

Policy on Circulation of Unauthenticated News

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1. Preamble:

SEBI Circular No. Cir/ ISD/1/2011 dated March 23, 2011 titled "Unauthenticated news circulated by SEBI Registered Market Intermediaries through various modes of communication" and addendum to the said circular dated March 24, 2011 and FAQs issued by SEBI on responsible handling of unauthenticated market related news or rumours by SEBI Registered Intermediaries.

Centrum Capital Limited (hereafter referred as 'CCL' or 'the Company') is a SEBI registered Merchant Banker and the said circular is applicable to the Company.

2. Purpose/ Background:

SEBI has observed that unauthenticated news related to various scrips are circulated in blogs/chat forums/e-mail etc. by employees of SEBI Registered Intermediaries without adequate caution as mandated in the Code of Conduct provided in respective SEBI Regulations. Employees of such intermediaries are sometimes not aware of the damage which can be caused by circulation of unauthenticated news or rumours. It is a well-established fact that market rumours can do considerable damage to the normal functioning and behaviour of the market and distort the price discovery mechanisms. Accordingly, SEBI has directed all intermediaries to frame detailed policy on circulation of market news by staff members and have adequate controls in place for its circulation after ensuring that news being circulated is authentic news.

3. What is unauthenticated market related news?

Unauthenticated market related news or rumours may be defined as "information or news or talk or opinion widely disseminated with no discernible source or a statement or report without known authority for its truth."

4. What is Authenticated news?

With reference to the definition above, news on any company/scrip would be said to be authenticated when such information has been:

- Disclosed/ confirmed by the Company through Stock Exchange/ SEBI or any other agency authorized to disseminate such information in its publication, in electronic form or otherwise.
- Reported in the Annual Report/prospectus/press release or any other official publication of the Company.
- Disclosed in media/public domain i.e. press report, television report, websites along with source of information and reports.

5. Acceptable Practices and Process:

No employee shall circulate any market related information/news/market buzz/rumour or unverified information (information which is not authentic as defined above), at any time without verification, to clients or any other person through phone, SMS, email (personal or official), blog or any other mode of communication.

Opinions/views etc. expressed by employees would not be considered as unauthenticated news provided the opinion has a demonstrable and rational basis and be clearly stated as the opinion of the author. Hence, any market news that can be circulated should either be authentic as defined above or should be the opinion of the employee.

In case of any need for clarification whether any particular news is authentic or not for further dissemination, the employees must seek approval of their supervisor/head of department followed by an approval from Compliance Officer/ Compliance team (wherever required) along with the backups available on the news.

6. Prohibition on Circulation of unauthenticated news:

In order to prohibit circulation of unauthenticated news and rumours or unverified information obtained from client/ customer, industry, any trade or any other sources without verification, following guidelines are to be adhered to:

- Adherence to internal code of conduct and controls.
- Employees shall not under any circumstances be involved in the origination of an unauthenticated market related news or rumours.

- Employees/ any other person employed/working with the Company should not encourage or circulate rumours or unverified information obtained from customer, industry, any trade or any other sources without verification.
- Logs for any usage of such Blogs/Chat forums/Messenger sites shall be treated as records and the same would be maintained on a best effort basis.
- Employees shall refrain from participating in discussions through electronic tools where the source of such information is not verifiable.
- The Employee is required to immediately bring to the notice of the Supervisor/ Head of the Department and the Compliance Officer/ Compliance team (wherever required) any such news or information received to verify the reliability and accuracy of the news, where the source of such information is ambiguous and not verifiable.
- Employees shall maintain high standards of integrity, promptitude and fairness in the conduct of duty and act with due skill, care and diligence.
- Employees shall ensure that they shall not create false market or indulge in any act detrimental to the investors' interest or which leads to interference with the fair and smooth functioning of the market.
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