

**PROCEDURE FOR ACTION IN CASE
CORRUPT/FRAUDULENT/COLLUSIVE/COERCIVE PRACTICES**

A Definitions:

- A.1 “Corrupt Practice” means the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, anything of value to improperly influence the actions in selection process or in contract execution.
“Corrupt Practice” also includes any omission for misrepresentation that may mislead or attempt to mislead so that financial or other benefit may be obtained or an obligation avoided.
- A.2 “Fraudulent Practice” means and include any act or omission committed by a agency or with his connivance or by his agent by misrepresenting/ submitting false documents and/ or false information or concealment of facts or to deceive in order to influence a selection process or during execution of contract/ order.
- A.3 “Collusive Practice amongst bidders (prior to or after bid submission)” means a scheme or arrangement designed to establish bid prices at artificial non-competitive levels and to deprive the Employer of the benefits of free and open competition.
- A.4 “Coercive practice” means impairing or harming or threatening to impair or harm directly or indirectly, any agency or its property to influence the improperly actions of an agency, obstruction of any investigation or auditing of a procurement process.
- A.5 “Vendor/Supplier/Contractor/Consultant/Bidder” is herein after referred as “Agency”
- A.6 ”Appellate Authority” shall mean Committee of Directors consisting of Director (Finance) and Director (BD) for works centers under Director (Projects). For all other cases committee of Directors shall consist of Director (Finance) & Director (Projects).
- A.7 “Competent Authority” shall mean the authority, who is competent to take final decision for Suspension of business dealing with an Agency/ (ies) and Banning of business dealings with Agency/ (ies) and shall be the “Director” concerned.
- A.8 “Allied Agency” shall mean all concerns which come within the sphere of effective influence of the banned/suspended agency shall be treated as allied agency. In determining this, the following factors may be taken into consideration:
- a) Whether the management is common;
 - b) Majority interest in the management is held by the partners or directors of banned/ suspended agency;
 - c) Substantial or majority shares are owned by the banned/ suspended agency and by virtue of this it has a controlling voice.
 - d) Directly or indirectly controls, or is controlled by or is under common control with another bidder.
 - e) All successor agency will also be considered as allied agency.
- A.9 “Investigating Agency” shall mean any department or unit of GAIL investigating into the conduct of Agency/ party and shall include the Vigilance Department of the GAIL,

Central Bureau of Investigation, State Police or any other agency set up by the Central or state government having power to investigate.

- A.10 "Obstructive practice": materially impede the procuring entity's investigation into allegations of one or more of the above mentioned practices either by deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering; or by concealing of evidence material to the investigation; or by making false statements to investigators and/ or by threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation; or by impeding GAIL's rights of audit or access to information.

B Actions against bidder(s) indulging in corrupt /fraudulent/ collusive/ coercive practice

B.1 Irregularities noticed during the evaluation of the bids :

If it is observed during bidding process/ bids evaluation stage that a bidder has indulged in corrupt/fraudulent /collusive/coercive practice, the bid of such Bidder (s) shall be rejected and its Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be forfeited.

Further, such agency shall be banned for future business with GAIL for a period specified in para B 2.2 below from the date of issue of banning order.

B.2 Irregularities noticed after award of contract

(i). During execution of contract:

If an agency, is found to have indulged in corrupt/fraudulent/ collusive/coercive practices, action shall be initiated for putting the agency on banning list.

After conclusion of process and issuance of Speaking order for putting party on banning list, the order (s)/ contract (s) where it is concluded that such irregularities have been committed shall be terminated and Contract cum Performance Bank Guarantee (CPBG) submitted by agency against such order (s)/ contract (s) shall also be forfeited. Further such order/ contract will be closed following the due procedure in this regard.

The amount that may have become due to the contractor on account of work already executed by him shall be payable to the contractor and this amount shall be subject to adjustment against any amounts due from the contractor under the terms of the contract. No risk and cost provision will be enforced in such cases.

Suspension of order/ contract:

Further, only in the following situations, the concerned order (s)/ contract(s) (where Corrupt/Fraudulent/ Collusive/ Coercive Practices are observed) and payment shall be suspended after issuance of Suspension cum Show Cause Notice:



- (i) Head of Corporate Vigilance Department/CVO based on the investigation by them, recommend for specific immediate action against the agency.
- (ii) Head of Corporate Vigilance Department/CVO based on the input from investigating agency, forward for specific immediate action against the agency.

Suspension cum Show Cause Notice being issued in above cases after approval of the competent authority (as per provisions mentioned under Clause no. D) shall also include the provision for suspension of Order (s)/ Contract (s) and payment. Accordingly, after issuance of Suspension cum Show Cause Notice, the formal communication for suspension of Order (s)/ Contract (s) and payment with immediate effect will be issued by the concerned person of GAIL.

During suspension, Contractor/ Service Providers will be allowed to visit the plant/ site for upkeep of their items/ equipment, GAIL's issued materials (in case custody of same is not taken over), demobilizing the site on confirmation of EIC, etc.

In addition to above, Recovery of payments (other than due payments) including balance advance payments, if any, made by along with interest thereon at the prevailing rate shall be recovered.

(ii). After execution of contract and during Defect liability period (DLP)/ Warranty/Guarantee Period:

If an agency is found to have indulged in corrupt/fraudulent/ collusive/coercive practices, after execution of contract and during DLP/ Warranty/Guarantee Period, the agency shall be banned for future business with GAIL for a period specified in para B 2.2 below from the date of issue of banning order.

Further, the Contract cum Performance Bank Guarantee (CPBG)/Contract Performance Security (CPS) submitted by agency against such order (s)/ contract (s) shall be forfeited.

(iii). After expiry of Defect liability period (DLP)/ Warranty/Guarantee Period

If an agency is found to have indulged in corrupt/fraudulent/ collusive/coercive practices, after expiry of Defect liability period (DLP)/ Warranty/Guarantee Period, the agency shall be banned for future business with GAIL for a period specified in para B 2.2 below from the date of issue of banning order.

B.2.2 Period of Banning

The period of banning of agencies indulged in Corrupt/ Fraudulent/ Collusive/Coercive Practices shall be as under and to be reckoned from the date of banning order:

S. No.	Description	Period of banning from the date of

		issuance of Banning order
1	Misrepresentation/False information other than pertaining to BEC of tender but having impact on the selection process. For example, if an agency confirms not being in holiday in GAIL/PSU's PMC or banned by PSUs/ Govt. Dept., liquidation, bankruptcy & etc. and subsequently it is found otherwise, such acts shall be considered in this category.	06 Months
2	Corrupt/Fraudulent (except mentioned at sl. no. 1 above) /Collusive/Coercive Practices	01 year
2.1	If an agency again commits Corrupt/Fraudulent (except mentioned at sl. no. 1 above) /Collusive/ Coercive Practices in subsequent cases after their banning, such situation of repeated offense to be dealt with more severity.	2 years (in addition to the period already served)
3	Indulged in unauthorized disposal of materials provided by GAIL	2 years
4	If act of vendor/ contractor is a threat to the National Security	2 years

C Effect of banning on other ongoing contracts/ tenders

- C.1 If an agency is put on Banning, such agency should not be considered in ongoing tenders/future tenders.
- C.2 However, if such an agency is already executing other order (s)/ contract (s) where no corrupt/fraudulent/ collusive/coercive practice is found, the agency should be allowed to continue till its completion without any further increase in scope except those incidental to original scope mentioned in the contract.
- C.3 If an agency is put on the Banning List during tendering and no irregularity is found in the case under process:
- C.3.1 After issue of the enquiry /bid/tender but before opening of Technical bid, the bid submitted by the agency shall be ignored.
- C.3.2 After opening Technical bid but before opening the Price bid, the Price bid of the agency shall not be opened and BG/EMD submitted by the agency shall be returned to the agency.
- C.3.3 After opening of price, BG/EMD made by the agency shall be returned; the offer of the agency shall be ignored & will not be further evaluated. In case such agency is lowest (L-1), next lowest bidder shall be considered as L-1.

D. Procedure for Suspension of Bidder

D.1 Initiation of Suspension

Action for suspension business dealing with any agency/(ies) shall be initiated by Corporate C&P Department when

- (i) Corporate Vigilance Department based on the fact of the case gathered during investigation by them recommend for specific immediate action against the agency.
- (ii) Corporate Vigilance Department based on the input from investigating agency, forward for specific immediate action against the agency.
- (iii) Nonperformance of Vendor/Supplier/Contractor/Consultant leading to termination of Contract/ Order.

D.2 Suspension Procedure:

- D.2.1 The order of suspension would operate initially for a period not more than six months and is to be communicated to the agency and also to Corporate Vigilance Department. Period of suspension can be extended with the approval of the Competent Authority by one month at a time with a ceiling of six months pending a conclusive decision to put the agency on banning list.
- D.2.2 During the period of suspension, no new business dealing may be held with the agency.
- D.2.3 Period of suspension shall be accounted for in the final order passed for banning of business with the agency.
- D.2.4 The decision regarding suspension of business dealings should also be communicated to the agency.
- D.2.5 If a prima-facie, case is made out that the agency is guilty on the grounds which can result in banning of business dealings, proposal for issuance of suspension order and show cause notice shall be put up to the Competent Authority. The suspension order and show cause notice must include that (i) the agency is put on suspension list and (ii) why action should not be taken for banning the agency for future business from GAIL.

The competent authority to approve the suspension will be same as that for according approval for banning.

D 3 Effect of Suspension of business:

Effect of suspension on other on-going/future tenders will be as under:

- D.3.1 No enquiry/bid/tender shall be entertained from an agency as long as the name of agency appears in the Suspension List.
- D.3.2 If an agency is put on the Suspension List during tendering:
- D.3.2.1 After issue of the enquiry /bid/tender but before opening of Technical bid, the bid submitted by the agency shall be ignored.
- D.3.2.2 After opening Technical bid but before opening the Price bid, the Price bid of the agency shall not be opened and BG/EMD submitted by the agency shall be returned to the agency.

- D.3.2.3 After opening of price, BG/EMD made by the agency shall be returned; the offer of the agency shall be ignored & will not be further evaluated. In case such agency is lowest (L-1), next lowest bidder shall be considered as L-1.
- D.3.3 The existing contract (s)/ order (s) under execution shall continue.
- D.3.4 Tenders invited for procurement of goods, works and services shall have provision that the bidder shall submit a undertaking to the effect that (i) neither the bidder themselves nor their allied agency/(ies) are on banning list of GAIL or the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and (ii) bidder is not banned by any Government department/ Public Sector.

F. Appeal against the Decision of the Competent Authority:

- F.1 The agency may file an appeal against the order of the Competent Authority for putting the agency on banning list. The appeal shall be filed to Appellate Authority. Such an appeal shall be preferred within one month from the of receipt of banning order.
 - F.2 Appellate Authority would consider the appeal and pass appropriate order which shall be communicated to the party as well as the Competent Authority.
 - F.3 Appeal process may be completed within 45 days of filing of appeal with the Appellate Authority.
- G. Wherever there is contradiction with respect to terms of 'Integrity pact' , GCC and 'Procedure for action in case of Corrupt/Fraudulent/ Collusive/Coercive Practice', the provisions of 'Procedure for action in case of Corrupt/Fraudulent/ Collusive/Coercive Practice' shall prevail.