

Draft Independent Directors' Letter of Appointment/Re-appointment

Date: _____

Mr. / Ms. _____

DIN: _____

Address: _____,

_____,

_____,

Sub.: **Your appointment/re-appointment as an Independent Director on the Board of Goa Carbon Limited (the "Company" or "GCL").**

Dear Mr. / Ms. _____

We are pleased to inform you that based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Goa Carbon Limited, the Shareholders at the ____ Annual General Meeting held on _____ have passed an Ordinary/Special Resolution appointing/re-appointing you as an Independent Director of the Company for a first/second term of ____ years with effect from _____ up to _____.

As required under the Companies Act, 2013, your appointment/re-appointment is being formalized through this letter.

Appointment/Re-appointment:

Pursuant to the above, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, your appointment/re-appointment as an Independent Director on the Board shall be up to _____.

As an Independent Director you will not be liable to retire by rotation.

Role, Function, Duties and Responsibilities:

The role, function and duties expected from an Independent Director are set out as a code for Independent Directors in Schedule IV of the Companies Act, 2013. Additionally, Independent Directors are also bound by the duties imposed on all directors under Section 166 of the Companies Act, 2013. Your attention is drawn to Regulations 25 & 26 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as amended which sets out the obligations of Independent Directors. Reference may also be made to Regulation 4(2)(f) of the SEBI Listing Regulations which sets out the collective responsibilities of the Board of Directors. The relevant regulatory provisions have been extracted and attached to this letter as Annexure A.

You shall continue in the memberships of the Committees of the Board of Directors of the Company.

Evaluation Processes:

As a member of the Board, your performance as well as the performance of entire Board and its Committee's shall be evaluated annually. Evaluation of each Director shall be done by all the other Directors.

Code of Conduct:

You will follow the Company's Code of Conduct and furnish the annual affirmation of the same. You will apply the highest standard of confidentiality and not disclose to any person or company either during the course of the tenure as an Independent Director or following cessation, any confidential information concerning the Company and Group Companies with which you come into contact by virtue of your position as a Director except as permitted by law or with prior clearance from the Chairman or Company Secretary

Prohibition on Insider Trading:

You will follow Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading of the Company and the requirements under the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI Listing Regulations.

Availability of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance:

The Company maintains a Directors' and Officers' insurance policy (D&O insurance policy) and it is intended that the Company will assume and maintain such cover for the full term of your appointment, subject to the terms of such policy in force from time to time.

Fees/Remuneration:

The sitting fees as detailed below are paid to the Directors for attending meeting of the Board or Committees thereof:

Meeting	Sitting fees per meeting (Rs)
Board	60,000
Audit Committee	30,000
Nomination & Remuneration Committee	25,000
Stakeholders Relationship Committee	10,000
Corporate Social Responsibility Committee	15,000
Project Review Committee	25,000
Resources Raising Committee	10,000
Corporate Governance Committee	10,000
Rights Issue Committee	10,000

The Independent and other Non-Executive Directors are also paid commission on an annual basis as may be decided by the Board subject to a maximum of 1% of the net profits of the Company (calculated in the manner referred to in Section 198 of the Companies Act, 2013) subject to the approval of the Shareholders of the Company.

Termination:

Your directorship as an Independent Director shall terminate on account of following:

- i) Resignation from the directorship by giving a notice in writing to the Company stating the reasons for resignation. The resignation shall take effect from the date on which the notice is received by the Company or the date, if any, mentioned in the notice, whichever is later.
- ii) Vacation of office in terms of Section 167 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rules made thereunder.
- iii) Cessation on account of any disqualification incurred in terms of Section 164 of the Companies Act, 2013 or any change in status as independent director in terms of Section 149(6) of the Companies Act, 2013.
- iv) Violation of Schedule IV - Code for Independent Directors, Code of Conduct for Board Members and Senior Management Personnel of the Company and the Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading of the Company.

Acceptance of Appointment/Re-appointment:

We are confident that the Board and the Company will benefit/continue to benefit immensely from your rich experience and we look forward to your continued efforts in the growth of our Company. If these terms of appointment/re-appointment are acceptable to you, please confirm your acceptance by signing and returning the enclosed copy of this letter.

Yours Sincerely,
For **Goa Carbon Limited**

Chairman
DIN:

I have read and understood the terms of my appointment/re-appointment as an Independent Director of the Company and I hereby affirm my acceptance to the same

Sign:
Name: _____
DIN: _____

Date:
Place:

**SCHEDULE IV
(of the Companies Act, 2013)**

CODE FOR INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

The Code is a guide to professional conduct for independent directors. Adherence to these standards by independent directors and fulfilment of their responsibilities in a professional and faithful manner will promote confidence of the investment community, particularly minority shareholders, regulators and companies in the institution of independent directors.

I. Guidelines of professional conduct:

An independent director shall:

- (1) Uphold ethical standards of integrity and probity;
- (2) Act objectively and constructively while exercising his duties;
- (3) Exercise his responsibilities in a bona fide manner in the interest of the company;
- (4) Devote sufficient time and attention to his professional obligations for informed and balanced decision making;
- (5) Not allow any extraneous considerations that will vitiate his exercise of objective independent judgment in the paramount interest of the company as a whole, while concurring in or dissenting from the collective judgment of the Board in its decision making;
- (6) Not abuse his position to the detriment of the company or its shareholders or for the purpose of gaining direct or indirect personal advantage or advantage for any associated person;
- (7) Refrain from any action that would lead to loss of his independence;
- (8) Where circumstances arise which make an independent director lose his independence, the independent director must immediately inform the Board accordingly;
- (9) Assist the company in implementing the best corporate governance practices.

II. Role and functions:

The independent directors shall:

- (1) Help in bringing an independent judgment to bear on the Board's deliberations especially on issues of strategy, performance, risk management, resources, key appointments and standards of conduct;
- (2) Bring an objective view in the evaluation of the performance of board and management;

- (3) Scrutinise the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives and monitor the reporting of performance;
- (4) Satisfy themselves on the integrity of financial information and that financial controls and the systems of risk management are robust and defensible;
- (5) Safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, particularly the minority shareholders;
- (6) Balance the conflicting interest of the stakeholders;
- (7) Determine appropriate levels of remuneration of executive directors, key managerial personnel and senior management and have a prime role in appointing and where necessary recommend removal of executive directors, key managerial personnel and senior management;
- (8) Moderate and arbitrate in the interest of the company as a whole, in situations of conflict between management and shareholder's interest.

III. Duties:

The independent directors shall—

- (1) Undertake appropriate induction and regularly update and refresh their skills, knowledge and familiarity with the company;
- (2) Seek appropriate clarification or amplification of information and, where necessary, take and follow appropriate professional advice and opinion of outside experts at the expense of the company;
- (3) Strive to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Board committees of which he is a member;
- (4) Participate constructively and actively in the committees of the Board in which they are chairpersons or members;
- (5) Strive to attend the general meetings of the company;
- (6) Where they have concerns about the running of the company or a proposed action, ensure that these are addressed by the Board and, to the extent that they are not resolved, insist that their concerns are recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting;
- (7) Keep themselves well informed about the company and the external environment in which it operates;
- (8) Not to unfairly obstruct the functioning of an otherwise proper Board or committee of the Board;
- (9) Pay sufficient attention and ensure that adequate deliberations are held before approving related party transactions and assure themselves that the same are in the interest of the company;

- (10) Ascertain and ensure that the company has an adequate and functional vigil mechanism and to ensure that the interests of a person who uses such mechanism are not prejudicially affected on account of such use;
- (11) Report concerns about unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct or ethics policy;
- (12) Act within their authority, assist in protecting the legitimate interests of the company, shareholders and its employees;
- (13) Not disclose confidential information, including commercial secrets, technologies advertising and sales promotion plans, unpublished price sensitive information, unless such disclosure is expressly approved by the Board or required by law.

IV. Appointment Process:

- (1) Appointment process of independent directors shall be independent of the company management; while selecting independent directors the Board shall ensure that there is appropriate balance of skills, experience and knowledge in the Board so as to enable the Board to discharge its functions and duties effectively.
- (2) The appointment of independent director(s) of the company shall be approved at the meeting of the shareholders.
- (3) The explanatory statement attached to the notice of the meeting for approving the appointment of independent director shall include a statement that in the opinion of the Board, the independent director proposed to be appointed fulfils the conditions specified in the Act and the rules made thereunder and that the proposed director is independent of the management.
- (4) The appointment of independent directors shall be formalised through a letter of appointment, which shall set out:
 - (a) the term of appointment;
 - (b) the expectation of the Board from the appointed director; the Board-level committee(s) in which the director is expected to serve and its tasks;
 - (c) the fiduciary duties that come with such an appointment along with accompanying liabilities;
 - (d) provision for Directors and Officers (D and O) insurance, if any;
 - (e) the Code of Business Ethics that the company expects its directors and employees to follow;
 - (f) the list of actions that a director should not do while functioning as such in the company; and
 - (g) the remuneration, mentioning periodic fees, reimbursement of expenses for participation in the Boards and other meetings and profit related commission, if any.
- (5) The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall be open for inspection at the registered office of the company by any member during normal business hours.

- (6) The terms and conditions of appointment of independent directors shall also be posted on the company's website.

V. Re-appointment:

The re-appointment of independent director shall be on the basis of report of performance evaluation.

VI. Resignation or removal:

- (1) The resignation or removal of an independent director shall be in the same manner as is provided in sections 168 and 169 of the Act.
- (2) An independent director who resigns or is removed from the Board of the company shall be replaced by a new independent director within three months from the date of such resignation or removal, as the case may be.
- (3) Where the company fulfils the requirement of independent directors in its Board even without filling the vacancy created by such resignation or removal, as the case may be, the requirement of replacement by a new independent director shall not apply.

VII. Separate meetings:

- (1) The independent directors of the company shall hold at least one meeting in a financial year, without the attendance of non-independent directors and members of management;
- (2) All the independent directors of the company shall strive to be present at such meeting;
- (3) The meeting shall:
 - (a) review the performance of non-independent directors and the Board as a whole;
 - (b) review the performance of the Chairperson of the company, taking into account the views of executive directors and non-executive directors;
 - (c) assess the quality, quantity and timeliness of flow of information between the company management and the Board that is necessary for the Board to effectively and reasonably perform their duties.

VIII. Evaluation mechanism:

- (1) The performance evaluation of independent directors shall be done by the entire Board of Directors, excluding the director being evaluated.
- (2) On the basis of the report of performance evaluation, it shall be determined whether to extend or continue the term of appointment of the independent director.

Section 166 of the Companies Act, 2013 - Duties of Directors

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a director of a company shall act in accordance with the articles of the company.
- (2) A director of a company shall act in good faith in order to promote the objects of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in the best interests of the company, its employees, the shareholders, the community and for the protection of environment.
- (3) A director of a company shall exercise his duties with due and reasonable care, skill and diligence and shall exercise independent judgment.
- (4) A director of a company shall not involve in a situation in which he may have a direct or indirect interest that conflicts, or possibly may conflict, with the interest of the company.
- (5) A director of a company shall not achieve or attempt to achieve any undue gain or advantage either to himself or to his relatives, partners, or associates and if such director is found guilty of making any undue gain, he shall be liable to pay an amount equal to that gain to the company.
- (6) A director of a company shall not assign his office and any assignment so made shall be void.
- (7) If a director of the company contravenes the provisions of this section such director shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but which may extend to five lakh rupees.

SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as amended)

Chapter II – Clause 4(2)(f)

Responsibilities of the board of directors:

(i) Disclosure of information:

- (1) Members of board of directors and key managerial personnel shall disclose to the board of directors whether they, directly, indirectly, or on behalf of third parties, have a material interest in any transaction or matter directly affecting the listed entity.
- (2) The board of directors and senior management shall conduct themselves so as to meet the expectations of operational transparency to stakeholders while at the same time maintaining confidentiality of information in order to foster a culture of good decision-making.

(ii) Key functions of the board of directors-

- (1) Reviewing and guiding corporate strategy, major plans of action, risk policy, annual budgets and business plans, setting performance objectives, monitoring implementation and corporate performance, and overseeing major capital expenditures, acquisitions and divestments.

- (2) Monitoring the effectiveness of the listed entity's governance practices and making changes as needed.
- (3) Selecting, compensating, monitoring and, when necessary, replacing key managerial personnel and overseeing succession planning.
- (4) Aligning key managerial personnel and remuneration of board of directors with the longer term interests of the listed entity and its shareholders.
- (5) Ensuring a transparent nomination process to the board of directors with the diversity of thought, experience, knowledge, perspective and gender in the board of directors.
- (6) Monitoring and managing potential conflicts of interest of management, members of the board of directors and shareholders, including misuse of corporate assets and abuse in related party transactions.
- (7) Ensuring the integrity of the listed entity's accounting and financial reporting systems, including the independent audit, and that appropriate systems of control are in place, in particular, systems for risk management, financial and operational control, and compliance with the law and relevant standards.
- (8) Overseeing the process of disclosure and communications.
- (9) Monitoring and reviewing board of director's evaluation framework.

(iii) Other responsibilities:

- (1) The board of directors shall provide strategic guidance to the listed entity, ensure effective monitoring of the management and shall be accountable to the listed entity and the shareholders.
- (2) The board of directors shall set a corporate culture and the values by which executives throughout a group shall behave.
- (3) Members of the board of directors shall act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the listed entity and the shareholders.
- (4) The board of directors shall encourage continuing directors training to ensure that the members of board of directors are kept up to date.
- (5) Where decisions of the board of directors may affect different shareholder groups differently, the board of directors shall treat all shareholders fairly.
- (6) The board of directors shall maintain high ethical standards and shall take into account the interests of stakeholders.

- (7) The board of directors shall exercise objective independent judgement on corporate affairs.
- (8) The board of directors shall consider assigning a sufficient number of non-executive members of the board of directors capable of exercising independent judgement to tasks where there is a potential for conflict of interest.
- (9) The board of directors shall ensure that, while rightly encouraging positive thinking, these do not result in over-optimism that either leads to significant risks not being recognised or exposes the listed entity to excessive risk.
- (10) The board of directors shall have ability to 'step back' to assist executive management by challenging the assumptions underlying: strategy, strategic initiatives (such as acquisitions), risk appetite, exposures and the key areas of the listed entity's focus.
- (11) When committees of the board of directors are established, their mandate, composition and working procedures shall be well defined and disclosed by the board of directors.
- (12) Members of the board of directors shall be able to commit themselves effectively to their responsibilities.
- (13) In order to fulfil their responsibilities, members of the board of directors shall have access to accurate, relevant and timely information.
- (14) The board of directors and senior management shall facilitate the independent directors to perform their role effectively as a member of the board of directors and also a member of a committee of board of directors.

Chapter IV Obligations of Listed Entity which has listed its specified securities – Regulations 25 & 26

Regulation 25 - Obligations with respect to independent directors.

- (1) No person shall be appointed or continue as an alternate director for an independent director of a listed entity with effect from October 1, 2018
- (2) The maximum tenure of independent directors shall be in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made thereunder, in this regard, from time to time.
- (2A) The appointment, re-appointment or removal of an independent director of a listed entity, shall be subject to the approval of shareholders by way of a special resolution.

Provided that where a special resolution for the appointment of an independent director fails to get the requisite majority of votes but the votes cast in favour of the resolution exceed the votes cast against the resolution and the votes cast by the public shareholders in favour of the resolution

exceed the votes cast against the resolution, then the appointment of such an independent director shall be deemed to have been made under sub-regulation (2A)

Provided further that an independent director appointed under the first proviso shall be removed only if the votes cast in favour of the resolution proposing the removal exceed the votes cast against the resolution and the votes cast by the public shareholders in favour of the resolution exceed the votes cast against the resolution.

- (3) The independent directors of the listed entity shall hold at least one meeting in a financial year, without the presence of non-independent directors and members of the management and all the independent directors shall strive to be present at such meeting.
- (4) The independent directors in the meeting referred in sub-regulation (3) shall, inter alia-
 - (a) review the performance of non-independent directors and the board of directors as a whole;
 - (b) review the performance of the chairperson of the listed entity, taking into account the views of executive directors and non-executive directors;
 - (c) assess the quality, quantity and timeliness of flow of information between the management of the listed entity and the board of directors that is necessary for the board of directors to effectively and reasonably perform their duties.
- (5) An independent director shall be held liable, only in respect of such acts of omission or commission by the listed entity which had occurred with his knowledge, attributable through processes of board of directors, and with his consent or connivance or where he had not acted diligently with respect to the provisions contained in these regulations.
- (6) An independent director who resigns or is removed from the board of directors of the listed entity shall be replaced by a new independent director by listed entity at the earliest but not later than three months from the date of such vacancy:

Provided that where the listed entity fulfils the requirement of independent directors in its board of directors without filling the vacancy created by such resignation or removal, the requirement of replacement by a new independent director shall not apply.

- (7) The listed entity shall familiarise the independent directors through various programmes about the listed entity, including the following:
 - (a) nature of the industry in which the listed entity operates;
 - (b) business model of the listed entity;
 - (c) roles, rights, responsibilities of independent directors; and any other relevant information.
- (8) Every independent director shall, at the first meeting of the board in which he/she participates as a director and thereafter at the first meeting of the board in every financial year or whenever there is any change in the circumstances which may affect his/her status as an independent director, submit a declaration that he/she meets the criteria of independence as provided in clause (b) of sub-regulation (1) of regulation 16 and that he/she is not aware of any circumstance or situation, which exist or may be reasonably anticipated, that could impair or impact his/her ability to

discharge his/her duties with an objective independent judgment and without any external influence.

- (9) The board of directors of the listed entity shall take on record the declaration and confirmation submitted by the independent director under sub-regulation (8) after undertaking due assessment of the veracity of the same.
- (10) With effect from January 1, 2022, the top 1000 listed entities by market capitalization calculated as on March 31 of the preceding financial year, shall undertake Directors and Officers insurance ('D and O insurance') for all their independent directors of such quantum and for such risks as may be determined by its board of directors.
- (11) No independent director, who resigns from a listed entity, shall be appointed as an executive / whole time director on the board of the listed entity, its holding, subsidiary or associate company or on the board of a company belonging to its promoter group, unless a period of one year has elapsed from the date of resignation as an independent director.
- (12) A 'high value debt listed entity' shall undertake Directors and Officers insurance (D and O insurance) for all its independent directors for such sum assured and for such risks as may be determined by its board of directors.

Regulation 26 - Obligations with respect to employees including senior management, key managerial persons, directors and promoters.

- (1) A director shall not be a member in more than ten committees or act as chairperson of more than five committees across all listed entities in which he is a director which shall be determined as follows:
 - (a) the limit of the committees on which a director may serve in all public limited companies, whether listed or not, shall be included and all other companies including private limited companies, foreign companies, high value debt listed entities and companies under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 shall be excluded;
 - (b) for the purpose of determination of limit, chairpersonship and membership of the audit committee and the Stakeholders' Relationship Committee alone shall be considered.
- (2) Every director shall inform the listed entity about the committee positions he or she occupies in other listed entities and notify changes as and when they take place.
- (3) All members of the board of directors and senior management personnel shall affirm compliance with the code of conduct of board of directors and senior management on an annual basis.
- (4) Senior management shall make disclosures to the board of directors relating to all material, financial and commercial transactions, where they have personal interest that may have a potential conflict with the interest of the listed entity at large.

Explanation.- For the purpose of this sub-regulation, conflict of interest relates to dealing in the shares of listed entity, commercial dealings with bodies, which have shareholding of management and their relatives etc.

- (5) No employee including key managerial personnel or director or promoter of a listed entity shall enter into any agreement for himself/herself or on behalf of any other person, with any shareholder or any other third party with regard to compensation or profit sharing in connection with dealings in the securities of such listed entity, unless prior approval for the same has been obtained from the Board of Directors as well as public shareholders by way of an ordinary resolution:

Provided that such agreement, if any, whether subsisting or expired, entered during the preceding three years from the date of coming into force of this sub-regulation, shall be disclosed to the stock exchanges for public dissemination:

Provided further that subsisting agreement, if any, as on the date of coming into force of this sub-regulation shall be placed for approval before the Board of Directors in the forthcoming Board meeting:

Provided further that if the Board of Directors approve such agreement, the same shall be placed before the public shareholders for approval by way of an ordinary resolution in the forthcoming general meeting:

Provided further that all interested persons involved in the transaction covered under the agreement shall abstain from voting in the general meeting.

Explanation – For the purposes of this sub-regulation, ‘interested person’ shall mean any person holding voting rights in the listed entity and who is in any manner, whether directly or indirectly, interested in an agreement or proposed agreement, entered into or to be entered into by such a person or by any employee or key managerial personnel or director or promoter of such listed entity with any shareholder or any other third party with respect to compensation or profit sharing in connection with the securities of such listed entity.