

Note

SEBI to go XBRL mode for the purpose of reporting by listed companies and financial institutions

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Note

eXtensive Business Reporting Language or better known as XBRL is a language by means of which business and financial data are feed and analysed. Its motive is to provide the user with the data from various sources globally at a single place and therefore is the common source.

Reserve Bank of India ("RBI"), introduced XBRL through which all schedule banks were required to report through the platform.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") further introduced the taxonomy for making it mandatory for certain class of companies to report their financial statements in XBRL mode.

Following the league, Securities Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") has notified vide notification dated June 19th, 2012¹ that it is developing an XBRL filing and dissemination platform named as SEBI Unified Platform for Electronic Reporting and Dissemination SUPER-D for listed companies, mutual funds and SEBI registered intermediaries for filing of returns/reports with SEBI or with the relevant stock exchanges.

For the execution of the same it also has formed a XBRL Technical Advisory Committee (X-TAC) to study in details the technical requirements, selection of vendors, development and successful implementation of the platform and also to provide technical advice on the other issues pertaining to the platform.

Analytically speaking:

It's a great step taking by the governing bodies to reduce the burden of paper work and shall reduce the cost and time taken by any organisation in complying with the statutory requirements from time to time. Unlike MCA it is yet to prescribe whether the applicability will be only to certain class of listed companies or all listed companies. Further, the notification is also silent on the date of applicability and the effective date for filing the returns in XBRL. Ofcourse this is just the initial step taken. We expect the entire guidelines soon to be released by SEBI.

Positive side of the change from the organisation point of view is that still there is a system of off the net filing modes, i.e. physical filings. Now anyone from anywhere

¹ http://www.sebi.gov.in/cms/sebi_data/attachdocs/1340110613781.html

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will be able to submit, view their confidential documents. Also one need not stand in long queues to submit the documents.

Whereas from the point of view of the governing and regulatory bodies it shall now be easier for them to scrutinize the documents of any entity from any source.

Seemingly, the governing bodies shall slowly adjoin all the various platforms to entrap all the documents of an entity and cross verify the same. Hence, the user needs to be very careful about the content and submission of data to various authorities to ensure uniformity amongst the same as the same would be now available to all the regulatory authorities for all sort of cross reference by them.