SEBI Governance Norms Proposal for Listed Companies





Context



To improve corporate governance and transparency in the appointment of auditors, SEBI has proposed amendments to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. Some of the key features are highlighted here.



Changes to the Annual Secretarial Compliance Report

It requires changes to the Annual Secretarial Compliance Report (ASCR). Including

- Issuance of clarifications.
- Requirement of compliance with the Depository Act, 1996.
- Setting out assumptions and limitations for the Practising Company Secretary providing the ASCR.





Appointment of Auditors

There will be an evaluation criteria incoorporated for statutory auditors.

Further, to ensure greater transparency, listed companies will need to disclose the experience and qualifications of its proposed auditors, to its shareholders, board of directors and audit committee.





Disclosures to the Audit Committee

The amendments require discolosure of key details about selection or re-appointment of statutory and secretarial auditors to the audit committee, board of directors and shareholders.

A standard format for such disclosures has also been suggested.





Evaluation of Signing Partners

The SEBI has also proposed that the audit committee should carefully evaluate the qualifications and years of experience of the signing partner(s) of the audit firm prior to their appointment.





Clarification on Applicability of RPTs Provisions

The current regulations exempt certain Related Party Transactions from audit committee approval. SEBI now proposes to clarify that, this audit committee approval will not be required if the holding entity is listed and governed by SEBI (LODR) Regulations 2015.





Monetary Limits for 'Related Party Transactions'

SEBI has proposed monetary limits to related party transactions (RPTs) with two thresholds for the approval of such transactions:

- 1. For subsidiaries with a financial track record
 Threshold for Approval: Lower of either 10 per cent
 of turnover or a monetary limit -- Rs. 1,000 crore for
 main-board companies and Rs 50. crore for SMEs.
- 2. For subsidiaries without a financial track record
 Threshold for Approval of 10 per cent of the
 subsidiary's net worth or a monetary limit -- Rs. 1,000
 crore for main-board companies and Rs. 50 crore for
 SMEs.



Open for Public Comments

The SEBI has invited public comments on these proposals until February 28, 2025.

