

**THE GAZETTE OF INDIA
EXTRAORDINARY
PART III – SECTION 4
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NEW DELHI, JUNE 10, 2009

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
NOTIFICATION**

Mumbai, the 10th June, 2009

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA
(DELISTING OF EQUITY SHARES) REGULATIONS, 2009**

No. LAD-NRO/GN/2008-2009/09/165992. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 read with section 21A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 (42 of 1956), section 30, sub-section (1) of section 11 and sub-section (2) of section 11A of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992), the Board hereby makes the following regulations, namely: -

**CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY**

- Short title and commencement.**
1. (1) These regulations may be called the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Delisting of Equity Shares) Regulations, 2009.
 - (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
- Definitions.**
2. (1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, -

- (i) 'Act' means the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992);
 - (ii) 'Board' means the Securities and Exchange Board of India established under section 3 of the Act;
 - (iii) 'company' means a company within the meaning of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) and includes a body corporate or corporation established under a central Act, state Act or provincial Act for the time being in force, whose equity shares are listed on a recognised stock exchange;
 - (iv) 'compulsory delisting' means delisting of equity shares of a company by a recognised stock exchange under Chapter V of these regulations;
 - (v) 'public shareholders' means the holders of equity shares, other than the following:
 - (a) promoters;
 - (b) holders of depository receipts issued overseas against equity shares held with a custodian and such custodian;
 - (vi) 'recognised stock exchange' means any stock exchange which has been granted recognition under section 4 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956;
 - (vii) 'Schedule' means a Schedule appended to these regulations;
 - (viii) 'voluntary delisting' means delisting of equity shares of a company voluntarily on application of the company under Chapter III of these regulations;
 - (ix) 'working days' means the working days of the Board.
- (2) The words 'control', 'person acting in concert', 'promoter' and 'public shareholding' shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997 as amended from time to time.
- (3) Words and expressions not defined in these regulations, but

defined in or under the Act or the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 (42 of 1956) or the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956), or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof, shall have the same meanings as in or under those enactments.

CHAPTER II

DELISTING OF EQUITY SHARES

- Applicability.**
3. (1) These regulations shall apply to delisting of equity shares of a company from all or any of the recognised stock exchanges where such shares are listed.
- (2) Nothing in these regulations shall apply to any delisting made pursuant to a scheme sanctioned by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 or by the National Company Law Tribunal under section 424D of the Companies Act, 1956, if such scheme –
- (a) lays down any specific procedure to complete the delisting; or
- (b) provides an exit option to the existing public shareholders at a specified rate.
- Delisting not permissible in certain circumstances and conditions for delisting.**
4. (1) No company shall apply for and no recognised stock exchange shall permit delisting of equity shares of a company,
-
- (a) pursuant to a buy back of equity shares by the company; or
- (b) pursuant to a preferential allotment made by the company; or
- (c) unless a period of three years has elapsed since the listing of that class of equity shares on any recognised stock exchange; or
- (d) if any instruments issued by the company, which are

convertible into the same class of equity shares that are sought to be delisted, are outstanding.

- (2) For the removal of doubts, it is clarified that no company shall apply for and no recognised stock exchange shall permit delisting of convertible securities.
- (3) Nothing contained in clauses (c) and (d) of sub-regulation (1) shall apply to a delisting of equity shares falling under clause (a) of regulation 6.
- (4) No promoter shall directly or indirectly employ the funds of the company to finance an exit opportunity provided under Chapter IV or an acquisition of shares made pursuant to sub-regulation (3) of regulation 23.
- (5) No promoter or other person shall –
 - (a) employ any device, scheme or artifice to defraud any shareholder or other person; or
 - (b) engage in any transaction or practice that operates as a fraud or deceit upon any shareholder or other person; or
 - (c) engage in any act or practice that is fraudulent, deceptive or manipulative –in connection with any delisting sought or permitted or exit opportunity given or other acquisition of shares made under these regulations.

CHAPTER III

VOLUNTARY DELISTING

**Delisting from
all recognised
stock exchanges.**

5. Subject to the provisions of these regulations, a company may delist its equity shares from all the recognised stock exchanges where they are listed or from the only recognised stock exchange where they are listed:

Provided that all public shareholders holding equity shares of the class which are sought to be delisted are given an exit opportunity

in accordance with Chapter IV.

Delisting from only some of the recognised stock exchanges.

6. A company may delist its equity shares from one or more recognised stock exchanges where they are listed and continue their listing on one or more other recognised stock exchanges, subject to the provisions of these regulations and subject to the following -

- (a) if after the proposed delisting from any one or more recognised stock exchanges, the equity shares would remain listed on any recognised stock exchange which has nationwide trading terminals, no exit opportunity needs to be given to the public shareholders; and,
- (b) if after the proposed delisting, the equity shares would not remain listed on any recognised stock exchange having nation wide trading terminals, exit opportunity shall be given to all the public shareholders holding the equity shares sought to be delisted in accordance with Chapter IV.

Explanation: For the purposes of this regulation, ‘recognised stock exchange having nation wide trading terminals’ means the Bombay Stock Exchange Limited, the National Stock Exchange of India Limited or any other recognised stock exchange which may be specified by the Board in this regard.

Procedure for delisting where no exit opportunity is required.

7. (1) In a case falling under clause (a) of regulation 6 –
- (a) the proposed delisting shall be approved by a resolution of the board of directors of the company in its meeting;
 - (b) the company shall give a public notice of the proposed delisting in at least one English national daily with wide circulation, one Hindi national daily with wide circulation and one regional language newspaper of the region where the concerned recognised stock exchanges are located;
 - (c) the company shall make an application to the concerned

recognised stock exchange for delisting its equity shares;
and

(d) the fact of delisting shall be disclosed in the first annual report of the company prepared after the delisting.

(2) The public notice made under clause (b) of sub-regulation (1) shall mention the names of the recognised stock exchanges from which the equity shares of the company are intended to be delisted, the reasons for such delisting and the fact of continuation of listing of equity shares on recognised stock exchange having nation wide trading terminals.

(3) An application for delisting made under clause (c) of sub-regulation (1) shall be disposed of by the recognised stock exchange within a period not exceeding thirty working days from the date of receipt of such application complete in all respects.

Conditions and procedure for delisting where exit opportunity is required.

8. (1) Any company desirous of delisting its equity shares under the provisions of Chapter III shall, except in a case falling under clause (a) of regulation 6, -

(a) obtain the prior approval of the board of directors of the company in its meeting;

(b) obtain the prior approval of shareholders of the company by special resolution passed through postal ballot, after disclosure of all material facts in the explanatory statement sent to the shareholders in relation to such resolution:

Provided that the special resolution shall be acted upon if and only if the votes cast by public shareholders in favour of the proposal amount to at least two times the number of votes cast by public shareholders against it.

(c) make an application to the concerned recognised stock exchange for in-principle approval of the proposed delisting in the form specified by the recognised stock exchange; and

(d) within one year of passing the special resolution, make the final application to the concerned recognised stock exchange in the form specified by the recognised stock exchange:

Provided that in pursuance of special resolution as referred to in clause (b), passed before the commencement of these regulations, final application shall be made within a period of one year from the date of passing of special resolution or six months from the commencement of these regulations, whichever is later.

- (2) An application seeking in-principle approval for delisting under clause (c) of sub-regulation (1) shall be accompanied by an audit report as required under regulation 55A of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 1996 in respect of the equity shares sought to be delisted, covering a period of six months prior to the date of the application.
- (3) An application seeking in-principle approval for delisting shall be disposed of by the recognised stock exchange within a period not exceeding thirty working days from the date of receipt of such application complete in all respects.
- (4) While considering an application seeking in-principle approval for delisting, the recognised stock exchange shall not unfairly withhold such application, but may require the company to satisfy it as to -
 - (a) compliance with clause (b) of sub-regulation (1);
 - (b) the resolution of investor grievances by the company;
 - (c) payment of listing fees to that recognised stock exchange;
 - (d) the compliance with any condition of the listing agreement with that recognised stock exchange having a material bearing on the interests of its equity

- shareholders;
- (e) any litigation or action pending against the company pertaining to its activities in the securities market or any other matter having a material bearing on the interests of its equity shareholders;
 - (f) any other relevant matter as the recognised stock exchange may deem fit to verify.
- (5) A final application for delisting made under clause (d) of sub-regulation (1) shall be accompanied with such proof of having given the exit opportunity in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV, as the recognised stock exchange may require.

CHAPTER IV

EXIT OPPORTUNITY

Applicability of Chapter IV. **9.** The provisions of this Chapter shall apply to any delisting sought to be made under regulation 5 or under clause (b) of regulation 6.

Public announcement. **10.** (1) The promoters of the company shall upon receipt of in-principle approval for delisting from the recognised stock exchange, make a public announcement in at least one English national daily with wide circulation, one Hindi national daily with wide circulation and one regional language newspaper of the region where the concerned recognised stock exchange is located.

(2) The public announcement shall contain all material information including the information specified in Schedule I and shall not contain any false or misleading statement.

(3) The public announcement shall also specify a date, being a day not later than thirty working days from the date of the

public announcement, which shall be the 'specified date' for determining the names of shareholders to whom the letter of offer shall be sent.

- (4) Before making the public announcement, the promoter shall appoint a merchant banker registered with the Board and such other intermediaries as are considered necessary.
- (5) It shall be the responsibility of the promoter and the merchant banker to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.
- (6) No promoter shall appoint any person as a merchant banker under sub-regulation (4) if such a person is an associate of the promoter.

- Escrow account.** 11. (1) Before making the public announcement under regulation 10, the promoter shall open an escrow account and deposit therein the total estimated amount of consideration calculated on the basis of floor price and number of equity shares outstanding with public shareholders.
- (2) On determination of final price and making of public announcement under regulation 18 accepting the final price, the promoter shall forthwith deposit in the escrow account such additional sum as may be sufficient to make up the entire sum due and payable as consideration in respect of equity shares outstanding with public shareholders.
 - (3) The escrow account shall consist of either cash deposited with a scheduled commercial bank, or a bank guarantee in favour of the merchant banker, or a combination of both.
 - (4) Where the escrow account consists of deposit with a scheduled commercial bank, the promoter shall, while opening the account, empower the merchant banker to instruct the bank to issue banker's cheques or demand drafts for the amount lying to the credit of the escrow account, for the purposes mentioned in these regulations, and the amount

in such deposit, if any, remaining after full payment of consideration for equity shares tendered in the offer and those tendered under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 21 shall be released to the promoter.

(5) Where the escrow account consists of a bank guarantee, such bank guarantee shall be valid till payments are made in respect of all shares tendered under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 21.

Letter of offer.

12.

(1) The promoter shall despatch the letter of offer to the public shareholders of equity shares, not later than forty five working days from the date of the public announcement, so as to reach them at least five working days before the opening of the bidding period.

(2) The letter of offer shall be sent to all public shareholders holding equity shares of the class sought to be delisted whose names appear on the register of the company or depository as on the date specified in the public announcement under sub-regulation (3) of regulation 10.

(3) The letter of offer shall contain all the disclosures made in the public announcement and such other disclosures as may be necessary for the shareholders to take an informed decision.

(4) The letter of offer shall be accompanied with a bidding form for use of public shareholders and a form to be used by them for tendering shares under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 21.

Bidding period.

13.

(1) The date of opening of the offer shall not be later than fifty five working days from the date of the public announcement.

(2) The offer shall remain open for a minimum period of three working days and a maximum period of five working days, during which the public shareholders may tender their bids.

Right of shareholders to participate in the book building process.

- 14.** (1) All public shareholders of the equity shares which are sought to be delisted shall be entitled to participate in the book building process in the manner specified in Schedule II.
- (2) A promoter or a person acting in concert with any of the promoters shall not make a bid in the offer and the merchant banker shall take necessary steps to ensure compliance with this sub-regulation.
- (3) Any holder of depository receipts issued on the basis of underlying shares held by a custodian and any such custodian shall not be entitled to participate in the offer.
- (4) Nothing contained in sub-regulation (3) shall affect the right of any holder of depository receipts to participate in the book building process under sub-regulation (1) if the holder of depository receipts exchanges such depository receipts with shares of the class that are proposed to be delisted.

Offer price.

- 15.** (1) The offer price shall be determined through book building in the manner specified in Schedule II, after fixation of floor price under sub-regulation (2) and disclosure of the same in the public announcement and the letter of offer.
- (2) The floor price shall not be less than, -
- (a) where the equity shares are frequently traded in all the recognised stock exchanges where they are listed, the average of the weekly high and low of the closing prices of the equity shares of the company during the twenty six weeks or two weeks preceding the date on which the recognised stock exchanges were notified of the board meeting in which the delisting proposal was considered, whichever is higher, as quoted on the recognised stock exchange where the equity shares of the company are most frequently traded;
- (b) where the equity shares of the company are infrequently traded in all the recognised stock exchanges where they

are listed, the floor price determined in accordance with the provisions of sub-regulation (3); or,

- (c) where the equity shares are frequently traded in some recognised stock exchanges and infrequently traded in some other recognised stock exchanges where they are listed, the highest of the prices arrived at in accordance with clauses (a) and (b) above.

Explanation: For the purposes of this sub-regulation, equity shares shall be deemed to be infrequently traded, if on the recognised stock exchange, the annualised trading turnover in such shares during the preceding six calendar months prior to month in which the recognised stock exchanges were notified of the board meeting in which the delisting proposal was considered, is less than five per cent. (by number of equity shares) of the total listed equity shares of that class and the term 'frequently traded' shall be construed accordingly.

- (3) For the purposes of clause (b) of sub-regulation (2), the floor price shall be determined by the promoter and the merchant banker taking into account the following factors:
- (a) the highest price paid by the promoter for acquisitions, if any, of equity shares of the class sought to be delisted, including by way of allotment in a public or rights issue or preferential allotment, during the twenty six weeks period prior to the date on which the recognised stock exchanges were notified of the board meeting in which the delisting proposal was considered and after that date upto the date of the public announcement; and,
- (b) other parameters including return on net worth, book value of the shares of the company, earning per share, price earning multiple vis-à-vis the industry average.

Right of the promoter not to

- 16.** (1) The promoter shall not be bound to accept the equity shares at the offer price determined by the book building process.

accept the offer price.

- (2) Where the promoter decides not to accept the offer price so determined,-
 - (a) the promoter shall not acquire any equity shares tendered pursuant to the offer and the equity shares deposited or pledged by a shareholder pursuant to paragraphs 7 or 9 of Schedule II shall be returned or released to him within ten working days of closure of the bidding period;
 - (b) the company shall not make the final application to the exchange for delisting of the equity shares;
 - (c) the promoter may close the escrow account opened under regulation 11; and,
 - (d) in a case where the public shareholding at the opening of the bidding period was less than the minimum level of public shareholding required under the listing agreement, the promoter shall ensure that the public shareholding shall be brought up to such minimum level within a period of six months from the date of closure of the bidding through any of the ways mentioned in sub-regulation (3).
- (3) For the purposes of clause (d) of sub-regulation (2), the public shareholding may be increased by any of the following ways:
 - (a) by issue of new shares by the company in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and the Guidelines or Regulations of the Board relating to issue of securities and disclosures;
 - (b) by the promoter making an offer for sale of his holdings in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and the Guidelines or Regulations of the Board relating to issue of securities and disclosures; or,
 - (c) by the promoter making sale of his holdings through the secondary market in a transparent manner.

- Minimum number of equity shares to be acquired.**
- 17.** An offer made under chapter III shall be deemed to be successful if post offer, the shareholding of the promoter (along with the persons acting in concert) taken together with the shares accepted through eligible bids at the final price determined as per Schedule II, reaches the higher of –
- (a) ninety per cent. of the total issued shares of that class excluding the shares which are held by a custodian and against which depository receipts have been issued overseas; or
 - (b) the aggregate percentage of pre offer promoter shareholding (along with persons acting in concert with him) and fifty per cent. of the offer size.
- Procedure after closure of offer.**
- 18.** Within eight working days of closure of the offer, the promoter and the merchant banker shall make a public announcement in the same newspapers in which the public announcement under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 10 was made regarding:-
- (i) the success of the offer in terms of regulation 17 alongwith the final price accepted by the acquirer; or
 - (ii) the failure of the offer in terms of regulation 19; or
 - (iii) rejection under regulation 16 of the final price discovered under Schedule II, by the promoters.
- Failure of offer.**
- 19.** (1) Where the offer is rejected under regulation 16 or is not successful as per regulation 17, the offer shall be deemed to have failed and no equity shares shall be acquired pursuant to such offer.
- (2) Where the offer fails –
- (a) the equity shares deposited or pledged by a shareholder under paragraphs 7 or 9 of Schedule II shall be returned or released to him within ten working days from the end of the bidding period;
 - (b) no final application shall be made to the exchange

for delisting of the equity shares; and

- (c) the escrow account opened under regulation 11 shall be closed.

Payment of consideration and return of equity shares.

20. (1) The promoter shall immediately on ascertaining success of the offer, open a special account with a banker to an issue registered with the Board and transfer thereto, the entire amount due and payable as consideration in respect of equity shares tendered in the offer, from the escrow account.
- (2) All the shareholders whose equity shares are verified to be genuine shall be paid the final price stated in the public announcement within ten working days from the closure of the offer.
- (3) The equity shares deposited or pledged by a shareholder pursuant to paragraphs 7 or 9 of Schedule II shall be returned or released to him, within ten working days from the closure of the offer, in cases where the bids pertaining thereto have not been accepted.

Right of remaining shareholders to tender equity shares.

21. (1) Where, pursuant to acceptance of equity shares tendered in terms of these regulations, the equity shares are delisted, any remaining public shareholder holding such equity shares may tender his shares to the promoter upto a period of at least one year from the date of delisting and, in such a case, the promoter shall accept the shares tendered at the same final price at which the earlier acceptance of shares was made.
- (2) The payment of consideration for shares accepted under sub-regulation (1) shall be made out of the balance amount lying in the escrow account.
- (3) The amount in the escrow account or the bank guarantee shall not be released to the promoter unless all payments are

made in respect of shares tendered under sub-regulation (1).

CHAPTER V

COMPULSORY DELISTING

Compulsory delisting by a stock exchange.

22. (1) A recognised stock exchange may, by order, delist any equity shares of a company on any ground prescribed in the rules made under section 21A of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 (42 of 1956):
Provided that no order shall be made under this sub-regulation unless the company concerned has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard.
- (2) The decision regarding compulsory delisting shall be taken by a panel to be constituted by the recognised stock exchange consisting of –
- (a) two directors of the recognised stock exchange (one of whom shall be a public representative);
 - (b) one representative of the investors;
 - (c) one representative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs or Registrar of Companies; and
 - (d) the Executive Director or Secretary of the recognised stock exchange.
- (3) Before making an order under sub-regulation (1), the recognised stock exchange shall give a notice in one English national daily with wide circulation and one regional language newspaper of the region where the concerned recognised stock exchange is located, of the proposed delisting, giving a time period of not less than fifteen working days from the notice, within which representations may be made to the recognised stock exchange by any person who may be aggrieved by the proposed delisting and shall also display such notice on its trading systems and

website.

- (4) The recognised stock exchange shall while passing any order under sub-regulation (1), consider the representations, if any, made by the company as also any representations received in response to the notice given under sub-regulation (3) and shall comply with the criteria specified in Schedule III.
- (5) The provisions of Chapter IV shall not be applicable to a compulsory delisting made by a recognised stock exchange under this Chapter.
- (6) Where the recognised stock exchange passes an order under sub-regulation (1), it shall, -
 - (a) forthwith publish a notice in one English national daily with wide circulation and one regional language newspaper of the region where the concerned recognised stock exchange is located, of the fact of such delisting, disclosing therein the name and address of the company, the fair value of the delisted equity shares determined under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 23 and the names and addresses of the promoters of the company who would be liable under sub-regulation (3) of regulation 23; and
 - (b) inform all other stock exchanges where the equity shares of the company are listed, about such delisting and the surrounding circumstances.

Rights of public shareholders in case of a compulsory delisting.

- 23.** (1) Where equity shares of a company are delisted by a recognised stock exchange under this Chapter, the recognised stock exchange shall appoint an independent valuer or valuers who shall determine the fair value of the delisted equity shares.
- (2) The recognised stock exchange shall form a panel of expert valuers from whom the valuer or valuers shall be appointed for purposes of sub-regulation (1).

(3)The promoter of the company shall acquire delisted equity shares from the public shareholders by paying them the value determined by the valuer, subject to their option of retaining their shares.

Explanation: For the purposes of sub-regulation (1), -

(a) ‘valuer’ means a chartered accountant within the meaning of clause (b) of section 2 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (38 of 1949), who has undergone peer review as specified by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India constituted under that Act, or a merchant banker appointed to determine the value of the delisted equity shares;

(b) value of the delisted equity shares shall be determined by the valuer having regard to the factors mentioned in regulation 15.

Consequences of compulsory delisting. 24. Where a company has been compulsorily delisted under this Chapter, the company, its whole time directors, its promoters and the companies which are promoted by any of them shall not directly or indirectly access the securities market or seek listing for any equity shares for a period of ten years from the date of such delisting.

CHAPTER VI

POWERS OF THE BOARD

Power of the Board to issue clarifications. 25. In order to remove any difficulties in the application or interpretation of these regulations, the Board may issue clarifications and guidelines in the form of circulars.

Directions by the Board. 26. Without prejudice to provisions of the Act and those of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 (42 of 1956), the Board may in case of any violation of these regulations and in the interests of the investors and the securities market give such

directions as it deems fit:

Provided that the Board shall, either before or after passing such orders, give an opportunity of hearing to the concerned person.

CHAPTER VII
SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SMALL COMPANIES AND DELISTING BY
OPERATION OF LAW

- Special provisions in case of small companies.** 27. (1) Where a company has paid up capital upto one crore rupees and its equity shares were not traded in any recognised stock exchange in the one year immediately preceding the date of decision, such equity shares may be delisted from all the recognised stock exchanges where they are listed, without following the procedure in Chapter IV.
- (2) Where a company has three hundred or fewer public shareholders and where the paid up value of the shares held by such public shareholders in such company is not more than one crore rupees, its equity shares may be delisted from all the recognised stock exchanges where they are listed, without following the procedure in Chapter IV.
- (3) A delisting of equity shares may be made under sub-regulation (1) or sub-regulation (2) only if, in addition to fulfillment of the requirements of regulation 8, the following conditions are fulfilled:-
- (a) the promoter appoints a merchant banker and decides an exit price in consultation with him;
 - (b) the exit price offered to the public shareholders shall not be less than the price arrived at in consultation with the merchant banker;
 - (c) the promoter writes individually to all public shareholders in the company informing them of his intention to get the equity shares delisted, indicating the exit price together with the

justification therefor and seeking their consent for the proposal for delisting;

- (d) at least ninety per cent. of such public shareholders give their positive consent in writing to the proposal for delisting, and have consented either to sell their equity shares at the price offered by the promoter or to remain holders of the equity shares even if they are delisted;
- (e) the promoter completes the process of inviting the positive consent and finalisation of the proposal for delisting of equity shares within seventy five working days of the first communication made under clause (c);
- (f) the promoter makes payment of consideration in cash within fifteen working days from the date of expiry of seventy five working days stipulated in clause (e).

(4) The communication made to the public shareholders under clause (c) of sub-regulation (3) shall contain justification for the offer price with particular reference to the applicable parameters mentioned in regulation 15 and specifically mention that consent for the proposal would include consent for dispensing with the exit price discovery through book building method.

(5) The concerned recognised stock exchange may delist such equity shares upon satisfying itself of compliance with this regulation.

Delisting in case of winding up, derecognition,etc.

- 28.**
- (1) In case of winding up proceedings of a company whose equity shares are listed on a recognised stock exchange, the rights, if any, of the shareholders of such company shall be in accordance with the laws applicable to those proceedings.
 - (2) Where the Board withdraws recognition granted to a stock

exchange or refuses renewal of recognition to it, the Board may, in the interest of investors pass appropriate order in respect of the status of equity shares of the companies listed on that exchange.

CHAPTER VIII MISCELLANEOUS

Recognised stock exchanges to monitor compliance. 29. The respective recognised stock exchanges shall comply with and monitor compliance with the provisions of these regulations and shall report to the Board any instance of non-compliance which comes to their notice.

Listing of delisted equity shares. 30. (1) No application for listing shall be made in respect of any equity shares,
(a) which have been delisted under Chapter III or under Chapter VII (except regulation 27), for a period of five years from the delisting;
(b) which have been delisted under Chapter V, for a period of ten years from the delisting.
(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-regulation (1), an application for listing of delisted equity shares may be made where a recommendation in this regard has been made by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.
(3) While considering an application for listing of any equity shares which had been delisted the recognised stock exchange shall have due regard to facts and circumstances under which delisting was made.
(4) An application for listing made in respect of delisted equity shares shall be deemed to be an application for

fresh listing of such equity shares and shall be subject to provisions of law relating to listing of equity shares of unlisted companies.

Transitional provisions.

- 31.**
- (1) Anything done or omitted to be done or any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired or accrued or incurred under Securities and Exchange Board of India (Delisting of Securities) Guidelines, 2003 prior to the commencement of these regulations shall be governed by said guidelines.
 - (2) Any application for delisting made by any company or any promoter or acquirer who wanted to delist securities of the company, prior to commencement of these regulations and pending with any recognised stock exchange as on the date of such commencement shall be proceeded with under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Delisting of Securities) Guidelines, 2003.
 - (3) The remaining procedures in respect of an exit opportunity already completed or an exit opportunity initiated but not completed under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Delisting of Securities) Guidelines, 2003 prior to commencement of these regulations, shall be completed and the application for delisting made pursuant thereto shall be dealt under the said guidelines.

SCHEDULE I

[See regulation 10(2)]

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16. A statement by the board of directors of the company confirming that all material information which is required to be disclosed under the provisions of continuous listing requirement have been disclosed to the stock exchanges.
17. Name of compliance officer of the company.
18. It should be signed and dated by the promoter. Where the promoter is a company, the public announcement shall be dated and signed on behalf of the board of directors of the company by its manager or secretary, if any, and by not less than two directors of the company, one of whom shall be a managing director where there is one.

SCHEDULE II

[See regulation 15(1)]

THE BOOK BUILDING PROCESS

1. The book building process shall be made through an electronically linked transparent facility and the promoter shall enter into an agreement with a stock exchange for the purpose.
2. The public announcement and letter of offer shall be filed without delay with the stock exchange mentioned in paragraph 1 and such stock exchange shall forthwith post the same in its website.
3. The minimum number of bidding centres shall be:
 - (a) the four metropolitan centres situated at Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai;
 - (b) such cities in the region in which the registered office of the company is situated, as are specified by the stock exchange mentioned in paragraph 1.
4. There shall be at least one electronically linked computer terminal at all bidding centres.
5. The shareholders may withdraw or revise their bids upwards not later than one day before the closure of the bidding period. Downward revision of bids shall not be permitted.
6. The promoter shall appoint 'trading members' at the bidding centres, whom the public shareholders may approach for placing bids on the on-line electronic system.
7. The shareholders holding dematerialised shares desirous of availing the exit opportunity may deposit the equity shares in respect of which bids are made, with the special depositories account opened by the merchant banker for the purpose prior to placement of orders or, alternately, may mark a pledge for the same to the merchant banker in favour of the said account.
8. The merchant banker shall ensure that the equity shares in the said special depositories account are not transferred to the account of the promoter unless the bids in respect thereof are accepted and payments made.

9. The holders of physical equity shares may send their bidding form together with the share certificate and transfer deed to the trading member appointed for the purpose, who shall immediately after entering their bids on the system send them to the company or the share transfer agent for confirming their genuineness. The company or the share transfer agent shall deliver the certificates which are found to be genuine to the merchant banker, who shall not make it over to promoter unless the bids in respect thereof are accepted and payment made. The bids in respect of the certificates which are found to be not genuine shall be deleted from the system.
10. The verification of physical certificates shall be completed in time for making the public announcement under regulation 18.
11. The bids placed in the system shall have an audit trail which includes stock broker identification details, time stamp and unique order number.
12. The final offer price shall be determined as the price at which the maximum number of equity shares is tendered by the public shareholders. If the final price is accepted, then, the promoter shall accept all shares tendered where the corresponding bids placed are at the final price or at a price which is lesser than the final price. The promoter may, if he deems fit, fix a higher final price.

SCHEDULE III

[See regulation 22(4)]

CRITERIA FOR COMPULSORY DELISTING

1. The recognised stock exchange shall take all reasonable steps to trace the promoters of a company whose equity shares are proposed to be delisted, with a view to ensuring compliance with sub-regulation (3) of regulation 23.
2. The recognised stock exchange shall consider the nature and extent of the alleged non-compliance of the company and the number and percentage of shareholders who may be affected by such non-compliance.
3. The recognised stock exchange shall take reasonable efforts to verify the status of compliance of the company with the office of the concerned Registrar of Companies.
4. The names of the companies whose equity shares are proposed to be delisted and their promoters shall be displayed in a separate section on the website of the recognised stock exchange for a brief period of time. If delisted, the names shall be shifted to another separate section on the website.
5. The recognised stock exchange shall in appropriate cases file prosecutions under relevant provisions of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 or any other law for the time being in force against identifiable promoters and directors of the company for the alleged non-compliances.
6. The recognised stock exchange shall in appropriate cases file a petition for winding up the company under section 433 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) or make a request to the Registrar of Companies to strike off the name of the company from the register under section 560 of the said Act.

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