



(VGM Consultants Limited *Formerly VGM Consultants Private Limited*)

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**POLICY ON PRESERVATION OF
DOCUMENTS
&
ARCHIVAL OF RECORDS**

❖ SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF POLICY

Records and Documents provide evidence at the time of potential or actual conflict of interest among stake holders. Documents are also useful to reflect the compliances done by the company in respect of various statutory obligations.

Regulation 9 of Securities and Exchange Board of India, (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 [herein after referred to as “SEBI (LODR) Regulations” or “Regulations”], requires every **listed company to have a policy on preservation of documents/ records either in Physical Mode or Electronic Mode.**

Regulation 30 (8) of SEBI LODR Regulations requires to create and maintain an Archival Policy and therefore forms part of this Policy. This Policy is intended to ensure compliance particularly with the Listing Regulations and the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.

The corporate records of the Company are the important assets for the Company and hence the Company seeks to access and manage its records effectively, and is obliged to create, maintain, preserve and dispose of records as per Policy.

This Policy categorizes the records that whose preservation shall be permanent in nature and documents that will be preserved for specified period of time and outlines responsibilities to create, maintain and lawfully dispose of the records. It endorses the preservation of records in the Company’s Archives.

❖ OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY

The main objective of this policy is to ensure that all the statutory documents are preserved in compliance with the Regulations and as per Policy framed in compliance with the Regulations and to ensure that the records no longer needed or which are of no value are discarded after following due process for the same.

The major objectives of the policy are:

- To identify statutory records to be preserved.
- To identify records to be maintained either for a period of eight (8) years or permanently.
- To decide the mode of preserving the documents, whether in physical form or in electronic form.
- To help employees understanding their obligations in retaining and preserving the documents and records.
- Effective corporate governance and risk management;
- Effective information management to support the work of the administrations and provision of continued access to it at times when needed;
- Systematic disposal/destruction of Company’s non-current records that have outlived their administrative usefulness.
- Identification of the Company’s records that are of continuing administrative and historical value to warrant their transfer to and preservation in the Company’s Archives

❖ DEFINITIONS

“Act” means the Companies Act, 2013, rules framed there under and any amendments thereto.

“Archival” means accumulation/storage of historical records on server/network or at a physical place.

“Board of Directors” or “Board” means collective body of directors of the company or its Committee;

“Company”, “This Company”, “The Company” wherever occurs in the policy shall mean [●]

“Compliance Officer” means the Company Secretary of the Company

“Current” means running matter or whatever is at present in course of passage.

“Documents” means as defined in sub-section 36 of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013

“Electronic Records” means as defined in Information Technology Act, 2000 or as amended from time to time.

“Electronic Form” means any contemporaneous electronic device such as computer, laptop, compact disc, floppy disc, space on electronic cloud, or any other form of storage and retrieval device, considered feasible, whether the same is in possession or control of the Company or otherwise the Company has control over access to it and as defined in Information Technology Act, 2000 or as amended from time to time.

“Listing Regulations” means the Securities and Exchange Board of India, (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015

“Maintenance” means keeping documents, either physically or in electronic form.

“Preservation” means to keep in good order and to prevent from being altered, damaged or destroyed.

“Policy” means this Policy of Preservation of Documents of the Company;

“Records” in relation to this policy includes accounting records, books or papers and books and papers as defined in sub-section 12 of section 2, books of accounts as defined in sub-section 13 of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013, statutory and other documents of material significance whether covered under this Policy or not.

“Register” means a register maintained under the Companies Act, 2013 or the SEBI Act.

❖ INTERPRETATION

Any other term not defined herein shall have the same meaning as ascribed to it under the Companies Act, 2013, Listing Agreement, Listing Regulations framed by the Securities Exchange Board of India or any other relevant regulation/legislation applicable to the Company.

❖ VALUE OF RECORDS

The Company understands the value of its records. Thus, attached to this Policy are the combinations of qualities that relate to their importance, usefulness or quality. The following values are offered by the records:

- Informational value - All information presented, whether written, pictorial or audio.
- Material value - Intrinsic information about the records that can be retrieved from the material itself, such as age, provenance, history, software.
- Cultural value - Encompasses a range of values such as political, religious, historical, ethical, aesthetic, and many other similar values.

As per this Policy, the Company shall preserve the qualities of all records as far as possible.

❖ AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Company Secretary and / or Compliance Officer, as designated by the Board of the Company in this behalf, shall be responsible for the preservation of the records according to the time frame prescribed in the Policy for their preservation.

All staff and management of the company shall assist in implementing this Preservation Policy as appropriate to their roles and responsibilities.

❖ POLICY

1. Preservation of documents
 - (A) Preservation of Documents with specific reference to the Companies Act and SEBI LODR Regulations
 1. **Documents whose preservation shall be permanent in nature:** All those documents which are required to be preserved permanently in accordance with the provisions of applicable Act, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars, Notifications etc. as may be applicable on the Company from time-to-time shall be preserved permanently. Details of documents whose preservation shall be permanent in nature is listed in Annexure-A. All modifications amendments, additions, deletions, etc. to such documents shall also be preserved permanently by the Company.
 2. **Documents with preservation period of not less than eight years after completion of the relevant transactions:**

All those documents which are required to be preserved in accordance with the provisions of applicable Act, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars, Notifications etc. for a period of not less than eight years after completion of the relevant transactions shall be preserved accordingly. All documents/information furnished to the stock exchanges in compliance with the SEBI LODR Regulations, submitted to the Registrar of Companies and/or Ministry of Corporate Affairs in compliance with the Companies Act and Attendance Register for Board Meetings and recording of attendance of Meetings through Electronic Mode shall be preserved for a minimum period of eight years from the end of the financial year in which the documents/information is furnished/submitted or such meeting is held. Detail of these documents/information including any other documents/information with preservation period of not less than eight years after completion of the relevant transactions is listed in Annexure-B. All modifications, amendments, additions, deletions to such documents shall also be preserved for a term not less than eight years from the date of such modification, deletion, etc.

Documents with preservation period other than those mentioned in (1) and (2) above: All those documents which are required to be preserved in accordance with the provisions of applicable Act, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Circulars, Notifications etc. for a preservation period of other than those mentioned in 1 & 2 above shall be preserved accordingly claims by or against the Company, suits pending in courts, tribunals, quasi-judicial for a and other mediation and alternate dispute fora, industrial disputes, etc. are preserved according to specific needs and even beyond the prescribed period. Also, in the case of statutory records such as licenses, certificates, sanctions, approvals, etc., from government/ statutory bodies, care should be taken to maintain and preserve the records in accordance with the specific guidelines/instructions, if any, by the issuing authority.
 - (B) Documents to be made available on the website of the Company as required by the Companies Act and the SEBI LODR Regulations
 1. The Company is to maintain a functional website containing
 - the basic information about the Company
 - all Information and/or documents as specified in the applicable provisions of Companies Act
 - all Information and/or documents as specified in Regulation 46 (2) of the SEBI LODR Regulations
 - all Information and/or documents as mentioned in Regulation 30 of the SEBI LODR Regulations on Material Events
 - all other Information and/or documents as required under SEBI LODR Regulations 2.
 2. The Company shall ensure that contents of the website are correct.

3. The Company shall update any change in the content of its website within two working days from the date of such change in content.
4. Information and/ or Documents that need to be made available under Regulation 30 of the SEBI LODR Regulations shall be made available on the website simultaneously with disclosure to Stock Exchanges.
5. The information and/or documents uploaded on the website shall be available for current financial year and for the preceding five financial years.
6. Information and/ or Documents shall be arranged under proper heads and sub heads in such a manner that they can easily be located/ searched by the viewers, viz.
 - The information and/or documents may be arranged financial year wise with further segregation into four quarters of the financial year.
 - All policies etc. or the information/ documents of a general nature can be clubbed together at one place.

2. Archival of Documents mentioned in Clause (A) & (8)

Documents mentioned in sub clause (A) & (8) above shall be maintained/ preserved in the following manner:

Documents maintained in physical form:

1. All information and/or documents pertaining to current financial year and for one preceding financial year shall be kept handy and maintained in such a manner that their retrieval is easy and quick.
2. All documents pertaining to the period prior to one preceding financial year, shall be kept in good condition at least up to the minimum period specified for their maintenance / preservation in Annexures attached hereto. The said records be also maintained in such a manner that their retrieval is easy and quick.

Documents maintained in electronic form:

1. All documents pertaining to current financial year and for one preceding financial year shall be maintained on server and Backup be maintained on scheduled time and day. The documents shall be maintained in such a manner that their retrieval is easy and quick.
2. Back up of all documents pertaining to the period prior to one preceding financial year shall also be maintained on server, in good condition at least up to the minimum period specified for their maintenance / preservation. The said records be also maintained in such a manner that their retrieval is easy and quick.

Documents made available on the website of the Company: After the expiry of time (B) (5) of this policy (i.e., five financial years preceding the current financial year), the information and/or document shall be removed from the main website. The Backup of said information and/or document which is removed from the main website shall be maintained/ preserved in the server for a minimum period of 3 years and after expiry of this period of 3 years the backup may be permanently removed from the server.

Destruction of documents mentioned in Sub Clause (A) & (8) of this Policy

Any of the documents mentioned in sub clause (A) & (B) of clause 3.1 of this policy, which are not required to be maintained and preserved permanently shall be destroyed.

If documents / records should not be kept longer than is necessary and should be disposed of at the right time as unnecessary retention of records consumes time, space and equipment use. The documents / records referred to in Annexure B shall be preserved for at least 8 years (or additional period decided by the Company) may be disposed of after the expiry of the periods of their preservation, after the approval of the Board of Directors, General Counsel, Chief Financial Officer or Company Secretary of the Company in accordance with applicable law.

The Company shall maintain a register of disposal of records in the custody of the Compliance Officer of the Company, wherein the brief particulars of the records disposed of shall be entered.

The register of disposal of records shall contain the following columns:

- a) Item Number
- b) Brief Particulars of the records disposed of
- c) Date of approval for disposal of records
- d) Date of disposal
- e) Mode of destruction

This register of disposal of records shall be maintained permanently by the Company with the assistance of the Compliance Officer either in physical or electronic form.

❖ ARCHIVAL POLICY

The Company shall disclose on its website all such information as prescribed by the Companies Act, 2013, Listing Regulations and any other applicable law. The Company shall also disclose on its website all such events or information which has been disclosed to stock exchange(s) under Regulation 30(8) of the Listing Regulations. Such disclosures shall be hosted on the website of the Company for a minimum period of five (5) years and thereafter the same shall be archived.

- The document and records which are no longer current, but which are required to be preserved for a specified period of time or permanently under the applicable laws/ rules/ regulations shall be archived by the Company.
- The documents and records may be archived in physical and/or electronic mode as the Board of Directors of the Company may deem fit.
- The documents and records archived in electronic form shall be backed up automatically on a periodic basis.
- Documents and records which are no longer required to be preserved as per the provisions of this Policy may be destroyed in such manner as prescribed by the Company's Board of Directors.

❖ LOCATION OF RECORDS

As mandated by the Companies Act, 2013 or under any other statute, certain records shall be located at the registered office of the Company. The records for which no specific place has been specified under any statute shall be maintained at the corporate office of the Company or at any other place as may be approved by the Board, from time to time.

❖ ACCESS AND AUTHENTICITY

The preservation of the records of the Company is vital in order to ensure all current and future access to the records. Preservation is also concerned with ensuring the authenticity of records.

The Compliance Officer shall prepare a matrix for identifying persons who will be allowed to access different kind of records maintained & preserved by the Company. Since the records are maintained at different levels and departments in the Company, therefore Functional Heads should be authorized to ensure the preservation and access to the Records under their jurisdiction.

❖ RECORD RETENTION SCHEDULE

The records referred to in **Annexure A** of this Policy shall be maintained permanently and the records which are required to be preserved permanently on the website of the Company shall be preserved in line with the **Website Archival Policy of the Company**.

The records referred in **Annexure B** shall be preserved for at least eight (8) years and thereafter as per the discretion of the Board records may be disposed of in the manner prescribed by it.

The Company shall maintain a register of preservation and disposal of records in the custody of the Compliance officer of the Company, wherein the brief particulars of the records preserved and/or removed from the location after the expiry of its preservation period shall be entered.

The register of preservation and disposal of records shall contain the following columns:

- a) Item Number;
- b) Brief Particulars of the records preserved/ disposed of;
- c) Date of creation of the record;
- d) Date of removal from the register;
- e) Whether preserved permanently or not; and
- f) Mode of destruction

This register of preservation and disposal of records shall be maintained permanently by the Company with the assistance of the Compliance Officer either in physical or electronic form.

❖ **RECORD APPRAISAL**

The Company shall at regular intervals carry out the appraisal of the records preserved as per this Policy. The purpose of the appraisal process is to ensure the records are examined at the appropriate time to determine whether or not they are worthy of archival preservation, whether they need to be retained for a longer period as they are still in use, or whether they should be destroyed. The appraisal of records shall be undertaken only after the approval of the Board of the Company.

❖ **RISK-BASED APPROACH**

The Company adopts a risk-based approach in an endeavor to preserve the collection of its records. A preservation risk assessment for the whole collection shall be conducted and subsequently shall be reviewed periodically. The result of the risk assessment would be used to determine the urgency of preservation action: a low risk may simply indicate that the risk assessment should be re-calculated at a future date, whereas a high risk will trigger immediate action.

❖ **REVIEW OF THE POLICY**

This policy shall be reviewed from time to time so that the policy remains compliant with applicable legal requirements. The Company Secretary will keep the policy updated as per applicable statutory guidelines.

❖ **AMENDMENT**

The Board shall have power to amend any of the provisions of this Policy, substitute any of the provisions with a new provision or replace this policy entirely with a new Policy according to subsequent modification(s) / amendment(s) to Regulations.

If there is any inconsistency between the terms of the Policy and the Listing Regulations, the provisions of the Listing Regulations shall prevail. Any amendments to the Listing Regulations shall mutatis mutandis be deemed to have been incorporated in this Policy.

ANNEXURE – A
INDICATIVE LIST

RECORDS TO BE PRESERVED PERMANENTLY

SR NO.	RECORDS
1.	Certificate of Incorporation/ Commencement of Business
2.	Memorandum & Articles of Association
3.	Minute Books of General Meetings, Board and Committee Meetings as per Companies Act, 2013
4.	License and Permissions
5.	Register of Members
6.	Index of Members
7.	Agreements made by the Company with Stock Exchanges, Depositories, etc.
8.	Records relating to Court Cases / CBI Cases / Police Cases/ Civil Suits/ Labour Court Cases/ Arbitration Cases.
9.	Files relating to premises for instance Title Deeds/Lease Deeds of owned premises/land and building, etc. and related Ledger / Register
10.	Authorization / licenses obtained from any statutory authority
11.	Policies of the Company framed under various regulations
12.	Register of preservation and disposal of records
13.	Register of Power of attorneys, if any
14.	Certificates obtained from various statutory authorities
15.	Any other documents as may be applicable under any law, rules or regulation

ANNEXURE – B

RECORDS TO BE PRESERVED FOR MINIMUM PERIOD OF EIGHT YEARS

SR NO.	RECORDS
1.	Instrument creating charge or modification (from the date of satisfaction of charge) as per Companies Act, 2013
2.	Register of Inter Corporate Loans and Investments as per Companies Act, 2013
3.	Annual Returns as per Companies Act, 2013
4.	Register of Deposits as per Companies Act, 2013
5.	Register of Allotment (from the date of each allotment) as per Companies Act, 2013
6.	Annual financial statements including: Annual accounts Directors report Auditors report
7.	Vouchers / Voucher register and books of accounts as defined under sub-section 13 of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013
8.	Income Tax Returns filed under Income Tax Act, 1961
9.	All notices in form MBP – 1 received from Directors and KMPs along with any amendment thereto
10.	Return of declaration in respect of beneficial interest in any share as per Companies Act, 2013
11.	Copy of newspaper advertisement or publications
12.	All agreement entered into by the Company from the date of its termination
13.	All show cause notice or any other notice received from any statutory, government departments, Judicial or Quasi-judicial authority etc.
14.	Any other documents as may be applicable under any law, rules or regulation
15.	Books of accounts including Vouchers as defined under the Companies Act.
16.	Compliance Reports received from any statutory authority
17.	The postal ballot and all other papers or registers relating to postal ballot including voting by electronic means
18.	Disclosure/Return filed under SEBI LODR Regulations
19.	Office Copies of Notices, Agenda, Notes on Agenda of Board Meetings and Board Committees and other related papers.
20.	Office Copies of Notices, Scrutinizer's Report and related papers regarding General Meetings (including AGM).
21.	Any other document, certificates, statutory registers which may be required to be maintained and preserved for not less than eight years after completion of the relevant transaction under the Companies Act and/or the SEBI LODR Regulations.

