

Accredited Investor Framework under SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, SEBI (Investment Advisers) 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
Abakkus India Equity Trust	Category III Alternative Investment Fund	IN/AIF3/23-24/1326
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 Private Limited	Investment Adviser	INA000015729
Abakkus Asset Manager Private Limited	Portfolio Manager	INP000006457

Abakkus Asset Manager Private Limited (Formerly known as 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 understand various financial products and the risks- returns associated with them and are able to take informed decisions regarding their investments is recognized globally by 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 to introduce 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 Advisers) Regulations, 2013 and SEBI (Portfolio Managers) Regulations, 2020 on August 03, 2021, 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 and SEBI circular SEBI/HO/AFD/PoD1/CIR/2023/ 189 dated December 18, 2023, has simplified the requirements of grant of accreditation to 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, multilateral agencies (e.g. Asian Development Bank, New Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, International Finance Corporation, etc.) 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

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
The requirement of submitting PPM Audit Report to SEBI within 6 months from the end of Financial Year is exempted, if consent all the accredited investors is obtained.	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	Large Value fund for Accredited Investor

other AIFs	
Extension of the tenure of close ended fund is permitted even beyond 2 years but limited to 5 years.	Large Value fund for Accredited Investor

B. SEBI (Investment Advisers) Regulations, 2013

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

B. Eligibility Criteria for Accredited Investors

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

Category	Criteria
Individual	a. Annual Income \geq INR 2 Crore; OR b. Net Worth \geq INR 7.5 Crore, out of which at least INR 3.75 Crore is in the form of financial assets; OR c. Annual Income \geq INR 1 Crore+ Net Worth \geq INR 5 Crore, out of which at least INR 2.5 Crore is in the form of financial assets
Hindu Undivided Family	
Family trust	
Sole proprietorship	
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 firm set up under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932	Each partner independently meets the eligibility criteria for accreditation

The eligibility criteria shall be reckoned as follows:

1. Net worth calculation:

Category	Particulars
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: $\text{Net worth} = (\text{Capital} + \text{free reserves}) - (\text{Accumulated losses} + \text{deferred expenditure not written off})$
Trust	Net worth shall be calculated as under: $\text{Net worth} = (\text{Book value of all assets, other than intangible assets}) - (\text{Book value of total liabilities})$

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

2. The Investment Manager/Investment Adviser/ 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 Adviser/ Portfolio Manager Adviser and the client shall provide the following:

- (i) details of regulatory concessions agreed upon between the investor and the Investment Manager/Investment Adviser/ 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 with respect to the Portfolio Management Services 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 Adviser/ 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 Investor certification:

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 Processing Charges	BASL Certification Fees	
		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/-

*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 as per 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 has been approved by BASL. The relevant details including the validity period will be displayed on the certificate

The investors are advised to visit www.bseasl.com 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 www.aia.cvlindia.com 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 Processing Charges	CVL Certification Fees	
		For Two Year Tenure	For Three 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 www.aia.cvindia.com for detailed user manual and updates notified by CVL from time to time.

Annexure B-Documentation required for obtaining Accreditation

The Applicant shall furnish self-certified copies of the following documents:

Information	Documents to be submitted
In case of Individual / HUF	
Proof of Identity	(a) Copy of PAN Card. (b) Copy of Aadhaar Card or Copy of Valid Passport.
Proof of financial information <i>(Number of years for which financial information is provided shall determine the validity of the accreditation i.e., 1 year or 3 years)</i>	(a) Copies of Income Tax Return(s) of preceding one or three financial years, depending on desired validity of accreditation (b) Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating net worth as on March 31 of one or three financial years preceding the date of application (c) Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating net worth as on the date of application. (optional) <i>(Calculation of Net worth to be given as an Annexure to the certificate.)</i>
Proof of basis of valuation of assets	(a) Proof of 'ready reckoner rate' applicable to real estate assets considered for calculation of net worth. (b) Copy of demat account statement (c) Any other document as required.
Undertakings	Declaration from Applicant that: (a) The Applicant is not a willful defaulter. (b) The Applicant is not a fugitive economic offender. (c) The Applicant is not debarred from the securities market as on the date of application. (d) In case of a Non-Resident Indian or foreign investor, confirmation that he or she has not been restricted from accessing securities market by the country of jurisdiction where he or she resides. (e) The submissions made to the Accreditation Agency are true and correct and if found incorrect, the Accreditation Agency reserves the right to reject the application or withdraw the accreditation, as

	applicable.
Other Documents	Any other document as specified by the Accreditation Agency

In case of Body Corporates

Information	Documents to be submitted
Authorization to seek accreditation	(a) Certified copy of Board Resolution to apply for accreditation
Proof of Identity	(a) Copy of PAN card (b) Document of Incorporation
Proof of financial information <i>(Number of years for which financial information is provided shall determine the validity of the accreditation i.e., 1 year or 3 years)</i>	(a) Copies of Income tax return(s) of one or three financial years preceding the date of application. (b) Copies of audited Financial Statements of one or three financial years preceding the date of application. (c) Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating net worth as on March 31 of one or three financial years preceding the date of application. (d) Audited financial statements prepared by the statutory auditor for the current date/ period <i>(optional)</i> (e) Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating net worth as on the date of application. <i>(optional)</i>
Undertakings <i>(To be provided by Managing Director/ Designated Partner/ authorized person)</i>	Declaration that: (a) The Applicant or its promoters/ partners or directors are not willful defaulters. (b) The promoters/ partners or directors of the Applicant are not fugitive economic offenders. (c) The Applicant is not debarred from the securities market as on the date of application. (d) In case of a foreign investor, confirmation that it has not been restricted from accessing securities market by the country of jurisdiction where it is incorporated. (e) The submissions made to the Accreditation Agency are true and correct and if found incorrect, the Accreditation Agency reserves the right to reject the application or withdraw the accreditation, as applicable.
Other Documents	Any other document as specified by the Accreditation Agency

In case of Trusts

Information	Documents to be submitted
Proof of Identity	(a) Copy of PAN Card. (b) Copy of registered Trust Deed.
Proof of financial information (Number of years for which financial information is provided shall determine the validity of the accreditation)	(a) Copies of Income tax return(s) of one or three financial years, preceding the date of application (b) Copies of audited Financial Statements of one or three financial years preceding the date of application. (c) Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating net worth as on March 31 of one or three financial years preceding the date of application. (Working of Net worth to be given as Annexure to the certificate) (d) Audited financial statements prepared by the statutory auditor for the current date/ period (optional) (e) Certificate from practicing chartered accountant stating net worth as on the date of application. (optional)
Proof of basis of valuation of assets	(a) Statement of assets and liabilities of the Trust for preceding one year or three years, depending on desired validity of accreditation (b) Proof of 'ready reckoner rate' applicable to real estate assets considered for calculation of net worth. (c) Copy of demat account statement (d) Any other document as required.
Undertakings (To be provided by Trustee/ Board of Trustees)	(a) The Applicant /its beneficiaries/ Trustee(s) are not wilful defaulters. (b) The beneficiaries of the Applicant or its Trustee(s) are not fugitive economic offenders. (c) The Applicant is not debarred from the securities market as on the date of application. (d) In case of a foreign investor, confirmation that it has not been restricted from accessing securities market by the country of jurisdiction where it is

	incorporated. (e) The submissions made to the Accreditation Agency are true and correct and if found incorrect, the Accreditation Agency reserves the right to reject the application or withdraw the accreditation, as applicable.
Other Documents	Any other document as specified by the Accreditation Agency