



Sexual Harassment
Avoidance and
Redressal Policy
(Version :1.4)

Date

Exide Energy Private Limited (formerly known as Exide Leclanche Energy Private Limited) seeks to reinforce its commitment towards providing a place of work that is free of harassment and any form of intimidation or exploitation of employees.

In continuation with our endeavor towards improved gender diversity and inclusion along with creating a safe, fair and just workplace, we have reviewed the Sexual Harassment Avoidance Redressal Policy.

In accordance with provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013, redressal committees have been formed at Apex, Factory and Regional levels, and detailed guidelines on reporting and redressal have been laid down to address the issue of sexual harassment of women at workplace.

All employees are requested to refer to the guidelines mentioned herein, to act responsibly and adhere to the protocol outlined in the policy, to ensure an environment free from any harassment.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer

Exide Energy Private Limited

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CIN No: U74999WB2018PTC259348 | Website: www.nexcharge.in
Phone No. 2772-3501105 email id: contact@exideleclanche.com

I. Preface

Exide Energy Private Limited (formerly known as Exide Leclanche Energy Private Limited) (EEPL) follows the philosophy of respecting the dignity of all individuals as enshrined under the constitution of India. More so, we strive to foster a work environment that is conducive to the professional growth of our women employees and encourages equality of opportunity. Sexual harassment of woman at work seriously undermines her right to live with Such conduct is wholly incompatible with the policy of the company to provide a work environment free of harassment, discrimination, intimidation and insult in any form.

EEPL will not tolerate any form of sexual harassment against any woman within its premises and is committed to take all necessary steps to ensure that women are not subjected to any form of harassment.

II. Objective

The main objective of creating this policy document is to establish an easily accessible complaint redressal mechanism within the legal framework to effectively deal with incidents of sexual harassment of woman and to ensure redressal of such complaints in a fair, confidential and timely manner.

III. Applicability

This policy is applicable to all complaints of sexual harassment against woman received at any or all office(s) or premises of EEPL and/or any other place defined as “workplace” under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

Any other term not defined herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. and the Rules thereunder, to the extent applicable to the Company.

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 the rules thereunder. Accordingly, while the policy covers all the key aspects of the act, for any further clarification reference shall always be made to the Act.

The workplace includes:

1. All offices and/ or other premises where the Company’s business is conducted.
2. All company-related activities performed at any other place/ site away from the company’s premises.
3. Any social, business or other functions or any place visited by the employee arising out of or during employment including transportation provided by the employer for undertaking such journey.

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IV. Statement of Principles

- The Policy bestows the responsibility and obligation on the organization as well as on every employee in maintaining a non-hostile and a pleasant working environment. All employees should respect the dignity and personality of other employees.
- The policy recognizes the right of complaint of every woman who has suffered sexual harassment at any office or premises of EEPL and /or any other place defined as a “workplace” under The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 It is in the self-interest of the complainant to make the complaint promptly available under the compliant redressal mechanism.
- The policy seeks to encourage employees to express freely, responsibly and in an orderly manner opinions and feelings about any problem or complaint of sexual harassment. Retaliation against any employee who report or provide information about sexual harassment or unwelcome or unacceptable behaviour that might constitute sexual harassment is strictly prohibited. Any act of reprisal, including internal interface, coercion and restraint by an employee or one acting on his/her behalf violates this policy and will result in appropriate disciplinary action.
- The Policy envisages appropriate disciplinary action against any employee who indulges himself/herself or encourages the activities of sexual harassment or the acts of victimization or retaliation against complainant or employee involved in the process of redressal of complaints of sexual harassment in whatsoever manner.
- Any employee who engages in any conduct amounting to be harassment, or who encourages such conduct by others, or who indulges in victimisation of or retaliation against the complainant or the complainant’s witnesses or the complainant’s confidential counselor or any other employee who supported or supports them shall become liable for corrective action including appropriate disciplinary action, which may even include termination from service.
- The policy recognizes the right of privacy of every individual and will strive to protect the privacy of the individuals involved /mentioned in the complaint of sexual harassment and ensure that the complainant and the offender/s are treated fairly. Information about individual complaints and the disposition are considered confidential and will not be shared or communicated or made known to public, press and media.
- The Policy ensures that the career interests of both the parties will not be adversely affected merely on account of the complaint made to the Redressal Committee.

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- This Policy can't be used to bring frivolous or malicious complaint against any employee of the organization. If a complaint is made in bad faith, as demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence, disciplinary action may be taken against the person bringing the false or frivolous or malicious complaint.

V. Sexual Harassment

At EEPL, a woman shall not be subjected to sexual harassment which may include any unwelcome sexually determined act or behaviour, physical contact and advances, sexually-colored remarks, Showing pornography, sexual demands, requests for sexual favours or any other unwelcome conduct of sexual nature whether verbal, textual, physical, graphic or electronic or by any other actions under a promise or preferential treatment in employment or by threat about present or future employment status or a conduct which interferes with work or creates an intimidating or offensive or hostile work environment

VI. Roles & Responsibilities

1. Responsibilities of Individual:

It is the responsibility of all to respect the rights of others and to never encourage harassment. It can be by way of:

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

All are encouraged to advise others of behaviour(s) that is or are unacceptable or unwelcome. Often, some behaviors 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.

2. Responsibilities of Managers:

All managers at EEPL must ensure that nobody is subjected to harassment and there is equal treatment meted to everyone. They must also ensure that harassment is not to be tolerated in any form; that complaints will be taken seriously; and that the complainant, respondent/s, or witnesses are not victimized in any way.

The owner of this policy is the Human Resources Department of EEPL. Any queries on the application or interpretation of this policy must be discussed with the Human Resources Department.

Any complaints received under this policy will be handled by the Internal Committee of the respective location constituted, as per the guidelines provided.

VII. Misconduct

EEPL shall treat commission of any act or behavior amounting to sexual harassment, by an employee as a major disciplinary offence. Victimizing or retaliating against an employee for

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bringing a complaint of sexual harassment in good faith, as well as the witness of the complainant or confidential counselor shall also be treated equally as a major disciplinary offence.

VIII. Complaint Procedure

EEPL shall provide easily accessible redressal system to the aggrieved woman and whenever the organization is made aware of such a case, the organization shall take prompt and effective action. Whether or not such conduct constitutes an offence under law or a breach of the service rules, an appropriate complaint redressal mechanism in the form of “**Internal Committees**” have been created in the company for time-bound redressal of the complaint made by the aggrieved woman. These committees have been formed in accordance with the provisions of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The complaint redressal mechanism will prevail at Apex, Regional and Factory level to ensure effective deployment and implementation of the policy provisions across all location within the stipulated time frame. EEPL has devised both informal as well as formal procedures for redressal of sexual harassment complaints.

Any aggrieved woman may make, in writing, a complaint of sexual harassment to the Internal Committee, so formed for the purpose, within a maximum period of three months from the date of incidence. In case of a series of incidents the complaint may be made within the stipulated three months’ time from the date of the last incident.

Current nominated members of the committees in EEPL are as follows:

- Ms. Poonam Mishra (designated as “Presiding Officer”, ICC)
- Mr. Gaurav Amrutiya (Designated as Member, ICC)
- Ms. Divya Agarwal (Designated as Member, ICC)
- Ms. Hema Shah (Chartered Accountant) (Designated as External Member, ICC);

IX. Informal Procedure

The Internal Committee may, at the request of the complainant, take steps to settle the matter through conciliation between the parties. However, no monetary settlement is permissible based on the conciliation.

Where such a settlement, through mediation, has been arrived the Internal Committee shall record the settlement so arrived and forward the copies of the same to the employer, aggrieved woman and the individual against whom the compliant has been made.

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X. Formal procedure

It is not obligatory for a complainant to invoke the informal procedure. This is purely optional, and it is open to a complainant to invoke the formal procedure in the first instance itself, without resorting to the informal procedure.

- To invoke the formal procedure, the complainant needs to give six (6) copies of complaint along with supporting documents and the names and addresses of the witnesses against the alleged offender to a member/s of the Internal Committee. The complaint must be lodged within three (3) months from the date of incident/ last incident. The Committee can extend the timeline by another three (3) months for reasons recorded in writing, if satisfied that these reasons prevented the lodging of the complaint.
- On receipt of such formal written complaint, the Internal Committee in question shall conduct a preliminary investigation into the complaint in order to determine whether a prima facie case is made out against the alleged offender. For this purpose, the Internal Committee may constitute a sub-committee from amongst its members or nominate any individual member to conduct such investigation. The preliminary investigation would ordinarily be concluded within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the formal written complaint by the Internal Committee. However, the presiding officer shall decide based on the complaint received, if the preliminary investigation is to be conducted or not.
- If the aggrieved woman is unable to lodge the complaint on 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

XI. Enquiry Methodology

If as a result of the preliminary investigation, a prima facie case is made out against the alleged offender, the Presiding Officer will call a meeting of the Internal Committee members and appoint the enquiry officers to conduct the enquiry into the complaint received. Where the preliminary investigation is not required to be conducted to verify the complaint received, the presiding officer of the Internal committee shall appoint the enquiry officers comprising a minimum of three (3) members of the Internal committee including herself to conduct into the complaint so received. The enquiry officers will follow the procedure as detailed:

1. The enquiry officers shall provide the respondent (offender) a copy of the complaint received from the aggrieved woman within a period of seven (7) working days.
2. The aggrieved woman shall file a list of witnesses, with their addresses and supporting documents to the enquiry officers for records and purpose of conducting the inquiry.

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3. On receipt of the complaint the respondent shall file his reply to the enquiry officers along with list of documents and names of witnesses with their respective addresses, within a period of ten (10) working days from date of receipt.
4. In conducting the inquiry, a minimum of three (3) members of the Internal Committee including the Presiding Officer or the Chairperson shall be present.

In the event, where either the victim or the accused is a member of any Internal Committee, they shall not be included in the proceedings of the enquiry and decision making for the incident in question. A replacement shall be made to ensure the constitution of the Committee remains within the purview of the law.

5. For the purpose of conducting the enquiry, as provided in The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 Act under reference, the Internal Committee is vested with the same powers as a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure in respect of:
 - a) Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him/her on oath;
 - b) Requiring the discovery of any production of documents
 - c) Any other matter which may be prescribed
6. The Presiding Officer or the Chairperson, as the case may be, being the convener of the inquiry hearings shall notify the parties in writing about the date time and venue of the inquiry. The Internal Committee will then forward the reply to the aggrieved woman and sends a notice to both parties for hearing.
7. The Internal Committee shall conduct the inquiry in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
8. Subject to the point # 6, the Committee reserves the right to either terminate the inquiry proceedings or give an ex-parte decision on the complaint if the parties concerned fail to be present for three consecutive hearings without sufficient cause as determined by the convener of the hearings, provided that such termination or exparte order may not be passed without giving a notice in writing 15 days in advance to the parties concerned.
9. The parties shall have the right to be assisted and/or represented in the inquiry by an employee representative of their choice.
10. The inquiry shall be completed within a period of ninety (90) days.
11. On completion of the inquiry, the enquiry officers shall submit a report to the presiding officer of the Internal committee and the Presiding officer shall provide a report of the findings to the organization within a period of ten (10) days along with its recommendation.

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12. In case the complaint is not established, and the Internal Committee comes to a conclusion that the compliant is malicious or the complainant has made the compliant knowing to be false or produced any forged or misleading document, The Internal committee may recommend the management that no action is required against the person against the whom the compliant is made and to take action against the woman or the person who has made such malicious compliant.
13. In case the complaint is upheld or established, the Internal committee shall recommend to the organization to act upon the recommendation within sixty (60) days of its receipt and send the report of such implementation to the Committee.
14. If the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied by the recommendations or non-implementation of such recommendations, either party can appeal to the tribunal or court within 90 days.

XII. Action during pendency of Inquiry

During the pendency of the inquiry the aggrieved woman may submit a written request to the internal committee based on which the internal committee may recommend to the organization:

- a. Transfer the aggrieved woman or the respondent to any other workplace;
- b. Grant leave to the aggrieved woman upto a period as deemed appropriate provided such leave shall be over and above what she is otherwise entitled to;
- c. Restrain the respondent from reporting on the work performance of the aggrieved woman or and assign the same to another officer.

XIII. Confidentiality

EEPL recognizes that recounting the experience of sexual harassment is traumatic and can damage the complainant's dignity. Therefore, a complainant should not be required repeatedly to recount the events complained of where this is not necessary.

XIV. Duties of the Internal Committee

- Receiving complaints and creating awareness for prevention 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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- Issuing from time to time notifications, guidelines, and the like, for combating sexual harassment at work, as well as carrying out amendments in consonance with legislation and latest judgments on the issue;
- The Internal Committee would keep a track of all cases pertaining to complaints of sexual harassment at various stages and facilitate closure of such cases as per the tenets of law;
- The Internal Committee would also maintain records of all cases pertaining to complaints of sexual harassment at work and record the outcome of investigations or enquiries and the action taken thereon;
- Contributing to the promotion of appropriate work conditions, leisure, health hygiene and ensure that there is no hostile discrimination at workplaces because of the gender of such person;
- Ensuring policy compliance from all parties involved in the process, and;
- Reviewing the policy every year and processing compliance at such intervals as required by the provisions of The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

XV. Disciplinary Action

If the result of the investigation/inquiry holds the alleged offender guilty of an act constituting sexual harassment, the Management shall take appropriate disciplinary action against the offender. The punishment imposed shall be commensurate with the gravity of the misconduct and other relevant circumstances.

XVI. Criminal Proceedings

Where such conduct amounts to a specific offence under the Indian Penal Code or under any other law, the Company shall initiate appropriate action, based on the recommendation of the Internal Committee, in accordance with law by filing a complaint with the appropriate authority.

XVII. Third-party Harassment

EEPL also stands committed to take appropriate preventive and remedial action to prevent sexual harassment of its employees by non-employees. Where sexual harassment occurs as a result of an act by any third party or outsider, the Management would take all steps necessary and reasonable to assist the victim in terms of support and preventive action.

Should any employee face sexually harassing behaviour at work from a third party, such as a client or customer of EEPL. and its subsidiaries, the Management would take appropriate corrective or remedial action. However, it would be necessary for the complainant/recipient to promptly report such harassment to the organization or the designated officers to enable the Management to take appropriate action. Unless the employee reports the harassment to the Management, the latter in no case shall be responsible or liable in this regard.

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XVIII. Decision and Escalation Matrix

The matrix given below mentions the key stakeholders for each step in the investigation, decision making process.

Grade of Respondent/Accused	Investigation & Recommendations by	Escalation and Final Decision by
For all levels	Internal Complaint Committee	CEO

XIX. Your Helpline

You may write to contact@exideleclanche.com and be assured of complete anonymity being maintained.

However, please note that for any sort of investigation to take place; your identity would have to be disclosed to the committee members and compliant procedure as detailed in this policy will need to be followed. This would be done only after seeking your agreement on the same.

The management shall periodically monitor, review and evaluate the working and efficacy of this policy. The present policy amends the earlier policy and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of India.

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