



# **Policy for holiday listing of vendors in BPCL**

November '2022

## 1. Introduction :

Works and procurement contracts have become a major activity for corporate in current times. In course of such contracting Oil sector PSEs deal with various "Agencies" (which shall include vendors/parties/contractors/suppliers/ consultants/Licensors/bidders). These entities are expected to adopt ethics of highest standards and a very high degree of integrity, safety and quality consciousness, commitments and sincerity towards the work undertaken and dealing with BPCL in such matters. However, in few occasions, the terms are found to be infringed and deviations from expected behavior are observed. It is not in the interest of BPCL to deal with Agencies who commit deception, fraud or other misconduct including compromising quality and safety in the tendering and execution process.

Also, while participating in the tender and performing the contract, vendors are required to meet certain basic performance criteria and adherence to the terms and conditions of the tender/contract. In case the vendor fails to meet the above parameters, it is prudent to put the vendor on holiday list for specific periods in order to deter the vendors from committing such defaults. Such decisions shall be taken based on the gravity of the default and after following a laid down process, on case to case basis.

Holiday Listing from business dealings involves civil consequences for the "Agency" concerned. Hence, the same requires adherence to the Principles of Natural Justice. Therefore, it is incumbent that adequate opportunity of hearing is provided and the explanation, if tendered, is considered before passing any order in this regard keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case. The meaning of "Black listing", "Holiday Listing" and "Banning" is considered one and the same and shall hereafter be referred to only as "Holiday Listing" and the term Holiday Listed Companies is used accordingly in this document.

## 2. Scope :

- 2.1 The information for Bidders/Instruction to Bidders and even the General Conditions of Contract (GCC) or General Purchase Conditions (GPC) generally provide that BPCL shall have the rights to remove from list of approved suppliers / contractors or to ban business dealings if any Agency has been found to have committed misconduct or fraud or poor performance or anything unethical not expected from a reputed agency.
- 2.2 The procedure of Holiday Listing of Agencies from Business Dealings with BPCL has been laid down in these guidelines.
- 2.3 These guidelines are applicable across BPCL and shall form part of all the tenders. These guidelines shall be published as a separate document in BPCL website and the General Conditions of Contract (GCC) or General Purchase Conditions (GPC) shall have a clause expressly stating that the Guidelines and Procedures for Holiday Listing as adopted by BPCL and available separately in BPCL website shall be applicable in the context of all tenders floated and consequently all orders/ contracts / purchase orders placed by BPCL.



2.4 The Holiday Listing shall be with prospective effect, i.e. for future business dealings.

3. **Definitions :**

In these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires

(i) Agency; "Party/Contractor/Supplier/Vendor/Consultant/Bidder/Licensor" in the context of these guidelines is indicated as 'Agency'.;

"Party/Contractor/Supplier/Vendor/Consultant/bidders/Licensor" shall mean and include a public limited company or a private limited company, a joint venture. Consortium, HUF, a firm whether registered or not, an individual, co-operative society or an association or a group of persons engaged in any commerce, trade, industry etc.

(ia) Allied Agency means: All concerns which come within the sphere of effective influence of the debarred firms shall be treated as allied firms. In determining this, the following factors may be taken into consideration:

- a. Whether the management is common
- b. Majority interest in the management is held by the partners or directors of banned / suspended firm
- c. Substantial or majority shares are owned by the banned / suspended firm and by virtue of this it has a controlling voice
- d. Directly or indirectly controls, or is controlled by or is under common control with another bidder
- e. All successor firms will also be considered as allied firms.

(ii) Appellate Authority: "Appellate Authority" shall mean the concerned functional Director of BPCL or any other authority nominated by the C & MD. The Appellate authority shall be higher than the "Competent Authority".

(iii) Competent Authority: "Competent Authority" shall mean the authority, who is competent to take final decision for Banning of business dealings with Agencies, in accordance with these guidelines:

The Competent Authority for a Procurement Department which is initiating the Holiday Listing process should be the Regional head (or) SBU / Entity head as the case may be relevant to the said Procurement Department, but not below the level of General Manager

(iv) Corporation: "Corporation" means Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. with its Registered Office at Bharat Bhavan-I, 4&6 Currimbhoy Road, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400001.

(v) Corrupt Practice: "Corrupt Practice" means the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, anything of value to improperly influence the actions in selection process or in contract execution. Corrupt Practice" also includes any omission for misrepresentation that may mislead or attempt to mislead so that financial or other benefit may be obtained or an obligation avoided.

(vi) Fraudulent Practice: "Fraudulent Practice" means and include any act or omission committed by a agency or with his connivance or by his agent by misrepresenting/ submitting false documents and/ or false information or concealment of facts or to deceive in order to influence a selection process or during execution of contract/ order;

(vii) Collusive Practice : "Collusive Practice" amongst bidders (prior to or after bid submission)" means a scheme or arrangement designed to establish bid prices at artificial non-

competitive levels and to deprive the Employer of the benefits of free and open competition.

- (viii) Coercive Practice: "Coercive practice" means impairing or harming or threatening to impair or harm directly or indirectly, any agency or its property to influence the improper actions of an agency, obstruction of any investigation or auditing of a procurement process.
- (ix) Officer-in-Charge: "Officer –in-Charge (OIC)" or "Engineer-in-Charge (EIC)" shall mean the person (s) designated to act for and on behalf of BPCL for the execution of the work as per requirement of the concerned department.
- (x) Malpractice : Malpractice means any Corrupt Practice, Fraudulent Practice, Collusive Practice or Coercive practice as defined herein;
- (xi) Mis-Conduct : "Mis-conduct" means any act or omission by the Agency, making it liable for action for Holiday Listing as per these guidelines
- (xii) Nodal Department: "Nodal Department" means the Department primarily assigned with the role of overseeing the Holiday Listing Process to ensure adherence to guidelines, maintaining, updating and publishing the list of Agencies with whom BPCL has decided to ban business dealings and shall be the Corporate Finance Department.
- (xiii) Vendor De-listment Committee: "Vendor De-listment Committee" relevant to the procurement department which initiates the holiday listing process would be the same as the vendor enlistment Committee as per DR&A of the concerned SBU/Entity.

#### 4. Holiday Listing:

4.1 Reasons for Holiday Listing : An Agency may be placed in Holiday List for any one or more of the following circumstances:

4.1.1. If the Agency , in the context of its dealings with the Corporation:

- a. has indulged in malpractices ;
- b. has submitted fake, false or forged documents / certificates
- c. Has substituted materials in lieu of materials supplied by BPCL or has not returned or has unauthorized disposed off materials / documents / drawings / tools or plants or equipments supplied by BPCL.
- d. Has deliberately violated and circumvented the provisions of labor laws/ regulations / rules, safety norms, environmental norms or other statutory requirements.
- e. has deliberately indulged in construction and erection of defective works or supply of defective materials
- f. Has not cleared previous dues to BPCL if applicable.
- g. Has committed breach of contract or has abandoned the contract.
- h. Poor performance of the Agency in one or several contracts;
- i. Has not honored the fax of award / letter of award / Contract / Purchase order after the same is issued by BPCL.
- j. Withdraws/ revises the bid upwards after becoming the L1 bidder.
- k. Has parted with, leaked or provided confidential / proprietary information of BPCL to any third party without the prior consent of BPCL.



**4.1.2. The following additional grounds can also be reasons for Holiday listing of an agency:**

- a. If a communication is received from the Administrative Ministry of the Corporation (i.e. MOP&NG) to ban Agency from dealing with the Corporation ;
- b. If the Agency is or has become bankrupt , OR is being dissolved OR has resolved to be wound up OR if proceedings for winding up or dissolution has been instituted against the Agency;
- c. Any other ground, including transgression of Integrity Pact, which, in the opinion of the Corporation, makes it undesirable to deal with the Agency; In the case of transgression of Integrity Pact, the same should be substantiated by the verdict of the Independent External Monitor.

**4.2 Procedure :**

- 4.2.1. Proceedings for Holiday Listing shall be initiated against an Agency when a prima facie case for Holiday Listing comes up, under any of the above mentioned circumstances; before taking a decision, a fair opportunity of hearing the party should be given by means of a Show Cause notice. The show cause notice should indicate clearly and precisely the charges/misconduct which should be based on facts as can be proved as distinct from mere allegations. Statement containing the imputation of misconduct or misbehavior may be appended to the show-cause notice and the "Agency" should be asked to submit within 15 days a written statement in its defense. A proforma of Show Cause notice is attached at Annexure-I. ;
- 4.2.2. The proceedings shall start with a proposal for initiating action against the Agency, to be raised by the Procurement Department which, in the first instance, is to be cleared by the relevant Vendor De-listment Committee.
- 4.2.3. The proposal shall state a brief background of the case, the action proposed and all supporting documents, including a note from the Engineer / Officer – In –Charge or the designated incharge or the department responsible for execution of a work, in the case the proposal is related to the performance of a contract. A draft show cause notice is also to be attached to the proposal.
- 4.2.4. On preliminary examination of the proposal with attached documents, if the vendor delistment committee is of the opinion that action is to be initiated against the Agency, the committee will approve the proposal along with the proposed Show Cause Notice.
- 4.2.5. Thereupon the Show Cause Notice, as approved, will be issued by the concerned Procurement Department. Before issuing the Show Cause Notice, concerned procurement department should give intimation to the Nodal Department regarding the proposed action against the Agency, along with a copy of the Show Cause notice for record. The Nodal Department, shall in turn publish this information in BPCL website for information and reference of all procuring departments across the corporation



**4.2.6.** On receipt of the explanation from the Agency, the procurement Department will put up the proposal for holiday listing, to the competent authority, through the vendor de-listment committee & the Nodal Department; This proposal would consist of a background of the case, copy of initiation proposal approved by vendor de-listment committee, copy of the Show Cause Notice issued and Agency's reply received and the procurement departments' comments on the same. The period for which holiday listing is recommended should also be clearly mentioned in the proposal. All relevant supporting documents should also be attached; In case no explanation is received from the Agency within the stipulated time, the case shall be preceded with ex-parte.

**4.2.7.** The proposal along with the reply from the Agency would be examined by the Vendor de-listment Committee; thereafter, with the recommendation from the vendor de-listment Committee, the proposal would be put up through the Nodal Department to the Competent Authority for final decision on banning or otherwise.

**4.2.8.** The competent authority, after examining all the materials on record, including the explanation from the Agency, will give their decision on the proposal. Competent Authority in its decision may :

- Approve the proposal for Holiday Listing as such, OR
- Approval the proposal for holiday listing for a period higher than that was recommended, in case the competent authority is of the opinion that banning for a longer period is required in view of the gravity of the case, OR
- Approve the proposal for holiday listing for a period lesser than that was recommended, in case the competent authority is of the opinion that lesser period would meet the requirement, considering the gravity of the case, OR
- Reject the proposal, in case, based on explanation furnished by the Agency, the Competent Authority is of opinion that the alleged misconduct / malpractice was either not substantiated or has happened on account of circumstances on which Agency had no control.

**4.2.9.** The decision of the Competent Authority regarding Holiday Listing of business dealings should be communicated to the 'Agency' concerned, by the concerned procurement department. A draft proforma for intimation of Holiday Listing to Agency is at Annexure II.

**4.2.10.** The Holiday Listing process should be completed at the earliest, and in any case within 45 days from initiation of case by concerned Engineer / Officer – In-Charge /Department responsible for invitation of bids.

However, if any agency , which is under holiday listing process with BPCL, has participated in a tender by submitting bid, the department responsible for initiating the holiday listing process shall expedite completion of the same within 21 days of technical bid opening , based on which the tender can be proceeded with.

**4.2.11.** Competent Authority shall decide on the period of holiday listing, on case to case basis, depending on the gravity of the case and considering the implications for BPCL on account of the Act/Omission on the part of the Agency, intentions of the Agency as established from the circumstances of the case, frequency of tendering for work of similar nature etc.

**4.2.12.** Ordinarily the period for which as Agency is Holiday listed should not be less than 1 year (6 months in less serious cases with proper justification) and should not exceed 3 years. However, in extraordinary circumstances as mentioned below, banning of 15 years can be done. The broad guidelines for the period of holiday listing based on the circumstances under which they were put on holiday listing is as under :

S.No	Reasons for holiday listing	Period of holiday listing
1	Indulged in malpractices resulting in financial loss to the Corporation	15 years
2	Submitted fake, false or forged documents / certificates	3 years
3	has substituted materials in lieu of materials supplied by BPCL or has not returned or has unauthorisedly disposed off materials / documents / drawings / tools or plants or equipment's supplied by BPCL	15 years
4	Has deliberately violated and circumvented the provisions of labour laws/ regulations / rules, safety norms, environmental norms or other statutory requirements	3 years
5	has deliberately indulged in construction and erection of defective works or supply of defective materials	3 years
6	has not cleared BPCLs previous dues if applicable	1 year
7	has committed breach of contract or has abandoned the contract	3 years
8	Poor performance of the Agency in one or several contracts	1 year
9	has not honoured the fax of award / letter of award / Contract / Purchase order after the same is issued by BPCL	1 year
10	Withdraws/ revises the bid upwards after becoming the L1 bidder	1 year
11	has parted with , leaked or provided confidential / proprietary information of BPCL to any third party without the prior consent of BPCL	15 years
12	If the Agency Is or has become bankrupt , OR is being dissolved OR has resolved to be wound up OR if proceedings for winding up or dissolution has been instituted against the Agency	3 years
13	Transgression of Integrity Pact , which, in the opinion of the Corporation, makes it undesirable to deal with the Agency;	3 years

**4.2.13.** In cases where Holiday Listing is proposed based on advice from the Administrative Ministry, no show cause or formal decision by competent authority will be required. The Nodal Department will directly intimate the Agency that they have been placed in Holiday Listing by BPCL based on the Ministry's advice

**4.2.14. Provision for Appeal;**

- (i) An agency aggrieved with the decision of the Competent Authority shall have the option of filing an appeal against the decision of the Competent Authority within a maximum of 15 days from the date of receipt of intimation of holiday listing.
- (ii) Any appeal filed after expiry of the above period shall not be considered by the Appellate Authority;
- (iii) On receipt of the Appeal from the Agency, the Appellate Authority, if it so desires, may call for comments from the Competent Authority;
- (iv) After receipt of the comments from the Competent Authority, the Appellate Authority, if it so desires, may also give an opportunity for personal hearing, to the Appellant Agency;
- (v) After examining the facts of the case and documents available on record and considering the submissions of the Appellant Agency, the Appellate Authority may pass appropriate order by which the Appellate Authority may either :
  - a) Uphold the decision of Competent authority with or without any variation /lesser period of Holiday Listing; OR
  - b) Annul the order of the Competent Authority.
- (vi) Appellate Authority shall pass its order within a maximum period of 45 days from the date of receipt of Appeal.
- (vii) Order of the Appellate Authority shall be communicated to the Agency by the Procurement Department copy of which shall be given to the Competent Authority and also to the Nodal Department as well. A draft proforma for communicating the decision of the Appellate Authority is at Annexure III
- (viii) No Appeal is permitted in case an Agency is placed in Holiday List by BPCL, based on Ministry's advice.

**4.2.15. Effect of Holiday Listing**

- (i) No enquiry / bid / tender shall be entertained with an Agency (including Allied Agency) as long as the 'Agency' name appears in the Holiday list.
- (ii) If an 'Agency' is put on the Holiday list during tendering :
  - a) If an 'Agency' is put on Holiday List after issue of the enquiry / bid / tender but before



opening of the un-priced bid, the un-priced bid of the 'Agency' shall not be opened and BG/EMD, if submitted by the 'Agency' shall be returned. If an 'Agency' is put on Holiday List after un-priced bid opening but before price bid opening, the price bid of the 'Agency' shall not be opened and BG/EMD submitted by the 'Agency' shall be returned.

- b) If an 'Agency' is put on Holiday List after opening of price bid but before finalization of the tender, the offer of the 'Agency' shall be ignored and will not be further evaluated and the BG/EMD if any submitted by the 'Agency' shall be returned, The 'Agency' will not be considered for issue of order even if the 'Agency' is the lowest (L1). In such situation next lowest shall be considered as L1;
  - bb) In case, any debarred firms has submitted the bid, the same will be ignored. In case such firm is lowest (L-1), next lowest firm shall be considered as L-1. Bid security submitted by such debarred firms shall be returned to them.
  - c) If contract with the 'Agency' concerned is in operation, (including cases where contract has already been awarded before decision of holiday listing) normally order for Holiday Listing from business dealings cannot affect the contract, because contract is a legal document and unless the same is terminated in terms of the contract, unilateral termination will amount to breach and will have civil consequences.
- (iii) In cases where holiday listing proposal has been initiated by some procurement department in the Corporation, but the process is yet to be completed and order of Competent Authority is awaited, the tendering process may be taken forward till price bid opening and after price bid opening, decision on the tender may be kept on hold till such time order of Competent Authority is issued.

**5. Declaration by Bidders regarding Holiday Listing status:**

Tenders invited for purchase of Goods and Services for both Open Tenders as well as Limited Tenders, should have the provision that the bidder should submit a declaration to the effect that they are not currently serving any Holiday Listing orders issued by BPCL or MOPNG debarring them from carrying on business dealings with the BPCL/MOPNG. Offers not accompanied with a declaration should be incorporated in rejection criteria. Any wrong declaration in this context shall make the Agency liable for action under this Holiday Listing procedure.

Bidder should submit a declaration to the effect that he has not been convicted of an offence—

- (a) under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988: or
- (b) the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force, for causing any loss of life or property or causing a threat to public health as part of execution of a public procurement contract.



## **6. Revocation of Holiday Listing:**

**6.1** An order for Holiday Listing once passed for a certain specified period shall be revoked as under:

**6.1.1.** An order for Holiday Listing passed for a certain specified period shall be revoked on the expiry of that specified period, subject to the Agency giving a request in writing clearly mentioning the corrective action which has already been taken / proposed to be taken, to avoid recurrence. Specific order of revocation shall be issued by the concerned Procurement Department Vendor Enlistment Committee, which had recommended the Holiday Listing, after considering the Vendor's request, with copy to the Nodal Department.

**6.1.2.** A Holiday Listing order may, on a review during its currency of operation, be revoked by the competent authority if it is of the opinion that the disability already suffered is adequate in the circumstances of the case, and the Agency has taken appropriate action to avoid recurrence.

## **7. Publishing of holiday listing information in BPCL Web-site:**

**7.1** Once an order of Holiday Listing of an Agency is passed by a Competent Authority, the said information shall be published in the BPCL web-site, by the Nodal Department;

**7.2** All Procurement Agencies, should before issue of tender in limited tender cases and before opening of price bids in all cases, verify with this published information that the bidder concerned is not currently serving any Holiday Listing orders issued by BPCL; suitable declarations to this effect shall be incorporated in the concerned approval notes/TEC Note.

**7.3** All orders of revocation of holiday listing shall, immediately on revocation, be made available to the Nodal Department, who in turn shall update the information in the web-site accordingly.

**7.4** To take cognizance of the holiday listing process in the initiation stage itself, the Nodal Department should update the information in the BPCL web site, as soon as they get intimation from the Procurement Group, along with copy of proposed show cause notice.

**7.5** If any Communication is received from the Administrative Ministry (i.e. MOP&NG) advising banning of business dealings with any Agency, the Nodal Department should take immediate action to circulate the same to all Procurement Departments within the Corporation, update the website and also send intimation to the concerned Agency in format Ann. IV

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**FORMAT for Declaration of Holiday Listing orders issued by BPCL or MOPNG debarring us from carrying on business dealings with BPCL/ MOPNG.**

*(On Company Letter Head, to be signed by the duly authorized person)*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TENDER NO. :** .....

**TITLE OF TENDER:** .....

To,  
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd

Dear Sir/Madam,

I /We declare and confirm that we are currently not serving any Holiday Listing orders issued by BPCL or MOPNG debarring us from carrying on business dealings with BPCL/ MOPNG or convicted of an offence –

- (a) under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988: or
- (b) the Indian Penal Code or any other law for the time being in force, for causing any loss of life or property or causing a threat to public health as part of execution of a public procurement contract.

**(Signature and Stamp of the Bidder)**

**Bidder Name:**

**Date :**

**Address:**