

INVESTOR CHARTER

Annexure A

1. Vision

Towards making Indian Securities Market - Transparent, Efficient, & Investor friendly by providing safe, reliable, transparent and trusted record keeping platform for investors to hold and transfer securities in dematerialized form.

2. Mission

- To hold securities of investors in dematerialised form and facilitate its transfer, while ensuring safekeeping of securities and protecting interest of investors.
- To provide timely and accurate information to investors with regard to their holding and transfer of securities held by them.
- To provide the highest standards of investor education, investor awareness and timely services so as to enhance Investor Protection and create awareness about Investor Rights.

3. Details of business transacted by the Depository and Depository Participant (DP)

A Depository is an organization which holds securities of investors in electronic form. Depositories provide services to various market participants - Exchanges, Clearing Corporations, Depository Participants (DPs), Issuers and Investors in both primary as well as secondary markets. The depository carries out its activities through its agents which are known as Depository Participants (DP). Details available on the link <https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx>

4. Description of services provided by the Depository through Depository Participants (DP) to investors

(1) Basic Services

Sr. no.	Brief about the Activity / Service	Expected Timelines for processing by the DP after receipt of proper documents
1.	Dematerialization of securities	7 days
2.	Rematerialization of securities	7 days
3.	Mutual Fund Conversion / Destatementization	5 days

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Sr. no.	Brief about the Activity / Service	Expected Timelines for processing by the DP after receipt of proper documents
4.	Re-conversion / Restatementisation of Mutual fund units	7 days
5.	Transmission of securities	2 days
6.	Registering pledge request	15 days
7.	Closure of demat account	30 days
8.	Settlement Instruction	For T+1 day settlements, Participantsshall accept instructions from the Clients, in physical form up to 4 p.m. (in case of electronic instructions up to 6.00 p.m.) on T day for pay-in of securities. For T+0 day settlements, Participantsshall accept EPI instructions from theclients, till 11:00 AM on T day. Note: 'T' refers 'Trade Day'

(2) Depositories provide special services like pledge, hypothecation, internet based services etc. in addition to their core services and these include

Sr. no.	Type of Activity /Service	Brief about the Activity / Service
1.	Value Added Services	Depositories also provide value added services such as a. Basic Services Demat Account(BSDA)¹ https://www.cdslindia.com/Investors/InvestorCharter.html# b. Transposition cum dematerialization² https://www.cdslindia.com/Investors/InvestorCharter.html# c. Linkages with Clearing System (For actual delivery of securities to the clearing system from the selling brokers and delivery of securities from the clearing system to the buying broker)

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		<i>d.</i> Distribution of cash and non-cash corporate benefits (Bonus, Rights, IPOs etc.), stock lending, demat of NSC / KVP, demat of warehouse receipts etc.
2.	Consolidated Account statement (CAS)	CAS is issued 10 days from the end of the month (if there were transactions in the previous month) or half yearly (if no transactions).
3.	Digitalization of services provided by the depositories	Depositories offer below technology solutions and e-facilities to their demat account holders through DPs:

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Sr. no.	Type of Activity /Service	Brief about the Activity / Service
		a. <u>E-account opening</u>⁴ E-account opening b. <u>Online instructions for</u> https://www.cdslindia.com/Investors/InvestorCharter.html# c. <u>e-DIS / Demat Gateway</u>⁶ e-DIS / Demat Gateway d. <u>e-CAS facility</u>⁷ <u>Miscellaneous services</u>⁸ https://www.cdslindia.com/Investors/InvestorCharter.html e. <u>Miscellaneous services</u>: Transaction alerts through SMS, chatbots for instantaneously responding to investor queries etc. have also been developed.

5. Details of Grievance Redressal Mechanism

(1) The Process of investor grievance redressal

1.	Investor Complaint/ Grievances	Investor can lodge complaint/ grievance against the Depository/DP in the following ways: a. Electronic mode - (i) SCORES (a web based centralized grievance redressal system of dedicated SEBI) https://www.scores.sebi.gov.in/scores/Welcome.html (ii) Respective Depository's web portal for the filing of complaint https://www.cdslindia.com/Footer/grievances.aspx (iii) Emails to designated email IDs of Depository [complaints@cdslindia.com] b. Offline mode For tracking of your grievance, we request you to submit the same online through the portal. The complaints/ grievances lodged directly with the Depository shall be resolved within 21 days
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2.	Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform for online Conciliation and Arbitration	If the Investor is not satisfied with the resolution provided by DP or other Market Participants, then the Investor has the option to file the complaint/ grievance on SMARTODR platform for its resolution through by online conciliation or arbitration. {https://smartodr.in/login }
3.	Steps to be followed in ODR for Review, Conciliation and Arbitration	➤ Investor to approach Market Participant for redressal of complaint ➤ If investor is not satisfied with response of Market Participant, he/she can escalate the complaint on SEBI SCORES portal. ➤ Alternatively, the investor may also file a complaint on SMARTODR portal for its resolution through online conciliation and arbitration. ➤ Upon receipt of complaint on SMARTODR portal, the relevant MII will review the matter and endeavour to resolve the matter between the Market Participant and investor within 21 days. ➤ If the matter could not be amicably resolved, then the Investor may request the MII to refer the matter case for conciliation. ➤ During the conciliation process, the conciliator will endeavor for amicable settlement of the dispute within 21 days, which may be extended with 10 days by the conciliator. ➤ If the conciliation is unsuccessful, then the investor may request to refer the matter for arbitration. The arbitration process to be concluded by arbitrator(s) within 30 days, which is extendable by 30 days.

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6. Guidance pertaining to special circumstances related to market activities:
Termination of the Depository Participant

Sr. No.	Type of special circumstances	Timelines for the Activity/ Service
1.	▪ Depositories to terminate the participation in case a participant no longer meets the eligibility criteria and/or any other grounds as mentioned in the bye laws like suspension of trading member by the Stock Exchanges. ▪ Participant surrenders the participation by its own wish.	Client will have a right to transfer all its securities to any other Participant of its choice without any charges for the transfer within 30 days from the date of intimation by way of letter/email.

7. Dos and Don't's for investore [link](#)

8.Rights of investors¹¹ : [Refer Annexure 2.7](#)

9. Responsibilities of Investors¹² [Responsibilities of Investors](#)

10. Code of Conduct for Depositories [Click here](#)

[11](#) . Code of Conduct for Participants [Click here](#)

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN LINKS TO THE INVESTOR CHARTER

This document contains the contents in main Charter mapped with the same superscript.

Para 4 (2) of Investor CharterPoint 1: Value Added Services

- a. Basic Services Demat Account (BSDA)¹: The facility of BSDA with limited services for eligible individuals was introduced with the objective of achieving wider financial inclusion and to encourage holding of demat accounts. No Annual Maintenance Charges (AMC) shall be levied, if the value of securities holding is upto Rs. 50,000. For value of holdings between Rs 50,001- 2,00,000, AMC not exceeding Rs 100 is chargeable. In case of debt securities, there are no AMC charges for holding value upto Rs 1,00,000 and a maximum of Rs 100 as AMC is chargeable for value of holdings between Rs 1,00,001 and Rs2,00,000.
- b. Transposition cum dematerialization²: In case of transposition-cum-dematerialisation, client can get securities dematerialised in the same account if the names appearing on the certificates match with the names in which the account has been opened but are in a different order. The same may be done by submitting the security certificates along with the Transposition Form and Demat Request Form.
- c. Linkages with Clearing System³ for actual delivery of securities to the clearing system from the selling brokers and delivery of securities from the clearing system to the buying broker.

Point 2: Consolidated Account statement (CAS)

- a. CAS is issued 10 days from the end of the month (if there were transactions in the previous month) or half yearly (if no transactions) .

Point 3: Digitization of services provided by the depositories

Depositories offer below technology solutions and e-facilities to their demat account holders through DPs:

- a. [E-account opening](#)
- b. [Online instructions for execution](#)
- c. [e-DIS / Demat Gateway](#)
- d. [e-CAS facility](#)
- e. [Miscellaneous services](#)

The Process of investor grievance redressal

1	Investor Complaint/ Grievances	Investor can lodge complaint/ grievance against the Depository/DP in the following ways: a. Electronic mode - (i) SCORES (a web based centralized grievance redressal system of SEBI) (ii) Respective Depository's web portal dedicated for the filing of complaint (iii) Emails to designated email IDs of Depository - complaints@cdslindia.com b. Offline mode : For tracking of your grievance, we request you to submit the same online through the portal. The complaints/ grievances lodged directly with the Depository shall be resolved within 30 days
2	Investor Grievance Redressal Committee of Depository	Click here
3	Arbitration proceedings	Click here

Rights and Obligations of Beneficial Owner and Depository Participant as prescribed by SEBI and Depositories

General Clause

1. The Beneficial Owner and the Depository participant (DP) shall be bound by the provisions of the Depositories Act, 1996, SEBI (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 2018, Rules and Regulations of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Circulars/ Notifications/ Guidelines issued there under, Bye Laws and Business Rules/Operating Instructions issued by the Depositories and relevant notifications of Government Authorities as may be in force from time to time.
2. The DP shall open/activate demat account of a beneficial owner in the depository system only after receipt of complete Account opening form, KYC and supporting documents as specified by SEBI from time to time.

Beneficial Owner information

3. The DP shall maintain all the details of the beneficial owner(s) as mentioned in the account opening form, supporting documents submitted by them and/or any other information pertaining to the beneficial owner confidentially and shall not disclose the same to any person except as required by any statutory, legal or regulatory authority in this regard.
4. The Beneficial Owner shall immediately notify the DP in writing, if there is any change in details provided in the account opening form as submitted to the DP at the time of opening the demat account or furnished to the DP from time to time.

Fees/Charges/Tariff

5. The Beneficial Owner shall pay such charges to the DP for the purpose of holding and transfer of securities in dematerialized form and for availing depository services as may be agreed to from time to time between the DP and the Beneficial Owner as set out in the Tariff Sheet provided by the DP. It may be informed to the Beneficial Owner that "no charges are payable for opening of demat accounts"
6. In case of Basic Services Demat Accounts, the DP shall adhere to the charge structure as laid down under the relevant SEBI and/or Depository circulars/directions/notifications issued from time to time.
7. The DP shall not increase any charges/tariff agreed upon unless it has given a notice in writing of not less than thirty days to the Beneficial Owner regarding the same.

Dematerialization

8. The Beneficial Owner shall have the right to get the securities, which have been admitted on the Depositories, dematerialized in the form and manner laid down under the Bye Laws, Business Rules and Operating Instructions of the depositories.

Separate Accounts

9. The DP shall open separate accounts in the name of each of the beneficial owners and securities of each beneficial owner shall be segregated and shall not be mixed up with the securities of other beneficial owners and/or DP's own securities held in dematerialized form.
10. The DP shall not facilitate the Beneficial Owner to create or permit any pledge and /or hypothecation or any other interest or encumbrance over all or any of such securities submitted for dematerialization and/or held in demat account except in the form and manner prescribed in the Depositories Act, 1996, SEBI (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 2018 and Bye-Laws/Operating Instructions/Business Rules of the Depositories.

Transfer of Securities

11. The DP shall effect transfer to and from the demat accounts of the Beneficial Owner only on the basis of an order, instruction, direction or mandate duly authorized by the Beneficial Owner and the DP shall maintain the original documents and the audit trail of such authorizations.
12. The Beneficial Owner reserves the right to give standing instructions with regard to the crediting of securities in his demat account and the DP shall act according to such instructions.
13. The stock broker/ stock broker and depository participant shall not directly/ indirectly compel the clients to execute Power of Attorney (PoA) or Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI) or deny services to the client if the client refuses to execute PoA or DDPI.

Statement of account

14. The DP shall provide statements of accounts to the beneficial owner in such form and manner and at such time as agreed with the Beneficial Owner and as specified by SEBI/depository in this regard.
15. However, if there is no transaction in the demat account, or if the balance has become Nil during the year, the DP shall send one physical statement of holding annually to such BOs and shall resume sending the transaction statement as and when there is a transaction in the account.
16. The DP may provide the services of issuing the statement of demat accounts in an electronic mode if the Beneficial Owner so desires. The DP will furnish to the Beneficial Owner the statement of demat accounts under its digital signature, as governed under the Information Technology Act, 2000. However if the DP does not have the facility of providing the statement of demat account in the electronic mode, then the Participant shall be obliged to forward the statement of demat accounts in physical form.
17. In case of Basic Services Demat Accounts, the DP shall send the transaction statements as mandated by SEBI and/or Depository from time to time.

Manner of Closure of Demat account

18. The DP shall have the right to close the demat account of the Beneficial Owner, for any reasons whatsoever, provided the DP has given a notice in writing of not less than thirty days to the Beneficial Owner as well as to the Depository. Similarly, the Beneficial Owner shall have the right to close his/her demat account held with the DP provided no charges are payable by him/her to the DP. In such an event, the Beneficial Owner shall specify whether the balances in their demat account should be transferred to another demat account of the Beneficial Owner held with another DP or to rematerialize the security balances held.
19. Based on the instructions of the Beneficial Owner, the DP shall initiate the procedure for transferring such security balances or rematerialize such security balances within a period of thirty days as per procedure specified from time to time by the depository. Provided further, closure of demat account shall not affect the rights, liabilities and obligations of either the Beneficial Owner or the DP and shall continue to bind the parties to their satisfactory completion.

Default in payment of charges

20. In event of Beneficial Owner committing a default in the payment of any amount provided in Clause 5 & 6 within a period of thirty days from the date of demand, without prejudice to the right of the DP to close the demat account of the Beneficial Owner, the DP may charge interest at a rate as specified by the Depository from time to time for the period of such default.
21. In case the Beneficial Owner has failed to make the payment of any of the amounts as provided in Clause 5&6 specified above, the DP after giving two days notice to the Beneficial Owner shall have the right to stop processing of instructions of the Beneficial Owner till such time he makes the payment along with interest, if any

Liability of the Depository

22. As per Section 16 of Depositories Act, 1996,
 1. Without prejudice to the provisions of any other law for the time being in force, any loss caused to the beneficial owner due to the negligence of the depository or the participant, the depository shall indemnify such beneficial owner.
 2. Where the loss due to the negligence of the participant under Clause (1) above, is indemnified by the depository, the depository shall have the right to recover the same from such participant.

Freezing/ Defreezing of accounts

23. The Beneficial Owner may exercise the right to freeze/defreeze his/her demat account maintained with the DP in accordance with the procedure and subject to the restrictions laid down under the Bye Laws and Business Rules/Operating Instructions.
24. The DP or the Depository shall have the right to freeze/defreeze the accounts of the Beneficial Owners on receipt of instructions received from any regulator or court or any statutory authority.
25. The Joint holders are aware that in case of any Statutory Order for freezing any one joint holder, the demat account will be frozen and the other joint holders will have to obtain a specific Order for unfreezing their percentage of joint ownership by submitting the relevant documentary proof to the Order issuing authority.

Redressal of Investor grievance

26. The DP shall redress all grievances of the Beneficial Owner against the DP within a period of thirty days from the date of receipt of the complaint.

Authorized representative

27. If the Beneficial Owner is a body corporate or a legal entity, it shall, along with the account opening form, furnish to the DP, a list of officials authorized by it, who shall represent and interact on its behalf with the Participant. Any change in such list including additions, deletions or alterations thereto shall be forthwith communicated to the Participant.

Law and Jurisdiction

28. In addition to the specific rights set out in this document, the DP and the Beneficial owner shall be entitled to exercise any other rights which the DP or the Beneficial Owner may have under the Rules, Bye Laws and Regulations of the respective Depository in which the demat account is opened and circulars/notices issued there under or Rules and Regulations of SEBI.
29. The provisions of this document shall always be subject to Government notification, any rules, regulations, guidelines and circulars/ notices issued by SEBI and Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the relevant Depository, where the Beneficial Owner maintains his/ her account, that may be in force from time to time.
30. The Beneficial Owner and the DP shall abide by the arbitration and conciliation procedure prescribed under the Bye-laws of the depository and that such procedure shall be applicable to any disputes between the DP and the Beneficial Owner.
31. Words and expressions which are used in this document but which are not defined herein shall unless the context otherwise requires, have the same meanings as assigned thereto in the Rules, Bye-laws and Regulations and circulars/notices issued there under by the depository and /or SEBI
32. Any changes in the rights and obligations which are specified by SEBI/Depositories shall also be brought to the notice of the clients at once.
33. If the rights and obligations of the parties hereto are altered by virtue of change in Rules and regulations of SEBI or Bye-laws, Rules and Regulations of the relevant Depository, where the Beneficial Owner maintains his/her account, such changes shall be deemed to have been incorporated

Notice of 15 days. Any changes in the rights and obligations which are specified by Exchanges/SEBI shall also be brought to the notice of the clients.

If the rights and obligations of the parties hereto are altered by virtue of change in Rules and regulations of SEBI or Bye -laws, Rules and Regulations of the relevant stock Exchanges where the trade is executed, such changes shall be deemed to have been incorporated herein in modification of the rights and obligations of the parties mentioned in this document.