

VERSION CONTROL:

Version	Date of Adoption	Change Reference	Owner	Custodian	Approving Authority
1.0	16-Apr-2014	Fair Practice Code (FPC) drafted and approved by the Board	Compliance	Compliance	Board of Directors
1.1	18-Feb-2016	FPC reviewed and updated as per Master Directions of RBI	Compliance	Compliance	Board of Directors
1.2	08-May-2019	FPC reviewed and updated as per Master Directions of RBI	Compliance	Compliance	Board of Directors
1.3	22-Jun-2021	FPC reviewed and updated as per Master Directions of RBI	Compliance	Compliance	Board of Directors
1.4	05-May-2022	FPC reviewed and updated as per Master Directions of RBI	Compliance	Compliance	Board of Directors
1.5	29-May-2023	FPC reviewed and updated as per Master Directions of RBI	Compliance	Compliance	Board of Directors

Important Note:

If at any time a conflict of interpretation / information between this Policy and any Regulations, Rules, Guidelines, Notifications, Clarifications, Circulars, Master Circulars/ Directions issued by Reserve Bank of India, from time to time, arise then interpretation of such Regulations, Rules, Guidelines, Notifications, Clarifications, Circulars, Master Circulars/ Directions issued by Reserve Bank of India, from time to time, shall prevail.

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INTRODUCTION:

Reserve Bank of India's circular RBI/201112/470DNBS.CC.PD.No.266/03.10.01/2011-12 dated March 26, 2012, and consolidated as of June 30, 2013 and as per Master Direction – Non-Banking Financial Company – Systematically Important Non-Deposit Taking Company and Deposit Taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016 updated as on December 29, 2022 and as amended from time to time, wherein the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reviewed and amended certain aspects of Guidelines on Fair Practices Code (FPC) that are to be framed and approved by the Board of Directors of all Non-Banking Financial Companies.

The Fair Practices Code is aimed to provide to the customers/borrowers an effective overview of the practices which will be followed by the Company in respect of the financial facilities and services offered by it to its customers/borrowers. The Code will facilitate the customers/borrowers to take informed decisions in respect of the financial facilities and services to be availed by them and will apply to any loan that the Company may sanction and disburse.

Any subsequent revision in the RBI Guidelines related to Fair Practice Code, the revised RBI guidelines will supersede, the current Fair Practice Code to the extent it is not in compliance with the updated guidelines / instructions.

FAIR PRACTICES CODE:**1. Application of the FPC:**

The FPC applies to all products offered by the Company. The Company will continue to evaluate multiple products to meet the financing requirements of its customers/borrowers. The FPC will continue to apply to any product that is developed and provided by the Company to its customers/borrowers.

2. Objective of the FPC:

The FPC has been developed with the following objectives:

- a. Promote fair practices by setting minimum standards in dealing with customers/borrowers;
- b. Increase transparency through requisite disclosures by the Company as may be relevant to the customer/borrower and as prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time.
- c. Foster customer/borrower confidence in the Company.
- d. Giving verbal information about the financial schemes in English and/or a local vernacular language as understood by the customer/borrower;
- e. Ensuring that our advertising and promotional literature are clear and not misleading;
- f. Explaining financial implications of the transactions;
- g. Deal quickly and systematically with things that go wrong, by correcting mistakes, handling and resolving customer's complaints efficiently and guiding them.

3. Non-Discrimination Policy:

We shall not discriminate between our customers/borrowers or their representatives on the basis of gender, race, religion, age, caste, marital status or disability.

4. Information:

- a. Guide customer in selection of products, which meet their requirement and give them clear information explaining the key features of the services and products they are interested in.
- b. Inform the customers about the documents and information that the Company needs from them to establish customer's true identity and address and other documents to comply with regulatory requirements.

5. Applications for loans and their processing:

- a. All communications to the customer/borrower shall be in the vernacular language or a language as understood by the customer/borrower;
- b. Loan application forms are available in English/explained in vernacular language and made understood in the vernacular language of the applicant for easy examination/understanding by the prospective borrowers.
- c. Loan application forms issued by the Company shall include necessary information which affects the interest of the customer/borrower, so that a meaningful comparison with the terms and conditions offered by other Company can be made and informed decision can be taken by the customer/borrower. The loan application form shall indicate the documents required to be submitted with the application form.
- d. The Company shall issue an acknowledgement for receipt of all loan applications. The time frame within which loan applications will be disposed of shall be indicated in the acknowledgement.
- e. The Company shall verify the loan applications within a reasonable period of time and if additional details/documents are required, it will accordingly intimate the customer/borrower.

6. Loan appraisal and terms/conditions:

- a. The Company shall conduct a due diligence on the creditworthiness of the customer/borrower, which will be an important parameter for taking a decision on the application. The assessment would be in line with the Company's credit policies, norms and procedures in respect thereof.
- b. The Company shall convey in writing to the customer/borrower in the vernacular language as understood by the customer/borrower by means of a Sanction Letter/Term Sheet or otherwise, the amount of loan sanctioned along with the terms and conditions including annualized rate of interest and method of application thereof. It would keep the acceptance of these terms and conditions by the customer/borrower on its record.
- c. The Company shall furnish a copy of the loan agreement in English or the vernacular language as understood by the customer/borrower along with a copy each of all enclosures quoted in the loan agreement to all the customers/borrowers at the time of sanction / disbursement of loans. Further, the Company shall mention the penal interest charged for late repayment in bold in the loan agreement.

7. Disbursement of loans including changes in terms and conditions:

- a. The Company has framed appropriate internal principles and procedures for determining and ensuring that the interest rates and processing and other charges are not excessive. The Company shall, at the time of disbursement, ensure that these rates and charges are in strict adherence to the mentioned principles and procedures.
- b. The Company shall give notice to the customer/borrower in the vernacular language as understood by the customer/borrower of any change in the terms and conditions including disbursement schedule, interest rates, service charges, prepayment charges, etc. The Company shall also ensure that changes in interest rates and charges are effected only prospectively. It could be done retrospectively only when (i) they are accepted by the customer/borrower in writing (ii) they are favourable to the customer/borrower. A suitable condition in this regard shall be incorporated in the loan agreement.
- c. Any decision to recall / accelerate payment or performance under the loan agreement shall be in consonance with the loan agreement.
- d. The Company shall release all securities offered by the customer/borrower on repayment of all dues or on realization of the outstanding amount of loan subject to any legitimate right or lien for any other claim the Company may have against the customer/borrower. If such right of set off is to be exercised, the customer/borrower shall be given notice about the same with full particulars about the remaining claims and the conditions under which the Company is entitled to retain the securities till the relevant claim is settled/paid.

8. General:

- a. All communications to the customer/borrower shall be in English language or a language as understood by the customer/borrower.
- b. The Company shall refrain from interference in the affairs of the customer/borrower except for the purposes provided in the terms and conditions of the loan agreement (unless new information, not earlier disclosed by the customer/borrower, has come to the notice of the Company).
- c. In case of receipt of request from the customer/borrower for transfer of borrowal account, the consent or otherwise i.e. objection of the Company, if any, shall be conveyed within 21 days from the date of receipt of request. Such transfer shall be as per transparent contractual terms in consonance with law.
- d. In the matter of recovery of loans, the Company should not resort to undue harassment viz. persistently bothering the customers/borrowers at odd hours, use of muscle power for recovery of loans etc. The Company shall ensure that the staff is adequately trained to deal with the customers/borrowers in an appropriate manner. The Company will call delinquent customers/borrowers between 0800 hrs and 1900 hrs unless special circumstances of the customer's/borrower's business require to call them outside the hours mentioned.
- e. The Company shall adopt an interest rate model taking into account relevant factors such as, cost of funds, margin and risk premium, etc. and determine the rate of interest to be charged for loans and advances.
- f. The Company shall not charge foreclosure charges/pre-payment penalties on any floating rate term loan sanctioned for purposes other than business to individual borrowers, with or without co-obligant as a measure of customer protection and also in order to bring in uniformity with regard to prepayment of various loans provided by the Company.

9. Grievance Redressal Mechanism:

- a. The Company has a system and a procedure for receiving, registering and disposing of complaints and grievances. The grievance redressal mechanism will also deal with the issue/complaints/grievances relating to services provided by the outsourced agencies appointed by the Company.
- b. All disputes in relation to the products and services shall be heard and disposed of within 30 days from the date of receipt of the complete details in respect of the grievance.
- c. The Company has multiple channels of communication and following are modes through which customers can raise complaint with us:
 - i. Email: Customer can write to us at customersupport@ashvfinance.com
 - ii. Telephone: Customer can call us at 022 6249 2700
 - iii. Post: Customer can write to us at Ashv Finance Limited, 12B, 3rd Floor, Techniplex-II IT Park, Off. Veer Savarkar Flyover, Goregaon (West), Mumbai – 400062, Maharashtra, India.
- d. Customer/Borrower can also contact our Grievance Redressal Officer/Principal Nodal Officer, the details of whom are mentioned below clearly stating the nature of their grievance along with necessary documents, if any.

Name of the Grievance Redressal Officer/Principal Nodal Officer: Ms. Monika Thadeshwar (Variava)

Address: Ashv Finance Limited
12B, 3rd Floor, Techniplex-II IT Park,
Off. Veer Savarkar Flyover,
Goregaon (West), Mumbai – 400062.
Phone: 022-62492700;
Email ID: monika.thadeshwar@ashvfinance.com

- e. In case complaint / dispute is not redressed within a period of one month or if the borrower /customer is not satisfied with the decision of the Grievance Redressal Officer, the borrower /customer may appeal to the Officer-in-Charge of the Regional Office of DNBS of Reserve Bank of India at the below address:

Officer-in-Charge
Reserve Bank of India
Department of Supervision,
4th Floor, Byculla Office Building,
Opp. Mumbai Central Station,
Byculla, Mumbai - 400 008
Phone: 022 23028140
Fax No.: 022 23022024
Email ID: nbfcomumbai@rbi.org.in

A consolidated report of periodical review of compliance of fair practice code and functioning of the grievances redressal mechanism at various levels of management may be submitted to the Board/Committee of Directors at regular intervals as may be prescribed by it.

10. The Reserve Bank- Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021:–

In accordance with the Reserve Bank- Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021 dated November 12, 2021 (“Scheme”), the Company is required to appoint a Principal Nodal Officer. In line with the requirements, the Company has designated Ms. Monika Thadeshwar (Variava), Company Secretary and Compliance Officer as the Grievance Redressal Officer cum Principal Nodal Officer (“PNO”) for all the locations of the Company for receiving and addressing complaints in a fair and expeditious manner. The contact details of the Principal Nodal Officer and the salient features of the Scheme is annexed to this code as **Annexure A**.

The Principal Nodal Officer shall be responsible for representing the Company and furnishing information on behalf of the Company in respect of complaints filed against the Company.

The Company may appoint other Nodal Officers to assist the Principal Nodal Officer for operational efficiency.

The Company shall display prominently for the benefit of its customers at branches/places where the business is transacted, the name and contact details (Telephone / mobile number and E-mail ID) of the Principal Nodal Officer along with the details of the complaint lodging portal of the Ombudsman (<https://cms.rbi.org.in>). The salient features of the Scheme will be displayed prominently in English, Hindi and the regional language in all its offices, branches and places where the business is transacted in such a manner that a person visiting the office or branch has adequate information on the Scheme. The Company shall ensure that a copy of the Scheme is available in all its branches to be provided to the customer for reference upon request.

The salient features of the Scheme along with the copy of the Scheme and the contact details of the Principal Nodal Officer shall be displayed and updated on the website of the Company.

11. Posting on Website:

Fair Practices Code, in English and Vernacular Languages shall be put up on the website of the Company for the information of the various stakeholders.

12. Policy for determining interest rates, processing and other charges:

To ensure that the customers/borrowers are not charged excessive interest rates and charges on loans and advances by the Company, the Board of the Company has adopted a policy for determining the interest rates, processing and other charges (“Interest Rate Policy”) and the same has been put up on the Company’s website www.ashvfinance.com. The Board of the Company undertakes periodical review of the Interest Rate Policy, and any changes instituted will be uploaded on the Company’s website regularly.

13. Periodic Review:

The Company shall abide by this Fair Practice Code following the spirit of the Code and in the manner, it may be applicable to its business. The Company would also review and refine the FPC, annually – based on its own experience and fresh guidelines, if any, to be issued by the RBI in this regard.

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Annexure A

Salient Features of Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021

Applicability: - To services provided by Regulated Entity (RE) under the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and the Payment and Settlement Systems, Act, 2007. Regulated Entity means a bank or a Non-Banking Financial Company or a System Participant as defined in the scheme or any other entity as may be specified by Reserve Bank from time to time to the extent not excluded under the scheme.

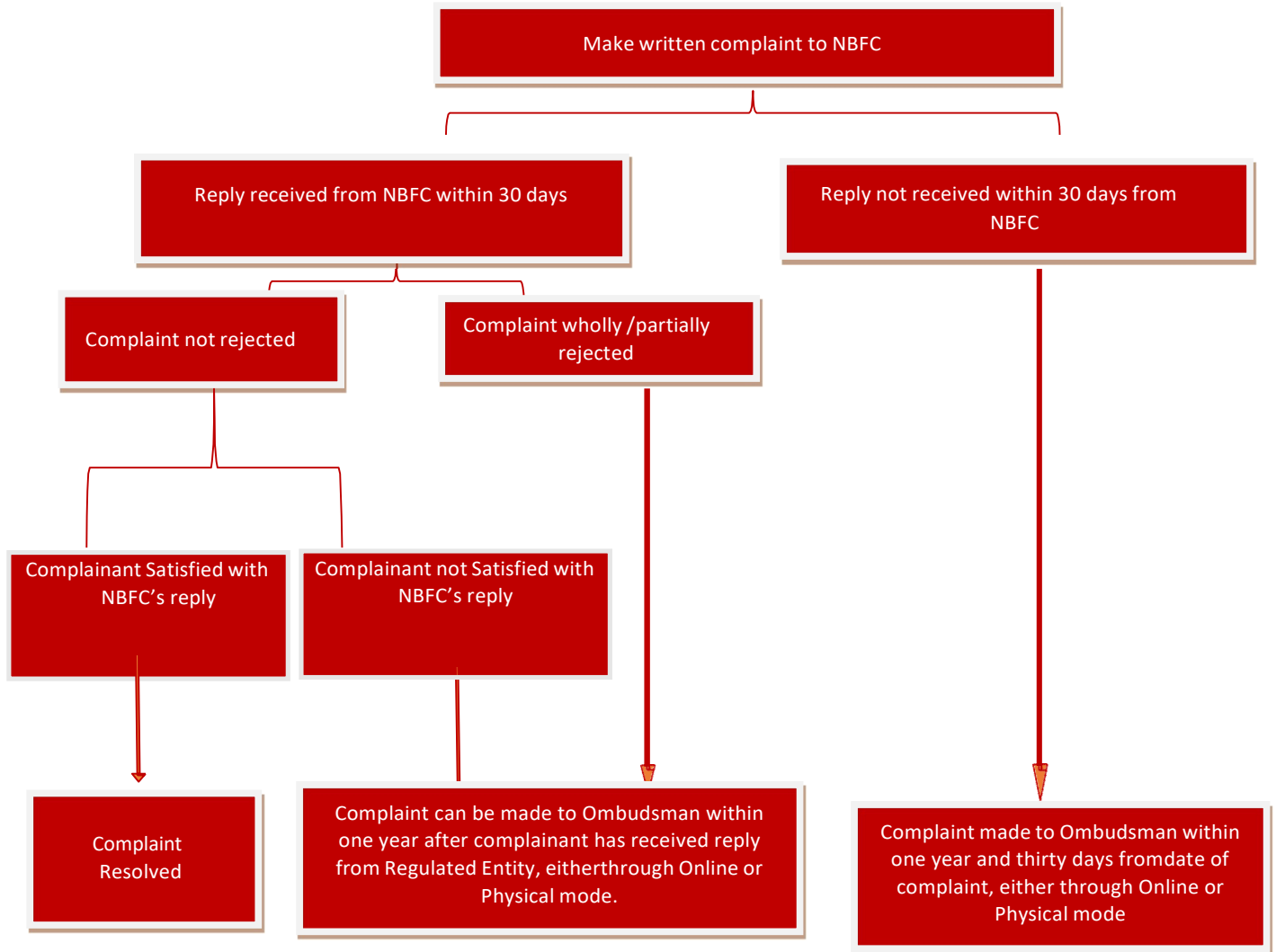
Matters not considered under the scheme: -

- Commercial Judgement/ commercial decision of a Regulated Entity (RE).
- Dispute between vendor and Regulated Entity relating to outsourcing contract.
- Grievance not addressed to Ombudsman directly.
- General grievances against Management or Executives of a Regulated Entity.
- Dispute in which action is initiated by a Regulated Entity in compliance with the order of a statutory or law enforcing authority.
- Service not within regulatory preview of the Reserve Bank.
- Dispute between Regulated Entities.
- Dispute involving the employer-employee relationship of a Regulated Entity.
- Dispute for which a remedy has been provided in Section 18 of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005.
- Dispute pertaining to customers of Regulated Entity not included under the Scheme.

Complaint under the scheme shall not lie unless:

- Complainant had before making a complaint under the scheme, made a written complaint to Regulated Entity and-
 - a. Complaint got rejected wholly or partially and the complainant is not satisfied with reply or complainant had not received a reply within 30 days after Regulated Entity received complaint and
 - b. Complaint is made to Ombudsman within 1 year after complainant received reply from Regulated Entity or where no reply is received within 1 year and 30 days from date of the complaint.
- The complaint is not in respect of the same cause of action which is already –
 - a. Pending before Ombudsman or settled or dealt with on merit by Ombudsman, whether or not received from the same complainant or along with 1 or more complainant or parties concerned.
 - b. Pending before any court, tribunal or arbitrator or settled or dealt with on merit by any Court, Tribunal or Arbitrator, whether or not received from the same complainant or along with 1 or more complainant or parties concerned.
 - c. Complaint in respect of the same cause of action does not include criminal proceeding pending or decided before a court or tribunal or any police investigation initiated in a criminal offence.
- Complaint is not abusive or frivolous or vexatious in nature.
- Complaint to Regulated Entity was made before the expiry of a period of limitation under the Limitation Act, 1963 for such claims.
- The complainant provides complete information as per clause 11 of the scheme.
- The complaint is lodged by the complainant personally or through the complainant personally other than the advocate unless complainant itself is an advocate.

Procedure to be followed by the customer to file a complaint:



Procedure to file Complaint:

A Complaint can be lodged either online through the portal <https://cms.rbi.org.in> or through electronic or physical mode (duly signed) to the Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre at the below address.:

Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre,
Reserve Bank of India,
4th Floor, Sector 17,
Chandigarh – 160017
Email - CRPC@rbi.org.in

How does Ombudsman take the decision?

- Ombudsman/Deputy Ombudsman endeavors to promote settlement of a complaint by agreement between the complainant and the RE through facilitation or conciliation or mediation.
- Proceedings before Ombudsman are summary in nature and shall not be bound by any rule of evidence.
- Complaint is deemed to be resolved when: -
- It is settled by RE upon the intervention of the Ombudsman or
- Complainant has agreed in writing or otherwise(recorded) that the manner and extent of the resolution of the grievance is satisfactory or
- Complainant has withdrawn complaint voluntarily
- Unless the complaint is rejected under clause 16 of the scheme, Ombudsman shall pass an award.

Appeal before Appellate Authority

If Complainant is not satisfied by award under clause 15(1) of this Scheme or Rejection of complaint under clause 16(2)(c) to 16(2)(f) under this scheme.



Complainant can appeal before the Appellate Authority within thirty days of date of receipt of award/rejection.

Name and Contact details of Principal Nodal Officer/ Grievance Redressal Officer:

Name	Ms. Monika Thadeshwar (Variava)
Address	3rd Floor, 12B, Techniplex-II IT Park, Off. Veer Savarkar Flyover, Goregaon (West), Mumbai – 400 062, Maharashtra, India
Contact No.	+91 22 6249 2700
E-mail ID	monika.thadeshwar@ashvfinance.com