October 1, 2023: Implementation of Compliance Function by NBFC-ML

RBI vide its <u>circular</u> dated *April 11, 2022* introduced certain principles, standards & procedures for *Compliance Function* including appointment of *Chief Compliance Officer (CCO)*, to enhance Corporate Governance standards.

Risk of legal or regulatory sanctions, material financial loss or loss of reputation, as a result of an NBFC's failure to comply with laws, regs, rules & codes of conduct.

What is Compliance Risk?

Strict observance of -

- ☐ all statutory & regulatory requirements,
- standards of market conduct,managing conflict of interest,

Scope of Compliance Function

- ☐ treating customers fairly,
- ensuring the suitability of customer service.

Responsibilities of Compliance Function

- 1. Assist the Board to implement the compliance policy,
- 2. Identify the compliance risk,
- 3. Monitor & test compliance by performing compliance testing,
- 4. Ensure compliance of regulatory/ supervisory directions given by RBI in both letter and spirit,
- 5. Compliance with other regulators too,
- 6. Constitution of a Compliance Department.

☐ Formulation of a board-approved Compliance Policy,

Broad Contours- Compliance Framework

- ☐ Compliance Department shall be headed by the CCO,
- ☐ Formulation of a Compliance Programme to identify & assess major compliance risks,
- CCO & Compliance Function to have the authority in respect of Compliance related issues,
- No dual hatting i.e., the CCO shall not be given any responsibility which brings conflict of interest,
- ☐ Compliance dept. staff shall have adequate knowledge and experience,
- ☐ Compliance Function shall be subject to regular internal audit,
- Examination of compliance rigor shall be a part of RBI's supervisory risk assessment process.

✓ Tenure- Not less than 3 years,

Appointment & Tenure of CCO

- Removal-shall be transferred / removed before completion of the tenure only in exceptional circumstances,
- ✓ Rank- Senior Executive not below 3 levels from CEO
- Skills- Knowledge about Risk Management,
- ✓ Stature- Independent,
- ✓ Conduct- Clean track record,
- Selection process- On basis of well defined selection process,
- Reporting requirements Prior intimation to the RBI and "Fit & Proper" certification,
- ✓ Reporting Lines- direct reporting lines to the MD & CEO and / or Board / Board Committee.