



बामर लॉरी एण्ड कं. लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का एक प्रतिष्ठान)
Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Balmer Lawrie Policy on Black Listing

Introduction

In the endeavour to maintain and foster ethical and corruption free business environment, the Supply Chain/Purchase/Contract & Procurement Procedure is being streamlined to include provision for banning or putting on holiday list vendor/supplier/contractor/consultant indulging in Corrupt, Fraudulent, Coercive and Collusive practices including laxity in services. In view of the complexity of the issue, it has become necessary to develop a comprehensive Policy encompassing the views of all stakeholders, our experience of Supply chain/ Purchase/ Project Execution / Services.

In the course of contracting, one has to deal with various vendors / suppliers / contractors /consultants who are expected to adopt and maintain highest standards and a high degree of ethics and integrity, commitments and sincerity towards the work undertaken by them. Any aberration, deviation and violation from the expected standards of supplies/services/ behaviour of the contracting agencies need to be dealt with appropriately so that it becomes a deterrent for all.

This policy is aimed at blacklisting the errant vendors and service providers by following laid down procedure.

Any business restriction on any person or group involves legal scrutiny and civil consequences and therefore, necessitating to provide an opportunity to the defendant to defend its case. The Banning Procedure given here in under is to be used for all Supply Chain/ Contracts/Services and Purchases functions across Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.

Balmer Lawrie Purchase Manual provides for evaluation of performance of Vendors/ Suppliers /Contractors/ Consultants. Further, Fraud Prevention Policy of Balmer Lawrie also covers vendors, suppliers, contractors, service providers, consultants or any other external agency/person having business relationship and/or associated with the company in any manner, as well as their representatives.

This Policy contains provision for putting a Vendor/Supplier/ Contractor/Consultant on Suspension and/or on banning list if such agency indulged in corrupt/fraudulent/ collusive/coercive practice or failed to render services as per acceptable standards.

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.

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- "Corrupt Practice" also includes any omission or 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 includes any act or omission committed by 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 Balmer Lawrie 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 Poor Services means services which are not acceptable to Balmer Lawrie in terms of specifications, quality, quantity, timeliness and not as per the verbal/written advice of dealing Executive/Officer of Balmer Lawrie.
- A.6 Vendor/Supplier/Contractor/Consultant/Bidder" is herein after referred as "Agency"
- A.7 "Appellate Authority" shall mean Committee of Directors consisting of Director (Finance) and Director (I/C) for SBUs/Functions under respective Directors.
- A.8 "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.9 "Allied Agency" shall mean all the concerns within the sphere of effective influence of banned/ suspended agencies. 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 firm.
 - (c) Substantial or majority shares are owned by banned/suspended agency and by virtue of this it has a controlling voice.
- A.10 "Investigating Agency" shall mean any department or unit of Balmer Lawrie investigating into the conduct of Agency/party and shall include the Vigilance Department of Balmer Lawrie, Central Bureau of Investigation, State Police or any other agency set up by the Central or state government having power to investigate.

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

B.1 The Competent Authority for Banning of any agency is the Director (In-Charge) of the SBU/Function.

B . 2 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 Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. For a period specified in para B2.2 below from the date of issue of banning order.

A Vendor can also be banned for future business if he fails to supply products/services as per standards as prescribed in the tender or to the satisfaction of the company and its representative (s).

B.2 Irregularities noticed after award of contract

B.2.1 (i) During execution of contract:

If an agency, is found to have indulged in corrupt / fraudulent/ collusive /coercive practices, during execution of contract, the agency shall be banned from entering into any for future business with Balmer Lawrie for a period specified in para B2.2 below from the date of issue of banning order.

The concerned order (s) / contract(s) where corrupt / fraudulent/collusive / coercive practices or failure to provide standard products/services is observed, shall be suspended with immediate effect by SBU / Function Head whereby the supply/ work/ service and payment etc. will be suspended. Action shall be initiated for putting the agency on banning.

After conclusion of process, 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 encashed. The amount that may have become due to the contractor on account of work already executed by him satisfactorily 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. Any amount due on account of supply of poor quality of products/services shall not be payable. In case of poor quality of supplies then no amount is payable to the vendor. In case the Company get the supply of same goods from another party for the higher cost for meeting quality requirements such cost also will be recovered from the errant supplier / vendor.

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

If an agency / vendor / service provider is found to have indulged in corrupt / fraudulent / collusive / coercive practices, or supply of poor quality of goods / products / services, after execution of contract and during DLP/ Warranty / Guarantee Period, the agency shall be banned for future business with Balmer Lawrie for a period specified in para B2.2 below from the date of issue of banning order.

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

(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 or supply of poor quality products /services after expiry of Defect liability period (DLP)/Warranty/Guarantee Period, or during pendency of the service/products, contract for supply of goods/products/services, the agency shall be banned for future business with Balmer Lawrie for a period specified in para B2.2 below from the date of issue of banning order

B.2.2 Period of Banning

Banning period shall be reckoned from the date of banning order and ordinarily the period for which agency is banned should not be less than 6 months and should not exceed 3 years. However, in extraordinary circumstances, the period can be more than 3 years depending on the gravity of violations.

In exceptional cases where the act of vendor/ contractor is a threat to the National Security, the banning shall be for indefinite period.

B.2.3 Exceptional Cases:

B.2.3.1 However as an exception, the ongoing order (s) / contract (s) where corrupt / fraudulent / collusive / coercive practice has been observed, or there has been a failure to adhere to the standards, the agency may be allowed to complete the supply / job in case of following situations :

- a) No adverse performance of the job as per scope of work (performance to be reviewed on quarterly basis) and;
- b) The supply / job is of critical nature in terms of adverse impact on the Project Completion Schedule and/or prospective revenue generation.

However, the discretion for the same rests solely with the company / its representative (s) and the vendor / contractor / supplier shall not have any right to demand the same.

- B.2.3.2 The approval for allowing the agency to complete the supply / job is to be obtained from Director concerned based on the detailed deliberation / recommendation of the committee consisting of Head of SCM / Purchase, A&F, SBU / Function Head of the SBU. Such recommendation shall be put up to Director concerned through Corporate A & F Department and Corporate Legal department with their comments.

Further, all such cases shall also be put up to Board of Directors for their information.

After approval of competent authority to allow the agency to complete the supply / job, the agency will be allowed to execute the order/contract and payment shall also be made as per provision of order/contract.

- B.2.3.3 The Contract cum Performance Bank Guarantee (CPBG) of such agency against the order(s)/contract(s) where agency is allowed to complete the supply/job in above exceptional case shall not be en-cashed on this ground. The contract shall be executed as per terms and conditions of the contract. However, the agency shall be put on banning list from the date of banning order.

Also, in the event the contract is terminated owing to poor quality of products/services the CPBG may be encashed by the company.

C **Effect of banning on other ongoing contracts/tenders**

- C.1 If an agency is put on holiday/ banned, such agency should not be considered in ongoing tenders/future tenders
- C.2 However, if such an agency is already executing other order(s)1 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. If the agency is put on banning list for fraud/ mis-appropriation of facts committed in the same tender/other tender where errant agency emerges as the lowest (LI), then such tender shall also be cancelled and re-invited.

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D. Procedure for Suspension of Bidder

D.1 Initiation of Suspension

Action for suspension of business dealing with any agency/(ies) shall be initiated By SCM/Purchase Department of the SBU/Function when

- i. Complaint from the indenting users' department / employees against the unsatisfactory / inferior / substandard service / product given by the Service Provider / Contractor / Vendor.
- ii. Corporate Vigilance Department based on the fact of the case gathered during investigation by them recommend for specific immediate action against the agency.
- iii. Corporate Vigilance Department based on the input from investigating agency, forward for specific immediate action against the agency.
- iv. Non-performance of Vendor / Supplier / Service provider / Contractor / Consultant leading to termination of Contract / Order
- v. The vendors / bidders / suppliers quoting wrong and misleading information while quoting for a Tender and the same is found out by the Tender Committee while preparing the TCR can also suspend such agency/bidder under these rules.

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 two months at a time with a ceiling of six months pending a conclusive decision to put the agency on banning list.

In the cases of supply of poor quality products / rendering poor services, a recommendation for suspension can be ordered by a committee comprising Indenting department head, Purchase / SCM head & SBU / Function Head.

D.2.2 The suspension order shall also be hosted on Balmer Lawrie's intranet and a copy will be forwarded to all SBU Heads by CSM/Purchase Department of the SBU/Function. 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 in writing 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 Balmer Lawrie.

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

D.2.6 The process for putting the agency on suspension list shall be completed within 30 days from the date of receipt of such intimation as mentioned in clause no. D.1.

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. If the agency is put on Suspension list for fraud / mis-appropriation of facts conducted in the same tender/other tender where errant agency emerges as the lowest (LI), then such tender shall also be cancelled and re-invited.

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 an undertaking to the effect that (i) neither the bidder themselves nor their allied agency/(ies) are on banning list of Balmer Lawrie or the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and(ii) bidder is not banned by any Government department/ Public Sector Enterprise. This shall be part of NIT.

E Procedure to be followed in case of corrupt/ fraudulent/collusive/coercive practice

- (i) If Project Manager/Project In-Charge / HOD / Dealing Purchase Officer/SCM Executive or any other authority of Balmer Lawrie, receive/acquire conclusive evidence of any corrupt/ fraudulent/collusive/coercive practice/ activity, the concerned should immediately initiate action for putting Agency/vendor/supplier/service provider on banning list as per extant procedure.
- (ii) In case of a corrupt, fraudulent, collusive and coercive practices, a committee consisting of concerned Head of SCM, A&F and Head of SBU will examine the case in detail.
- (iii) In case committee recommends for banning an agency, the committee will put up its recommendation to the concerned Director through Corporate A&F Department & Corporate Legal along with a draft Show Cause notice providing a final opportunity to the alleged defaulter to defend his case.

The show cause notice should contain all the allegations towards the breach committed by Agency including mentioning the provisions of the tender so breached and seeking explanation as to why the action should not be taken against the agency as per provisions of tender. All the supporting documents also need to be provided to the agency along with Show Cause notice.

If the Agency desires for personal hearing, the same can also be given.

However, the above provision for personal hearing shall not be made a part of Show Cause notice

- (iv) After obtaining approval from the concerned Director, SCM/Purchase Department of the SBU will issue the Show Cause notice to the concerned agency giving an opportunity to respond within 15 days.

In response to the Show Cause notice if the agency seeks any additional document(applicable only once), the same should be provided to the agency at the earliest but not later than 7 days. However, the period to respond in such a case will be appropriately adjusted. However, the agency cannot and shall not be allowed to seek documents repeatedly and seek extension of time on this ground to respond.

- (v) On receipt of reply in response to Show Cause notice, SCM/ Purchase Department will prepare a proposal covering point wise reply to issues brought out by the agency in their reply to Show Cause notice and forward their final recommendation for keeping the agency on Banning list or otherwise through SBU Head for obtaining the approval of the Director concerned after legal vetting through Corporate Legal department.

In case the committee recommends for putting the agency on banning list, the draft Speaking Order to be issued to the agency with reasons for putting on banning list will also be submitted along with their recommendation.

In case Corporate Legal department make any contrary observation, the file may be referred back to , SCM/ Purchase Department for further deliberations and recommendation on the observation made by the Corporate Legal Department and further submission to Competent Authority.

While according the approval, reasons are to be recorded by the Competent Authority. These reasons shall also be put up by the committee along with their recommendations. In case Competent Authority does not agree with recommendation of the committee, it will record the reasons for the same. The decision of competent authority shall be final.

- (vi) After obtaining approval from the concerned Director, SCM/Purchase department will issue a letter in the form of Speaking Order to the agency conveying the decision of putting the agency on the banning list along with reasons.
- (vii) The banning order shall also be hosted on Balmer Lawrie's intranet and a copy will be forwarded to all SBU/Function Heads by SCM/Purchase Department of the SBU/Function. A list of all agencies put on banning will be maintained at Balmer Lawrie Intranet/website, mentioning the period of operation of such ban.

Further, if a communication has been received from the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas or other PSUs to ban the agency from dealing with any PSE, the agency shall be automatically put in the banned list.

- (viii) The above process of banning should be completed within 04months from initiation of case by concerned department responsible for invitation of bid.
- (ix) Pending the outcome of suspension of work and Show Cause notice, a parallel tender can be invited and processed till Price Bid Opening (PBO) stage to save time required for re-tendering. Eventually, this tender to be concluded or otherwise based on the outcome of process of Show Cause notice.
- (x) After issuance of banning order, action for termination of order(s)/contract (s) where it has been concluded that such irregularities have been committed and for encashment of Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) against such order (s)/ contract (3),will be taken by concerned SCM/Purchase department as per extant DoA. 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 i.e. The vendor / contractor is not entitled for any compensation on account of costs already incurred etc., by him.

- (xi) An order for banning/ suspension passed for a certain specified period shall be deemed to have been automatically revoked on the expiry of that specified period and it will not be necessary to issue a specific formal order of revocation. However, the listing of the defaulting vendor/supplier/service provider on the banned companies list shall stay permanently along with the period/duration.
- (xii) While putting the bidder on banning list as per the procedure, the holding company, subsidiary, joint venture, sister concerns, group/division of the errant agency shall not be considered for putting on banning list in case certain ongoing project is being executed by the same agency or its associates / allied agencies without any adverse observation. In all other cases banning of an organization will automatically apply to Allied Agencies.
- (xiii) In case of contract (s)consortium/ JV, of the consortium is put on banning list, in that case other ongoing contract(s)order (s) on consortium/JV shall continue subject to satisfactory performance. Further, order (s)/ contract (s) where such fraudulent / corrupt / collusive/ coercive practice have been noticed shall be terminated and Contract cum Performance Bank Guarantee (CPBG) submitted by agency against such order(s)/contract (s) shall also be encashed. No risk and cost provision will be enforced in such cases. However, in exceptional cases as mentioned at Para B2.3 hereinabove, the agency may continue after approval from competent authority as mentioned therein.

In case of fraudulent /corrupt /collusive/coercive practice by any member or leader itself, consortium including errant member & leader will be put on banning list and shall not be allowed to participate in the ongoing/future tenders in either as an individual bidder or as a member of consortium/JV.
- (xiv) In case any Project Management Consultant (PMC) detects the fraudulent /corrupt / collusive / coercive practice during evaluation and execution of any contract and recommendations made to Balmer Lawrie, the procedure mentioned hereinabove is to be followed after obtaining the documents from PMC for putting the agency on banning list.
- (xv) The banning shall be with prospective effect i.e future business dealings

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 date of receipt of banning order.
- F.2 Appellate Authority would consider the appeal and pass appropriate order which shall be communicated to the Agency as well as the Competent Authority.
- F3 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 'Fraud Prevention Policy', and 'Policy on black listing in case of Corrupt/Fraudulent/Collusive/ Coercive Practice', the provisions of ' the policy on black listing in case of Corrupt/Fraudulent/ Collusive/Coercive Practice' shall prevail.

- H. The above procedures supersede all earlier circular/clarification on the subject.
 - I. This Policy on black Listing in case Corrupt / Fraudulent / Collusive / Coercive Practice /rendering poor quality products / services (Except Introduction, Sub-para B.2.3,E,H and I) shall be made a part of tender document.
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