

In the

Reserve Bank of India 10/3/8, Nrupathunga Road Bengaluru-560001

Present

Shri Jose J Kattoor Regional Director, Karnataka and Chief General Manager, Bengaluru

Date: July 25, 2019 **C.A. BGL 416/2019**

In the matter of

M/s UL India Private Limited 3rd Floor, Kalyani Platina Block1, No. 24, EPIP Zone Phase – II, Whitefield Bengaluru – 560066 (Applicant)

In exercise of the powers under Section 15(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and the Regulations / Rules / Notifications / Orders framed there under, I pass the following

ORDER

The applicant has filed a compounding application dated April 11, 2019, received at this office of Reserve Bank of India, Bengaluru on April 11, 2019, and addendum to the application dated July 25, 2019, for compounding of contraventions of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, (the FEMA), and the regulations issued there under. The contraventions sought to be compounded are, (i) delay in reporting receipt of foreign inward remittances towards subscription to equity, (ii) delay in refund of excess share application money and delay in allotment of shares, beyond 180 days from the date of receipt of inward remittance, and (iii) delay in submission of form FC-GPR to the Reserve Bank, after issue of shares to a person resident outside India, in terms of Paragraphs 9(1)(A), 8 and 9(1)(B), respectively, of Schedule I to Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person



Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000, notified vide Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB dated May 03, 2000, and as amended from time to time (hereinafter referred to as Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB).

2. The relevant facts of the case are as follows: The applicant, M/s UL India Private Limited, was incorporated on December 19, 1997, under the Companies Act, 1956, as per the Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Registrar of Companies, Karnataka. The company is engaged in the business of providing product safety testing, certification and inspection of equipment, machinery systems, etc. The applicant had received funds towards share application money from the foreign investor, namely, M/s UL International Singapore Pte Ltd, Singapore, as shown below:

Table - 1

SI. No.	Date of Receipt	Amount (INR)	Date of reporting to RBI/AD
1	21-02-2012	1,76,40,000.00	10-08-2012
2	14-06-2012	1,10,06,000.00	10-08-2012
3	22-08-2012	3,26,52,000.00	28-08-2012
4	27-12-2012	1,07,38,000.00	03-01-2013
5	05-12-2012	1,13,42,100.00	03-01-2013
6	23-01-2013	1,48,45,600.00	18-02-2013
7	01-03-2013	2,01,96,810.00	05-04-2013
8	28-03-2013	1,33,75,000.00	20-04-2013
9	05-03-2013	91,29,000.00	05-04-2013
10	31-07-2013	73,09,200.00	23-08-2013
11	15-10-2013	1,09,81,800.00	25-10-2013
12	10-10-2014	1,48,32,500.00	10-11-2014
13	02-02-2015	3,00,45,000.00	19-02-2015
14	16-12-2016	41,19,79,128.00	14-01-2017
15	23-12-2016	20,37,71,200.00	13-02-2017
	Total	81,98,43,338.00	

The applicant reported receipt of remittances to the Reserve Bank of India / Authorized Dealer Bank, with a delay ranging from one day to four months and



nineteen days, beyond the stipulated period of 30 days in respect of the remittances as indicated at serial numbers 1, 2, 7, 9, 12 and 15, in the Table-1 above. Whereas, in terms of Paragraph 9(1)(A) of Schedule I to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB, an Indian company issuing shares or convertible debentures in accordance with these Regulations should report to the Reserve Bank of India, as per the prescribed procedure, not later than 30 days from the date of receipt of the amount of consideration.

- 3. The company had allotted equity shares to the foreign investors, in terms of Paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 to Notification No. FEMA.20/2000 RB dated May 03, 2000. However, in the instances mentioned here below, the company had refunded the excess share application money or allotted shares, to the non-resident investor, beyond the stipulated period of 180 days from the date of receipt of inward remittances.
- i) The company had received part of share application money of ₹326,52,000.00, on August 22, 2012, from the non-resident investor, M/s UL International Singapore Pte Ltd, Singapore, and allotted shares to the non-resident investor, on June 10, 2013, with a delay of three months and twenty three days, beyond the stipulated period of 180 days from the date of inward remittance, with prior approval of Reserve Bank of India. The company was given approval vide Reserve Bank's letter Ref. FE.BG.FID.No. 7407/21.08.500/2012-13, dated May 23, 2013. The amount of contravention is ₹326,52,000.00, and the period of delay is three months and twenty three days; and
- iii) The company had received share application money amounting to ₹61,57,50,328.00, in two tranches, on December 16, 2016, and December 23, 2016, respectively, from the non-resident investor, M/s UL International Singapore Pte Ltd, Singapore. The company had allotted 90,32,798 equity shares worth ₹61,56,75,511.68, on January 28, 2017, to the non-resident investor, leaving behind an excess of ₹74,816.32, which was refunded to the investor on July 05, 2018, beyond 180 days from the date of receipt of



remittances, with prior approval of Reserve Bank of India. The company was given approval vide Reserve Bank's letter Ref. FE.BG.FID.No. 5077/21.08.500/2017-18, dated June 26, 2018. The amount of contravention is ₹74,816.32, and the period of delay is one year and fourteen days.

Whereas, in terms of Paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000- RB dated May 3, 2000 and as amended from time to time, read with AP (Dir series) Circular No. 20, dated December 14, 2007, if the shares are not issued within 180 days from the date of receipt of the inward remittance, the amount of consideration so received shall be refunded to the person concerned, provided the Reserve Bank may, on an application made to it and for sufficient reasons, permit to allot shares or refund the amount of consideration received towards issue of security, if such amount is outstanding beyond a period of 180 days from the date of receipt. In the above mentioned instances, the total amount of contravention is ₹3,27,26,816.32, and the period of delay ranges from three months twenty three days to one year and fourteen days.

4. The applicant company had allotted equity shares and filed form FC-GPRs with Reserve Bank/AD as indicated below:

Table - 2

SI. No.	Date of Allotment	Number of shares allotted	Amount (INR)	Date of reporting to RBI/AD
1	07-08-2012	239294	2,86,45,884.74	10-09-2012
2	27-02-2013	281875	3,69,25,625.00	27-03-2013
3	10-06-2013	575212	7,53,52,772.00	04-07-2013
4	26-12-2013	176537	1,82,90,998.57	21-01-2014
5	26-12-2013	1406534	14,57,30,987.74 (ECB conversion)	21-01-2014
6	11-11-2014	1483250	1,48,32,500.00	10-12-2014
7	20-03-2015	3004500	3,00,45,000.00	20-04-2015
8	28-01-2017	9032798	61,56,75,511.68	22-08-2017
	Total	16200000 Equity	96,54,99,279.73	



The applicant filed the form FC-GPRs on allotment of shares with the Bengaluru Regional Office of the Reserve Bank of India / Authorized Dealer Bank with a delay ranging from one day to five months and twenty six days, beyond the prescribed period of 30 days in respect of allotment of shares as indicated at serial numbers 1, 7 and 8, in the Table - 2 above. Whereas, in terms of Paragraph 9(1)(B) of Schedule I to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB dated May 3, 2000, an Indian company issuing shares in accordance with these Regulations has to submit to the Reserve Bank of India, a report in form FC-GPR, along with documents prescribed therein, within 30 days from the date of issue of shares to person/s resident outside India.

- **5.** The applicant was given an opportunity for personal hearing, vide Reserve Bank's letter FE.BG.FID (CEFA) No. 303/22.08.500/2019-20, dated July 24, 2019, for further submission in person, and/or producing documents, if any, in support of the application. The applicant's authorized representatives Mr. Dinesh Singh, Company Secretary, and Mr. Girish Kumar M S, Corporate Advocate, who appeared for the personal hearing on July 25, 2019, admitted the contraventions as stated in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above, committed by the applicant, for which compounding has been sought. During the personal hearing, it was submitted that the delay was not willful or with malafide intention, but was mainly due to inadvertence, and the same would not be repeated. In view of the above, the representatives of the applicant requested Reserve Bank to take a lenient view in disposal of the application. The application for compounding is, therefore, being considered on the basis of the averments made in the application as well as other documents and submissions made in this context by the applicant during personal hearing and thereafter.
- **6.** I have given my careful consideration to the documents on record and submission made by the applicant during the personal hearing. Accordingly, I hold that the applicant has contravened the following FEMA provisions issued in terms of:



- (a) Paragraph 9 (1) (A) of Schedule I to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB, due to delay in reporting of foreign inward remittances received towards subscription to equity as detailed in paragraph 2 above. The contravention relates to an amount of ₹27,65,75,510.00, and the period of delay ranges from one day to four months and nineteen days;
- (b) Paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB, due to delay in allotment of shares and delay in refund of excess share application money, beyond 180 days from the date of receipt of inward remittances, as detailed in paragraph 3 above. The total amount of contravention is ₹3,27,26,816.32, and the period of delay ranges from three months and twenty three days to one year and fourteen days; and
- (c) Paragraph 9 (1) (B) of Schedule I to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB, due to delay in submission of form FC-GPR to the Reserve Bank after issue of shares to person/s resident outside India, as detailed in paragraph 4 above. The contravention relates to an amount of ₹67,43,66,396.42, and the period of delay ranges from one day to five months and twenty six days.
- 7. It has been declared in the compounding application dated April 11, 2019, that the particulars given by the applicant in the application are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. It has been declared in the undertaking, furnished with the compounding application that the applicant was not under any enquiry/investigation/ adjudication by any agency as on the date of the application and has, in this regard, not informed of initiation of any such enquiry/investigation/adjudication proceedings against it thereafter. It has further been declared that the applicant has not filed any appeal under Section 17 or Section 19 of FEMA, 1999. Accordingly, the above contraventions which are being compounded in this order is subject to the veracity of the above declarations made by the applicant and this order is without prejudice to any other action which may be taken by any authority under the extant laws if the said declarations are subsequently discovered to be false and/or incorrect.



- 8. In terms of Section 13 of the FEMA, any person contravening any provision of the Act shall be liable to a penalty up to thrice the sum involved in such contravention upon adjudication. However, taking into account the relevant facts and circumstances of the case as stated in the foregoing paragraphs, I am persuaded to take a lenient view on the amount for which the contraventions are to be compounded, and I consider that an amount of ₹2,47,909.00, (Rupees Two Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine only), will meet the ends of justice.
- **9.** Accordingly, I compound the admitted contraventions namely, contraventions of Paragraphs 9(1)(A), 8 and 9(1)(B) of Schedule I to Notification No. FEMA 20/2000-RB, by the applicant, based on the facts discussed above in terms of the Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2000, on payment of an amount of ₹2,47,909.00, (Rupees Two Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine only), which shall be deposited by the applicant with the Reserve Bank of India, Foreign Exchange Department, 2nd Floor, 10/3/8, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru 560001, by a demand draft drawn in favour of the "Reserve Bank of India", payable at Bengaluru, within a period of 15 days from the date of this order. In case of failure to deposit the compounded amount within the above mentioned period, Rule 10 of the Foreign Exchange (Compounding Proceedings) Rules, 2000 dated May 3, 2000, shall apply.

The application is disposed of accordingly.

Dated this, the Twenty Fifth day of July 2019.

Sd/-

(Jose J Kattoor) Regional Director, Karnataka and Chief General Manager, Bengaluru