

INTEGRITY PACT

Between

National Board of Examinations in Medical Science (NBEMS) hereinafter referred to as

“The Principal”

and

.....hereinafter referred to as

“The Bidder/Contractor”

Preamble

The Principal intends to award, under laid down organizational procedures, contract/s for The Principal values full compliance with all relevant laws of the land, rules, regulations, economic use of resources and of fairness/transparency in its relations with its Bidder(s) and/or Contractor(s).

In order to achieve these goals, the Principal will appoint an Independent External Monitor (IEM), who will monitor the tender process and the execution of the contract for compliance with the principles mentioned above.

Section 1- Commitments of the Principal

1. The Principal commits itself to take all measures necessary to prevent corruption and to observe the following principles:-
 - a) No employee of the Principal, personally or through family members, will in connection with the tender for or the execution of a contract, demand, take a promise for or accept, for self or third person, any material or immaterial benefit which the person is not legally entitled to.
 - b) The Principal will, during the tender process treat all Bidder(s) with equity and reason. The Principal will in particular, before and during the tender process, provide to all Bidder(s) the same information and will not provide to any Bidder(s) confidential/additional information through which the Bidder(s) could obtain an advantage in relation to the tender process or the contract execution.
 - c) The Principal will exclude from the process all known prejudiced persons.
2. If the Principal obtains information on the conduct of any of its employees which is a criminal offence under the BNS/PC Act, or if there be a substantive suspicion in this regard, the Principal will inform the Chief Vigilance Officer and in addition can initiate disciplinary actions.

Section 2 - Commitments of the Bidder(s)/contractor(s)

1. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) commit themselves to take all measures necessary to prevent corruption. He commits himself to observe the following principles during his participation in the tender process and during the contract execution.
 - a. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) will not, directly or through any other person or firm, offer, promise or give to any of the Principal’s employees involved in the tender process or the execution of the contract or to any third person any material or other benefit which he/she is not legally entitled to, in order to obtain in exchange any advantage of any kind whatsoever during the tender process or during the execution of the contract.
 - b. The Bidder(s)/ Contractor(s) will not enter with other Bidders into any undisclosed agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal. This applies in particular to prices, specifications, certifications, subsidiary contracts, submission or non-submission of bids or any other actions to restrict competitiveness or to introduce cartelisation in the bidding process.

- c. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) will not commit any offence under the relevant IPC/PCAct ; further the Bidder(s)/ contractor(s) will not use improperly, for purposes of competition or personal gain, or pass on to others, any information or document provided by the Principal as part of the business relationship, regarding plans, technical proposals and business details, including information contained or transmitted electronically.
- d. The Bidder(s) /Contractors(s) of foreign origin shall disclose the name and address of the Agents/representatives in India, if any. Similarly the Bidder(s)/Contractors(s) of Indian Nationality shall furnish the name and address of the foreign principals, if any. Further details as mentioned in the “Guidelines on Indian Agents of Foreign Suppliers” shall be disclosed by the Bidder(s)/Contractor(s). Further, as mentioned in the Guidelines all the payments made to the Indian agent/representative have to be in Indian Rupees only. Copy of the “Guidelines on Indian Agents of Foreign Suppliers” is placed at Annexure-A.
- e. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) will, when presenting his bid, disclose any and all payments he has made, is committed to or intends to make to agents, brokers or any other intermediaries in connection with the award of the contract.
- f. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) will not instigate third persons to commit offences outlined above or be an accessory to such offences.

Section 3 - Disqualification from tender process and exclusion from future contracts.

If the Bidder(s)/Contractor(s), before award or during the execution has committed a transgression through a violation of Section 2, above or in any other form such as to put his reliability or credibility in question, the Principal is entitled to disqualify the Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) from the tender process or take action as per the procedure mentioned in the “Guidelines on Banning of Business Dealings”. Copy of the “Guidelines on Banning of Business Dealings” is annexed and marked as Annexure-B.

Section 4 - Compensation for Damages

1. If the Principal has disqualified the Bidder(s) from the tender process prior to the award according to Section 3, the Principal is entitled to demand and recover the damages equivalent to Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Security.
2. If the Principal has terminated the contract according to Section 3, or if the Principal is entitled to terminate the contract according to section 3, the Principal shall be entitled to demand and recover from the Contractor liquidated damages of the Contract value or the amount equivalent to Performance Bank Guarantee.

Section 5 – Previous transgression

1. The Bidder declares that no previous transgressions occurred in the last three years with any other Company in any country conforming to the anti- corruption approach or with any other Central or State Government or any other Public Sector Enterprise in India that could justify his exclusion from the tender process.
2. If the Bidder makes incorrect statement on this subject, he can be disqualified from the tender process or action can be taken as per the procedure mentioned in “Guidelines on Banning of Business Dealings.”

Section 6 – Equal treatment of all Bidders / Contractors / Subcontractors

1. The Bidder(s)/ Contractor(s) undertake(s) to demand from his subcontractors a commitment in conformity with this Integrity Pact.
2. The Principal will enter into agreements with identical conditions as this one with all Bidders and Contractors.
3. The Principal will disqualify from the tender process all bidders who do not sign this Pact or violate its provisions.

Section 7– Criminal charges against violating Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) / Subcontractor(s)

If the Principal obtains knowledge of conduct of a Bidder, Contractor or Subcontractor, or of an employee or a representative or an associate of a Bidder, Contractor or Subcontractor which constitutes corruption, or if the Principal has substantive suspicion in this regard, the Principal will inform the same to the Chief Vigilance Officer.

Section 8 – Independent External Monitor / Monitors

1. The Principal appoints competent and credible Independent External Monitor for this Pact. The task of the Monitor is to review independently and objectively, whether and to what extent the parties comply with the obligations under this agreement.
2. The Monitor is not subject to instructions by the representatives of the parties and performs his functions neutrally and independently. It will be obligatory for him to treat the information and documents of the Bidder(s)/Contractors as confidential. He reports to the Executive Director, NBEMS.
3. The Bidder(s)/Contractor(s) accepts that the Monitor has the right to access without restriction to all Project documentation of the Principal including that provided by the Contractor. The Contractor will also grant the Monitor, upon his request and demonstration of a valid interest, unrestricted and unconditional access to his project documentation. The same is applicable to Subcontractors. The Monitor is under contractual obligation to treat the information and documents of the Bidder(s)/ Contractor(s)/Subcontractor(s) with confidentiality.
4. The Principal will provide to the Monitor sufficient information about all meetings among the parties related to the Project provided such meetings could have an impact on the contractual relations between the Principal and the Contractor. The parties offer to the Monitor the option to participate in such meetings.
5. As soon as the Monitor notices, or believes to notice, a violation of this agreement, he will so inform the Management of the Principal and request the Management to discontinue or take corrective action, or to take other relevant action. The monitor can in this regard submit nonbinding recommendations. Beyond this, the Monitor has no right to demand from the parties that they act in a specific manner, refrain from action or tolerate action.
6. The Monitor will submit a written report to the Executive Director, NBEMS within 8 to 10 weeks from the date of reference or intimation to him by the Principal and, should the occasion arise, submit proposals for correcting problematic situations.
7. If the Monitor has reported to the Executive Director, NBEMS, a substantiated suspicion of an offence under relevant BNS/PC Act, and the Executive Director NBEMS has not, within the reasonable time taken visible action to proceed against such offence or reported it to the Chief Vigilance Officer, the Monitor may also transmit this information directly to the Central Vigilance Commissioner.
8. The word 'Monitor' would include both singular and plural. Monitor would be entitled to receive such compensation as may be decided time to time by the Executive Director/Competent Authority.

Section 9 – Pact Duration

This Pact begins when both parties have legally signed it. It expires for the Contractor 12 months after the last payment under the contract or contract period (extended if applicable) whichever is later and for all other Bidders 6 months after the contract has been awarded.

If any claim is made / lodged during this time, the same shall be binding and continue to be valid despite the lapse of this pact as specified above, unless it is discharged/determined by Executive Director of NBEMS.

Section 10 – Other provisions

1. This agreement is subject to Indian Law. Place of performance and jurisdiction is the Registered Office of the Principal, i.e. New Delhi.
2. That a person signing IP shall not approach the courts while representing the matters to IEMS and he/she will await their decision in the matter.
3. Changes and supplements as well as termination notices need to be made in writing. Side agreements have not been made.
4. If the Contractor is a partnership or a consortium, this agreement must be signed by all partners or consortium members.
5. Should one or several provisions of this agreement turn out to be invalid, the remainder of this agreement remains valid. In this case, the parties will strive to come to an agreement to their original intentions.
6. In the event of any contradiction between the Integrity Pact and its Annexure, the Clause in the Integrity Pact will prevail.”

(For & On behalf of the Principal)

(Office Seal)

Place.....

Date.....

Witness 1 :

(Name & Address)

(For & On behalf of Bidder/Contractor)

(Office Seal)

Witness 2 :

(Name & Address)

GUIDELINES FOR INDIAN AGENTS OF FOREIGN SUPPLIERS

There shall be compulsory registration of agents for all Global (Open) Tender and Limited Tender. An agent who is not registered with NBEMS shall apply for registration.

An agent shall represent only one Foreign Supplier and not represent two suppliers or quote on their behalf in the same tender.

However, either the Indian Agent on behalf of the Foreign Suppliers (also includes foreign manufacturers) or the Foreign Suppliers (also includes foreign manufacturers) directly could bid in a tender, but not both. In cases where an agent participates in a tender on behalf of one manufacturer, shall not quote on behalf of another manufacturer along with the first Manufacturer in a subsequent/parallel tender for the same item.

Registered agents will file an authenticated Photostat copy duly attested by a Notary Public/Original certificate of the principal confirming the agency agreement and giving the status being enjoyed by the agent and the commission/remuneration/salary/ retainer ship being paid by the principal to the agent before the placement of order by NBEMS.

Wherever the Indian representatives have communicated on behalf of their principals and the foreign parties have stated that they are not paying any commission to the Indian agents, and the Indian representative is working on the basis of salary or as retainer, a written declaration to this effect should be submitted by the party (i.e. Principal) before finalizing the order.

DISCLOSURE OF PARTICULARS OF AGENTS/ REPRESENTATIVES IN INDIA, IF ANY.

Tenderers of Foreign nationality shall furnish the following details in their offer:

The name and address of the agents/representatives in India, if any and the extent of authorization and authority given to commit the Principals. In case the agent/representative be a foreign Company, it shall be confirmed whether it is real substantial Company and details of the same shall be furnished.

The amount of commission/remuneration included in the quoted price(s) for such agents/representatives in India.

Confirmation of the Tenderer that the commission/ remuneration if any, payable to his agents/representatives in India, may be paid by NBEMS in Indian Rupees only.

Tenderers of Indian Nationality shall furnish the following details in their offers:

The name and address of the foreign principals indicating their nationality as well as their status, *i.e.*, whether manufacturer or agents of manufacturer holding the Letter of Authority of the Principal specifically authorizing the agent to make an offer in India in response to tender either directly or through the agents/representatives.

The amount of commission/remuneration included in the price (s) quoted by the Tenderer for himself.

Confirmation of the foreign principals of the Tenderer that the commission/remuneration, if any, reserved for the Tenderer in the quoted price (s), may be paid by NBEMS in India in equivalent Indian Rupees on satisfactory completion of the Project or supplies of Stores and Spares in case of operation items.

In either case, in the event of contract materializing, the terms of payment will provide for payment of the commission /remuneration, if any payable to the agents/representatives in India in Indian Rupees on expiry of 90 days after the discharge of the obligations under the contract.

Failure to furnish correct and detailed information as called for in paragraph-2.0 above will render the concerned tender liable to rejection or in the event of a contract materializing, the same liable to termination by NBEMS. Besides this there would be a penalty of banning business dealings with NBEMS or damage or payment of a named sum.

GUIDELINES ON BANNING OF BUSINESS DEALINGS

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1. Introduction

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. NBEMS as also to safeguard its commercial interests deals with Agencies, who have a very high degree of integrity, commitments and sincerity towards the work undertaken. It is not in the interest of NBEMS to deal with Agencies who commit deception, fraud or other misconduct in the execution of contracts awarded / orders issued to them. In order to ensure compliance with the constitutional mandate, it is incumbent on NBEMS to observe principles of natural justice before banning the business dealings with any Agency.

Since banning of business dealings involves civil consequences for an Agency concerned, it is incumbent that adequate opportunity of hearing is provided and the explanation, if tendered, is considered before passing any order in this regard keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case.

2. Scope

NBEMS reserves its rights to remove from list of approved suppliers / contractors or to ban business dealings if any Agency has been found to have committed misconduct and also to suspend business dealings pending investigation.

Similarly, in case of sale of material there is a clause to deal with the Agencies / customers / buyers, who indulge in lifting of material in unauthorized manner.

However, absence of such a clause does not in any way restrict the right of NBEMS to take action / decision under these guidelines in appropriate cases.

The procedure of (i) Removal of Agency from the List of approved suppliers / contractors; (ii) Suspension and (iii) Banning of Business Dealing with Agencies, has been laid down in these guidelines.

These guidelines apply to all the offices of NBEMS.

It is clarified that these guidelines do not deal with the decision of the Management not to entertain any particular Agency due to its poor / inadequate performance or for any other reason.

The banning shall be with prospective effect, i.e., future business dealings.

3. Definitions

In these Guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:

- i) 'Bidder / Contractor / Supplier / Purchaser / Customer' shall mean and include a public limited company or a private limited company, a firm whether registered or not, an individual, a cooperative society or an association or a group of persons engaged in any commerce, trade, industry, etc. 'Bidder / Contractor / Supplier / Purchaser / Customer' in the context of these guidelines is indicated as 'Agency'.
- ii) 'Inter-connected Agency' shall mean two or more companies having any of the following features:
 - a) If one is a subsidiary of the other.
 - b) If the Director(s), Partner(s), Manager(s) or Representative(s) are common;
 - c) If management is common;
 - d) If one owns or controls the other in any manner;
- iii) 'Competent Authority' and 'Appellate Authority' shall mean the following:
 - a) Executive Director, NBEMS shall be the 'Competent Authority' for the purpose of these guidelines. President, NBEMS shall be the 'Appellate Authority'.
 - b) President, NBEMS shall have overall power to take suo-moto action on any information available or received by him and pass such order(s) as he may think appropriate, including modifying the order(s) passed by any authority under these guidelines.
- iv) 'Investigating Department' shall mean any Department or Unit investigating into the conduct of the Agency and shall include the Vigilance Department, Central Bureau of Investigation, the State Police or any other department set up by the Central or State Government having powers to investigate.
- v) 'List of approved Agencies – 'Bidder / Contractors / Suppliers / Purchasers / Customers shall mean and include list of approved / registered Agencies - 'Bidder / Contractors / Suppliers / Purchasers / Customers, etc.

4. Initiation of Banning / Suspension

Action for banning / suspension business dealings with any Agency should be initiated by the department having business dealings with them after noticing the irregularities or misconduct on their part. Besides the concerned department, Vigilance Department may also be competent to initiate such action.

5. Suspension of Business Dealings

If the conduct of any Agency dealing with NBEMS is under investigation by any department, the Competent Authority may consider whether the allegations under investigation are of a serious nature and whether pending investigation, it would be advisable to continue business dealing with the Agency. If the Competent Authority, after consideration of the matter including the recommendation of the Investigating Department, if any, decides that it would not be in the interest to continue business dealings pending investigation, it may suspend business dealings with the Agency. The order to this effect may indicate a brief of the charges under investigation. If it is decided that inter-connected Agencies would also come within the ambit of the order of suspension, the same should be specifically stated in the order. The order of suspension would operate for a period not more than six months and may be communicated to the Agency as also to the Investigating Department. The Investigating Department may ensure that their investigation is completed and whole process of final order is over within such period.

The order of suspension shall be communicated to all Departmental Heads. During the period of suspension, no business dealing may be held with the Agency.

As far as possible, the existing contract(s) with the Agency may continue unless the Competent Authority, having regard to the circumstances of the case, decides otherwise.

If the gravity of the misconduct under investigation is very serious and it would not be in the interest of NBEMS, as a whole, to deal with such an Agency pending investigation, the Competent Authority may order suspension of business dealing with Agency and send his recommendation to Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), NBEMS alongwith the material available, copy of which may be issued to the Agency concerned with intimation to CVO, NBEMS. Such an order would operate for a period of six months from the date of issue.

If the Agency concerned asks for detailed reasons of suspension, the Agency may be informed that its conduct is under investigation. It is not necessary to enter into correspondence or argument with the Agency at this stage.

It is not necessary to give any show-cause notice or personal hearing to the Agency before issuing the order of suspension. However, if investigations are not complete in six months time, the Competent Authority may extend the period of suspension by another three months, during which period the investigations must be completed.

6. Ground on which Banning of Business Dealings can be initiated

If the security consideration, including questions of loyalty of the Agency to the State, so warrants;

If the Director / Owner of the Agency, proprietor or partner of the firm, is convicted by a Court of Law for offences involving moral turpitude in relation to its business dealings with the Government or any other public sector enterprises or NBEMS, during the last five years;

If there is strong justification for believing that the Directors, Proprietors, Partners, owner of the Agency have been guilty of malpractices such as bribery, corruption, fraud, substitution of tenders, interpolations, etc;

If the Agency continuously refuses to return / refund the dues of NBEMS without showing adequate reason and this is not due to any reasonable dispute which would attract proceedings in arbitration or Court of Law;

If the Agency employs a public servant dismissed / removed or employs a person convicted for an offence involving corruption or abetment of such offence;

If business dealings with the Agency have been banned/blacklisted by Government Agencies/ Statutory bodies, DGQA, Defence Shipyards, DPSUs or with whom commercial transactions have been suspended for sufficient and justifiable reasons.

If the Agency having same promoters/Directors /Partners as the barred/blacklisted Company as at 6.6 above for the duration for which the barring/ blacklisting of sister concern persists.

If the Agency has resorted to Corrupt, fraudulent practices including misrepresentation of facts;

If the agency who had fraudulently dealt with the Company for pecuniary gains or had connived with dealing officers for mutual benefit.

If the Agency uses intimidation / threatening or brings undue outside pressure on the NBEMS or its official in acceptance / performances of the job under the contract;

If the Agency indulges in repeated and / or deliberate use of delay tactics in complying with contractual stipulations;

Willful indulgence by the Agency in supplying sub-standard material irrespective of whether pre-despatch inspection was carried out by NBEMS or not;

Based on the findings of the investigation report of CBI / Police against the Agency for malafide / unlawful acts or improper conduct on his part in matters relating to the NBEMS or even otherwise;

Established litigant nature of the Agency to derive undue benefit;

Continued poor performance of the Agency in several contracts;

If the Agency misuses the premises or facilities of the NBEMS, forcefully occupies, tampers or damages the Company's properties including land, water resources, forests / trees, etc.

If the Agency who knowingly collude to defeat competition with the aim of deriving undeserved profit or gain from doing business with NBEMS.

(Note: The examples given above are only illustrative and not exhaustive. The Competent Authority may decide to ban business dealing for any good and sufficient reason).

7. Banning of Business Dealings

Decision to ban business dealings with any Agency would apply throughout the Company.

There will be a Standing Committee to be appointed by the President, NBEMS which may include HOD of respective Sections, rep of Legal Deptt. and CVO for processing the cases of "Banning of Business Dealings". The functions of the committee shall, inter-alia include:

- i) To study the report of the Investigating Agency and decide if a prima-facie case for banning exists, if not, send back the case to the Competent Authority.
- ii) To recommend for issue of show-cause notice to the Agency by the concerned department.
- iii) To examine the reply to show-cause notice and call the Agency for personal hearing, if required.
- iv) To submit final recommendation to the Competent Authority for banning or otherwise.

If the Competent Authority is prima-facie of view that action for banning business dealings with the Agency is called for, a show-cause notice may be issued to the Agency as per paragraph 9.1 and an enquiry held accordingly.

8 Removal from List of Approved Agencies - Suppliers / Contractors, etc.

If the Competent Authority decides that the charge against the Agency is of a minor nature, it may issue a show-cause notice as to why the name of the Agency should not be removed from the list of approved Agencies - Suppliers / Contractors, etc.

The effect of such an order would be that the Agency would not be disqualified from competing in Open Tender Enquiries but LTE may not be given to the Agency concerned.

Past performance of the Agency may be taken into account while processing for approval of the Competent Authority for awarding the contract.

9. Show-cause Notice

In case where the Competent Authority decides that action against an Agency is called for, a show-cause notice has to be issued to the Agency. Statement containing the imputation of misconduct or misbehaviour may be appended to the show-cause notice and the Agency should be asked to submit within 15 days a written statement in its defence.

If the Agency requests for inspection of any relevant document in possession of NBEMS, necessary facility for inspection of documents may be provided.

The Competent Authority may consider and pass an appropriate speaking order:

- a) For exonerating the Agency if the charges are not established;
- b) For removing the Agency from the list of approved Suppliers / Contactors, etc.
- c) For banning the business dealing with the Agency.

If it decides to ban business dealings, the period for which the ban would be operative may be mentioned. The order may also mention that the ban would extend to the interconnected Agencies of the Agency.

10. Appeal against the Decision of the Competent Authority

The Agency may file an appeal against the order of the Competent Authority banning business dealing, etc. The appeal shall lie to Appellate Authority. Such an appeal shall be preferred within one month from the date of receipt of the order banning business dealing, etc.

Appellate Authority would consider the appeal and pass appropriate order which shall be communicated to the Agency as well as the Competent Authority.

11. Review of the Decision by the Competent Authority

Any petition / application filed by the Agency concerning the review of the banning order passed originally by Competent Authority under the existing guidelines either before or after filing of appeal before the Appellate Authority or after disposal of appeal by the Appellate Authority, the review petition can be decided by the Appellate Authority upon disclosure of new facts / circumstances or subsequent development necessitating such review. The Competent Authority may refer the same petition to the separate Standing Committee which may be constituted by Appellate Authority for examination and recommendation.

12. Circulation of the names of Agencies with whom Business Dealings have been banned

Depending upon the gravity of misconduct established, the Competent Authority may direct HOD, Procurement Section to circulate the names of Agency with whom business dealings have been banned, to the Government Departments, other Public Sector Enterprises, etc. for such action as they deem appropriate.

If Government Departments or a Public Sector Enterprise request for more information about the Agency with whom business dealings have been banned, a copy of the report of Inquiring Authority together with a copy of the order of the Competent Authority / Appellate Authority may be supplied.

If business dealings with any Agency have been banned by the Central or State Government or any other Public Sector Enterprise, NBEMS may, without any further enquiry or investigation, issue an order banning business dealing with the Agency and its inter-connected Agencies.