



# NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL CHENNAI BENCH

26.02.2021

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) FOR PHYSICAL HEARING

National Company Law Tribunal, vide Notification dated 23.02.2021 has notified that all the NCLT Benches shall start regular physical hearing with effect from 01.03.2021. In terms of Rule 51 of NCLT Rules, 2016, the NCLT Chennai Bench can formulate its own procedure for the conduct of the proceedings before this Tribunal. Accordingly the following Standard Operating Procedures are prescribed;

- i. All the matters listed in the Supplementary List (fresh matters) and Application / Appeal under Section 252 of Companies Act, 2013 and any other matters to be notified in the cause list, will continue to be heard through Video Conferencing and the Link will be provided in the cause list.
- ii. Only in respect of matters at the final hearing stage, where pleadings are complete, will be allowed to be heard through physical hearing.
- iii. Every person who enters the Tribunal must strictly follow the advisories and the directives of the Central and State Government as to maintaining hygiene, social – distancing and avoid over-crowding in the premises.

- iv. Entry into the Court premises shall be permitted only after proper hand sanitization and screening by thermal scanners.
- v. Persons with symptoms of COVID-19 during thermal scanning shall be denied entry into the premises of the Tribunal.
- vi. Persons without mask shall be denied entry into the Court premises and also in the Registry.
- vii. Only the Advocate(s) / Authorized representative(s) whose names are found in the Cause List and the parties who are summoned by the court and junior / clerk (only 1) for carrying heavy case files to whom they are attached, are permitted to enter the Court premises. The juniors / clerks are permitted to enter the Court Halls only for such purpose and leave the premises thereafter.
- viii. In order to ensure that there is no overcrowding in the Registry / Court Hall, not more than 10 (ten) Advocates / Authorized Representatives, at a time are permitted to be present inside the Court Hall. Similarly, not more than 5 (five) Advocates / Authorized Representatives, at a time are permitted inside the Registry.
- ix. Overcrowding of Advocates / Authorized Representatives or parties in Court Halls / Registry / corridors and in any common place is strictly prohibited.
- x. Advocates / Authorized Representatives shall remain in waiting area and as and when their case is called, they can enter the Court Hall and after the arguments are concluded, they are requested to leave the premises without moving around in the corridors, or in other areas.

**BY ORDER**