

# Auckland International Ltd.

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## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

Auckland International Limited is a Public Limited Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and engaged in the manufacture of Jute goods, better known as Gunny, which consists mainly of the Hessian & Sacking quality of textile cloth. Besides being engaged in the manufacture of Jute goods, the Company also involves itself in activities like Financing, investing and dealing in shares & securities.

We seek to be a good corporate citizen in all aspects of our operations and activities. To this end we have resolved to bring together our existing operating principles into one policy framework under the broad heading of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to serve as a guide to our Board as well as our employees in all aspects of our work for the Company. The CSR Policy of Auckland International Limited shortly known as “Auckland CSR Policy” has been prepared keeping in mind the Company’s Code of Business Ethics and to comply with the requirements of Companies Act, 2013 and the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014.

### Effective Date:

The CSR Policy has been updated and approved at the meeting of Board held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 and shall be applicable with immediate effect.

### Compliance & Reporting of the policy:

The Company is committed to maintain the highest ethical and value standards in the process of corporate governance and also believes in compliance with all laws of the land. The Company is committed to providing timely, accurate and complete information, as necessary to all concerned, including its stakeholders. Directors and Executives of the Company shall, in their conduct of business, honour such unbounded commitment.

The Compliance with this policy will be continuously monitored and subject to review by the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee constituted in accordance with Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 and subsequently by the Board of Directors of the Company.

The compliance with the principles covered in this policy will be reported to the stakeholders through the Directors’ Report forming part of the Annual Report of the Company or its annual Corporate Social Responsibility Report.

Each Head of the different Executive Level is responsible for ensuring that the principles set out in this policy are communicated to, understood and observed by all employees and for ensuring compliance in their area of responsibility.

### Core Areas Emphasized For CSR Policy:-

#### 1. Ethical Business Code of Conduct:-

This code sets out the minimum standards which the Board expects from its staff in their internal and external dealings with colleagues, customers, stakeholders and third parties.

##### 1.1. Basic Code of Conduct:

We value the principles of accountability, honesty and integrity in all aspects of our business. Thus, our Governance system is underpinned by Ethics, Transparency and Accountability. We will not involve ourselves in business practices that are abusive, unfair, corrupt or anti-competitive. Our policy is to conduct our business in a manner which ensures:

- fair treatment to our stakeholders, employees and clients;
- transparency of our business policies and practices;
- high standards in all matters relating to health, safety and environment.

##### 1.2. Employees:

The Company strives to:

- a) provide a workplace environment that is safe, hygienic and humane and which upholds the dignity of the employees.
- b) provide all employees with access to training and development of necessary skills for career advancement, on an equal and non-discriminatory basis.
- c) uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining of labour, does not employ child or forced labour and provide and maintain equality of opportunities without any discrimination on any grounds in recruitment and during employment.
- d) maintain good communication with employees through our information and consultation procedures.

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## 1.3. Customers, Business Partners and Stakeholders:

- a) The Company works meticulously towards providing high quality and value for money finished products to its customers.
- b) We aim to develop strong relationships with our buyers, suppliers, stakeholders and others with whom we have dealings, based on mutual trust, understanding and respect.
- c) The Company aims to conduct all its operations in accordance with the principles of fair competition and applicable regulations.

## 1.4. Shareholders:

- a) The Company believes that the Shareholders are the core of any successful reputed Business organization and keeping this philosophy in mind it conducts its operations in accordance with the principles of good corporate governance.
- b) We aim to provide timely, regular and reliable information of our business to all our shareholders.
- c) We have constituted a Shareholder's Grievance Committee to look into the grievances (if any) put forward by the shareholders of the Company and to provide a quick redressal to it.

## 1.5. Malpractices:

We actively work to deter malpractices in the workplace, with specific attention to activities involving strikes, lockouts, bribery and corruption, fraud, money laundering and insider trading.

## 2. Policies Specific to the Board:

### 2.1. Corporate Governance:

The Company lays utmost importance on the essence of good corporate governance practices founded upon the core value of transparency, accountability, independent monitoring and environmental consciousness. The Company observes ethical practices in all its operations. It strives to transparently disseminate vital information to all the Members of the Company.

2.2. The Audit Committee of the Company has overall responsibility to ensure adequate compliance of internal control practices and also for reviewing its effectiveness. The internal controls are designed in a way that covers the risks to achieve the Company's objectives including all business, operational, financial and compliance risks. The summary of the internal Control procedures undertaken by the Company are reported in the Annual Report of the Company.

### 3. Activities for Social and Inclusive Development/CSR Projects approved by the Board:

Depending upon our core competency and business interest we undertake activities for economic and social development of communities and geographical areas, particularly in the vicinity of our business operations which includes education, skill building for livelihood of people, health, cultural and social welfare etc., particularly targeting at disadvantaged sections of society. A brief preview of the social development activities carried on by the Company is mentioned below:

#### 3.1. Measures to eradicate hunger and poverty:

**Daily Free Meals Distribution**-Everyday free lunch is provided to more than 700 under privileged elderly people and children, who find it difficult to earn their livelihood. The Management of the Company arranges for various other similar campaigns with the underlying aim of eradication of poverty and improvement of standard of living of the people living below the poverty line.

#### 3.2. Promotion of education:

**Establishment of Educational Institutions**- The Management of our Company believes in "Education is power", following this philosophy, apart from the four primary schools already imparting education to the children of Group's employees, **Shree Harakh Chand Kankaria Jain Vidyalaya** - an English medium co-education school has been constructed. The school provides scholarships and subsidised fee programmes for the deserving students. Students have all facilities at their disposal such as well-equipped playground, auditorium and compulsory computer education. Vocational training classes will also commence in near future.

**Tara Devi Harakh Chand Kankaria Jain College** conducts degree programmes in botany, information technology and commerce under the aegis of the Calcutta University.

#### 3.3. Promotes gender equality and empowers women:

- a) The Board of Directors of our Company is committed to providing equality of opportunity both to the men and women employees of the Company. This policy sets out Our commitment to treat equally and with fairness at all times its employees, customers, contractors and those who come into contact with the Company.
- b) We believe that every employee irrespective of his/her caste, creed, gender, religion, nationality must have an equal opportunity to work. Everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. We believe in providing equality of work to both men and women at the workplace and also provide equal opportunities to both genders to get promotions based on their performance review. The women workers and employees of the Company enjoy privileges at par with the men workers

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and employees. The women working in our Company are given importance and opportunities equal to that of the men. Thus, in our own narrow manner we aim to empower women in the society.

- c) We seek to adopt fair and inclusive practices throughout our operations and will continue to eliminate all prejudice, discrimination, bullying and harassment of workers at the workplace.
- d) The Company regards direct or indirect discrimination, victimization and harassment as a serious matter. Non-compliance with this policy will be treated seriously and will not be tolerated and serious disciplinary action will be taken against those who fail to comply with these principles.

#### *3.4. Improving health and safety:*

Our Company being a jute manufacturing concern, the health and safety of our workers engaged in this jute manufacturing procedure is of our paramount interest. Safety underpins all our operations and our central motto is "If you cannot do it safely, don't do it".

We aim to ensure the safety of the workers at the workplace as well as work towards imparting superior health and hygiene services to the people residing in and around the factory premises. To this end, the Company has reached at an agreement with the Bhatpara Municipality for building up a super Speciality hospital on the piece of land leased out within the Mill's Compound and has also agreed to participate under Rajeev Awas Yojana for building up multistoried pucca homes for the employees. Once the hospital is established and comes into operation, the workers as well as the common people residing near the factory premises will have an easy access to a state of the art super speciality hospital and they can get fast and accurate diagnosis to several complicated and life claiming diseases.

#### *3.5. Ensuring environmental sustainability:*

Through our core manufacturing and selling activities we are committed to providing good quality, reliable and cost effective jute products to all our customers. Usage of Jute products ensures a pollution free environment which its arch rival plastic products cannot guarantee. With a vision to ascertain a future free from all sorts of pollution, we try to curb all predicaments and bring to our customers super fine quality jute products. But simultaneously we also recognize the environmental impacts arising from our business activities and are committed to reducing these through effective environmental management.

#### **4. Environmental Policy:**

We have a well drafted Environment policy which not only our staff and workers on the factory premises are bound to follow but also the Senior Management personnel are as much required to adhere to the key principles enclosed in the policy within their office and factory premises as well as in their respective residential areas. The policy clearly sets role for every individual associated with our Company to ascertain environmental sustainability.

Our Environmental policy comprises of the following principles:

- i) Installation of machineries and reflectors that restrain pollution and also save fuel and energy;
- ii) Replacement of the conventional choke with electronic choke, which minimizes pollution and optimizes machine speed;
- iii) Elimination of consumption of Coal (which generated smoke and fumes) by using by-products and mill wastes as fuel in Boiler for Steam generation;
- iv) Maintenance of an internal management structure for the management of environmental issues. The Environmental Management System explains further how we seek to minimize the various environmental risks associated with Jute Industry;
- v) Compliance with the applicable legal and other requirements related to environment sustainability;
- vi) Reduction, wherever practicable, the level of harmful emissions from our factory premises;
- viii) Provision of the necessary training and support in order to ensure that the staff fulfill their requirements.
- ix) Disciplinary action against the staff who willfully omits or fails to discharge his duty in adherence to the principles set out in the environmental policy.

#### **5. Contribution to Funds set up by the Government and Others:**

The Senior Management personnel are persistently involved in philanthropic activities relating to contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund and other related Funds set up by different Government authorities at various levels for the welfare of poor segments of the society, children, minorities and women.

Our Company also contributes to the welfare of the society by making donations to trusts set up by our group Companies. The Trusts are primarily involved in activities for the upliftment of the lower segment of the society and creating awareness among

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them to raise their standard of living by establishment of elementary schools for the children, construction of super speciality hospital, building of pucca homes for the workers of the factory and other activities of similar nature.

## ONGOING PROJECTS/SYNOPSIS OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMPANY:

The Company believes in the spirit of philanthropy and following this very principle, it undertakes varied projects with the sole purpose of upliftment of the society and curbing the malpractices and social norms prevalent in the society. The Management of the Company has undertaken the following projects/programmes envisaging its corporate responsibility towards the Society:-

### ➤ Health-

The Company donates to Kolkata Gives Foundation supported by Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratisthan on a yearly basis.

### ➤ Relief-

The Company has always been quick to provide humanitarian aid to areas hit by disasters. Relief works are carried out across the country wherever natural calamity strikes.

### ➤ Animal Welfare-

An animal shelter has been constructed and maintained by the Management of the Company in Palitana, Gujarat. It is dedicated to the care of cattle, which were saved from the roads of Gujarat during the drought in the 1980's and later. It looks after the sick and the injured animals.

### ➤ Charity-

The Company's charitable trusts - Harakh Chand Kankaria Charitable Trust and Vasanti Jai Kankaria Charities (CSR Registered Trusts) are working for the upliftment of the poor and needy by sponsoring students for education, donating funds for animal rights protection, hospitals, medical clinics and helping the poor to start their own business.

- specify the projects and programmes that are to be undertaken.
- prepare a list of CSR projects/programmes which a Company plans to undertake during the implementation year, specifying modalities of execution in the areas/sectors chosen and implementation schedules for the same.
- CSR projects/programmes of a Company may also focus on integrating business models with social and environmental priorities and processes in order to create shared value.

## Contribution to CSR Activities:

The Senior Management in consultation with the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee has decided to contribute two per cent of the average net profits of the Company made during the three immediately preceding financial years in compliance of Section 135 (5) of the Companies Act, 2013, every financial year towards the CSR activities undertaken by the Company.

It is further being decided that the surplus (if any) arising out of the CSR activities will not form part of business profits, on the contrary it will further be contributed towards similar activities or will be donated to Government or other Trust Fund as specified under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 (including any amendment thereof).

If the company fails to spend the CSR amount in any financial year, the Board shall, unless the unspent amount relates to any ongoing project, transfer such unspent amount to a Fund specified in Schedule VII, within a period of six months of the expiry of the financial year.

## COMPOSITION OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

In terms of Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, the composition of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee has been re-constituted as under with effect from 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2021-

S.No.	Name of Committee Member	Position	Category
1	Baby Bothra	Chairman	Independent Director
2	Mool Chand Singhi	Member	Independent Director
3	Bijay Singh Baid	Member	Non-Executive Director

## REFLECTION OF CSR ACTIVITIES ON WEBSITE:

The composition of the CSR Committee, CSR Policy and CSR Projects approved by the Board / CSR Committee from time to time shall be disclosed on the website of the Company under the web-link <http://www.aucklandjute.com/board-policies/> for access of the stakeholders.