

MCA UPDATES MARCH 2020

Sr. No.	DATE	TYPE	UPDATE	PARTICULARS	REFERENCE
1	03.03.2020	CIRCULAR	Clarification on prosecutions filed or internal adjudication proceedings initiated Independent Directors, on-promoters and non-KMP non-executive directors	The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has by way of issuance of General Circular No. 1/2020 dated 2nd March, 2020 has issued clarification on prosecutions filed or internal adjudication proceedings initiated against Independent Directors, non-promoters and non-KMP non-executive directors. The Ministry has specifically laid emphasis that civil or criminal proceedings should not be unnecessarily initiated against the IDs or the NEDs, unless sufficient evidence exists to the contrary. The Ministry has contended that WTDs and KMPs would be liable for defaults committed by a company. In their absence, such director or directors who have expressly given their consent for incurring liability in terms of e-form GNL-3 filed with the Registrar would be liable. The records available in the office of the Registrar, including e-forms DIR-11 or DIR-12, along with copies of the annual returns or financial statements should also be examined so as to ascertain whether a particular director or the KMP was serving in the company as on the date of default. In case of any doubts, with regard to the liability of any person, for any proceedings required to be initiated by the Registrar, guidance may be sought from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs through the office of Director General of Corporate Affairs. Consequently any such proceedings must be initiated after receiving due sanction from the Ministry.	General Circular No. 5/2020 (859 KB)

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Sr. No.	DATE	TYPE	UPDATE	PARTICULARS	REFERENCE
2	04.03.2020	CIRCULAR	LLP Settlement Scheme,2020	MCA vide its Circular dated March 04, 2020 has decided to introduce a scheme namely "LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020", by allowing a One-time Condonation of delay in filing statutorily required document with the registrar. This scheme shall come into force on the 16th March, 2020 and shall remain in force up to 13th June, 2020. This Scheme shall apply to as follows:- •Form-3- Information with regard to the limited liability partnership agreement and changes, if any, made therein; •Form-4- Notice of appointment, cessation, change in name/ address/designation of a designated partner or partner and consent to become a partner/designated partner; •Form-8- Statement of Account & Solvency (Annual or Interim); and •Form-11- Annual Return of Limited Liability Partnership (LLP). This scheme shall not apply to the filing of documents except filing of Form-3, Form-4, Form-8 & Form-11 and also to the LLPs which has made an application in form 24 to the registrar, for striking off its name from the register as per provisions of rule 37(1) of the rules LLP Rules,2009. The defaulting LLPs may file forms by making payment of Additional Fees Of ₹ 10/- Per Day For each day during which the default continues In addition to any fee as is payable for filing of such document or return, subject to a maximum amount of Rs. 5,000/- as the additional fee per document.	http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/pdf/GeneralCircular06_04032020.pdf

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Sr. No.	DATE	TYPE	UPDATE	PARTICULARS	REFERENCE
3	06.03.2020	CIRCULAR	Extension of filing NFRA-2	In continuation with the General Circular no. 14 dated November 27, 2019 after due examination it is been decided that the time limit of Form NFRA-2 for the reporting period Financial Year 2018-19, will be 150 days from the deployment of this form on the website of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).	General Circular No. 7/2020 (859 KB)
4	06.03.2020	CIRCULAR	Filing of forms in Registry MCA-21 by IRP or RP or Liquidator	In supersession of earlier Circular No.04 /2020 dated, 17-02-2020, the following clarification is issued for statutory compliances in respect of companies under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP). (i). The IRP/ RP/ Liquidator would have to first file the NCLT order approving him as the IRP/ RP/ Liquidator in Form INC-28 and shall choose his designation as CEO and purpose of filing should be selected as others. (ii). The Master Data for change in the status of the company from "Active"/ "inactive" to CIRP/ Liquidation or CIRP/Liquidation to "Active" shall be effected on the basis of Formal Change Request Form submitted by IBBI to e-governance Cell, MCA(HQ). (iii). The IRP/ RP/ Liquidator shall be responsible for filing all the forms in the MCA portal and sign the form in the capacity of CEO. All filings of eforms including AOC-4 and MGT-7 shall be filed through e-form GNL-2 by way of attachments till the company is under CIRP. (iv) Against date of event and Board Resolution in INC-28 and GNL-2, date of order of NCLT/NCLAT/Court may be mentioned. In case of companies under CIRP/Liquidation process prior to this circular, IRP/RP/Liquidator of such companies shall first file INC-28 and thereafter, shall file AOC-4, MGT-7 etc, in GNL-2.	General Circular No. 8/2020 (859 KB)

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Sr. No.	DATE	TYPE	UPDATE	PARTICULARS	REFERENCE
5	12.03.2020	CIRCULAR	Relaxation of additional fees and extension of last date in filing of forms MGT-7 Annual Returns and AOC-4 (Financial Statements under the Companies Act, 2013-UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh	It is been further decided to extend the due date for filing of e - forms MGT-7 (Annual Return) and AOC-4 (Financial Statements), AOC-4 XBRL, AOC-4 (CFS) for the Financial Year 2018-19 be further extended up to 30.06.2020 for Companies having jurisdiction office in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territories of Ladakh without levy of additional fees.	General Circular No. 9/2020 (859 KB)
6	29.03.2020	CIRCULAR	Clarification on spending of CSR funds for COVID-19.	MCA vide its Circular clarified that spending of CSR funds for COVID-19 is eligible for CSR activity. Funds may be spent for various activities related to COVID-19 under item nos. (i) and (xii) of Schedule VII relating to promotion of health care, including preventive health care and sanitation and disaster management.	General Circular No. 10/2020 (859 KB)

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Sr. No.	DATE	TYPE	UPDATE	PARTICULARS	REFERENCE
7	24.03.2020	CIRCULAR	Special Measures under Companies Act, 2013 (CA-2013) and Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 in view of COVID-19 outbreak	In order to support and enable Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) in India to focus on taking necessary measures to address the COVID-19 threat, including the economic disruptions caused by it, the following measures have been implemented by MCA to reduce their compliance burden and other risks: - (i) No additional fees shall be charged for late filing during a moratorium period from April 1 to September 30, 2020 in respect of any document, return, statement etc., required to be filed in the MCA-21 Registry, irrespective of its due date. (ii) The mandatory requirement of holding meetings of the Board of the companies within the intervals provided in section 173 of the Companies Act, 2013(CA-13) stands extended by a period of 60 days till next two quarters i.e., till 30th September. Accordingly, as a one time relaxation the gap between two consecutive meetings of the Board may extend to 180 days till the next two quarters, (iii) As per Para VII (1) of Schedule IV to the CA-13, independent Directors (IDs) are required to hold at least one meeting without the attendance of Non independent directors and members of management. For the financial year 2019-20, if the IDs of a company have not been able to hold such a meeting, the same shall not be viewed as a violation. The IDs, however, may share their views amongst themselves through telephone or e-mail or any other mode of communication, if they deem it to be necessary. (iv) Requirement under section 73(2)(c) of CA-13 to create the deposit repayment reserve of 20% of deposits maturing during the financial year 2020-21 before April 30, 2020 shall be allowed to be complied with till June 30, 2020.	General Circular No. 11/2020 (859 KB)

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Sr. No.	DATE	TYPE	UPDATE	PARTICULARS	REFERENCE
7	24.03.2020	CIRCULAR	Special Measures under Companies Act, 2013 (CA-2013) and Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 in view of COVID-19 outbreak	v) Requirement under rule 18 of the Companies (Share Capital & Debentures) Rules, 2014 to invest or deposit at least 15% of amount of debentures maturing in specified methods of investments or deposits before 30th April 2020, may be complied with till 30th June 2020. (vi) Newly incorporated companies are required to file a declaration for Commencement of Business within '180 days of incorporation under section 10A of the CA-13. An additional period of 180 more days is allowed for this compliance (vii). Non-compliance of minimum residency in India for a period of at least 182 days by at least one director of every company, under Section 149 of the CA-13 shall not be treated as a non-compliance for the Financial Year 2019-20	General Circular No. 11/2020 (859 KB)
8	30.03.2020	CIRCULAR	Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020 (CFSS-2020)	MCA vide its general circular March 30, 2020 issued Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020. Under this Scheme MCA is providing opportunity to make a fresh start as fully compliant entity. Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020 is for making companies eligible to file forms without late fees till September 30, 2020	General Circular No. 12/2020 (859 KB)
9	30.03.2020	CIRCULAR	Modification to LLP Scheme 2020	MCA vide its General Circular dated 30th March, 2020, modified the provisions related to LLP SETTLEMENT SCHEME, 2020 was issued by MCA dated March 04, 2020. Any defaulting LLP is permitted to file belated documents which were due to filing up to August 31, 2020. There will be no additional fees levied. This Scheme shall not apply to LLPs which have made applications in Form 24 to the Registrar for striking off their name.	General Circular No. 13/2020 (859 KB)

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Sr. No.	DATE	TYPE	UPDATE	PARTICULARS	REFERENCE
10	02.03.2020	NOTIFICATION	Exemptions to Government Companies under section 462 of the CA 2013, notification dated 02.03.2020	In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (1) and in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 462 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013), the Central Government, in the public interest, hereby makes further amendments in the notification of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs published earlier. Please note for Serial No.1 and Serial No. 26 and the entries relating thereto respectively needs to be substituted.	S.O. (E) (310 KB)
11	11.03.2020	NOTIFICATION	Exemption notification dated 11.3.2020 under Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 from the application of the provisions of Section 5 and 6 of the Competition Act, 2002 in public interest for a period of five years from the date of publication.	In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of section 54 of the Competition Act, 2002 (12 of 2003), the Central Government hereby exempts a Banking Company in respect of which the Central Government has issued a notification under Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (10 of 49), from the application of the provisions of Sections 5 and 6 of the Competition Act, 2002, in public interest for a period of five years from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette.	S.O. (E) (414 KB)

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Sr. No.	DATE	TYPE	UPDATE	PARTICULARS	REFERENCE
12	25.03.2020	NOTIFICATION	CARO 2020 dated 24.03.2020	The Ministry of Corporate Affairs number S.O. 849(E), dated February 25, 2020, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), in paragraph "2. Auditor's report to contain matters specified in paragraphs 3 and 4", for the words and figures "1st April, 2019", the words and figures "1st April, 2020" shall be substituted	S.O. (E) (414 KB)
13	28.03.2020	NOTIFICATION	Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016	MCA vide its Notification dated March 24, 2020 amended the proviso of Section 4 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 to raise the threshold limit from Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 1,00,00,000 for filing application to initiate Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).	http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/pdf/Notification_28032020.pdf
14	19.03.2020	RULES	Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Amendment Rules, 2020.	For the period beginning from the commencement of the Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Amendment Rules, 2020 and ending on the 30th June, 2020, the meetings on matters referred to in sub-rule (1) may be held through video conferencing or other audio visual means in accordance with rule 3."	http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/pdf/Rules_19032020.pdf
15		CLARIFICATION		New companies incorporated through SPICe+ and thereby have obtained EPFO/ESI numbers will have to file statutory returns only when they cross thresholds prescribed under the relevant Acts.	www.mca.gov.in
16		CLARIFICATION		DIN holders of DINs marked as 'Deactivated' due to non-filing of DIR-3KYC/DIR-3 KYC-Web and those Companies whose compliance status has been marked as "ACTIVE non-compliant" due to non-filing of Active Company Tagging Identities and Verification(ACTIVE) eform are encouraged to become compliant once again in pursuance of the General Circular No. 11 dated 24th March, 2020 & General Circular No.12 dated 30th March 2020 and file DIR-3KYC/DIR-3KYC-Web/ACTIVE as the case may be between 1st April, 2020 to 30th September, 2020 without any filing fee of INR 5000/INR 10000 respectively.	www.mca.gov.in

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Sr. No.	DATE	TYPE	UPDATE	PARTICULARS	REFERENCE
17		CLARIFICATION	CAR FORM	Companies Affirmation of Readiness towards COVID-19 Form is a simple web form with minimum fields and which can be filed from anywhere. There is no requirement of DSC and does not involve payment of any fee. Companies/LLPs are advised to use the service w.e.f 23rd March 2020 onwards at the earliest convenience stakeholders may please note that there is no fee applicable for FORM CAR (Companies Affirmation of Readiness Towards COVID-19). SHs may also please note that the form has been deployed as a purely confidence building measure to assess the readiness of the companies to deal with COVID-19 Threat in India. As such no penalty or enforcement related action is applicable. Stakeholders may at their convenience file this form. It is purely voluntary as part of our contribution towards joining the movement to fight against the spread of the disease. Since the portal may experience heavy load, it would indicate 'Busy' alert whenever peak traffic is reached.	http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/pdf/Car_22032020.pdf