



## **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (RPT) POLICY**

### **WHITE ORGANIC RETAIL LIMITED**

CIN: L01100MH2011PLC225123

Website: <http://whiteorganics.co.in>

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## **1. PREAMBLE**

The Board of Directors of the Company based on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, has adopted the following Policy and procedure with regard to Related Party Transactions. The policy envisages the procedure governing Related Party Transactions required to be followed by the Company to ensure compliance with the Laws and Regulations. The Audit Committee will review the same from time to time and propose the amendment required in the policy to the Board of Directors.

## **2. PURPOSE**

Pursuant to Regulation 23 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended from time to time) (hereinafter referred to as the "Listing Regulations"), White Organic Retail Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "Company") is required to formulate a policy on materiality of related party transactions and dealing with related party transactions. The Board of Directors of the Company has formulated and adopted a Policy on Related Party Transactions ("Policy") in terms of the aforesaid provisions.

This Policy has been framed to govern the approval process and disclosure requirements to ensure transparency in the conduct of Related Party Transactions in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders and to comply with the statutory provisions in this regard.

## **3. DEFINITIONS**

**"Act"** means the Companies Act, 2013.

**"Arm's Length Transaction"** means a transaction between two related parties that is conducted as if they were unrelated, so that there is no conflict of interest.

**"Associate Company"** means a Company which has significant influence but which is not a subsidiary of the Company having such influence and includes a joint venture Company. It shall also include an entity which is an associate as per the applicable accounting standards.

**"Accounting Standards"** means the standards of accounting or any addendum thereto for companies or class of companies referred to in Section 133 of the Act.

**"Audit Committee" or "Committee"** means Committee of Board of Directors of the Company constituted under provisions of the Listing Regulations as well as the Companies Act, 2013.

**"Board"** means Board of Directors of the Company.

**"Control"** shall have the same meaning as defined in SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 and Companies Act, 2013.

**“Joint Venture”** means a joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the arrangement.

**“Key Managerial Personnel”** mean key managerial personnel as defined under the Companies Act, 2013 as under:

- (i) Managing Director, or Chief Executive Officer and in their absence the manager,
- (ii) Whole-time Director;
- (iii) Company Secretary;
- (iv) Chief Financial Officer (CFO);
- (v) such other officer not more than one level below the directors who is in the whole-time employment and designated as Key Managerial Personnel by the Board; and
- (vi) such other officer as may be prescribed under Companies Act, 2013 and Rules framed thereunder.”

**“Material Related Party Transaction”** means a transaction with a related party, wherein if the value of transaction / transactions to be entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year, exceeds Ten percent of the annual consolidated turnover of the Company as per the last audited financial statements of the Company or such limits as may be prescribed either in the Companies Act, 2013 or the Listing Regulations, whichever is stricter, from time to time.

However, as per latest amendments in the Regulation 23(1) of the LODR Regulations is amended to replace current turnover, Ten percent of the Listed entity’s consolidated turnover, for determination of material RPT **with the threshold of lower of w.e.f April 1, 2022:-**

- INR 1000 Cr (individually or taken together) or
- 10% of the listed entity’s annual consolidated turnover

However, a transaction involving payments made to a related party with respect to brand usage or royalty shall be considered material if the transaction(s) to be entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year, exceed five percent of the annual consolidated turnover of the listed entity as per the last audited financial statements of the Company.

**“Policy”** means this Policy on Related Party Transactions.

**“Relative”** shall have the same meaning as assigned to it under Section 2(77) of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder.

**“Related Party”** means related party as defined under Section 2(76) of the Companies Act and Regulation 2(1)(zb) of the Listing Regulations, read with amendments issued from time to time which is as follows:

***Section 2(76) of the Companies Act***

**Related party**, with reference to a company, means

- (i) director or his relative ;
- (ii) a key managerial personnel or his relative ;
- (iii) a firm, in which a director, manager or his relative is a partner ;
- (iv) a private company in which a director or manager or his relative is a member or director;
- (v) a public company in which a director or manager is a director and holds along with his relatives,

- more than two per cent of its paid-up share capital;
- (vi) any body corporate whose Board of directors, managing director, or manager is accustomed to act in accordance with the advice, directions or instructions of a director or manager;
- (vii) any person under whose advice, directions or instructions a director or manager is accustomed to act;
- (viii) Provided that nothing in sub-clauses (vi) and (vii) shall apply to the advice, directions or instructions given in a professional capacity;
- (ix) any company which is –
  - a. a holding, subsidiary or an associate company of such company ; or
  - b. a subsidiary of a holding company to which it is also a subsidiary ;
- (x) such other person as may be prescribed;

### ***Section 2(1)(zb) of the LODR Regulations***

An entity shall be considered as related to the company if:

- (i) such entity is a related party under Section 2(76) of the Companies Act: or
- (ii) such entity is a related party under the applicable accounting standards.

Provided that any person or entity belonging to the promoter or promoter group of the listed entity and holding 20% or more of shareholding in the listed entity shall be deemed to be a related party.

**However w.e.f. April 1, 2022**, as per latest amendments in the proviso to the definition of related party in regulation 2(1)(zb) of the amended LODR Regulations has been amended to provide that –

a. Any person or entity that

- (i) forms a part of the promoter or promoter group of the listed entity (irrespective of its shareholding; or
- (ii) holds equity shares of (i) 20% or more.

b. in determining shareholding under the proviso either direct holding in or on a beneficial interest basis, as provided under section 89 of the Companies Act, 2013 at any time during the immediately preceding financial year, in the listed entity will be considered.

c. **with effect from April 1, 2023**, person or entity holding 10% or more equity shares, as against 20% required currently, will be considered as related party.

**“Related Party Transaction”** (“RPT”) means any transaction between the Company and any Related Party for transfer of resources, services or obligations, regardless of whether or not a price is charged, and includes the following transactions, either single or a group of transactions in a contract:

- a. sale, purchases or supply of any goods or materials;
- b. selling or otherwise disposing of, or buying, property of any kind;
- c. leasing of property of any kind;
- d. availing or rendering of any services;
- e. appointment of any agent for purchases or sale of goods, materials, services or property;
- f. such related party’s appointment to any office or place of profit in the company, its subsidiary company or associate company;

g. underwriting the subscription of any securities or derivatives thereof, of the company

**Office or Place of Profit** means any office or place:

(i) where such office or place is held by a director, if the director holding it receives from the company anything by way of remuneration over and above the remuneration to which he is entitled as director, by way of salary, fee, commission, perquisites, any rent-free accommodation, or otherwise;

(ii) where such office or place is held by an individual other than a director or by any firm, private company or other body corporate, if the individual, firm, private company or body corporate holding it receives from the company anything by way of remuneration, salary, fee, commission, perquisites, any rent-free accommodation, or otherwise.”

**“Significant Influence”** means control of at least 20% of the total voting power, or control of or participation in business decisions under an agreement.

**“Transaction in the Ordinary course of business”** mean transactions/activities that are connected to or necessary for the business of the Company and satisfy the following principles:

- a. The transaction/activity is permitted under the Memorandum and the Articles of Association of the Company;
- b. The Transaction/activity is carried on a frequent or regular basis or is per the industry practice and
- c. The terms of the transaction/activity are similar to those which would be otherwise applicable to transactions with unrelated parties.

Any other term not defined herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Companies Act, 2013, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 or any other applicable law or regulation and as amended from time to time.

#### **4. IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Each director and Key Managerial Personnel are required to give notice of disclosure of interest under Sections 184 and 189 of the Companies Act 2013, along with list of relatives to the Company. The Company shall ensure that no transaction is entered into with any entity/individual disclosed by the director/ KMP without requisite approvals.

Each Director and Key Managerial Personnel of the Company shall be required to inform the Secretarial Department of the Company of any change in the information previously provided on the list of Related Parties of the Company.

Each Director and Key Managerial Personnel is responsible for providing notice to the Board or Audit Committee of any potential Related Party Transaction involving him or her or his or her Relative, including any additional information about the transaction that the Board / Audit Committee may reasonably request.

The list of identified Related Parties will be tagged and updated in the accounting system regularly and also periodically sent out to those of the staff of the Company that might be in the position to conduct or know of the possible conduct of Related Party Transactions.

The Board/Audit Committee will determine whether the transaction requires compliance with this policy or not.

## **5. APPROVAL OF RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Before undertaking any transaction, it must be examined by the Company whether such transaction qualifies as a Related Party Transaction, requiring compliance with this Policy. The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in consultation with the Company Secretary and other persons, as appropriate, shall determine whether a transaction does, in fact, constitute a Related Party Transaction and if so, ascertain in which of the following categories such transaction should be classified in order to determine the approval requirements:

### **(a) AUDIT COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

All Related Party Transactions shall require prior approval of the Audit Committee of the Company whether at a Meeting of the Audit Committee or by Resolution by Circulation. Provided that only those members of the Audit Committee, who are independent directors, shall approve Related Party Transactions.

The aforesaid shall not apply to a transaction, other than a transaction referred to in Section 188 of the Companies Act, 2013, between the Company and its Wholly-owned Subsidiary whose accounts are consolidated with the Company and placed before the shareholders at the general meeting for approval. The Audit Committee may grant omnibus approval for Related Party Transactions proposed to be entered into by the company subject to the following conditions:

a. The Audit Committee shall lay down the criteria for granting the omnibus approval in line with the policy on Related Party Transactions of the Company and such approval shall be applicable in respect of transactions which are repetitive in nature.

b. the audit Committee shall satisfy itself the need for such omnibus approval and that such approval is in the interest of the company;

c. Such omnibus approval shall specify (i) the name/s of the related party, nature of transaction, period of transaction, maximum amount of transaction that can be entered into, (ii) the indicative base price / current contracted price and the formula for variation in the price if any and (iii) such other conditions as the Audit Committee may deem fit;

Provided that where the need for Related Party Transaction cannot be foreseen and aforesaid details are not available, Audit Committee may grant omnibus approval for such transactions subject to their value not exceeding Rs.1 crore per transaction.

d. The Audit committee shall review, at least on a quarterly basis, the details of related party transactions entered into by the listed entity pursuant to each of the omnibus approvals given.

e. Such omnibus approvals shall be valid for a period not exceeding one year and shall require fresh approvals after the expiry of one year.

f. Omnibus approval shall not be made for transactions in respect of selling or disposing of the undertaking of the company.

However, **as per latest amendments, w.e.f April 1, 2022**, the Audit Committee of the listed entity will require to approve the transactions of subsidiaries covered under RPT.

Further w.r.t recent amendments, prior approval of the Audit Committee is required for RPT's to which the subsidiary of a listed entity is a party, but the listed entity is not, if the transaction value (individually or taken together) exceeds 10% of the annual consolidated turnover of the listed entity. **However, w.e.f April 1, 2023**, this limit should be 10% of the annual standalone turnover of the Subsidiary.

#### **(b) APPROVAL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

All the Related Party Transactions shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the Company, except:

- (i) transactions entered into by the company are in its ordinary course of business; and
- (ii) transactions are at an arm's length basis.

#### **(c) APPROVAL OF SHAREHOLDERS**

All transactions with Related Parties exceeding the materiality thresholds, as stated below, shall require prior approval of the Shareholders by a resolution:

a) If the transaction/transaction(s) to be entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year, exceeds 10% (ten percent) of the annual consolidated turnover of the Company as per the last audited financial statements of the Company;

b) A transaction involving payments made with respect to brand usage or royalty, if the transaction/transaction(s) to be entered into individually or taken together with previous transactions during a financial year, exceed 5% (five percent) of the annual consolidated turnover of the Company as per the last audited financial statements of the Company;

c) All transactions specified under Section 188 of the Companies Act, 2013 which are not at arm's length or not in the ordinary course of business and exceed the thresholds laid down in Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time.

The requirement of Shareholders' approval shall not be applicable for transactions entered into between the Company and its Wholly-owned Subsidiary whose accounts are consolidated with the Company and placed before the shareholders at the general meeting for approval.

No related party shall vote to approve the resolution whether the entity is a related party to the particular transaction or not. Provided that this requirement shall not apply in respect of a resolution plan approved under section 31 of the Insolvency Code, subject to the event being disclosed to the recognized stock exchanges within one day of the resolution plan being approved.

**Further w.r.t recent amendments, with effect from April 1, 2022**, RPT and any material modification to RPT as defined under proviso to regulation 23(2) of the LODR Regulations shall require prior approval of shareholders.

**(d) RELATED PARTY CONTRACTS ENTERED WITHOUT PROPER APPROVAL OF BOARD/SHAREHOLDERS**

Where any contract or arrangement is entered into by a Director or any other employee of the Company, without obtaining the consent of the Board or approval by a Resolution in the General Meeting, as applicable and if it is not ratified by the Board or, as the case may be, by the shareholders at the Meeting within 3 months from the date from which such contract or arrangement was entered into, such contract or arrangement shall be voidable at the option of the Board or, as the case may be, of the shareholders and if the contract or arrangement is with the related party to any Director or is authorised by any Director, the Director(s) concerned shall indemnify the Company against any loss incurred by it.

Without prejudice to the above, it shall be open to the Company to proceed against the Director or any other employee who had entered into such contract or arrangement for recovery of any loss sustained by it as a result of such contract or arrangement.

The Director or any other employee responsible for the violation shall be punishable with imprisonment and fine as prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013.

**6. FOLLOWING TRANSACTIONS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED AS RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following Related Party Transactions shall not require approval of Audit Committee or Shareholders:

1. Any transaction that involves the providing of compensation to a director or Key Managerial Personnel in connection with his or her duties to the Company or any of its subsidiaries or associates, including the reimbursement of reasonable business and travel expenses incurred in the ordinary course of business.
2. Any transaction in which the Related Party's interest arises solely from ownership of securities issued by the Company and all holders of such securities receive the same benefits pro rata as the Related Party.
3. Any transaction arising out of Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations dealt with under specific provisions of the Companies Act, 1956/ Companies Act, 2013.

**7. EXISTING CONTRACTS, IF ANY**

The Policy shall operate prospectively, and all the Contracts entered into by companies, after making necessary compliances under the Companies Act, 1956, which already came into effect before the commencement of the Companies Act, 2013, i.e. April 1, 2014, will not require fresh approval till the expiry of the original term of such contracts. However, any agreement for material transactions which has been already approved and continued to be operational beyond March 2015, clause 5 of this policy needs to be followed.



## 8. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS NOT APPROVED UNDER THIS POLICY

In the event the Company becomes aware of a Related Party Transaction(s) with a Related Party that has not been approved under this Policy prior to its consummation, the matter shall be reviewed by the Audit Committee. The Committee shall consider all the relevant facts and circumstances regarding the Related Party Transactions, and shall evaluate all options available to the Company, including ratification by it or recommending the Board for their ratification or seeking approval of Shareholders, revision or termination of the Related Party Transactions.

The Committee shall also examine the facts and circumstances pertaining to the failure of reporting such Related Party Transactions to the Committee under this Policy and shall take any such action as it deems appropriate.

Further, in case any transaction (not being a specified transaction between the Company and its wholly owned subsidiary) involving any amount not exceeding ₹ 1 crore is entered into by a Director or Officer of the Company without obtaining the approval of the Audit Committee and which is not ratified by the Audit Committee within 3 months from the date of the transaction, such transaction will be voidable at the option of the Audit Committee, and if the transaction is with a related party to any Director or is authorised by any other Director, the Director concerned shall indemnify the Company against any loss incurred by it.

In any case, where the Committee determines not to ratify a Related Party Transaction(s) that has been commenced without approval, the Committee, as appropriate, may direct additional actions including, but not limited to, immediate discontinuation or rescission of the Related Party Transaction(s). The Committee shall have the authority to modify or waive any procedural requirements of this Policy.

## 9. DISCLOSURES

- Related Party Transactions shall be disclosed in the Directors' Report as prescribed under the Companies Act, 2013 and the Listing Regulations.
- The Company shall disclose to the Stock Exchange(s) on quarterly basis the details of all material related party transactions along with the compliance report on Corporate Governance.
- The Company shall submit within 30 days from the date of publication of its standalone and consolidated financial results for the half year, disclosures of related party transactions on a consolidated basis, in the format specified in the relevant accounting standards for annual results to the stock exchanges and publish the same on its website.

However, **as per recent amendments, w.e.f. April 1, 2022**, The Company shall submit to the Stock Exchanges the RPTs disclosed and publish the same on its website, in the format specified by SEBI, every six months within 15 days from the date of publication of its standalone and consolidated financial results. **With the effect from April 1, 2023**, the disclosures and publication should be every six months on the date of publication of its standalone and consolidated financial results.

- The Related Party Transactions Policy shall be disclosed on the website of the Company and a web link thereto shall be provided in the Annual Report.

- Such other disclosures as may be prescribed under applicable laws and regulations.

#### **10. MISCELLANEOUS**

The right to interpret/amend/modify this Policy vests in the Board of Directors of the Company as may be recommended by the Audit Committee. This Policy will be communicated to all Directors, KMPs, operational employees and other concerned persons of the Company. The Policy shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors at least once every three years and updated accordingly.

In case of any subsequent changes in the provisions of the Act or the Listing Regulations which makes any of the provisions in the Policy inconsistent with the Act or the Listing Regulations, then the provisions of the Act or the Listing Regulations would prevail over the Policy and the provisions in the Policy would be modified in due course to make it consistent with the Act or the Listing Regulations.

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