

## CHERRY RATINGS (PTY) LTD

*SANAS-Accredited B-BBEE Rating Agency*

# Impartiality Statement

Cherry Ratings (Pty) Ltd, together with its directors, employees, shareholders, associates and contractors, is committed to the strictest impartiality throughout every B-BBEE verification we undertake. Our findings are based solely on objective evidence gathered through a fair, valid and reliable verification process, and are never influenced by commercial, financial or any other interest.

## Understanding Threats to Impartiality

In line with the current SANAS R47 and our internal Impartiality Policy (MAN-02), Cherry Ratings identifies, assesses and manages every relationship that could give rise to a conflict of interest or threaten our impartiality. We recognise the following categories of threat:

- **Self-interest:** arising when a staff member, director or the firm itself could benefit financially, emotionally or otherwise from a particular verification outcome.
- **Self-review:** arising when a person is required to review or re-evaluate work or a decision they were originally responsible for.
- **Advocacy:** arising when a person promotes a client's position or opinion to a degree that could compromise objective judgement.
- **Familiarity:** arising from a close or long-standing relationship with a client that could make us too sympathetic to their interests.
- **Intimidation:** arising when a staff member is, or perceives themselves to be, coerced or pressured by a client or other interested party.
- **Compliance / prior-consultancy:** arising when personnel have previously provided B-BBEE consulting, financial, accounting or auditing services to the entity being verified.

## Separation of Verification and Consulting

Cherry Ratings is a B-BBEE verification agency and nothing more. We do not, and will never, offer B-BBEE consulting services to an entity that we verify, and no related party of Cherry Ratings may provide both verification and consultancy to the same measured entity. We will never state or imply that using Cherry Ratings, or a related consultancy, makes verification simpler, faster or less expensive, and we take firm action against any party that makes such claims about our services.

## Our Governance of Impartiality

Impartiality is overseen by our Appeals, Complaints, Impartiality and Internal Audit Committee, which is responsible for ensuring that threats to impartiality and conflicts of interest are identified, documented and effectively managed on an ongoing basis. All directors, employees, shareholders and outsourced associates of Cherry Ratings complete annual and quarterly conflict-of-interest



**CHERRY RATINGS**  
CHERRY RATED **BEE SERVICES**

disclosures, which are reviewed and, where necessary, acted upon before any verification engagement is accepted.

### **Our Assurance to You**

- Acting impartially and without bias in every verification we conduct.
- Employing and continuously training competent, qualified personnel.
- Responding promptly and fairly to appeals and complaints.
- Providing access to relevant information in a transparent manner.
- Maintaining the confidentiality of client information at all times, as set out in our Confidentiality Statement.

*Independent **Verification.**  
Trusted **Ratings.**  
Enabling **Transformation.***

**Physical Address**  
991 Sovereign Road, Strubensvalley  
Roodepoort, Gauteng, 1735

☎ +27 (0) 71 220 0290 ✉ [info@cherryratings.co.za](mailto:info@cherryratings.co.za) 🌐 [www.cherryratings.co.za](http://www.cherryratings.co.za)