

Place -----

Date -----

Witness 1 :
(Name & Address)

Witness 2 :
(Name & Address)

No.007/VGL/033
Government of India
Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, Block-A
GPO complex, INA,
New Delhi-110023
Dated the 28th December 2007

Office Order No.43/12/07

Subject: Adoption of Integrity Pact in major Government Procurement Activities- regarding.

Reference is invited to Commission's office order no. 41/12/2007 circulated vide letter of even no. dated 4/12/2007 on the aforementioned subject.

2. The Commission vide para 4 of the aforementioned office order had directed that the organizations were required to forward a panel of names of the eminent persons of high integrity through their administrative ministries for consideration and approval by the Commission as IEMs.

3. The matter has been reconsidered by the Commission and in order to simplify the procedure and avoid delay, it has been decided that the organizations may forward the panel of names of eminent persons for appointment and consideration as IEMs directly to the Commission for approval.

4. Para 4 of the Commission's circular cited above stands amended to this extent.

Sd/-

(Vineet Mathur)
Deputy Secretary

All Chief Vigilance officers

No. 008VGL/001
Government of India
Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, Block-A
GPO complex, INA,
New Delhi-110023
Dated, the 19th May, 2008

Circular No.18/05/08

**Sub:- Adoption of Integrity Pact in major Government Procurement Activities-
regarding.**

The Commission vide its office order no. 41/12/07 dated 4/12/07 had circulated a letter no. 007/vgl/033 emphasizing the need to adopt Integrity Pact (IP) by government organizations in respect of their major procurement activities. The Commission had also directed that in order to ensure compliance with the obligations under the pact by the parties concerned, Independent External Monitors (IEMs) are to be appointed after obtaining approval of the Commission for the names to be included in the panel.

2. As the role of IEMs is very important in ensuring implementation of the IP, it is necessary that the persons recommended for appointment have adequate experience in the relevant fields and are of high integrity and reputation.

3. The Commission would, therefore, direct that the organizations, while forwarding the names of the persons for empanelment as IEMs should send a detailed bio-data in respect of each of the persons proposed. The bio-data should, among other things, include the postings during the last ten years before the superannuation of the persons proposed as IEMs, in case the names relate to persons having worked in the government sector. The bio-data should also include details regarding experience older than ten years before superannuation of the persons proposed as IEMs, if they have relevant domain experience in the activities of PSUs where they are considered as IEMs.

This may be noted for future compliance.

Sd/-

(Rajiv Verma)
Under Secretary

All Chief Vigilance Officers

No. 007/VGL/033
Government of India
Central Vigilance Commission

Satarkta Bhawan, Block-A
GPO complex, INA,
New Delhi-110023
Dated the 5th August 2008

Circular No.24/8/08

Subject:- Adoption of Integrity Pact in major Government procurement activities.

The Commission, vide its Circulars No. 41/12/07, dated 4.12.07 and 18/5/08 dated 19.5.08, has emphasized the necessity to adopt Integrity Pact (IP) in Government organizations in their major procurement activities. The Commission had also directed that in order to oversee the compliance of obligations under the Pact, by the parties concerned, Independent External Monitors (IEMs) should be nominated with the approval of the Commission, out of a panel of names proposed by an Organisation.

2. As more and more organizations begin to adopt the Integrity Pact, several queries and operational issues have been raised. The Commission has examined these issues and suggested the following guidelines:

- i. Adoption of Integrity Pact in an organization is voluntary, but once adopted, it should cover all tenders/procurements above a specified threshold value, which should be set by the organization itself.
- ii. IP should cover all phases of the contract i.e., from the stage of Notice Inviting Tender(NIT)/pre-bid stage to the stage of last payment or a still later stage, covered through warranty, guarantee etc.
- iii. IEMs are vital to the implementation of IP and atleast one IEM should be invariably cited in the NIT. However, for ensuring the desired transparency and objectivity in dealing with the complaints arising out of any tendering process, the matter should be referred to the full panel of IEMs, who would examine the records, conduct the investigation and submit a report to the management, giving joint findings.
- iv. A maximum of three IEMs would be appointed in Navratna PSUs and upto two IEMs in other Public Sector Undertakings. The organizations may, however, forward a panel of more than three names for the Commission's approval. For the PSUs having a large territorial spread or those having several subsidiaries, the Commission may consider approving a large number of IEMs, but not more than two IEMs would be assigned to any one subsidiary.

- v. Remuneration payable to the IEMs may be similar to the Independent Directors in the organization.
 - vi. In view of limited procurement activities in the Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies and Financial Institution, they are exempted from adopting IP.
3. It needs no reiteration that all organizations must make sustained efforts to realize the spirit and objective of the Integrity Pact. For further clarifications on its implementation or the role of IEMs, all concerned are advised to approach the Commission.

Sd/-

(Rajiv Verma)
Under Secretary

All CVOs

New Delhi, dated the 19th July, 2011.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Use of Integrity Pact by Ministries/ Departments – Implementation of ARC Recommendation – regarding

The Administrative Reforms Commission in its report titled 'Ethics in Governance' had made the following recommendation in relation to Integrity Pacts:

"The Commission recommends encouragement of the mechanism of 'Integrity Pacts'. The Ministry of Finance may constitute a Task Force with representative from Ministry of Law and Personnel to identify the type of transactions requiring such Pacts and to provide for a protocol for entering into such a pact. The Task Force may, in particular, recommend whether any amendment in the existing legal framework like the Indian Contract Act and the Prevention of Corruption Act is required to make such agreements enforceable".

2. Accordingly, a Task Force was constituted in the Ministry of Finance with representatives of Ministries of Law, Defence and Department of Personnel & Training. After examining the recommendations of the Task Force it has been decided that:

- (i) All Government Ministries/Departments, including their attached / subordinate offices, may use the generally applicable Integrity Pact **as at Annexure** in their procurement transactions/ contracts with suitable changes specific to the situation in which the Pact is to be used.
- (ii) Ministries/ Departments may, in consultation with the respective Financial Adviser and with the approval of the Minister-in-charge, decide on and lay down the nature of procurements/ contracts and the threshold value above which the Integrity Pact would be used in respect of procurement transactions / contracts concluded by them or their attached/ subordinate offices. This activity should be completed by 31st August, 2011.
- (iii) The provision for the Integrity Pact should be included in all Requests for Proposal/ Tender Documents issued in future in respect of the procurements/ contracts that meet the criteria decided in terms of (ii) above.
- (iv) The aforesaid provisions may also be applied to procurements made by autonomous bodies for which also the concerned administrative Ministry/ Department may lay down the nature of procurements/ contracts and the threshold value above which the Integrity Pact would be used.

3. All Ministries/ Departments may take prompt action to ensure compliance with the aforesaid decisions, inter-alia, by attached/ subordinate offices and autonomous bodies. In regard to Public Sector Undertakings(PSUs), the Department of Public Enterprises is being separately requested to issue suitable instructions


(R. Prem Anand)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

1. All the Ministries/ Departments of Govt.of India.
2. FAs of all Ministries/ Departments of Govt. of India

Copy to Chief Vigilance Commissioner, New Delhi

PRE CONTRACT INTEGRITY PACT**General**

This pre-bid pre-contract Agreement (hereinafter called the Integrity Pact) is made on ____ day of the month of ____ 2010, between, on one hand, the President of India acting through Shri....., Designation of the officer, Ministry/Department, Government of India (hereinafter called the "BUYER", which expression shall mean and include, unless the context otherwise requires, his successors in office and assigns) of the First Part and M/s ____ represented by Shri____, Chief Executive Officer (hereinafter called the "BIDDER/Seller" which expression shall mean and include, unless the context otherwise requires, his successors and permitted assigns) of the Second Part.

WHEREAS the BUYER proposes to procure (Name of the Stores/Equipment/Item) and the BIDDER/Seller is willing to offer/has offered the stores and

WHEREAS the BIDDER is a private company/public company/Government undertaking/partnership/registered export agency, constituted in accordance with the relevant law in the matter and the BUYER is a Ministry/Department of the Government of India/PSU performing its functions on behalf of the President of India.

NOW, THEREFORE,

To avoid all forms of corruption by following a system that is fair, transparent and free from any influence/prejudiced dealings prior to, during and subsequent to the currency of the contract to be entered into with a view to :-

Enabling the BUYER to obtain the desired said stores/equipment at a competitive price in conformity with the defined specifications by avoiding the high cost and the distortionary impact of corruption on public procurement, and

Enabling BIDDERS to abstain from bribing or indulging in any corrupt practice in order to secure the contract by providing assurance to them that their competitors will also abstain from bribing and other corrupt practices and the BUYER will commit to prevent corruption, in any form, by its officials by following transparent procedures.

The parties hereto hereby agree to enter into this Integrity Pact and agree as follows:

Commitments of the BUYER

1.1 The BUYER undertakes that no official of the BUYER, connected directly or indirectly with the contract, will demand, take a promise for or accept, directly or through intermediaries, any bribe, consideration, gift, reward, favour or any material or immaterial benefit or any other advantage from the BIDDER, either for themselves or for any person, organisation or third party related to the contract in exchange for an advantage in the bidding process, bid evaluation, contracting or implementation process related to the contract.

1.2 The BUYER will, during the pre-contract stage, treat all BIDDERS alike, and will provide to all BIDDERS the same information and will not provide any such information to any particular BIDDER which could afford an advantage to that particular BIDDER in comparison to other BIDDERS.

1.3 All the officials of the BUYER will report to the appropriate Government office any attempted or completed breaches of the above commitments as well as any substantial suspicion of such a breach.

2. In case any such preceding misconduct on the part of such official(s) is reported by the BIDDER to the BUYER with full and verifiable facts and the same is prima facie found to be correct by the BUYER, necessary disciplinary proceedings, or any other action as deemed fit, including criminal proceedings may be initiated by the BUYER and such a person shall be debarred from further dealings related to the contract process. In such a case while an enquiry is being conducted by the BUYER the proceedings under the contract would not be stalled.

Commitments of BIDDERS

3. The BIDDER commits itself to take all measures necessary to prevent corrupt practices, unfair means and illegal activities during any stage of its bid or during any pre-contract or post-contract stage in order to secure the contract or in furtherance to secure it and in particular commit itself to the following:-

3.1 The BIDDER will not offer, directly or through intermediaries, any bribe, gift, consideration, reward, favour, any material or immaterial benefit or other advantage, commission, fees, brokerage or inducement to any official of the BUYER, connected directly or indirectly with the bidding process, or to any person, organisation or third party related to the contract in exchange for any advantage in the bidding, evaluation, contracting and implementation of the contract.

3.2 The BIDDER further undertakes that it has not given, offered or promised to give, directly or indirectly any bribe, gift, consideration,

reward, favour, any material or immaterial benefit or other advantage, commission, fees, brokerage or inducement to any official of the BUYER or otherwise in procuring the Contract or forbearing to do or having done any act in relation to the obtaining or execution of the contract or any other contract with the Government for showing or forbearing to show favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the contract or any other contract with the Government.

3.3* BIDDERS shall disclose the name and address of agents and representatives and Indian BIDDERS shall disclose their foreign principals or associates.

3.4* BIDDERS shall disclose the payments to be made by them to agents/brokers or any other intermediary, in connection with this bid/contract.

3.5* The BIDDER further confirms and declares to the BUYER that the BIDDER is the original manufacturer/integrator/authorised government sponsored export entity of the defence stores and has not engaged any individual or firm or company whether Indian or foreign to intercede, facilitate or in any way to recommend to the BUYER or any of its functionaries, whether officially or unofficially to the award of the contract to the BIDDER, nor has any amount been paid, promised or intended to be paid to any such individual, firm or company in respect of any such intercession, facilitation or recommendation.

3.6 The BIDDER, either while presenting the bid or during pre-contract negotiations or before signing the contract, shall disclose any payments he has made, is committed to or intends to make to officials of the

BUYER or their family members, agents, brokers or any other intermediaries in connection with the contract and the details of services agreed upon for such payments.

3.7 The BIDDER will not collude with other parties interested in the contract to impair the transparency, fairness and progress of the bidding process, bid evaluation, contracting and implementation of the contract.

3.8 The BIDDER will not accept any advantage in exchange for any corrupt practice, unfair means and illegal activities.

3.9 The BIDDER shall not use improperly, for purposes of competition or personal gain, or pass on to others, any information provided by the BUYER as part of the business relationship, regarding plans, technical proposals and business details, including information contained in any electronic data carrier. The BIDDER also undertakes to exercise due and adequate care lest any such information is divulged.

3.10 The BIDDER commits to refrain from giving any complaint directly or through any other manner without supporting it with full and verifiable facts.

3.11 The BIDDER shall not instigate or cause to instigate any third person to commit any of the actions mentioned above.

3.12 If the BIDDER or any employee of the BIDDER or any person acting on behalf of the BIDDER, either directly or indirectly, is a relative of any of the officers of the BUYER, or alternatively, if any relative of an officer of

the BUYER has financial interest/stake in the BIDDER's firm, the same shall be disclosed by the BIDDER at the time of filing of tender.

The term 'relative' for this purpose would be as defined in Section 6 of the Companies Act 1956.

3.13 The BIDDER shall not lend to or borrow any money from or enter into any monetary dealings or transactions, directly or indirectly, with any employee of the BUYER.

4. Previous Transgression

4.1 The BIDDER declares that no previous transgression occurred in the last three years immediately before signing of this Integrity Pact, with any other company in any country in respect of any corrupt practices envisaged hereunder or with any Public Sector Enterprise in India or any Government Department in India that could justify BIDDER's exclusion from the tender process.

4.2 The BIDDER agrees that if it makes incorrect statement on this subject, BIDDER can be disqualified from the tender process or the contract, if already awarded, can be terminated for such reason.

5. Earnest Money (Security Deposit)

5.1 While submitting commercial bid, the BIDDER shall deposit an amount _____ (to be specified in RFP) as Earnest Money/Security Deposit, with the BUYER through any of the following instruments:

- (i) Bank Draft or a Pay Order in favour of _____
- (ii) A confirmed guarantee by an Indian Nationalised Bank, promising payment of the guaranteed sum to the BUYER on demand within three working days without any demur whatsoever

and without seeking any reasons whatsoever. The demand for payment by the BUYER shall be treated as conclusive proof of payment.

- (iii) Any other mode or through any other instrument (to be specified in the RFP).

5.2 The Earnest Money/Security Deposit shall be valid upto a period of five years or the complete conclusion of the contractual obligations to the complete satisfaction of both the BIDDER and the BUYER, including warranty period, whichever is later.

5.3 In case of the successful BIDDER a clause would also be incorporated in the Article pertaining to Performance Bond in the Purchase Contract that the provisions of Sanctions for Violation shall be applicable for forfeiture of Performance Bond in case of a decision by the BUYER to forfeit the same without assigning any reason for imposing sanction for violation of this Pact.

5.4 No interest shall be payable by the BUYER to the BIDDER on Earnest Money/Security Deposit for the period of its currency.

6. Sanctions for Violations

6.1 Any breach of the aforesaid provisions by the BIDDER or any one employed by it or acting on its behalf (whether with or without the knowledge of the BIDDER) shall entitle the BUYER to take all or any one of the following actions, wherever required:-

- (i) To immediately call off the pre contract negotiations without assigning any reason or giving any compensation to the BIDDER.

However, the proceedings with the other BIDDER(s) would continue.

- (ii) The Earnest Money Deposit (in pre-contract stage) and/or Security Deposit/Performance Bond (after the contract is signed) shall

stand forfeited either fully or partially, as decided by the BUYER and the BUYER shall not be required to assign any reason therefore.

(iii) To immediately cancel the contract, if already signed, without giving any compensation to the BIDDER.

(iv) To recover all sums already paid by the BUYER, and in case of an Indian BIDDER with interest thereon at 2% higher than the prevailing Prime Lending Rate of State Bank of India, while in case of a BIDDER from a country other than India with interest thereon at 2% higher than the LIBOR. If any outstanding payment is due to the BIDDER from the BUYER in connection with any other contract for any other stores, such outstanding payment could also be utilised to recover the aforesaid sum and interest.

(v) To encash the advance bank guarantee and performance bond/warranty bond, if furnished by the BIDDER, in order to recover the payments, already made by the BUYER, along with interest.

(vi) To cancel all or any other Contracts with the BIDDER. The BIDDER shall be liable to pay compensation for any loss or damage to the BUYER resulting from such cancellation/rescission and the BUYER shall be entitled to deduct the amount so payable from the money(s) due to the BIDDER.

(vii) To debar the BIDDER from participating in future bidding processes of the Government of India for a minimum period of five years, which may be further extended at the discretion of the BUYER.

(viii) To recover all sums paid in violation of this Pact by BIDDER(s) to any middleman or agent or broker with a view to securing the contract.

(ix) In cases where irrevocable Letters of Credit have been received in respect of any contract signed by the BUYER with the BIDDER, the same shall not be opened.

(x) Forfeiture of Performance Bond in case of a decision by the BUYER to forfeit the same without assigning any reason for imposing sanction for violation of this Pact.

6.2 The BUYER will be entitled to take all or any of the actions mentioned at para 6.1(i) to (x) of this Pact also on the Commission by the BIDDER or any one employed by it or acting on its behalf (whether with or without the knowledge of the BIDDER), of an offence as defined in Chapter IX of the Indian Penal code, 1860 or Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 or any other statute enacted for prevention of corruption.

6.3 The decision of the BUYER to the effect that a breach of the provisions of this Pact has been committed by the BIDDER shall be final and conclusive on the BIDDER. However, the BIDDER can approach the Independent Monitor(s) appointed for the purposes of this Pact.

7. Fall Clause

7.1 The BIDDER undertakes that it has not supplied/is not supplying similar product/systems or subsystems at a price lower than that offered in the present bid in respect of any other Ministry/Department of the Government of India or PSU and if it is found at any stage that similar product/systems or sub systems was supplied by the BIDDER to any other Ministry/Department of the Government of India or a PSU at a lower price, then that very price, with due allowance for elapsed time, will be applicable to the present case and the difference in the cost would be refunded by the BIDDER to the BUYER, if the contract has already been concluded.

8. Independent Monitors

8.1 The BUYER has appointed Independent Monitors (hereinafter referred to as Monitors) for this Pact in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission (Names and Addresses of the Monitors to be given).

8.2 The task of the Monitors shall be to review independently and objectively, whether and to what extent the parties comply with the obligations under this Pact.

8.3 The Monitors shall not be subject to instructions by the representatives of the parties and perform their functions neutrally and independently.

8.4 Both the parties accept that the Monitors have the right to access all the documents relating to the project/procurement, including minutes of meetings.

8.5 As soon as the Monitor notices, or has reason to believe, a violation of this Pact, he will so inform the Authority designated by the BUYER.

8.6 The BIDDER(s) accepts that the Monitor has the right to access without restriction to all Project documentation of the BUYER including that provided by the BIDDER. The BIDDER will also grant the Monitor, upon his request and demonstration of a valid interest, unrestricted and unconditional access to his project documentation. The same is applicable to Subcontractors. The Monitor shall be under contractual obligation to treat the information and documents of the BIDDER/Subcontractor(s) with confidentiality.

8.7 The BUYER will provide to the Monitor sufficient information about all meetings among the parties related to the Project provided such

meetings could have an impact on the contractual relations between the parties. The parties will offer to the Monitor the option to participate in such meetings.

8.8 The Monitor will submit a written report to the designated Authority of BUYER/Secretary in the Department/ within 8 to 10 weeks from the date of reference or intimation to him by the BUYER / BIDDER and, should the occasion arise, submit proposals for correcting problematic situations.

9. Facilitation of Investigation

In case of any allegation of violation of any provisions of this Pact or payment of commission, the BUYER or its agencies shall be entitled to examine all the documents including the Books of Accounts of the BIDDER and the BIDDER shall provide necessary information and documents in English and shall extend all possible help for the purpose of such examination.

10. Law and Place of Jurisdiction

This Pact is subject to Indian Law. The place of performance and jurisdiction is the seat of the BUYER.

11. Other Legal Actions

The actions stipulated in this Integrity Pact are without prejudice to any other legal action that may follow in accordance with the provisions of the extant law in force relating to any civil or criminal proceedings.

12. Validity

12.1 The validity of this Integrity Pact shall be from date of its signing and extend upto 5 years or the complete execution of the contract to the

satisfaction of both the BUYER and the BIDDER/Seller, including warranty period, whichever is later. In case BIDDER is unsuccessful, this Integrity Pact shall expire after six months from the date of the signing of the contract.

12.2 Should one or several provisions of this Pact turn out to be invalid; the remainder of this Pact shall remain valid. In this case, the parties will strive to come to an agreement to their original intentions.

13. The parties hereby sign this Integrity Pact at _____ on _____

BUYER

BIDDER

Name of the Officer.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Designation

Deptt./MINISTRY/PSU

Witness

Witness

1. _____

1. _____

2. _____

2. _____

* Provisions of these clauses would need to be amended/ deleted in line with the policy of the BUYER in regard to involvement of Indian agents of foreign suppliers.

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केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग
CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION



सतर्कता भवन, जी.पी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स,
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Satarkta Bhawan, G.P.O. Complex,
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सं./No. 015/VGL/091

दिनांक / Dated. 13.01.2017

Circular No. 02/01/2017

Subject:- Adoption of Integrity Pact – Revised Standard Operating Procedure -
regarding.

The Commission has reviewed the Standard Operating Procedure for adoption of Integrity Pact issued vide Circular No. 10/5/09 dated 18.5.2009 and has formulated a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for adoption of Integrity Pact in Government Departments / Organisations. A copy of the same is enclosed for information and necessary action.

(J. Vinod Kumar)
Director

1. All Secretaries of Ministries/Departments.
2. All CMDs/Heads of CPSUs/Public Sector Banks/Organisations.
3. All CVOs of Ministries/Departments/ CPSUs/Public Sector Banks/Organisations.

Subject:- Adoption of Integrity Pact – Standard Operating Procedure – regarding.

1.0 Background

1.1 In order to ensure transparency, equity and competitiveness in public procurement, the Commission has been recommending the concept of Integrity Pact (IP) for adoption and implementation by Government organizations.

1.2 CVC through its office orders No. 41/12/07 dated 04.12.2007 and 43/12/07 dated 28.12.2007 as well as Circulars No. 18/05/08 dated 19.05.2008 and Circular No. 24/08/08 dated 05.08.2008 recommended adoption of Integrity Pact to all the organizations and provided basic guidelines for its implementation in respect of major procurements in Government Organisations. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was issued by the Commission vide order No. 10/5/09 dated 18.05.2009. The Commission issued clarifications regarding the appointment, tenure and eligibility criteria of IEMs vide Circular dated 11.8.2009 and 19.4.2010. The review system for IEMs was modified vide circular dated 13.8.2010 and clarification regarding tenure of IEMs was issued by the Commission vide its circular dated 23.7.2012.

1.3 Deptt. of Expenditure vide OM dt. 19.7.2011, issued guidelines to all Ministries/ Departments/Organizations including their attached/subordinate offices and autonomous bodies for implementation of IP. Also, vide OM dated 20.7.2011 Deptt. of Expenditure requested Department of Public Enterprises for directions to Central Public Sector Enterprises for use of IP.

1.4 Further, in view of the increasing procurement activities of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Insurance Companies (ICs) and Financial Institutions (FIs), the Commission vide Circular No. 02/02/2015 dated 25.02.2015 advised that all PSBs, PSICs and FIs shall also adopt and implement the Integrity Pact.

2.0 Integrity Pact

2.1 The Pact essentially envisages an agreement between the prospective vendors/bidders and the buyer, committing the persons/officials of both sides, not to resort to any corrupt practices in any aspect/stage of the contract. Only those vendors/bidders, who commit themselves to such a Pact with the buyer, would be considered competent to participate in the bidding process. In other words, entering into this Pact would be a preliminary qualification. The essential ingredients of the Pact include:

- Promise on the part of the principal not to seek or accept any benefit, which is not legally available;
- Principal to treat all bidders with equity and reason;
- Promise on the part of bidders not to offer any benefit to the employees of the Principal not available legally;
- Bidders not to enter into any undisclosed agreement or understanding with other bidders with respect to prices, specifications, certifications, subsidiary contracts, etc.

- Bidders not to pass any information provided by Principal as part of business relationship to others and not to commit any offence under PC/ IPC Act;
- Foreign bidders to disclose the name and address of agents and representatives in India and Indian Bidders to disclose their foreign principals or associates;
- Bidders to disclose the payments to be made by them to agents / brokers or any other intermediary;
- Bidders to disclose any transgressions with any other company that may impinge on the anti corruption principle.

2.2 Integrity Pact, in respect of a particular contract, shall be operative from the date IP is signed by both the parties till the final completion of the contract. Any violation of the same would entail disqualification of the bidders and exclusion from future business dealings.

3.0 Implementation procedure

- 3.1 As stated in Department of Expenditure's O.M. dated 20.7.2011, Ministries/Departments may, in consultation with the respective Financial Adviser and with the approval of the Minister-in-charge, decide on and lay down the nature of procurements/contracts and the threshold value above which the Integrity Pact would be used in respect of procurement transactions/contracts concluded by them or their attached/sub-ordinate offices.
- 3.2 The above provision is also applied for procurements made by autonomous bodies for which also the concerned administrative ministry / department may lay down the nature of procurements/contracts and the threshold value above which the Integrity Pact would be used.
- 3.3 The provision for the Integrity Pact is to be included in all Requests for Proposal/Tender documents issued in future in respect of the procurements/contracts that meet the criteria decided in terms of para 3.1 and 3.2 above.
- 3.4 Tenders should specify that IEMs have been appointed by the Commission. In all tenders, particulars of all IEMs should be mentioned instead of nominating a single IEM in the tender as far as possible.
- 3.5 The Purchase / procurement wing of the organization would be the focal point for the implementation of IP.
- 3.6 The Vigilance Department would be responsible for review, enforcement, and reporting on all related vigilance issues.
- 3.7 It has to be ensured, through an appropriate provision in the contract, that IP is deemed as part of the contract so that the parties concerned are bound by its provisions.

- 3.8 IP would be implemented through a panel of Independent External Monitors (IEMs), appointed by the organization. The IEM would review independently and objectively, whether and to what extent parties have complied with their obligations under the Pact.
- 3.9 Periodical Vendors' meets, as a familiarization and confidence building measure, would be desirable for a wider and realistic compliance of the principles of IP.
- 3.10 A clause should be included in the IP that a person signing IP shall not approach the Courts while representing the matters to IEMs and he / she will await their decision in the matter.
- 3.11 In case of sub-contracting, the Principal contractor shall take the responsibility of the adoption of IP by the sub-contractor.
- 3.12 Information relating to procurements/contracts covered under IP and its progress/status would need to be shared with the IEMs on monthly basis.
- 3.13 The final responsibility for implementation of IP vests with the CMD/CEO of the organization.

4.0 Role and Duties of IEMs

- 4.1 The IEMs would have access to all contract documents, whenever required.
- 4.2 It would be desirable to have structured meetings of the IEMs with the Chief Executive of the Organisation on a quarterly basis including an annual meeting to discuss / review the information on tenders awarded during the previous quarter. Additional sittings, however, can be held as per requirement.
- 4.3 The IEMs would examine all complaints received by them and give their recommendations/views to the Chief Executive of the organization, at the earliest. They may also send their report directly to the CVO and the Commission, in case of suspicion of serious irregularities requiring legal/administrative action. IEMs are expected to tender their advice on the complaints within 10 days as far as possible.
- 4.4 For ensuring the desired transparency and objectivity in dealing with the complaints arising out of any tendering process, the matter should be examined by the full panel of IEMs jointly as far as possible, who would look into the records, conduct an investigation, and submit their joint recommendations to the Management.
- 4.5 IEM should examine the process integrity, they are not expected to concern themselves with fixing of responsibility of officers. Complaints alleging malafide on the part of any officer of the organization should be looked into by the CVO of the concerned organisation.

- 4.6 The role of IEMs is advisory, would not be legally binding and it is restricted to resolving issues raised by an intending bidder regarding any aspect of the tender which allegedly restricts competition or bias towards some bidders. At the same time, it must be understood that IEMs are not consultants to the Management. Their role is independent in nature and the advice once tendered would not be subject to review at the request of the organization.
- 4.7 Issues like warranty / guarantee etc. should be outside the purview of IEMs.
- 4.8 All IEMs should sign non-disclosure agreements with the organization in which they are appointed. They would also be required to sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest.
- 4.9 A person acting as an IEM shall not be debarred from taking up other assignments such as consultancy with other organizations or agencies subject to his declaring that his / here additional assignment does not involve any conflict of interest with existing assignment. In case of any conflict of interest arising at a later date from an entity wherein he is or has been a consultant, the IEM should inform the CEO and recuse himself/herself from that case.
- 4.10 All organizations may provide secretarial assistance to IEM for rendering his/her job as IEM.
- 4.11 In case of any misconduct by an IEM, the CMD/CEO should bring it to the notice of the Commission detailing the specific misconduct for appropriate action at the Commission's end.
- 4.12 The role of the CVO of the organization shall remain unaffected by the presence of IEMs. A matter being examined by the IEMs can be separately investigated by the CVO in terms of the provisions of the CVC Act or Vigilance Manual, if a complaint is received by him/her or directed to him/her by the Commission.

5.0 **Appointment of IEMs**

- 5.1 The IEMs appointed should be eminent personalities of high integrity and reputation. The Commission would invite applications from willing interested persons and maintain a panel of persons eligible to be appointed as IEM. The Commission may make independent and discreet background check before including a name in the panel.
- 5.2 The choice of IEM should be restricted to officials from the government and public sector undertakings who have retired from positions of the level of Additional Secretary to the Government of India and above or equivalent pay scale, and for Public Sector Undertakings, Board level officers in Schedule A Companies, Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies and Financial Institutions. Officers of the Armed Forces who have retired from the rank equivalent of Lt. General and above may also be considered for appointment.

- 5.3 For appointment as IEM the Organisation has to forward a panel of suitable persons to the Commission. This panel may include those who are in the panel maintained by the Commission or they may propose names of other suitable persons for appointment as IEM. While forwarding the panel of suitable persons, the Organization would enclose detailed bio-data in respect of all names proposed. The details would include postings during the last ten years before superannuation, special achievements, experience, etc., in Government sector. It is desirable that the persons proposed possess domain experience of the PSU activities or the relevant field with which they may be required to deal.
- 5.4 The Commission would not consider the name of an officer / executive who is either serving or who has retired from the same organization to be an IEM in that organization, although they may have served in the top management.
- 5.5 A maximum of three IEMs may be appointed in Navratna PSUs and a maximum of two IEMs in other Public Sector Undertakings, Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies and Financial Institutions.
- 5.6 A person may be appointed as an IEM in a maximum of three organizations at a time.
- 5.7 The appointment of IEM would be for an initial tenure of three years and could be extended for another term of two years on a request received by the Commission from the organization appointing the IEM. An IEM can have a maximum tenure of 5 years in an organization with an initial term of three years and another term of two years.
- 5.8 Age should not be more than 70 years at the time of appointment/extension of tenure.
- 5.9 Remuneration payable to the IEMs by the organization concerned would be equivalent to that admissible to an Independent Director in the organization and in any case should not exceed Rs. 20,000/- per sitting. Remuneration being paid to existing IEMs may not be changed to their detriment for the duration of their tenure.
- 5.10 The terms and conditions of appointment, including the remuneration payable to the IEMs, should not be included in the Integrity Pact or the NIT. This may be communicated individually to the IEMs concerned.

6.0 Review System

All organizations implementing IP would undertake a periodical review and assessment of implementation of IP and submit progress reports to the Commission. CVOs of all organizations would keep the Commission posted with the implementation status through their annual reports and special reports, wherever necessary.

- 7.0 All organizations are called upon to make sincere and sustained efforts to imbibe the spirit and principles of the Integrity Pact and carry it to its effective implementation.

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सत्यमेव जयते

केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग
CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION



सतर्कता भवन, जी.पी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स,
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सं./No..... **015/VGL/091**

दिनांक / Dated..... **03.06.2021**

Circular No. 06/05/21

**Subject:- Adoption of Integrity Pact-Revised Standard Operating Procedure:-
regarding.**

The Commission has reviewed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for adoption of Integrity Pact (IP) by all Government Organizations, Public Sector Enterprises, Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies, other Financial Institutions and Autonomous bodies etc. A copy of the revised SOP is enclosed, which would be applicable for adoption and implementation of the IP by the organizations concerned.

2. The present SOP would replace the earlier SOP issued vide Circular No. 02/01/2017 dated 13.01.2017.

(Rajiv Varma)
Officer on Special Duty

Encl.: As above.

To

- (i) All Secretaries of Ministries/Departments. **(The revised SOP may also be shared with the existing IEMs in the organizations concerned)**
- (ii) All CMDs/Head of CPSUs/Public Sector Banks/Organizations. **(The revised SOP may also be shared with the existing IEMs in the organizations concerned)**
- (iii) All CVOs of Ministries/Departments/CPSUs/Public Sector Banks/Organizations. **(The revised SOP may be brought to the notice of the Chief Executive of the organization concerned)**
- (iv) All Independent External Monitors.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION OF INTEGRITY PACT

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In order to ensure transparency, equity and competitiveness in public procurement, the Commission recommends adoption and implementation of the concept of Integrity Pact (IP) by Government organizations, Public Sector Enterprises, Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies, other Financial Institutions and Autonomous Bodies etc.
- 1.2 Vide Circular No. 02/1/2017 dated 13.01.2017, the Commission issued a Comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for adoption and implementation of Integrity Pact.

Further, vide Circular no. 15/10/20 dated 20.10.2020, the eligibility criteria for consideration for empanelment as Independent External Monitor (IEM) was reviewed and revised.

- 1.3 Deptt. of Expenditure vide OM dt. 19.7.2011, issued guidelines to all Ministries/ Departments/Organizations including their attached/subordinate offices and autonomous bodies for implementation of IP. Also, vide OM dated 20.7.2011 Deptt. of Expenditure requested Department of Public Enterprises for directions to Central Public Sector Enterprises for use of IP.
- 1.4 Further, in view of the increasing procurement activities of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Insurance Companies (ICs) and Financial Institutions (FIs), the Commission vide Circular No. 02/02/2015 dated 25.02.2015 advised that all PSBs, PSICs and FIs shall also adopt and implement the Integrity Pact.

2.0 INTEGRITY PACT

2.1 The Pact essentially envisages an agreement between the prospective vendors/bidders and the buyer, committing the persons/officials of both sides, not to resort to any corrupt practices in any aspect/stage of the contract. Only those vendors/bidders, who commit themselves to such a Pact with the buyer, would be considered competent to participate in the bidding process. In other words, entering into this Pact would be a preliminary qualification. The essential ingredients of the Pact include:

- Promise on the part of the principal not to seek or accept any benefit, which is not legally available;
- Principal to treat all bidders with equity and reason;
- Promise on the part of bidders not to offer any benefit to the employees of the Principal not available legally;
- Bidders not to enter into any undisclosed agreement or understanding with other bidders with respect to prices, specifications, certifications, subsidiary contracts, etc.
- Bidders not to pass any information provided by Principal as part of business relationship to others and not to commit any offence under PC/IPC Act;
- Foreign bidders to disclose the name and address of agents and representatives in India and Indian Bidders to disclose their foreign principals or associates;
- Bidders to disclose the payments to be made by them to agents / brokers or any other intermediary;
- Bidders to disclose any transgressions with any other company that may impinge on the anti corruption principle.

Any violation of Integrity Pact would entail disqualification of the bidders and exclusion from future business dealings, as per the existing provisions of GFR, 2017, PC Act, 1988 and other Financial Rules/Guidelines etc. as may be applicable to the organization concerned.

- 2.2 Integrity Pact, in respect of a particular contract, shall be operative from the date IP is signed by both the parties till the completion of contract. After award of work, the IEMs shall look into any issue relating to execution of contract, if specifically raised before them. As an illustrative example, if a contractor who has been awarded the contract, during the execution of contract, raises issue of delayed payment etc. before the IEMs, the same shall be examined by the panel of IEMs.

However, the IEMs may suggest systemic improvements to the management of the organization concerned, if considered necessary, to bring about transparency, equity and fairness in the system of procurement.

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE

- 3.1 As stated in Department of Expenditure's O.M. dated 20.7.2011, Ministries/Departments may, in consultation with the respective Financial Adviser and with the approval of the Minister-in-charge, decide on and lay down the nature of procurements/contracts and the threshold value above which the Integrity Pact would be used in respect of procurement transactions/contracts concluded by them or their attached/sub-ordinate offices.

In case, any individual organization desires to lower the threshold value, they may do so with the approval of the competent authority of the organization.

Procurements/contracts would cover procurement of works, goods and services by the organization concerned.

- 3.2 The above provision is also applied for procurements/contracts made by autonomous bodies for which the Administrative Ministry/Department concerned should decide the type of procurement activities and the threshold value above which the Integrity Pact would be applicable.

The procurements/contracts would cover both purchases and works/services contracts being entered into by the organization concerned.

- 3.3 The provision for the Integrity Pact is to be included in all Requests for Proposal/Tender documents issued in future in respect of the procurements/contracts that meet the criteria decided in terms of para 3.1 and 3.2 above.
- 3.4 In all tenders covered under the Integrity Pact, particulars of all IEMs, including their email IDs, should be mentioned, instead of mentioning details of a single IEM.
- 3.5 The Purchase / procurement wing of the organization would be the focal point for the implementation of IP.
- 3.6 It has to be ensured, through an appropriate provision in the contract, that IP is deemed as part of the contract so that the parties concerned are bound by its provisions.
- 3.7 IP would be implemented through a panel of Independent External Monitors (IEMs), appointed by the organization. The IEM would review independently and objectively, whether and to what extent parties have complied with their obligations under the Pact.
- 3.8 A clause should be included in the IP that a person signing IP shall not approach the Courts while representing the matters to IEMs and he / she will await their decision in the matter.
- 3.9 In case of a joint venture, all the partners of the joint venture should sign the Integrity Pact. In case of sub-contracting, the Principal contractor shall take the responsibility of the adoption of IP by the sub-contractor. It is to be ensured that all sub-contractors also sign the IP.
- 3.10 A summary of procurement/contract awarded, which are covered under the IP shall be compulsorily shared with the IEMs on quarterly basis, during the meeting. Based on the specific requirement of the organisations and the no. of tenders floated, the meetings may be held on monthly or bi-monthly basis, instead of quarterly periodicity.

- 3.11 The final responsibility for implementation of IP vests with the CMD/CEO of the organization.

4.0 ROLE AND DUTIES OF IEMs

- 4.1 The IEMs would be provided access to all documents/records pertaining to the contract for which a complaint or issue is raised before them, as and when warranted. However, the documents/records/information having National Security implications and those documents which have been classified as Secret/Top Secret are not to be disclosed.
- 4.2 It would be desirable to have structured meetings of the IEMs with the Chief Executive of the Organisation on a half yearly basis to discuss / review the information on tenders awarded during the preceding six months' period. Additional sittings, however, can be held as per requirement.
- 4.3 The IEMs would examine all complaints received by them and give their recommendations/views to the Chief Executive of the organization, at the earliest. They may also send their report directly to the CVO in case of suspicion of serious irregularities requiring legal/administrative action. Only in case of very serious issue having a specific, verifiable Vigilance angle, the matter should be reported directly to the Commission. IEMs are expected to tender their advice on the complaints, within 30 days.
- 4.4 For ensuring the desired transparency and objectivity in dealing with the complaints arising out of any tendering process or during execution of contract, the matter should be examined by the full panel of IEMs jointly, who would look into the records, conduct an investigation, and submit their joint recommendations to the Management.
- 4.5 IEM should examine the process integrity, they are not expected to concern themselves with fixing of responsibility of officers. Complaints alleging malafide on the part of any officer of the organization should be looked into by the CVO of the concerned Organization.

- 4.6 The advisory role of IEMs is envisaged as that of a friend, philosopher and guide. The advice of IEM would not be legally binding and it is restricted to resolving issues raised by a bidder regarding any aspect of the tender which allegedly restricts competition or bias towards some bidders. At the same time, it must be understood that IEMs are not consultants to the Management. Their role is independent in nature and the advice once tendered would not be subject to review at the request of the organization.
- 4.7 Issues like warranty/guarantee etc. should be outside the purview of IEMs.
- 4.8 All IEMs should sign non-disclosure agreements with the organization in which they are appointed. They would also be required to sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest.
- 4.9 A person acting as an IEM shall not be debarred from taking up other assignments such as consultancy with other organizations or agencies subject to his declaring that his / her additional assignment does not involve any conflict of interest with existing assignment. In case of any conflict of interest arising at a later date from an entity wherein he is or has been a consultant, the IEM should inform the CEO and recuse himself/herself from that case.
- 4.10 All organizations may provide secretarial assistance to IEMs for rendering his/her job as IEM.
- 4.11 In case of any misconduct by an IEM, the CMD/CEO should bring it to the notice of the Commission detailing the specific misconduct for appropriate action at the Commission's end.
- 4.12 The role of the CVO of the organization shall remain unaffected by the presence of IEMs. A matter being examined by the IEMs can be separately investigated by the CVO in terms of the provisions of the CVC Act or Vigilance Manual, if a complaint is received by him/her or directed to him/her by the Commission.

- 4.13 All the deliberations during the IEMs' meetings should be minuted and in the next meeting, the IEMs should confirm the recorded minutes of the previous meeting.

5.0 APPOINTMENT OF IEMS

- 5.1 The IEMs appointed should be eminent personalities of high integrity and reputation. A periodical notice inviting applications from eligible persons will be published on the Commission's website. After due scrutiny and verification of the applications and accompanying documents, as may be deemed appropriate by the Commission, the name(s) would be included in the panel for consideration for nomination as IEM.

All applications received after due date of notice issued by the Commission, shall be considered alongwith applications received in response to the subsequent notice.

- 5.2 The zone of consideration of eminent persons for empanelment as IEMs would consists of:-
- (i) Officer who have held the post of Secretary to Govt. of India or were in equivalent pay scale, at the time of retirement.
 - (ii) Officer who have held the post of Chief Secretary of any state of Union of India or were equivalent pay scale, at the time of retirement.
 - (iii) Officers who have held the post of Director General of Police or were in apex pay scale, at the time of retirement.
 - (iv) Persons who have held the post of CMD of Schedule 'A' Public Sector Enterprise and were equivalent to Additional Secretary to Govt. of India, at the time of retirement.
 - (v) Persons who have held the post of CMD/MD and CEO of Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies and other Financial Institutions, at the time of retirement.
 - (vi) Chief Executive Officer of an organization [other than listed above and were equivalent to Secretary to Govt. of India, at the time of retirement.

- (vii) Officers who were in the apex pay scale at the time of retirement in Central Government/State Government/Forest Service.
 - (viii) Officers in the apex pay scale in all three Armed Forces.
- 5.3 The Commission would not include a retired person in the panel being maintained by it for consideration for nomination as IEM, if that retired person had accepted a full time assignment, post retirement, either in government sector or private sector or elsewhere. All those empanelled persons have accepted full time employment elsewhere, would cease to remain on the panel, from the date on which they have accepted the said assignment.
- 5.4 The Commission would nominate IEMs for an organization, from the panel of IEMs maintained by it.
- 5.5 The Commission would not consider the name of a retired officer/executive for nomination as IEM in a particular organisation, in case that person has retired from the same organization or has conflict of interest in any form.
- However, in case the person being appointed as IEM in a particular organization has a conflict of interest, which may have gone unnoticed, despite best efforts, he/she should inform the Appointing Authority about the same at the time of offer of appointment being given to him/her and should not accept the offer for appointment as IEM in that particular organization.
- 5.6 Three IEMs shall be nominated for appointment in Maharatna and Navratna PSUs and two IEMs shall be nominated in all other organizations.
- 5.7 A person may be appointed as an IEM in a maximum of three organizations at a time.
- 5.8 An empanelled person cannot be appointed in one organization for a period of more than three years.

- 5.9 Age should not be more than 70 years at the time of appointment.
- 5.10 In any organization, the IEMs shall be paid per sitting a fees of Rs. 25,000/- or fees as payable to Independent Board Members, whichever is less. However, in case, in any organization, the fee payable to Independent Board Members is less than Rs. 25,000/-, the organization concerned may, after due deliberation increase the fees payable to IEM, subject to the ceiling of Rs. 25,000/- per sitting.

However, the maximum amount payable to IEMs in a calendar year shall not exceed Rs. 3,00,000/- with respect to sitting fees.

Expenses on travel and stay arrangement of IEMs shall be equal to that of Independent Board Member of that organization.

- 5.11 The terms and conditions of appointment, including the remuneration payable to the IEMs, should not be included in the Integrity Pact or the NIT. This may be communicated individually to the IEMs concerned.
- 5.12 At the time of appointment of an IEM, a copy of SOP should be made available to the person being appointed by the organizations concerned. A copy of Commission's guidelines on "Illustrative check points for various stages of public procurement", available on Commission's website, i.e., www.cvc.gov.in, under CTE's corner may also be provided to the IEMs at the time of their appointment, for guidance purpose.
- 5.13 In the event of any dispute between the management and the contractor relating to those contracts where Integrity Pact is applicable, in case, both the parties are agreeable, they may try to settle dispute through mediation before the panel of IEMs in a time bound manner. If required, the organizations may adopt any mediation rules for this purpose.

In case, the dispute remains unresolved even after mediation by the panel of IEMs, the organization may take further action as per the terms & conditions of the contract.

The fees for such meetings shall be same as fee payable to IEMs otherwise and in addition to the fees for the regular meeting of IEMs, to be held otherwise and over and above the ceiling of Rs. 3,00,000/- annually, to be calculated as per financial year. The travel and stay arrangement for such meetings shall be equal to that of Independent Board Member of the organization concerned. However, not more than five meetings shall be held for a particular dispute resolution. The fees/expenses on dispute resolution shall be equally shared by both the parties.

- 5.14 The names of all the IEMs of the organization should be available on the website of the organization concerned.

6.0 REVIEW SYSTEM

- 6.1 All organizations implementing IP would undertake a periodical review and assessment of implementation of IP and submit progress reports to the Commission. CVOs of all organizations would keep the Commission posted with the implementation status through their annual reports and special reports, wherever necessary.
- 6.2 All organizations are called upon to make sincere and sustained efforts to imbibe the spirit and principles of the Integrity Pact and carry it to its effective implementation.



केन्द्रीय सतर्कता आयोग
CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION



सतर्कता भवन, जी.पी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स,
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सं./No.....015/VGL/091.....

दिनांक / Dated...14.06.2023.....

Circular No. 04/06/23

Subject : Adoption and implementation of Integrity Pact-Revised Standard Operating Procedure- regarding.

The Commission has reviewed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for adoption of Integrity Pact (IP) by all Government Organizations, Public Sector Enterprises, Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies, other Financial Institutions and Autonomous bodies etc. A copy of the revised SOP is enclosed, which would be applicable for adoption and implementation of the IP by the organizations concerned.

2. The present SOP is in supersession of the earlier SOP issued vide Circular No. 05/01/22 dated 25.01.2022.

WJ Keishing

(Wormila Jasmine Keishing)
Deputy Secretary

Encl.: As above

To

- (i) All Secretaries of Ministries / Departments. **(This Circular may also be shared with the existing IEMs in the organizations concerned)**
- (ii) All CMDs/Head of CPSUs/Public Sector Banks/Organisations. **(This Circular may also be shared with the existing IEMs in the organizations concerned)**
- (iii) All CVOs of Ministries/Departments/CPSUs/Public Sector Banks/Organisations. **(This Circular may be brought to the notice of the Chief Executive of the organization concerned)**
- (iv) All Independent External Monitors.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRITY PACT

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In order to ensure transparency, equity and competitiveness in public procurement, the Commission recommends adoption and implementation of the concept of Integrity Pact (IP) by Government organizations, Public Sector Enterprises, Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies, other Financial Institutions and Autonomous Bodies, etc.
- 1.2 Deptt. of Expenditure vide OM dt. 19.7.2011, issued guidelines to all Ministries/Departments/Organizations including their attached/subordinate offices and autonomous bodies for implementation of IP. Also, vide OM dated 20.7.2011, Deptt. of Expenditure requested Department of Public Enterprises for directions to Central Public Sector Enterprises for use of IP.
- 1.3 Further, in view of the increasing procurement activities of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Insurance Companies (ICs) and Financial Institutions (FIs), the Commission vide Circular No. 02/02/2015 dated 25.02.2015 advised that all PSBs, PSICs and FIs shall also adopt and implement the Integrity Pact.
- 1.4 The Commission vide Circular No. 05/01/22dated 25.01.2022, issued a revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for adoption and implementation of Integrity Pact by Organizations.

2.0 INTEGRITY PACT

- 2.1 The Pact essentially envisages an agreement between the prospective vendors/bidders and the buyer, committing the persons/officials of both sides, not to resort to any corrupt practices in any aspect/stage of the contract. Only those vendors/bidders, who commit

themselves to such a Pact with the buyer, would be considered competent to participate in the bidding process. In other words, entering into this Pact would be a preliminary qualification. The essential ingredients of the Pact include:

- Promise on the part of the Principal not to seek or accept any benefit, which is not legally available;
- Promise on the part of bidder not to offer any benefit to the employees of the Principal not available legally;
- Principal to treat all bidders with equity and reason;
- Bidders not to enter into any undisclosed agreement or understanding with other bidders with respect to prices, specifications, certifications, subsidiary contracts, etc.
- Bidders not to pass any information provided by Principal as part of business relationship to others and not to commit any offence under PC/ IPC Act;
- Foreign bidders to disclose the name and address of agents and representatives in India and Indian Bidders to disclose their foreign principals or associates;
- Bidders to disclose the payments to be made by them to agents / brokers or any other intermediary;
- Bidders to disclose any transgressions with any other public/government organization that may impinge on the anti-corruption principle. The date of such transgression, for the purpose of disclosure by the bidders in this regard, would be the date on which cognizance of the said transgression was taken by the competent authority. The period for which such transgression(s) is/are to be reported by the bidders shall be the last **three years** to be reckoned from date of bid submission. The transgression(s), for which cognizance was taken even before the said period of three years, but are pending conclusion, shall also be reported by the bidders.

2.2 Any violation of Integrity Pact would entail disqualification of the bidders and exclusion from future business dealings, as per the existing provisions of GFR, 2017, PC Act, 1988 and other Financial Rules/Guidelines etc. as may be applicable to the organization concerned.

- 2.3 IP would be implemented through a panel of Independent External Monitors (IEMs), appointed by the organization. The IEM would review independently and objectively, whether and to what extent parties have complied with their obligations under the Pact on receipt of any complaint by them from the bidder(s).
- 2.4 Integrity Pact, in respect of a particular contract, shall be operative from the date IP is signed by both the parties. The IEMs shall examine all the representations/grievances/complaints received by them from the bidders or their authorized representative related to any discrimination on account of lack of fair play in modes of procurement and bidding systems, tendering method, eligibility conditions, bid evaluation criteria, commercial terms & conditions, choice of technology/specifications etc.
- 2.5 For ensuring the desired transparency and objectivity in dealing with the complaints arising out of the tendering process, the matter should be examined by the full panel of IEMs jointly, who would look into the records, conduct an examination, and submit their joint recommendations to the Management. In case the full panel is not available due to some unavoidable reasons, the available IEM(s) will conduct examination of the complaints. Consent of the IEM(s), who may not be available, shall be taken on record.
- 2.6 The role of IEM is advisory and the advice of IEM is non-binding on the Organization. However, as IEMs are invariably persons with rich experience who have retired as senior functionaries of the government, their advice would help in proper implementation of the IP.
- 2.7 The role of the CVO of the organization shall remain unaffected by the presence of IEMs. A matter being examined by the IEMs can be separately investigated by the CVO in terms of the provisions of the CVC Act or Vigilance Manual, if a complaint is received by him/her or directed to him/her by the Commission. CVO and /or the officials of the vigilance wing should not be associated by IEMs during examination of the complaints in any manner.

3.0 APPOINTMENT OF IEMs

- 3.1 The IEMs appointed should be eminent persons of high integrity and reputation. A periodical notice inviting applications from eligible persons will be published on the Commission's website. After due scrutiny and verification of the applications and accompanying documents, as may be deemed appropriate by the Commission, the name(s) would be included in the panel for consideration for nomination as IEM.
- 3.2 The zone of consideration of eminent persons for empanelment as IEMs would consist of:-
- (i) Officers who have held the post of Additional Secretary to Govt. of India or were in equivalent or higher pay scale, at the time of retirement (whether serving with Govt. of India or any State Govt.).
 - (ii) Persons who have held the post of CMD of Schedule 'A' Public Sector Enterprise and were equivalent to Additional Secretary to Govt. of India, at the time of retirement.
 - (iii) Persons who have held the post of CMD/MD and CEO of Public Sector Banks, Insurance Companies and other Financial Institutions, at the time of retirement.
 - (iv) Chief Executive Officer of an organization (other than listed above and were equivalent or higher to Additional Secretary to Govt. of India, at the time of retirement).
 - (v) Officers of Armed Forces, who were in the pay scale of equivalent or higher to Additional Secretaries to Govt. of India, at the time of retirement.
- 3.3 The Commission would not include a retired person in the panel being maintained by it for consideration for nomination as IEM, if that retired person has accepted a full time assignment, post retirement, either in government sector or private sector or elsewhere. All those empanelled persons, who accept full time assignment elsewhere, would cease to remain on the panel, from the date on which they have accepted the said assignment. In

this regard, it would be incumbent upon the empanelled persons to immediately inform the Commission about the acceptance of full time assignment by them.

- 3.4 The Commission would nominate IEMs for an organization, from the panel of IEMs maintained by it. The concerned organization should send a request for nomination of IEMs in case of adoption of Integrity Pact by them. Whenever a vacancy is likely to arise due to completion of tenure of an existing IEM, the organization should send the request for nomination of IEM three months before the expiry of tenure. Similarly, in case of resignation of IEM(s), intimation along with request for nomination should be sent immediately by the organization to the Commission.
- 3.5 Three IEMs shall be nominated for appointment in Maharatna and Navratna PSUs and two IEMs shall be nominated in all other organizations.
- 3.6 A person may be appointed as an IEM in a maximum of three organizations at a time.
- 3.7 An empanelled person cannot be appointed in one organization for a period of more than three years.
- 3.8 Age of IEM should not be more than 70 years at the time of appointment.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE

- 4.1 The provision for the Integrity Pact is to be included in all Requests for Proposal/Tender documents issued in future in respect of the procurements that meet the criteria laid down by the Ministry/Department in terms of Department of Expenditure's OM dated 19.07.2011.
- 4.2 In all tenders covered under the IP, particulars of all IEMs, including their email IDs, should be mentioned, instead of mentioning details of a single IEM.

- 4.3 The Purchase / procurement wing of the organization would be the focal point for the implementation of IP.
- 4.4 It has to be ensured, through an appropriate provision in the tender document, that Integrity Pact is deemed as part of the contract so that the parties concerned are bound by its provisions.
- 4.5 A clause should be included in the IP that a person signing IP shall not approach the Courts while representing the matters to IEMs and he / she will await their decision in the matter.
- 4.6 In case of a joint venture, all the partners of the joint venture should sign the Integrity Pact. In case of sub-contracting, the Principal contractor shall take responsibility of the adoption of IP by the sub-contractor. It is to be ensured that all sub-contractors also sign the IP. In case of sub-contractors, the IP will be a tri-partite arrangement to be signed by the Organization, the contractor, and the sub-contractor.
- 4.7 The final responsibility for implementation of IP vests with the Head of organization/CMD/CEO of the organization.

5.0 ROLE OF IEMs

- 5.1 The IEMs would be provided access to all documents/records pertaining to the tender for which a complaint or issue is raised before them, as and when warranted.
- 5.2 The Procurement wing of the organization shall hold quarterly meetings with the IEMs. A summary of contracts awarded in the previous quarter, which are covered under the IP, shall be shared with the IEMs during the quarterly meeting. Such summary of contracts should include details like tender number, mode of tendering, period allowed for publicity, number of bids received, number of bidders considered eligible, and name and address of the successful bidder.

- 5.3 The above summary of contracts is to help the IEMs in analyzing whether appropriate mode of tendering is being adopted by the organization i.e. limited tender mode or nomination mode are not unduly used, number of bidders are not too low, large number of bidders are not excluded while judging the eligibility or during technical bid evaluation stage, and whether particular firm or set of particular firms is repeatedly getting contracts etc. Based on their analysis, the IEMs can suggest to the Management suitable systemic improvement(s) and measures to improve objectivity in decision making, capacity building etc.
- 5.4 It would be desirable to have structured meetings of the IEMs with the Chief Executive of the Organization on a half yearly basis to discuss / review the information on tenders awarded during the preceding six months' period. Additional such meetings, however, can be held as per requirement. All such meetings with the Procurement wing or with the Chief Executive of the organization should be minuted.
- 5.5 IEM should examine the process integrity; they are not expected to concern themselves with fixing of responsibility of officers. Complaints alleging malafide on the part of any officer of the organization should be looked into by the CVO of the concerned Organization.
- 5.6 In the event of any dispute between the management and the contractor relating to those contracts where Integrity Pact is applicable, in case, both the parties are agreeable, they may try to settle dispute through mediation before the panel of IEMs in a time bound manner. If required, the organizations may adopt any mediation rules for this purpose. However, not more than five meetings shall be held for a particular dispute resolution. The fees/expenses on dispute resolution shall be equally shared by both the parties.

In case, the dispute remains unresolved even after mediation by the panel of IEMs, the organization may take further action as per the terms & conditions of the contract.

- 5.7 All IEMs should sign non-disclosure agreements with the organization in which they are appointed.
- 5.8 The IEMs would also be required to sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest. A person acting as an IEM shall not be debarred from taking up other assignments such as consultancy with other organizations or agencies subject to his declaring that his / her additional assignment does not involve any conflict of interest with existing assignment, and it is not a full time assignment. In case of any conflict of interest arising at a later date from an entity wherein he is or has been a consultant, the IEM should inform the CEO and recuse himself/herself from that case.

6.0 ENTITLEMENTS OF IEMs

- 6.1 In any organization, the IEMs shall be paid per sitting a fees of ₹ 25,000/- . However, the maximum amount payable to IEMs in a calendar year shall not exceed ₹ 3,00,000/- with respect to the sitting fees.
- 6.2 The travel and stay arrangement for the IEMs for such meetings shall be equal to their entitlements at the time of retirement. Booking of tickets for travel, as per the mode of travel indicated by the IEM in writing (including email), local transport and stay shall be done by the organization.
- 6.3 The fees for meetings held by IEMs for mediation between the Management and the contractor as per Para 5.6 above shall be the same as fee payable to IEMs otherwise and in addition to the fees for the regular meetings of IEMs, over and above the ceiling of ₹ 3,00,000/- annually, to be calculated as per calendar year. The travel and stay arrangement for such meetings shall be same as given in Para 6.2 above.
- 6.4 The organization concerned shall provide place for meeting and secretarial assistance to IEMs for rendering his/her job as IEM. No payment in lieu of secretarial assistance shall be paid to the IEMs.

7.0 REVIEW SYSTEM

- 7.1 CVOs of all organizations would keep the Commission posted with the implementation status through their annual reports and special reports, wherever necessary.
- 7.2 All organizations are called upon to make sincere and sustained efforts to imbibe the spirit and principles of the Integrity Pact and ensure its effective implementation.