

Policy Guidelines on Fair Practices Code

Preamble

Asomi Finance Private Limited (AFPL) has adopted the policy guidelines on 'Fair Practices Code' (FPC) by keeping in view of circulars issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time on Fair Practices Code for Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs). AFPL has already put into the place by setting standards for fair business and corporate practices while dealing with their customers through the Circular DNBR (PD) CC.No.054/03.10.119/2015-16 dated 01st July, 2015. RBI has reviewed the guidelines in view of rapid growth in NBFCs Viz ; NBFC- MFI and also the rapid growth of NBFCs' lending against gold jewelers. The Company has been adopting all the best practices prescribed by RBI from time to time and has been making appropriate modifications if any necessary to this Code to conform with the standards so prescribed.

It is, and shall be, the policy of Asomi Finance Private Limited (AFPL) to make available to all eligible qualified applicants, without discrimination on the basis of race, caste, colour, religion, sex, marital status, age or handicap all financial products, either directly or through subsidiaries and / or associates.

AFPL's policy is to treat all the clients consistently and fairly. The employees of AFPL will offer assistance, encouragement and service in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. The Company has uploaded its Fair Practices Code (FPC) to its customers on its website.

AFPL shall ensure that the implementation of the FPC is the responsibility of the entire organisation. The Company's fair lending practices shall apply across all aspects of its operations including marketing, loan origination, processing, and servicing and collection activities. Its commitment to FPC will be demonstrated in terms of employee accountability, training, counseling, and monitoring, auditing programs and internal controls, and optimal use of technology.

AFPL's Board of Directors and the management team are responsible for implementing the fair practices hereinafter detailed, and also to ensure that its operations reflect its strong commitment to all the stakeholders for offering in a fair and equitable manner, the various financial services and products including lending and that all employees are aware of this commitment.

The Fair Practices Code applies to the following categories of products and services offered by AFPL (currently offered or which will be introduced at a future date)

1. Loans, guarantees and other products in the nature of financial assets.
2. Products offered through a network consisting of the branches of the Company, its subsidiaries and associates.

The FPC is applicable to the above irrespective of whether the same is provided physically, over the phone, on the internet or by any other method whatsoever, existing or futuristic.

1. Key Commitments

The key commitments which AFPL promises to follow in its dealings with its customers are:

- a) To act fairly and reasonably in all dealings with its customers by ensuring that:
 - Its products, services, procedures and practices will meet the commitments and standards in this FPC.
 - Its products and services will meet relevant laws and regulations in letter and spirit as applicable
 - Its dealings with its customers on ethical principles of honesty, integrity and transparency.
- b) AFPL will assist customers in understanding how its financial products and services work by:
 - Providing information about them in simple Hindi and/or English and/or the local language.
 - Explaining their financial implications and
 - Helping the customer choose the one that meets his / her needs.
- c) AFPL will make every attempt to ensure that its customers have a trouble-free experience in dealing with it; but in the case of errors or commissions and omissions, the Company will deal with the same quickly and sympathetically.

- Mistakes will be corrected quickly.
- Complaints will be handled quickly.
- In case a customer is not satisfied with the way a complaint is handled, the Company will guide the customer on how to take the complaint forward.
- AFPL will reverse any charges including interest applied to a customer's account due to an error or oversight on its part.

2. Sales Origination

AFPL will guide its customers in choosing products and services which meets his / her requirements.

- a) Before the customer relationship is established, the Company will:
 - Give the customer information explaining the key features of the services and products the customer has shown interest in.
 - Give information on accounts, products and services which will suit the customer's needs. Clearly state the information that the Company requires to collect from the customer to fulfill its 'Know Your Customer' norms and to comply with legal and regulatory requirements in force from time to time.
 - Request for additional information about the customer and his / her family to build a database; but this information will be furnished by the customer only if she / he wish to do so.
- b) AFPL will provide information on the various channels that can be used to access its products and services. The customer will also be informed on wherever additional information is available.
- c) Once a customer has chosen a product, AFPL will tell the customer how it works.
- d) AFPL will guide its customer on rights and responsibilities specific to the mode of operation under which the product is taken.

3. Loans and Advances

Before offering any kind of fund based or non fund based non-banking facility AFPL will assess the ability of the customer (prospective borrower) to repay.

4. Application for loans and their processing:

- A. All communications to the borrower shall be in the vernacular language or a language as understood by the borrower.
- B. Loan application forms of the Company will include necessary information which are likely to affect the interests of the prospective borrower, so that a meaningful comparison with the terms and conditions offered by other Non Banking Finance Companies can be made and an informed decision taken by the prospective borrower.
- C. The loan application form shall indicate the documents required to be submitted along with the application form.
- D. The Company shall provide to the prospective borrower an acknowledgement for receipt of all loan applications. An indicative time frame within which loan applications will be disposed of will be mentioned in such acknowledgement.

5. Loan Appraisal & terms/ conditions

A. AFPL shall convey in writing to the borrower in the vernacular language as understood by the borrower by means of sanction letter or otherwise, the amount of loan sanctioned along with the terms and conditions including annualised rate of interest and method of application thereof and keep the acceptance of these terms and conditions by the borrower on its record. As complaints received against NBFCs generally pertain to charging of high interest / penal interest, AFPL shall mention the penal interest charged for late repayment in bold in the loan agreement.

B. AFPL ensures that the borrowers are fully made aware of the terms and conditions of the loans including the rate of interest at the time of sanction of loans. The acceptance of the terms and conditions communicated by the borrower shall be preserved by AFPL in its records.

C. AFPL shall furnish a copy of the loan agreement preferably in the vernacular language as understood by the borrower along with a copy each of all enclosures quoted in the loan agreement to all the borrowers at the time of sanction / disbursement of loans.

6. Disbursement of loans including changes in terms & conditions

a. AFPL shall give notice to the borrower in the vernacular language as understood by the borrower of any change in the terms and conditions including disbursement schedule, interest rates, service charges, prepayment charges etc. AFPL shall ensure that changes in interest rates and other charges are effected only prospectively. The loan agreement shall contain a specific clause to this effect.

b. The decision of AFPL to recall / accelerate payment or performance shall be in consonance with the terms of the loan agreement.

c. AFPL shall release all securities upon repayment of all dues or on realisation of the outstanding amount of loan subject to any Legitimate right or Lien for any other claim it will have against borrower. In case such right of set off is to be exercised, the borrower shall be given due notice with full particulars about the outstanding claims and the conditions under which AFPL is entitled to retain the securities till the relevant claim is settled/paid.

7. General

a. AFPL shall refrain from interfering in the affairs of the borrower except for the purposes provided in the terms and conditions of the loan agreement, unless new information, not earlier disclosed deliberately or otherwise by the borrower, has come to its notice.

b. In case of receipt of request from the borrower for transfer of a borrower account to other NBFC, bank or financial institution, the consent or otherwise of AFPL shall be conveyed within 21 days from the date of receipt of such request. Such transfer shall be in accordance with the contractual terms entered into with the borrower and in consonance with the statutes, rules, regulations and guidelines as will be applicable from time to time.

c. In the matter of recovery of loans, the Company shall resort only to remedies which are legally and legitimately available to it and will avoid using recovery measures during odd hours of the day, undue harassment, use of muscle power for recovery of loans. As complaints from customers also include rude behavior from the staff of the companies. AFPL shall ensure that the staff are adequately trained to deal with the customers in an appropriate manner.

d. There shall be no discrimination in extending products and facilities including loan facilities to the physically / visually challenged applicants on grounds of disability (Ref: RBI Circular No. DNBS.CC.PD.No. 191/3.1.1/210-11 dated July 27, 12).

8. Terms and Conditions

a. When a customer accepts a product or service for the first time, AFPL will provide the customer with the Rules and Regulations that are relevant to the product / service.

b. All Terms and Conditions will be fair and will set the customers rights and responsibilities clearly and in plain language, AFPL will use legal or technical language only where necessary.

c. AFPL will make available any charges applicable to products and services applicable

d. If AFPL increases any charges or introduces a new charge, it will notify the same to the customers.

e. AFPL will provide the terms and conditions in respect of any product or service whenever a customer requests for the same.

9. Marketing and Product Synergy

a. AFPL will ensure that all advertising and promotional material is clear, fair reasonable and not misleading.

b. AFPL will provide the customers with a full range of financial products the customer is eligible for. Some of these products / services will be its own; some others will be the products of the third party or group or associate companies and also companies with which the Company will have arrangements with.

c. It will be the endeavor of AFPL to bring synergy between the various financial services, financial products, by cross selling these products to its clientele.

10. Confidentiality

a. Unless authorized by the customer, AFPL will treat all personal information as private and confidential.

b. AFPL will not reveal transaction details to any other entity including within the group other than the following exceptional cases.

- If AFPL has to provide the information by statutory or regulatory laws,
- If there is a duty to the public to reveal this information.

. If its interest requires us to provide this information (e.g. fraud prevention).

AFPL will not use this reason for giving information about customers to anyone else (including group companies) for marketing purposes.

- If customer has given consent / concurrence to provide/ share such information to its group / associate / entities or companies for providing other products or services.

- Where the customer asks us to reveal such information to its group / associate / entities or companies for providing other services or products

11. Grievance Redressal Mechanism

AFPL has laid down the appropriate grievance redressal mechanism within the organization to resolve disputes arising in this regard. Such a mechanism shall ensure that all disputes arising out of the decisions of the Company's functionaries are heard and disposed of at least at the next higher level. The Board of Directors shall also provide for periodical review of the compliance of the Fair Practices Code and the functioning of the grievances redressal mechanism at various levels of management. A consolidated report of such reviews shall be submitted to the Board at regular intervals, as may be prescribed by it. To start with Company may provide the same on quarterly basis.

a. The Company will guide customers who wish to lodge a complaint and also provide guidance on what to do in case the customer is unhappy with the outcome.

b. After examining the matter, the Company will send a response as soon as possible; the Company will also guide a customer on how to take the complaint further if the customer is not satisfied.

c. A nodal officer shall be appointed for the redressal of grievances of the customers including the borrowers, in connection with any matter pertaining to business practices, lending

decisions, credit management and recovery. The name and contact details of the nodal officer shall be displayed in the Office.

d. The CEO of the Company shall approve and constitute internally a Customer Grievance Redressal Committee, with senior management officials, to review with the Nodal Officer and oversee the Grievance Redressal Mechanism and address the issues arising out of complaints.

As per RBI Circular No. RBI/212-13/416 DNBS .CC.PD.No.320/3.1.1/212-13, the Company shall display the following information prominently, for the benefit of the customers, at their branches / places where business is transacted:

- the name and contact details (Telephone / Mobile nos. as also email address) of the Grievance Redressal Officer who can be approached by the public for resolution of complaints against the Company. The same will be communicated to the customers at the time of availing of services of the company.
- If the complaint / dispute is not redressed within a period of one month, the customer may appeal to the Officer-in-Charge of the Regional Office of DNBS of RBI (complete contact details), under whose jurisdiction the registered office of the Company falls i.e. Mumbai Regional Office.

In short, the public notice shall serve the purpose of highlighting to the customers, the Grievance Redressal mechanism followed by AFPL, together with details of the Grievance Redressal Officer and of the Regional Office of the RBI.

A complaint/Grievance Redressal Box is kept in all branches of the company as well as A register. The customer can put a complain and get it registered in the Branch itself or send a mail at the designated email mail@asomi.org.

12. Regulation of Excessive Interest Rate

a) AFPL shall adopt an interest rate model taking into account relevant factors such as, cost of funds, margin and risk premium, etc and determine the rate of interest to be charged for loans and advances. The rate of interest and the approach for gradations of risk and rationale for charging different rate of interest to different categories of borrowers shall be disclosed to the borrower or customer in the application form and communicated explicitly in the sanction letter.

b) The rates of interest and the approach for gradation of risks shall also be made available on the web-site of the companies or published in the relevant newspapers. The information published in the website or otherwise published should be updated whenever there is a change in the rates of interest.

c) The rate of interest should be annualised rates so that the borrower is aware of the exact rates that would be charged to the account.

13. Complaints about excessive interest charged by NBFCs

Appropriate internal principles and procedures for determining rate of interest and other charges is being laid down and be subjected to review keeping in view the business exigencies, regulatory and customer sentiments, market practices etc. AFPL shall abide by all guidelines, directives, instructions and advices of Reserve Bank of India as will be in force from time to time. The contents in this document shall be read in conjunction with these guidelines, directives, instructions and advice. AFPL will apply better practice so long as such practice does not conflict with or violate Reserve Bank of India regulations.

14. Repossession of vehicles

AFPL shall have a built in re-possession clause in the contract/loan agreement with the borrower which shall be legally enforceable. To ensure transparency, the terms and conditions of the contract/loan agreement shall also contain provisions regarding:

- a) notice period before taking possession;
- b) circumstances under which the notice period can be waived;
- c) the procedure taking possession of the security;
- d) a provision regarding final chance to be given to the borrower for repayment of loan before the sale / auction of the property;
- e) the procedure for giving repossession to the borrower and
- f) the procedure for sale / auction of the property.

A copy of such terms and conditions shall be made available to the borrower in terms of circular that requires an NBFC to furnish a copy of the loan agreement along with a copy each of all enclosures quoted in the loan agreement to all the borrowers at the time of sanction / disbursement of loans, which may form a key component of such contracts/loan agreements.