

LEGAL BRIEFS: BI-WEEKLY LEGAL UPDATES

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Synergia Legal is bringing it to you a fortnightly compilation of digestible summaries of key legal developments and case laws impacting the business, commercial and economic landscape in India:

SECURITIES LAWS

1. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a circular on the certification requirement for key investment team of manager of AIF (May 13, 2024):

The SEBI issued a circular on May 13, 2024 mandating the key investment team of the manager of an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) to have at least one key personnel with relevant certification as may be specified by the SEBI from time to time. The requirement to appoint at least one key personnel of the key investment team of manager shall be applicable as an eligibility criteria to all the applications for registration of AIFs and launch of schemes by AIFs filed after May 10, 2024.

(The circular bearing number SEBI/HO/AFD-1/AFD-1-PoD/P/CIR/2024/42 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

2. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a Master Circular for Real Estate Investment Trusts (May 15, 2024):

The SEBI has issued various circulars from time to time for effective regulation of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). However, in order to enable the stakeholders to have an access to all the applicable circulars issued till May 15, 2024 at one place, the SEBI has incorporated a Master Circular for Real Estate Investment Trusts.

(The Master Circular for Real Estate Investment Trusts dated May 15, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

3. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a Master Circular for Infrastructure Investment Trusts (May 15, 2024):

The SEBI has issued various circulars from time to time for effective regulation of Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs). However, in order to enable the stakeholders to have an access to all the applicable circulars issued till May 15, 2024 at one place, the SEBI has incorporated a Master Circular for Infrastructure Investment Trusts.

(The Master Circular for Infrastructure Investment Trusts dated May 15, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

4. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a Master Circular for ESG Rating Providers (May 16, 2024):

The SEBI has issued a master circular for ESG Rating Providers (ERPs) dated May 16, 2024. The ERPs are regulated under the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999 (“**CRA Regulations**”). The master circular states that while the broad framework for ERPs has been laid down in the CRA Regulations, the procedural/disclosure requirements and obligations are being specified through the master circular.

(The Master Circular for ESG Rating Providers dated May 16, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

5. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a Master Circular for Debenture Trustees (May 16, 2024):

The SEBI has issued a master circular for Debenture Trustee on May 16, 2024. The Debenture Trustees are regulated under the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Debenture Trustees) Regulations, 1993 (“**DT Regulations**”). The master circular states that while the broad framework for the debenture trustees has been laid down in the DT Regulations, the procedural/disclosure requirements and obligations are being specified through the master circular.

(The Master Circular for Debenture Trustees dated May 16, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

6. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a Master Circular for Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) (May 16, 2024):

The SEBI has issued a master circular for Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) dated May 16, 2024. The CRAs are regulated under the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999 (“**CRA Regulations**”). The master circular states that while the broad framework for CRAs has been laid down in the CRA Regulations, the procedural/disclosure requirements and obligations are being specified through the master circular. Further, there have been multiple circulars issued over the years, and the same have been compiled under the said master circular.

(The Master Circular for Credit Rating Agencies dated May 16, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

7. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a Master Circular for issue and listing of Non-Convertible Securities, Securities Debt Instrument, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper (May 22, 2024):

The SEBI has issued a master circular for issue and listing of Non-Convertible Securities, Securities Debt Instrument, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper dated May 22, 2024. The SEBI issued multiple circulars to regulate non-convertible securities pursuant to the notification of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021, and the repeal and merger of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Debt Securities) Regulations, 2008 and the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares) Regulations, 2013. In order to enable the stakeholders to have an access to all the applicable circulars issued as on May 21, 2024, the SEBI issued the said master circular.

(The Master Circular for issue and listing of Non-Convertible Securities, Securities Debt Instrument, Security Receipts, Municipal Debt Securities and Commercial Paper dated May 22, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

8. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a Master Circular for Stock Brokers (May 22, 2024):

The SEBI has issued various circulars from time to time for effective regulation of Stock Brokers. However, in order to enable the stakeholders to have an access to all the applicable circulars issued till May 21, 2024 at one place, the SEBI has incorporated a Master Circular for Stock Brokers.

(The Master Circular for Infrastructure Investment Trusts dated May 15, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

9. The Securities and Exchange Board of India has issued a circular on the Industry standards on verification of market rumors (May 21, 2024):

The SEBI has formulated industry standards for the effective implementation of the requirement to verify market rumors under Regulation 30(11) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The said industry standards have been formulated has been formulated by the Industry Standards Forum comprising of representatives from three industry association viz., ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI. The requirement to verify the market rumors shall be applicable to top 100 listed entities with effect from June 01, 2024 and to top 250 listed entities with effect from December 01, 2024.

(The circular titled 'Industry Standards on Verification of Market Rumors' bearing number SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2024/52 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

10. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a Master Circular for Investment Advisers (May 21, 2024):

The SEBI has issued various circulars from time to time for effective regulation of Investment Advisers. However, in order to enable the stakeholders to have an access to all the applicable circulars issued till May 15, 2024 at one place, the SEBI has incorporated a Master Circular for Investment Advisers.

(The Master Circular for Investment Advisers dated May 21, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

11. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a Master Circular for Research Analysts (May 21, 2024):

The SEBI has issued various circulars from time to time for effective regulation of Research Analyst. However, in order to enable the stakeholders to have an access to all the applicable circulars issued till May 15, 2024 at one place, the SEBI has incorporated a Master Circular for Research Analyst.

(The Master Circular for Analyst dated May 21, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India is accessible [here](#).)

12. The Securities and Exchange Board of India issued a consultation paper on review of certain aspects of the framework for valuation of investment portfolio of AIFs (May 23, 2024):

The SEBI has issued a consultation paper on review of certain aspects of the framework for valuation of investment portfolio of AIFs. The objective of the said consultation paper is to seek comments on the proposals to provide relaxation on the following aspects of the framework for valuation of investment portfolio of AIFs- (a) applicability of valuation norms to compute valuation of investment portfolio of AIFs; (b) change in valuation methodology and approach being considered as 'material change'; (c) eligibility criteria of independent valuers to be appointed by AIFs; and (d) timeline for reporting valuation of investment portfolio by AIFs to performance benchmarking agencies. The suggestions/comments/views on the said consultation paper may be provided before June 13, 2024.

(The Consultation Paper on review of certain aspects of the framework for valuation of investment portfolio of AIFs is accessible [here](#).)

OTHERS

13. The Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology and Consumer Affairs to set up an inter-ministerial task force for regulating digital advertisements (May 10, 2024):

Based on certain reports, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and the Department of Consumer Affairs are setting up an inter-ministerial task force for regulating and comprehensively cracking-down misleading and fraudulent digital advertisements. The step is being taken subsequent to the notification of the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023 by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

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THE RECITALS