

## **APEX FROZEN FOODS LIMITED**

### **POLICY ON PRESERVATION OF DOCUMENTS**

#### **1. PREAMBLE:**

Pursuant to Regulation 9 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (Hereinafter called as “**The Regulations**”) every listed Company shall frame a policy on preservation of documents. This policy *inter alia* provides for preservation of documents where such preservation shall be of permanent nature as also documents with preservation period of not less than eight years after completion of the relevant transactions to which such document relates.

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

To facilitate efficient and effective operation of our company, we are implementing the following Policy on document preservation. All business records should be kept no longer than the period necessary for the proper conduct of Company business. Except as designated below, or as specifically exempted by the Director Finance and Human Resources, all documents shall be retained no longer than Eight (8) years. This policy shall cover all business records of the Company, including written, printed and recorded matter and electronic forms of records. The Director Finance and Human Resources and the Compliance Officer jointly would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Policy.

This policy is framed as per requirement of Regulation 30 (4) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015.

#### **2. DEFINITIONS**

- a) Act: “Act” means the Companies Act, 2013 including any amendment or modification thereof.
- b) Board: Board means Board of Directors of the Company
- c) Company: “Company” means Apex Frozen Foods Limited.
- d) Compliance Officer: “Compliance Officer” means the Company Secretary of the Company who is responsible to perform duties as required under section 205 of the Companies Act 2013 and Regulation 6 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015.
- e) Director: “Director” means a person as defined in Section 2(34) of the Companies Act, 2013 and presently appointed as a Director in the Company.
- f) Document: “Document” means all business records of the Company in written, printed and recorded matter and electronic forms of records and includes summons, notice,

requisition, order, declaration, form and register, whether issued, sent or kept in pursuance of the Companies Act 2013, SEBI Act 1992 or under any other law for the time being in force or otherwise, maintained on paper or in electronic form;

- g) Employees: "Employees" shall mean the employees and office-bearers of the Company, including but not limited to Whole Time Directors.
- h) Key Managerial Personnel: "Key Managerial Personnel" shall mean the officers of the Company as defined in Section 2(51) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules prescribed there under.
- i) Regulations: "Regulations" shall mean SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015.
- j) Secretarial Standards: "Secretarial Standards" means standards issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India under section 118 (10) of the Companies Act 2013.
- k) Stock Exchange or Exchanges: "Stock Exchange or Exchanges" shall mean BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited
- l) Any other term not defined herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, Companies Act, 2013, Securities Contract Regulation Act or any other applicable law or regulations.

### **3. GOVERNING LAWS**

This policy shall be governed by the Companies Act 2013, SEBI Act, Rules and Regulations, Secretarial Standards, Labour Laws, Tax Laws and all other applicable laws for the time being in force.

### **4. CLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS**

- 1 Documents shall be classified in the following categories
  - a) Mandatory under governing laws
  - b) Non-Mandatory
- 2 Documents which are required to be mandatorily preserved for a stipulated minimum period of time under governing laws shall be preserved accordingly. Documents in respect of which no minimum maintenance timeline is stipulated under any of the laws shall be preserved in accordance with this policy.
- 3 All records and documents as provided herein shall be preserved for such time and period as may be provided herein.
- 4 Any change in the governing laws affecting the change in period of preservation of documents shall prevail over this policy.

## 5. PRESERVATION OF DOCUMENTS / RECORDS

Subject to clause 4 above, the retention of the documents identified below and of documents not included in the identified categories should be determined primarily by the application of the general guidelines affecting document retention identified above, as well as any other pertinent factors as the overseeing authorities deem fit.

- a. Tax & Accounting Records:** Tax records include, but may not be limited to, documents concerning payroll, expenses, proof of deductions, business costs, accounting procedures, and other documents concerning the Company's revenues and expenses including capital expenditure. Tax records should be retained for at least eight years from the date of filing the applicable return or such period of time as prescribed under Tax laws whichever is later.
- b. Employment Records/Personnel Records:** Labour laws require the Company to maintain certain recruitment, employment and personnel information. The Company should also maintain personnel files that reflect performance reviews if any and any complaints brought against the Company or individual employees under applicable labour laws. The Company should also keep all final memoranda and correspondence reflecting performance reviews and actions taken by or against personnel in the employee's personnel file.
  - i. Employment and personnel records shall be preserved for a minimum period of eight years irrespective of whether such employee continues to be employed with the Company or not.
  - ii. Individual employee files need to be maintained as long as the concerned individual remains an employee of the Company as also for a minimum period of 5 years thereafter or such period of time as prescribed under respective laws for time being in force whichever is later.
  - iii. Returns under various labor laws, governmental and statutory filings etc. need to be retained in accordance with the related statute as may be specified therein or for a minimum period of 8 years whichever may be later.
- c. Financial Statements, Minutes, Statutory Registers & other Documents.** Financial Statements including Audit Reports, Minutes of Meetings of Board, Members and other Committees Meeting along with statutory registers as prescribed under governing laws for time being in force shall be preserved for such period as provided in respective laws. Any document where preservation period is not prescribed under governing laws shall be preserved for a minimum period of eight years.
- d. Press Releases/Public Filings.** The Company should retain copies of all press releases and documents filed with Stock Exchanges, Registrar of Companies and other regulatory authorities on a permanent basis.

**e. Legal Files / documents:** All legal documents / copies of notices / summons / orders

/ judgments and all other legal documents shall be preserved permanently. Documents like leases, Leave & License agreements and other agreements shall be preserved for at least 5 years beyond the life of the said documents.

**f. Development/Intellectual Property and Trade Secrets:** Development documents are often subject to intellectual property protection in their final form (e.g., patents and copyrights). The documents detailing the development process are often also of value to the Company and are protected as a trade secret where the Company:

i. Derives independent economic value from the secrecy of the information; and

ii. The Company has taken affirmative steps to keep the information confidential. The Company should keep all documents designated as containing trade secret information for at least the life of the trade secret.

**g. Contracts:** Final, execution copies of all contracts entered into by the Company should be retained. The Company should retain copies of the final contracts for at least five years beyond the life of the agreement, and longer in the case of publicly filed contracts.

**h. Electronic Mail:** E-mail that needs to be saved should be either:

i. Printed in hard copy and kept in the appropriate file; or

ii. Downloaded to a computer file and kept electronically or on disk as a separate file so as to ensure its timely retrieval.

## 6. CUSTODY OF DOCUMENTS

All documents shall be under the custody of respective head of the departments as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Documents	Authorised persons
1	Tax / Accounting Records/Financial Statements	CFO
2	Annual Reports / Minutes / Statutory Registers, Lease Documents / Contracts	Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
3	Employment / personal Records:	HRD
4	Legal Documents and Intellectual Property	Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
5	Electronic Mails	Individual respective sections

## **7. AMENDMENTS TO THE POLICY**

The Board of Directors can amend this Policy, as and when it deems fit to do so. In case of any amendment(s), clarification(s), circular(s) etc. issued by the relevant authorities, not being consistent with the provisions laid down under this Policy, then such amendment(s), clarification(s), circular(s) etc. shall prevail upon the provisions hereunder and this Policy shall stand amended accordingly from the effective date as laid down under such amendment(s), clarification(s), circular(s) etc.