

# WESTERN CARRIERS (INDIA) LIMITED

## Whistle Blower Policy

### 1. PREFACE

Western Carriers (India) Limited (“**Company**”) believes in the conduct of the affairs of its constituents in a fair and transparent manner by adopting highest standards of professionalism, honesty, integrity and ethical behaviour.

The Company is committed to developing a culture where it is safe for all employees to raise concerns about any poor or unacceptable practice and any event of misconduct.

In terms of Section 177 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 7 of The Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014, and Regulations 4(2)(d)(iv) and 22 the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company established a mechanism called the Vigil Mechanism (“**Whistle Blower Policy**” or “**Policy**”) for its directors and employees and other stakeholders to report genuine concerns about unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the Company’s code of conduct or ethics policy.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework to promote responsible and secure whistle blowing. It protects those wishing to raise a concern about serious irregularities within the Company.

The policy neither releases directors and employees from their duty of confidentiality in the course of their work, nor is it a route for taking up a grievance about a personal situation.

The Policy, as approved by the Board on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 shall be applicable to the Company with effect from 01<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

### 2. APPLICABILITY

The scope of the Policy covers all directors, permanent employees, customers and vendors of the Company

The Policy has been drawn up so that the Whistle Blower can be confident about raising a concern. The areas of concern covered by this Policy are summarized hereinafter

### 3. DEFINITIONS

“**CMD**” shall mean Chairman and Managing Director of the Company.

“**Director**” means a Director on the board of the Company whether whole-time or otherwise.

“**Disciplinary Action**” means any action that can be taken on the completion of / during the investigation proceedings including but not limiting to a warning, imposition of fine, suspension from official duties or any such action as is deemed to be fit considering the gravity of the matter.

“**Employee**” means every employee of the Company (whether working in India or abroad).

“**Protected Disclosure**” means a concern raised by a written communication made in good faith that discloses or demonstrates information that may evidence unethical or improper activity.

“**Subject**” means a person against or in relation to whom a Protected Disclosure is made or evidence gathered during the course of an investigation.

“**Whistle Blower**” may be someone who makes a Protected Disclosure under this Policy.

“**Whistle Officer**” or “**Committee**” means an officer or Committee of persons who is nominated/appointed to conduct detailed investigation.

“**Ombudsperson**” will be the chairman of the Audit Committee for the purpose of receiving all complaints under this Policy and ensuring appropriate action.

#### 4. POLICY COVERAGE

The Policy covers malpractices and events which have taken place/ suspected to take place involving:

1. Abuse of authority
2. Breach of contract
3. Negligence causing substantial and specific danger to public health and safety
4. Manipulation of company data/records
5. Financial irregularities, including fraud, or suspected fraud
6. Criminal offence
7. Pilferation of confidential/proprietary information
8. Deliberate violation of law/regulation
9. Wastage/misappropriation of company funds/assets
10. Breach of employee Code of Conduct/Ethics Policy or Rules
11. Any other unethical, biased, favoured, imprudent event which may affect the interests or reputation of the Company.

Policy should not be used in place of the Company grievance procedures or be a route for raising malicious or unfounded allegations against colleagues.

#### 5. MANNER OF RAISING CONCERN

Employees can make Protected Disclosure by writing in a sealed cover addressed to the Ombudsperson being the Chairman of the Audit Committee, or through an email at [acm@westcong.com](mailto:acm@westcong.com), as soon as possible but not later than 30 consecutive days after becoming aware of the same. However, subject to the seriousness of the issue raised, the Ombudsperson can initiate the investigation subject to the complainant giving satisfactory reasons for the delay.

Whistle Blower must put his/her name to the allegations. Concerns expressed anonymously will not be investigated.

If initial enquiries by the Ombudsperson indicate that the concern has no basis, or it is not a matter to be investigated under this Policy, it may be dismissed at this stage and the decision is documented.

Where initial enquiries indicate that further investigation is necessary, this will be carried through either by the Ombudsperson alone, or by a Whistle Officer/Committee nominated by the Ombudsperson for this purpose. The investigation would be conducted in a fair manner, as a neutral fact-finding process and without presumption of guilt. A written report of the findings would be made.

Name of the Whistle Blower shall not be disclosed to the Whistle Officer/Committee unless required for the purpose of investigation.

The Ombudsperson/Whistle Officer shall:

1. Make a detailed written record of the Protected Disclosure. The record will include:
  - a. Facts of the matter
  - b. Whether the same Protected Disclosure was raised previously by anyone, and if so, the outcome thereof;
  - c. Whether any Protected Disclosure was raised previously against the same Subject.
  - d. The financial/ otherwise loss which has been incurred / would have been incurred by the Company.
  - e. Findings of Ombudsperson/Whistle Officer/Committee;
  - f. The recommendations of the Ombudsman / Whistle Officer/Committee on disciplinary/other action(s).
2. The Whistle Officer/Committee shall finalise and submit the report to the Ombudsperson within 15 days of being nominated/appointed, unless more time is required under exceptional circumstances.

3. If the Whistle Officer or any member of the Committee have a conflict of interest in a given case, they should recuse themselves and the others on the Committee would deal with the matter on hand.

On submission of report, the Whistle Officer /Committee shall discuss the matter with Ombudsperson who shall either:

- a. In case the Protected Disclosure is proved, accept the findings of the Whistle Officer /Committee and take such Disciplinary Action as he may think fit and take preventive measures to avoid re-occurrence of the matter;
- b. In case the Protected Disclosure is not proved then the matter shall be dismissed;

Or

- c. Depending upon the seriousness of the matter, Ombudsperson may refer the matter to the Audit Committee for necessary action with its proposal. In case the Audit Committee thinks that the matter is too serious, it can further place the matter before the Board with its recommendations. The Board may decide the matter as it deems fit.

## **6. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

In exceptional cases, where the Whistle Blower is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation and the decision, s/he can make a direct appeal to the CMD.

To ensure that this Policy is adhered to, and to assure that the concern will be acted upon seriously, the Company will:

1. Ensure that the Whistle Blower and/or the person processing the Protected Disclosure is not victimized for doing so
2. Treat victimization as a serious matter including initiating disciplinary action on such person/(s);
3. Ensure complete confidentiality.
4. Not attempt to conceal evidence of the Protected Disclosure;
5. Take disciplinary action, if any one destroys or conceals evidence of the Protected Disclosure made/to be made;
6. Provide an opportunity of being heard to the persons involved especially to the Subject.

## **7. PROTECTION**

No unfair treatment will be meted out to a Whistle Blower by virtue of his/her having reported a Protected Disclosure under this Policy. The Company, as a policy, condemns any kind of discrimination, harassment, victimization or any other unfair employment practice being adopted against Whistle Blower. Complete protection will, therefore, be given to Whistle Blower against any unfair practice like retaliation, threat or intimidation of termination/suspension of service, disciplinary action, transfer, demotion, refusal of promotion, discrimination, any type of harassment, biased behaviour or the like including any direct or indirect use of authority to obstruct the Whistle Blower's right to continue to perform his duties/functions including making further Protected Disclosure. The Company will take steps to minimize difficulties, which the Whistle Blower may experience as a result of making the Protected Disclosure. Thus, if the Whistle Blower is required to give evidence in criminal or disciplinary proceedings, the Company will arrange for the Whistle Blower to receive advice about the procedure, etc.

The identity of the Whistle Blower shall be kept confidential.

Any other Employee assisting in the said investigation or furnishing evidence shall also be protected to the same extent as the Whistle Blower.

## **8. DISQUALIFICATION**

While it will be ensured that genuine Whistle Blowers are accorded complete protection from any kind of unfair treatment as herein set out, any abuse of this protection will warrant disciplinary action.

Protection under this Policy would not mean protection from disciplinary action arising out of false or bogus allegations made by a Whistle Blower knowing it to be false or bogus or with a mala fide intention.

Whistle Blowers, who make any Protected Disclosures, which have been subsequently found to be mala fide, frivolous or malicious, shall be liable to be prosecuted under Company's Code of Conduct.

## **9. CONFIDENTIALITY**

The Whistle Blower, the Subject, the Whistle Officer and everyone involved in the process shall:

1. maintain complete confidentiality/ secrecy of the matter
2. not discuss the matter in any informal/social gatherings/ meetings
3. discuss only to the extent or with the persons required for the purpose of completing the process and investigations
4. not keep the papers unattended anywhere at any time
5. keep the electronic mails/files under password

If anyone is found not complying with the above, he/ she shall be held liable for such disciplinary action as is considered fit.

## **10. REPORTING**

A quarterly report with number of complaints received under the Policy and their outcome shall be placed before the Audit Committee and the Board

## **11. MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT**

Our Board of Directors, our Management and all of our employees subscribe to the philosophy of maintaining highest ethical and professional standards. The Company believes and acts on an ethos of clean working environment, characterized by a willingness to build a society that works for everyone. This is the cornerstone of our Whistle Blower policy.

The Company's policy conforms to the Vigil Mechanism Guidelines spelt out by the applicable law. This Policy may be amended with the approval of the Audit Committee or the Board of Directors without any prior notice.

For any clarification/ assistance pertaining to the policy, please approach the Compliance officer of the Company at email ID [acm@westcong.com](mailto:acm@westcong.com).

**For and on behalf of the Board  
Western Carriers (India) Limited**

**KANISHKA SETHIA  
Director  
DIN: 00267232**