

Policy Certification

Title **Dividend distribution policy**

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Owned By:	CO: Investor Services Cell
Prepared By :	CO: Investor Services Cell
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Approved By:	Board
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DIVIDEND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

I. NEED AND OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY:

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has, on July 08, 2016, notified the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2016. Vide these Regulations, SEBI has inserted Regulation 43A after Regulation 43 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 {SEBI (LODR) Regulations} which deals with Dividend Distribution Policy.

Regulation 43A of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 requires the top 1000 listed entities based on Market Capitalization to formulate a Dividend Distribution Policy which shall be disclosed on the website of the listed entity and a web-link shall also be provided in their annual reports.

In terms of the provisions of said Regulations, our Bank being on the list of top 1000 listed entities based on Market Capitalization, has framed the following 'Dividend Distribution Policy' approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Bank.

Our Bank, being a corresponding new bank, formed under the provisions of Banking Companies (Acquisitions and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970, is following the guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Government of India in respect of dividend.

II. DEFINITIONS:

a. Dividend	Dividend includes interim dividend. In common parlance, 'Dividend' means the profit of the Bank, which is not retained in the business and is distributed among the shareholders in proportion to the amount paid up on the shares held by them.
b. CRAR	It is the ratio of the Bank's capital to its risk weighted assets.
c. Dividend Payout ratio	'Dividend payout ratio' is calculated as a percentage of 'dividend payable in a year' (excluding dividend tax) to 'net profit during the year'.
d. Board	"Board" means Board of Directors of the Bank constituted in terms of Section 9 (3) of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

III. Policy:

1. General Principles of the Bank regarding distribution of dividend:

The intent of the Bank is to reward the shareholders of the Bank by sharing a portion of the profits, whilst also ensuring that sufficient funds are retained for growth of the Bank. The dividend for each year would be recommended by the Board at its discretion within the set guidelines of Government and Reserve Bank of India and after taking into account the financial performance of the Bank, its future plans, internal and external factors, statutory restrictions, etc, for declaration by the shareholders in general meeting. The Board may also declare interim dividend at its discretion.

2. Eligibility Criteria for declaration of dividend:

As per the guidelines dated May 04, 2005 issued by Reserve Bank of India, Bank will be eligible to declare dividends only when it complies with the following minimum prudential requirements;

(a) The Bank should have:

- (i) CRAR of atleast 9% for preceding two completed years and the accounting year for which it proposes to declare dividend.
- (ii) Net NPA less than 7%.

In case the Bank does not meet the above CRAR norm, but is having a CRAR of atleast 9% for the accounting year for which it proposes to declare dividend, it would be eligible to declare dividend provided its Net NPA is less than 5%.

- (b) The Bank shall comply with the provisions of Sections 15 (which prohibits payment of dividend until all capitalized expenses have been written off) and Section 17 (which stipulates transfer of specified portion of profit to statutory reserve fund) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- (c) The Bank shall comply with the prevailing regulations / guidelines issued by RBI, including creating adequate provisions for impairment of assets and staff retirement benefits, transfer of profits to Statutory Reserves etc.
- (d) The proposed dividend should be payable out of the current year's profit.
- (e) The Reserve Bank of India should not have placed any explicit restrictions on the Bank for declaration of dividends.

3. Quantum of dividend payable:

A. RBI guidelines: The Bank, if it fulfills the eligibility criteria set out at paragraph No.2 above, may declare and pay dividends subject to the following:

- a) The dividend payout ratio shall not exceed 40% and shall be as per the matrix furnished in Annexure.
- b) In case the profit for the relevant period includes any extra-ordinary profits / income, the payout ratio shall be computed after excluding such extra-ordinary items for reckoning compliance with the prudential payout ratio.
- c) The financial statements pertaining to the financial year for which the bank is declaring a dividend should be free of any qualifications by the statutory auditors, which have an adverse bearing on the profit during that year. In case of any qualification to that effect, the net profit should be suitably adjusted while computing the dividend payout ratio.
- d) If the Bank is under PCA framework, there will be restrictions on dividend distribution/remittance of Profits by the Bank.

B. Government of India guidelines:

As per extant guidelines, the Bank is required to pay a minimum dividend of 20% of its equity (i.e. paid up capital) or 20% of its post –tax profits, whichever is higher.

4. Internal and External Factors:

The dividend payout decision of the Bank will also depend on certain external factors such as the state of the economy of the country, statutory and regulatory provisions, tax regulations, etc, as may be applicable at the time of declaration of the dividend. Apart from the aforesaid external factors, Board will also take into account various internal factors, such as business growth plans, future capital requirements, replacement of capital assets, etc. The decision of the Board regarding dividend shall be final.

5. Utilisation of Retained Earnings:

The retained earnings will mainly be utilized for the purpose of the Bank's growth plans and such other purposes as per the guidelines issued by RBI and Government of India from time to time.

6. Provisions with regard to various classes of shares:

The Bank currently has only one class of shares, namely Equity Shares. In case of issuance of any other class of shares in future, the parameters shall be decided suitably by the Bank at appropriate time.

7. Manner of Payment of dividend:

As per Regulation 12 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, the Bank shall use any of the electronic mode of payment facility approved by the Reserve Bank of India for the payment of the dividends. Where it is not possible to use electronic mode of payment, 'payable-at-par' warrants or Demand drafts will be issued to the eligible shareholders.

8. Disclosure and Reporting:

- a) The Policy will be disclosed on the website of the Bank and a web link shall be provided in the Annual Report.
- b) The Bank shall report the details of dividend declared during the accounting year to RBI as per the proforma and timeline specified by RBI.
- c) The Bank shall declare and disclose the dividend on per share basis only as specified under SEBI (LODR) Regulations.

CO: Investor Services shall be the custodian of the Policy. The Board may review and amend the Policy from time to time. The Policy will be in force till the time it is not amended or revoked by the Board. In the event of variance between the Policy and Regulatory changes, regulatory changes will be effective till the Policy is amended in line with the regulatory changes.

Annexure

Matrix of Criteria for maximum permissible range of Dividend Payout Ratio

Category	CRAR	Net NPA Ratio			
		Zero	More than zero but less than 3%	From 3% to less than 5%	From 5% to less than 7%
		Range of Dividend Payout Ratio			
A	11% or more for each of the last 3 years	Up to 40	Up to 35	Up to 25	Up to 15
B	10% or more for each of the last 3 years	Up to 35	Up to 30	Up to 20	Up to 10
C	9% or more for each of the last 3 years	Up to 30	Up to 25	Up to 15	Up to 5
D	9% or more in the current year	Up to 10		Up to 5	Nil