

# Accredited Investor Framework under SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, SEBI (Investment Advisors) Regulations, 2013 and SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020

#### Services offered

Name	Registration	Registration number
Abakkus Growth Fund	Category III Alternative Investment Fund	IN/AIF3/18-19/0550
India-Ahead Private Equity Trust	Category II Alternative Investment Fund	IN/AIF2/21-22/0980
India-Ahead Venture Trust	Category I Alternative Investment Fund	IN/AIF1/21-22/0976
Abakkus Asset Manager LLP	Investment Advisor	INA000015729
Abakkus Asset Manager LLP	Portfolio Manager	INP000006457

Abakkus Asset Manager LLP is also the Investment Manager to the above AIFs.

## **Background**

The concept of class of investors (typically termed as accredited investors or qualified investors or professional investors) who have an understanding of various financial products and the risks- returns associated with them and are able to take informed decisions regarding their investments is recognized globallyby many securities and financial market regulators.

Further, they are also considered to be capable of dealing in relatively riskier investment products due to their financial capacity and ability to absorb possible financial losses. The global regulators reckoned that these investors are sophisticated enough to not require extensive regulatory protection, and therefore, issuers of securities and providers of investment products/ services are offered a regulation-light regime, to offer their products/services to accredited investors.

Based on the above, it was envisaged by SEBI tointroduce the concept of Accredited Investors in India with uniform eligibility criteria, accompanied by a flexible regulatory framework for the various securities market products and services may be beneficial to the development and growth of the Indian securities market.

Accordingly, SEBI vide amendment to the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, SEBI (Investment Advisors) Regulations, 2013 and SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020 on August 03, 2021 and SEBI circular SEBI/HO/IMD/IMD-I/DF9/P/CIR/2021/620 dated August 26, 2021, introduced the concept of Accredited Investors and modalities for implementation of the framework for Accredited Investors.

In view of the same, given below is the framework for Accredited Investors:

#### **About Accredited Investors**

"Accredited Investor or AI" means any person who fulfills the applicable eligibility criteria and is granted a certificate of accreditation by an Accreditation Agency. Provided that the Central Government and the State Governments, developmental agencies set up under the aegis of the Central Government or



the State Governments, funds set up by the Central Government or the State Governments, qualified institutional buyers as defined under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, Category I foreign portfolio investors, sovereign wealth funds and multilateral agencies and any other entity as may be specified by SEBI from time to time, shall deemed to be an accredited investor and may not be required to obtain a certificate of accreditation.

"Accreditation Agency" means a subsidiary of a recognized stock exchange or a subsidiary of a depository or any other entity as may be specified by SEBI from time to time.

The following entities are currently notified as Accreditation Agency by SEBI:

- a. BSE Administration and Supervision Limited (BASL)
- b. CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL)

"Large Value Accredited Investor" means an Accredited Investor who has entered into an agreement with the Portfolio Manager for a minimum investment of INR 10 crores.

"Large Value Fund for Accredited Investors" means an Alternative Investment Fund or scheme of the Alternative Investment Fund in which each investor (other than the manager, sponsor, employees or directors of the Alternative Investment Fund or employees or directors of the manager) is an Accredited Investor and invests not less than INR seventy crores.

#### Regulatory concessions

## A. SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012

Particulars	Applicability
The minimum capital commitment of INR 1 crore that each investor (other than the employees or directors of the Fund and the employees or directors of the Investment Manager) is required to make under the AIF Regulations is not applicable	Accredited Investor
The requirement relating to filing of placement memorandum with SEBI at least 30 days prior to launch of a scheme, and incorporation of SEBI's comments in placement memorandum prior to launch of scheme, will not apply	Large Value fund for Accredited Investor
Category I or Category II AIF are permitted to invest up to 50% of the investable funds (as against 25%) in an investee company directly or through investment in the units of other AIFs. Similarly, Category III AIF are permitted to invest up to 20% of the investable funds (as against 10%) in an investee company directly or through investment in units of other AIFs	Large Value fund for Accredited Investor
Extension of the tenure of close ended fund is permitted even beyond 2 years	Large Value fund for Accredited Investor



# B. SEBI (Investment Advisors) Regulations, 2013

Particulars	Applicability
The limits and mode of fees payable to the Investment Advisor as provided under the IA regulations shall not apply and shall be governed through bilaterally negotiated contractual terms.	Accredited Investor

# C. SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020

Particulars	Applicability
Contents of agreement specified under Schedule IV of SEBI	Large Value Accredited
(Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020 shall not apply to the	Investor
agreement between the Portfolio Manager and Large Value	
Accredited Investor	
The requirement of minimum investment of INR 50 lakhs per client	Accredited Investor
shall not apply	
The Portfolio Manager may offer discretionary or non-	Large Value Accredited
discretionary or advisory services for investment up to hundred	Investor
percent of the assets under management in unlisted securities	
subject to the terms agreed between the client and the Portfolio	
Manager	
The quantum and manner of exit load applicable to the client as	Large Value Accredited
provided under the PMS regulations shall not apply and shall be	Investor
governed through bilaterally negotiated contractual terms	

# **B.** Eligibility Criteria for Accredited Investors

The following persons shall be eligible to be considered as Accredited Investors:

Category	Criteria				
Individual	a. Annual Income >= INR 2 Crore; OR				
Hindu Undivided Family	b. Net Worth >= INR 7.5 Crore, out of which at least INR 3.75 Crore is				
Family trust	in the form of financial assets; OR				
Sole proprietorship	c. Annual Income >= INR 1 Crore+ Net Worth >= INR 5 Crore, out of				
	which at least INR 2.5 Crore is in the form of financial assets				
Body corporate	Net worth greater than or equal to INR 50 Crore				
Trust other than family trust	Net worth greater than or equal to INR 50 Crore				
Partnership firmset up under	Each partner independently meets the eligibility criteria for				
the Indian Partnership Act,	accreditation				
1932					

The eligibility criteria shall be reckoned as follows:

# 1. Net worth calculation:

	Category	Particulars
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Individual	The value of the primary residence shall not be considered for calculation of net worth
Karta of HUF	The value of the primary residence shall not be considered for calculation of
	net worth
Sole Proprietor	The value of the primary residence shall not be considered for calculation of
	net worth
Body Corporate	Net worth shall be calculated as under:
	Net worth = (Capital + free reserves) - (Accumulated losses + deferred
	expenditure not written off)
Trustee	Net worth shall be calculated as under:
	Net worth = (Book value of all assets, other than intangible assets) - (Book
	value of total liabilities)

- 2. In case of investments held jointly by more than one individual, the following conditions shall apply for eligibility as Accredited Investor:
- (i) Where the joint holders are parent(s) & child(ren), at least one person should independently fulfill the eligibility criteria for Accredited Investor.
- (ii) Where the joint holders are spouses, their combined income/ net worth should meet the eligibility criteria for Accredited Investor.
- 3. For Body Corporates and Trusts, eligibility criteria for accreditation shall be considered on the basis of the following:
- (i) Financial information as per statutory audit; or
- (ii) Financial information as per audit by the statutory auditor as on a date during the financial year in which application is made (if furnished).
- 4. The eligibility of foreign investors to be accredited shall be determined on the basis of the rupee equivalent of their income and/ or net worth as applicable.

#### **Procedure for obtaining Accreditation**

- 1.For accreditation, the prospective investor shall make an application to the Accreditation Agency in the manner specified in **Annexure A**.
- 2.Detailed documentation required for accreditation is provided at **Annexure B**.
- 3.Accreditation Agency shall verify that, at the time of accreditation, the applicant is 'fit and proper' to participate in the securities market, including absence of any convictions or restraint orders, not being a willful defaulter, etc.
- 4.The Accreditation Agency shall issue a certificate to the Applicant as an Accredited Investor ("Accreditation Certificate"). Each Accreditation Certificate shall have a unique accreditation number, name of the Accreditation Agency, PAN of the Applicant and validity of accreditation (start date and end date)

#### Validity of Accreditation



- (i) If eligibility criteria are met for preceding 1 year, then accreditation shall be valid for 1 year from the date of such accreditation
- (ii) If eligibility criteria are met for preceding 3 years consistently, then accreditation shall be valid for 2 years from the date of such accreditation

#### Procedure to avail benefits linked to accreditation

- 1. Prospective investor shall provide copy of the Accreditation Certificate to the Investment Manager/Investment Advisor/ Portfolio Manager along with the undertaking stating that:
- (i) The prospective investor wishes to avail AI benefits ("Consent");
- (ii) The prospective investor has the ability to bear financial risk associated with investment;
- (iii) The prospective investor has the necessary knowledge and means to understand the features of investment product feature and risks;
- (iv) The prospective investor is aware that the investment product is meant for AIs and may not be subject to the same regulatory oversight as over investment products meant for investors other than AI.

The Investment Manager/Investment Advisor/Portfolio Manager may obtain additional undertakings from prospective investors in addition to the above.

- 2. The Investment Manager/Investment Advisor/ Portfolio Manager shall independently verify the status of accreditation of the prospective investor from the concerned Accreditation Agency
- 3. The agreement between the Investment Manager/Investment Advisor/ Portfolio Manager Advisor and the client shall provide the following:
- (i) details of regulatory concessions agreed upon between the investor and the Investment Manager/Investment Advisor/ Portfolio Manager, and the conditions for availing the same, and
- (ii) consequences, if any, in the event of the investor becoming ineligible to be an AI during the tenure of the said agreement.
- (iii) modalities for withdrawal of 'Consent' and consequences of the investor withdrawing the 'Consent'

# Flexibility to investors to withdraw 'Consent'

Investors shall have the flexibility to withdraw their 'Consent' and discontinue availing benefits of accreditation, subject to the following:

- (a) An Accredited Investor who withdraws 'Consent' after availing the benefit of lower ticket size shall be required to increase the investment to the minimum amount i.e. INR 50 Lakhs/ INR 1 Crore with respect to the Portfolio Management Services and Alternative Investment Fund respectively within the timeframe specified in the client agreement.
- (b) If an investor who has availed concessions to the regulatory framework withdraws the 'Consent' furnished to the Investment Manager/Investment Advisor/ Portfolio Manager before the expiry of the client agreement, the investments already made shall be 'grandfathered' i.e. such investments shall continue to be reckoned as investments by an Accredited Investor. With effect from the date of withdrawal of consent, any further transaction shall be in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework.
- (c) Investors in pooled investment products which are launched exclusively for AIs, in which concessions to regulatory framework have been availed, shall not have the flexibility to withdraw their Consent



(d) The client agreement shall, inter-alia, provide the modalities for withdrawal of 'Consent' and consequences of the investor withdrawing the 'Consent'.

# Annexure A- Process for obtaining Accreditation

# A. BASL has specified the following process flow for obtaining Accredited Investorcertification:

- 1. Prospective AI shall register online on https://bseasl.com/under "Accredited Investor Login"
- 2. Thereafter, prospective AI shall provide relevant details and upload self-attested documents required for obtaining AI Certificate.
- 3. Prospective AI will be redirected to payment of fees page. BASL Accredited Investor certification charges / fees are as follows:

Investor Category	Fees and Charges (Rs.)*			
	BASL	BASL Certification Fees		
	Processing Charges	For One Year Tenure	For Two Year Tenure	
Individuals, HUFs, Family Trusts and Sole Proprietorships	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 9,500/-	
Partnership Firms	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 19,000/-	
Trusts (other than family trusts)	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 28,500/-	
Body Corporates	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 28,500/-	

<sup>\*</sup>plus taxes as applicable. Both Processing and Certification fees need to be paid at the time of submission of application. The Processing charges are non-refundable.

- 4. After successful payment of fees the said application shall be forwarded to BASL for verification of the concerned AI.
- 5. BASL shall carryout the processing of AI application by cross verify the details and documents as provided by the AI on the portal. BASL shall check and verify AI's (a) KYC details (b) financials (c) Undertakings, etc as submitted on the portal and on processing of the application inform AI of the:
- 1) Approved status of its application in case all details and documents as submitted are in order asper the requirements and AI is fulfilling the eligibility criteria.
- 2) In case the application is not approved and/or rejected the reason in respect of same.
- 3) In case of incomplete submission of details / documents, BASL shall seek additional information for further processing of the application.
- 6. BASL shall issue its certificate to the eligible Accredited Investor applicants whose application hasbeen approved by BASL. The relevant details including the validity period will be displayed on thecertificate

The investors are advised to visit <u>www.bseasl.com</u> for detailed user manual and updates notified by BASL from time to time

#### B. CVL has specified the following process flow for obtaining Accredited Investor certification:

1. Prospective AI shall register online on <a href="www.aia.cvlindia.com">www.aia.cvlindia.com</a> under "Investor".



- 2. Thereafter, prospective AI shall provide relevant details and upload self-attested documents required for obtaining AI Certificate.
- 3. Prospective AI will be redirected to payment of fees page. CVL Accredited Investor certification charges / fees are as follows:

Investor Category	Fees and Charges (Rs.)*			
	CVL	CVL Certification Fees		
	Processing Charges	For One Year For Two Year Tenure		
Individuals, HUFs, Family Trusts and Sole Proprietorships	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 9,500/-	
Partnership Firms	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 10,000/-	Rs. 19,000/-	
Trusts (other than family trusts)	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 28,500/-	
Body Corporates	Rs. 5,000/-	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 28,500/-	

#### Note:

- The same charges would be applicable for renewal.
- The Processing fee would be non-refundable.
- Taxes at applicable rates would be applicable additionally.
- 4. After successful payment of fees the said application shall be forwarded to CVL for verification of the concerned AI.
- 5. For the applications successfully submitted, CVL would initiate the verification process.
- 6. If required, for additional information/documents, queries would be raised to the investor on the registered email-id.
- 7. If the details submitted are found to be in order and meet eligible criteria, the application would be approved and the accredited investor certificate would be issued. In such cases, investor would be able to access the accredited investor certificate.
- 8. The accredited investor certificate would contain the details of the investor along with the validity period.
- 9. If the application is not found to be in order, the same would be rejected.

The investors are advised to visit <a href="www.aia.cvlindia.com">www.aia.cvlindia.com</a> for detailed user manual and updates notified by CVL from time to time.



# Annexure B-Documentation required for obtaining Accreditation

			Individual- Hindu	
			Undivided	
Document Type	Sole Individual	Sole Proprietorship	Family	Joint- parent and children
Copy of PAN Card of applicant/signatory	<b>✓</b>	✓	<b>▽</b>	✓
Copy of Aadhaar Card	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>V</b>
Valid passport	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
Copy of Registered Trust Deed				
Certificate of Incorporation				
Partnership deed				
Copy of Income Tax Return for previous three year	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓
Copies of audited Financial statements of three years preceding the date of				
application				
Audited financial statement prepared by statutory auditor for the current				
date/period( Optional)				
Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating networth for previous	<b>7</b>	V	V	V
three financial years.		•		
Certificate from practicising chartered accountant stating networth as on date of				
application (optional)				
Proof of ready reckoner rate applicable to real estate considered for calculation of	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓
networth				
Copy of demat account statement	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
Statement of assets and laiabilities of the Trust for the preceding three years.				
confirmation that it has not been restrcited from accessing the securities market				
by the country of jurisdiction where it is incorporated.				
UNDERTAKINGS- not a willful defaulter	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓
not a fugitive offender	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>V</b>	✓
UNDERTAKINGS-not debarred from securities market as on the date of application	<b>7</b>	✓	V	<b>√</b>
(for domestic)	Ŀ			
UNDERTAKINGS-The submissions made to the Accreditation Agency are true and	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>V</b>
The Applicant or its promoters/partners or directors are not wilful defaulters				
The promoters/partners or directors of the applicant are not fugitive offenders				
The applicant/ its beneficiaries/Trustees are not wilful defaulters				
The beneficiaries of the Applicant or its Trustee(s) are not fugitive economic				
offenders				
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		T	T	T	T
Document Type	Joint-Spouses	Trust-Family trust	Trust-Other trust	Firm- Partnership firm	Firm- Body Corporate
Copy of PAN Card of applicant/signatory	<b>✓</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>√</b>	✓	✓
Copy of Aadhaar Card	<b>▽</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	✓
Valid passport	<b>V</b>				
Copy of Registered Trust Deed		✓	<b>✓</b>		
Certificate of Incorporation					✓
Partnership deed				<b>✓</b>	
Copy of Income Tax Return for previous three year	<b>▽</b>			<b>✓</b>	✓
Copies of audited Financial statements of three years preceding the date of		V		✓	✓
application		✓	✓		
Audited financial statement prepared by statutory auditor for the current		V	<b>1</b>	✓	✓
date/period( Optional)					
Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating networth for previous	<b>V</b>	V	V		
three financial years.	V				
Certificate from practicising chartered accountant stating networth as on date of		V	V		
application (optional)					
Proof of ready reckoner rate applicable to real estate considered for calculation of	<b>✓</b>	Ø	7		
networth					
Copy of demat account statement	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓		
Statement of assets and laiabilities of the Trust for the preceding three years.					
		✓	✓		
confirmation that it has not been restrcited from accessing the securities market					
by the country of jurisdiction where it is incorporated.					
UNDERTAKINGS- not a willful defaulter	<b>✓</b>				
not a fugitive offender	✓				
UNDERTAKINGS-not debarred from securities market as on the date of application	V	Ø	V	<b></b> ✓	V
(for domestic)		Ŭ	<u> </u>	, and the second	
UNDERTAKINGS-The submissions made to the Accreditation Agency are true and	<b>✓</b>	V	<b>✓</b>	<u> </u>	✓
The Applicant or its promoters/partners or directors are not wilful defaulters				<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
The promoters/partners or directors of the applicant are not fugitive offenders					<u> </u>
The applicant/ its beneficiaries/Trustees are not wilful defaulters		V	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>
The beneficiaries of the Applicant or its Trustee(s) are not fugitive economic					
offenders		✓	✓		
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Document Type	Facility Colonial Colonial	<b>5</b>	F	
,,	Foreign- Sole Individual	Foreign- Sole proprietoship	Foreign-parent and children	Foreign- Joint-spouses
Copy of PAN Card of applicant/signatory				
Copy of Aadhaar Card				
Valid passport	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	✓
Copy of Registered Trust Deed				
Certificate of Incorporation				
Partnership deed	_	_	_	_
Copy of Income Tax Return for previous three year	✓	V	✓	✓
Copies of audited Financial statements of three years preceding the date of				
application				
Audited financial statement prepared by statutory auditor for the current				
date/period( Optional)				
Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating networth for previous	✓	V	<b>V</b>	V
three financial years.				
Certificate from practicising chartered accountant stating networth as on date of				
application (optional)				
Proof of ready reckoner rate applicable to real estate considered for calculation of				
networth	✓	V	✓	<b>✓</b>
Copy of demat account statement	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	<b>√</b>
Statement of assets and laiabilities of the Trust for the preceding three years.				
confirmation that it has not been restrcited from accessing the securities market	V	V	V	V
by the country of jurisdiction where it is incorporated.				
UNDERTAKINGS- not a willful defaulter	<b>✓</b>	V	✓	<b>√</b>
not a fugitive offender	<b>✓</b>	V	V	<b>✓</b>
UNDERTAKINGS-not debarred from securities market as on the date of application	□			<b>7</b>
(for domestic)		V		<u> </u>
UNDERTAKINGS-The submissions made to the Accreditation Agency are true and	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓
The Applicant or its promoters/partners or directors are not wilful defaulters				
The promoters/partners or directors of the applicant are not fugitive offenders				
The applicant/ its beneficiaries/Trustees are not wilful defaulters				
The beneficiaries of the Applicant or its Trustee(s) are not fugitive economic				
offenders				
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Document Type	Foreign-family trust	Foreign- other trust	Foreign-Partnership firm	Foreign- Body corporate
Copy of PAN Card of applicant/signatory				
Copy of Aadhaar Card				
Valid passport	<b>√</b>	V	<b>▽</b>	<b>√</b>
Copy of Registered Trust Deed	<b>✓</b>	✓		
Certificate of Incorporation				<b>✓</b>
Partnership deed				
Copy of Income Tax Return for previous three year	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>▽</b>	<b>✓</b>
Copies of audited Financial statements of three years preceding the date of	V	V	V	V
application				
Audited financial statement prepared by statutory auditor for the current	V	V	V	<b>▽</b>
date/period( Optional)			_	
Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating networth for previous	<b>V</b>	V		
three financial years.				
Certificate from practicising chartered accountant stating networth as on date of	V	V		
application (optional)				
Proof of ready reckoner rate applicable to real estate considered for calculation of	f 🗸	V		
networth				
Copy of demat account statement	<b>✓</b>	V		
Statement of assets and laiabilities of the Trust for the preceding three years.	<b>V</b>	V		
confirmation that it has not been restrcited from accessing the securities market	V	V	_	
by the country of jurisdiction where it is incorporated.			✓	✓
UNDERTAKINGS- not a willful defaulter				
not a fugitive offender				
UNDERTAKINGS-not debarred from securities market as on the date of application	n 🗸	V	<b>V</b>	
(for domestic)			<u> </u>	✓
UNDERTAKINGS-The submissions made to the Accreditation Agency are true and	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	<b>✓</b>
The Applicant or its promoters/partners or directors are not wilful defaulters			V	✓
The promoters/partners or directors of the applicant are not fugitive offenders			<b>▽</b>	<b>√</b>
The applicant/ its beneficiaries/Trustees are not wilful defaulters	<b>√</b>	V	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>
The beneficiaries of the Applicant or its Trustee(s) are not fugitive economic	<b>V</b>	V		
offenders				