

Policy on Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of
Sexual harassment of Women at Work

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Policy on Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of
Sexual harassment of Women at Work

1. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES:

This policy has been framed in accordance with the provisions of “The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013” and rules framed thereunder (hereinafter “the Act”). Accordingly, while the policy covers all the key aspects of the Act, for any further clarification reference shall always be made to the Act and the provisions of the Act shall prevail.

Dai-ichi Karkaria Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as ‘The Company / DIKL) believes that sexual harassment as a form of misconduct undermines the integrity of employment related relationships. All employees have the right to work in an environment that is free from any form of sexual harassment. Anyone engaging in such a conduct will be subject to disciplinary action that may range from warning to dismissal from service.

The aim of this policy intends to provide protection against sexual harassment of women at workplace, to prevent &/or deter any acts of sexual harassment and the prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment and matters related to it.

2. DEFINITIONS:

Sexual Harassment may occur not only where a person uses sexual behaviour to control, influence or affect the career, salary or job of another person, but also between co-workers. It may also occur between an DIKL employee and someone that employee deals with in the course of his/her work who is not employed by the Company. (For example: Auditors, Visitors, vendors, Contractors, Interns etc.)

Sexual harassment includes any one or more of the following unwelcome acts or behavior (whether directly or by implication) namely:

- i. Physical contact and advances; or
- ii. A demand or request for sexual favours; or
- iii. Making Sexually coloured remarks; or
- iv. Showing pornography; or

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- v. Any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct of sexual nature;

The following circumstances, among other circumstances, if it occurs or is present in relation to or connected with any sexually determined act or behaviour may amount to sexual harassment:

- (i) implied or explicit promise of preferential treatment in her employment; or
- (ii) implied or explicit threat of detrimental treatment in her employment; or
- (iii) implied or explicit threat about her present or future employment status; or
- (iv) interferes with her work or creating an intimidating or offensive or hostile work environment for her; or
- (v) humiliating treatment likely to affect her health or safety.

The reasonable person standard is used to determine whether or not the conduct was offensive and what a reasonable person would have done.

Aggrieved woman / Complainant: In relation to a workplace, a woman, of any age, whether employed or not, who alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment by the respondent and includes contractual, temporary, visitors.

Respondent: A person against whom a complaint of sexual harassment has been made by the aggrieved woman

Employee: A person employed at the workplace, for any work on regular, temporary, ad-hoc or daily wage basis, either directly or through an agent, including a contractor, with or without the knowledge of the principal employer, whether for remuneration or not, or working on a voluntary basis or otherwise, whether the terms of employment are express or implied and includes a co-worker, a contract worker, probationer, trainee, apprentice or by any other such name.

Workplace: In addition to the place of work [Head office / Factories] it shall also include any place where the aggrieved woman or the respondent visits in connection with his/her work, during the course of and/or arising out of employment/ contract/ engagement with DIKL, including transportation provided for undertaking such a journey.

Employer: A person responsible for management, supervision and control of the workplace

3. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Responsibilities of Individual: It is the responsibility of all to respect the rights of others and to never encourage harassment. It can be done by:

- a. Refusing to participate in any activity which constitutes harassment
- b. Supporting the person to reject unwelcome behaviour
- c. Acting as a witness if the person being harassed decides to lodge a complaint

All are encouraged to advise others of behaviour that is unwelcome. Often, some behaviours are not intentional. While this does not make it acceptable, it does give the person behaving inappropriately, the opportunity to modify or stop their offensive behaviour.

B. Responsibilities of Head of Departments (HOD): All HODs at DIKL must ensure that nobody is subject to harassment and there is equal treatment. They must also ensure that all employees understand that harassment will not be tolerated; that complaints will be taken seriously; and that the complainant, respondent/s, or witnesses are not victimized in any way.

4. REDRESSAL MECHANISM – FORMAL INTERVENTION

In compliance with the Act, if the complainant warrants formal intervention, the complainant needs to lodge a written complaint, which shall be followed by a formal redressal mechanism as described in this Policy.

Internal Committee (hereinafter referred to as the 'committee')

To prevent instances of sexual harassment and to receive and effectively deal with complaints pertaining to the same, an "Internal Committee" is constituted.

The committee comprises of:

- **Presiding Officer:** A woman employed at a senior level in the organization or workplace
- At least 2 members from amongst employees at senior level
- One external member, familiar with the issues relating to sexual harassment
- At least one half of the total members are women

The committee is responsible for:

- Receiving complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace
- Initiating and conducting inquiry as per the established procedure
- Submitting findings and recommendations of inquiries
- Coordinating with the employer in implementing appropriate action
- Maintaining strict confidentiality throughout the process as per established guidelines
- Submitting annual reports in the prescribed format

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Current nominated members of the committees are given in **Annexure A**.

Lodging a Complaint

The complainant needs to submit a detailed complaint, along with any documentary (or other) evidence available or names of witnesses, to any of the committee members at the workplace.

The complaint must be lodged within **3 months** from the date of incident/ last incident. The Committee can extend the timeline by **another 3 months** for reasons recorded in writing, if satisfied that these reasons prevented the lodging of the complaint.

Provided that where such a complaint cannot be made in writing, the Presiding Officer or any Member of the Internal Committee shall render all reasonable assistance to the women for making the complaint in writing.

If the aggrieved woman is unable to lodge the complaint in account of her incapacity, the following may do so on her behalf, with her written consent.

- Legal heir, relative or friend
- Co-worker
- Any person having the knowledge of the incident

If the initial complaint is made to a person other than a committee member, upon receiving such a complaint, it will be the responsibility of the complaint receiver to report the same to the committee immediately.

Receiving a Complaint (guidelines)

Dealing with incidents of harassment is not like any other type of dispute. Complainants may be embarrassed and distressed and it requires tact and discretion while receiving the complaint.

The following points are kept in mind by the receiver of the complaint:

- Complaint are listened to and the complainant informed that the Company takes the concerns seriously. Complainant is informed that these concerns will be reported to the appropriate committee and follow up will be done speedily.
- Situation are not be pre-judged. Written notes are taken while listening to the person.
- All notes are kept strictly confidential.
- The complainant is advised that although the process is confidential, the respondent needs to be informed and any witnesses and persons directly involved in the complaint process will also learn of the complainant's identity

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Care is taken to prevent any disadvantage to or victimization of either the complainant or the respondent

Resolution procedure through conciliation

Once the complaint is received, before initiating the inquiry the committee may take steps to conciliate the complaint between the complainant and the respondent. This is only if requested by the aggrieved woman.

It is made clear to all parties that conciliation in itself doesn't necessarily mean acceptance of complaint by the respondent. It is a practical mechanism through which issues are resolved or misunderstandings cleared.

In case a settlement is arrived at, the committee records & reports the same to the employer for taking appropriate action. Resolution through conciliation happens within 2 weeks of receipt of complaint.

The committee provides copies of the settlement to complainant & respondent. Once the action is implemented, no further inquiry is conducted

Resolution procedure through formal inquiry

Conducting Inquiry

The committee initiates inquiry in the following cases:

- No conciliation is requested by aggrieved woman
- Conciliation has not resulted in any settlement
- Complainant informs the committee that any term or condition of the settlement arrived through conciliation, has not been complied with by respondent

The Committee proceeds to make an inquiry into the complaint within a period of 1 week of its receipt of the original complaint/closure of conciliation/repeat complaint.

Manner of inquiry into complaint

- Complainant should submit the complaint along with supporting documents and the names of the witnesses
- Upon receipt of the complaint, the committee sends 1 copy of the complaint to respondent within 7 working days
- Respondent replies with all supporting documents within 10 working days of receiving the copy of the complaint
- No legal practitioner can represent any party at any stage of the inquiry procedure
- The Committee makes inquiry into the complaint in accordance with the principles of natural justice

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- In conducting the inquiry, a minimum of three committee members including the Presiding Officer shall remain present

Interim relief

During pendency of the inquiry, on a written request made by the complainant, the committee may recommend to the employer to -

- Transfer the complainant or the respondent to any other workplace
- Grant leave to the aggrieved woman of maximum 3 months, in addition to the leave she would be otherwise entitled
- Prevent the respondent from assessing complainant's work performance
- Grant such other relief as may be appropriate

Once the recommendations of interim relief are implemented, the employer will inform the committee regarding the same

Termination of Inquiry

Committee may terminate the inquiry or give ex-parte decision, if complainant or respondent respectively is absent for 3 consecutive hearings, without reason. 15 day written notice to be given to the party, before termination or ex-parte order.

Inquiry procedure

All proceedings of the inquiry will be documented. The Committee will interview the respondent separately and impartially. Committee will state exactly what the allegation is and who has made the allegation. The respondent will be given full opportunity to respond and provide any evidence etc. Detailed notes of the meetings will be prepared. Any witnesses produced by the respondent will also be interviewed & statements will be taken.

The committee will facilitate cross examination of complainant, respondents and witnesses.

Any such inquiry will be completed within 90 days from the date on which the inquiry is commenced. The inquiry procedure will ensure absolute fairness to all parties.

Considerations while preparing inquiry report

While preparing the findings/recommendations, following will be considered:

- Whether the language used (written or spoken), visual material or physical behaviour was of sexual or derogatory nature
- Whether the allegations or events follow logically and reasonably from the evidence
- Credibility of complainant, respondent, witnesses and evidence
- Other similar facts, evidence, for e.g. if there have been any previous accounts of harassment pertaining to the respondent
- Both parties have been given an opportunity of being heard

- A copy of the proceedings will be made available to both parties enabling them to make representation against the findings

A copy of the final findings will be shared with the complainant and the respondent to give them an opportunity to make a representation on the findings to the committee.

Action to be taken after inquiry

Post the inquiry the committee will submit its report containing the findings and recommendations to the employer, within 10 days of completion of the inquiry.

The findings and recommendations will be reached from the facts established and will be recorded accurately.

If the situation so requires, or upon request of the complainant, respondent or witness, Management at DIKL may decide to take interim measures such as transfer, changing of shift, grant of leave etc. to protect against victimization or distress during or subsequent to the course of inquiry, pending the final outcome.

Complaint unsubstantiated

Where the committee arrives at the conclusion that the allegation against the respondent has not been proved, it will recommend to the employer that no action is required to be taken in this matter.

Further, the committee ensures that both parties understand that the matter has been fully investigated, that the matter is now concluded and neither will be disadvantaged within the company.

Complaint substantiated

Where the committee arrives at the conclusion that the allegation against the respondent has been proved, it will recommend to the employer to take necessary action for sexual harassment as misconduct, in accordance with the applicable service rules and policies, and this may include:

- i. Counselling
- ii. Censure or reprimand
- iii. Apology to be tendered by respondent
- iv. Written warning
- v. Withholding promotion and/or increments
- vi. Suspension
- vii. Termination
- viii. Or any other action that the Management may deem fit.

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The employer at DIKL acts upon the recommendations within 60 days and will confirm to the committee.

5. MALICIOUS ALLEGATIONS

Where the committee arrives at the conclusion that the allegation against the respondent is malicious or the aggrieved woman or any other person making the complaint has made the complaint knowing it to be false or the aggrieved woman or any other person making the complaint has produced any forged or misleading document, it may recommend to the employer to take action against the woman or the person making the complaint.

The action recommended should be similar to the ones proposed for the respondent in case of substantiated complaints.

While deciding malicious intent, the committee should consider that mere inability to substantiate a complaint need not mean malicious intent. Malicious intent must be clearly established through a separate inquiry.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

The identity of the complainant, respondent, witnesses, statements and other evidence obtained in the course of inquiry process, recommendations of the committees, action taken by the employer will be considered as confidential materials, and will not be published or made known to public or media.

Any person contravening the confidentiality clauses is subject to disciplinary action as prescribed in the act.

7. APPEAL

Any party not satisfied or further aggrieved by the implementation or non-implementation of recommendations made, may appeal to the appellate authority in accordance with the Act and rules, within 90 days of the recommendations being communicated.

Date: 02.02.2023

Annexure A Internal Complaints Committee

AT HEAD OFFICE:

Presiding Officer – Mrs. AmaheCama – Lalkaka [amahe.cama@dai-ichiindia.com]

Member – Mr. Farokh Gandhi [farokh.gandhi@dai-ichiindia.com]

Member – Mrs. Pallavi Kubal [pallavi.kubal@dai-ichiindia.com]

Member – Saraswati Phadnis [saraswati.phadnis@dai-ichiindia.com]

External Member – Mrs. Deeplaxmi Peshwe

AT DAHEJ PLANT:

Presiding Officer – Mrs. AmaheCama-Lalkaka [amahe.cama@dai-ichiindia.com]

Member – Mr. Ramesh Hegde [ramesh.hegde@dai-ichiindia.com]

Member – Mrs. Pallavi Kubal [pallavi.kubal@dai-ichiindia.com]

Member – Saraswati Phadnis [saraswati.phadnis@dai-ichiindia.com]

External Member – Mrs. Deeplaxmi Peshwe

AT KURKUMBH PLANT:

Presiding Officer – Mrs. AmaheCama – Lalkaka

Member – Mr. Nitin Ambhore [nitin.ambhore@dai-ichiindia.com]

Member – Mrs. Pallavi Kubal [pallavi.kubal@dai-ichiindia.com]

Member – Saraswati Phadnis [saraswati.phadnis@dai-ichiindia.com]

External Member – Mrs. Deeplaxmi Peshwe

For Dai-ichi Karkaria Ltd.



Mrs. S. F. Vakil
Chairperson & Managing Director



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