

## INSIDER TRADING POLICY

### Policies and Procedures Governing Material Non-Public Information and the Prevention of Insider Trading (the “Policy”) of Canadian Solar Inc. and its Subsidiary Entities

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Table of Contents		
Heading		Page Number
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>		<b>2</b>
	Summary	2
	Compliance Officer	2
<b>PROHIBITIONS</b>		<b>2</b>
	<i>Insider Trading</i>	2
	<i>Tipping</i>	3
<b>DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATION OF INSIDER TRADING</b>		<b>3</b>
	<i>Definitions</i>	3
	<i>Trading</i>	3
	<i>Insider trading</i>	3
	<i>Security</i>	3
	<i>Purchase</i>	3
	<i>Sale</i>	3
	<i>What Facts are Material?</i>	4
	<i>What is Non-Public?</i>	5
	<i>Who is an Insider?</i>	5
	<i>Trading by Persons Other than an Insider</i>	6
	<i>Penalties for Engaging in Insider Trading</i>	6
	<i>Examples of Insider Trading</i>	7
	<i>Trading by Insider</i>	7
	<i>Trading by Tippee</i>	7
	<i>Prohibition of Records Falsifications and False Statements</i>	7
<b>PROCEDURES FOR PREVENTING INSIDER TRADING</b>		<b>8</b>
	<i>Identifying Material, Non-Public Information</i>	8
	<i>Information Relating to the Company</i>	8
	<i>Access to Information</i>	8
	<i>Inquiries from Third Parties</i>	8
	<i>Limitations on Access to Company Information</i>	9
	<i>Pre-Clearance of All Trades by All Directors, Officers and Key Employees</i>	9
	<i>Avoidance of Aggressive or Speculative Trading; Additional Prohibitions</i>	10

<i>Signing and Return of Certification of Compliance</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>ATTACHMENT A</b>	<b>11</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

Preventing insider trading is necessary in order to comply with securities laws and to preserve the reputation and integrity of the Company and all persons affiliated with it. Insider trading is prohibited by this Policy. It is a crime and could result in penalties of imprisonment, disgorgement of profits, civil fines of up to three times the profit gained or loss avoided and criminal fines of up to \$5,000,000 for individuals and \$25,000,000 for entities. It could also result in the termination of your employment with the Company.

Insider trading occurs when a person purchases or sells a security while in possession of inside information relating to the security. As explained in “*Explanation of Insider Trading*” below, inside information is information which is both material and non-public.

This Policy only addresses compliance with United States laws and the rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market relating to insider trading. Many other laws, including the laws of Canada and China, also deal with insider trading and may deal more generally with trading in the securities of the Company.

This Policy applies to all directors, officers and employees of Canadian Solar Inc. (“*CSI*”) and its subsidiary entities (together with CSI, the “*Company*”). Every director, officer and employee of the Company must read and comply with this Policy.

Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the Compliance Officer appointed by the board of directors (the “*Board*”) of CSI.

### **Compliance Officer**

Jianyi Zhang, Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, has been appointed by the Board as the Compliance Officer of the Company. Jianyi Zhang may be reached at +86 512 689 65204 and [jianyi.zhang@canadiansolar.com](mailto:jianyi.zhang@canadiansolar.com).

The Company will notify you if the Board appoints a different Compliance Officer.

## **PROHIBITIONS**

### **Insider Trading**

No director, officer or employee of the Company shall trade any type of security while in possession of material, non-public information relating to the security, whether the issuer of such security is the Company or any other entity.

In addition, except for the exercise of options that does not involve the sale of the underlying securities (eg, the cashless exercise of an option involves the sale of the underlying securities and therefore does not qualify for this exception), no director, officer or key employee of the Company shall trade any type of security of the Company during the period beginning two weeks before the end of each fiscal quarter of the Company and ending two full business days after the public release of the financial results of the Company for the quarter (the “*Prohibited Trading Period*”). The criteria for classifying employees as “*key*”

*employees*” for purposes of the Prohibited Trading Period will be determined by the Board. The Company will advise you if you are a key employee. If you have received a copy of this Policy, you are considered to be a key employee.

**Please note** that the Prohibited Trading Period may be changed at any time in the discretion of the Board or the Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer will advise of any changes.

The foregoing restrictions on trading do not apply to trading under a trading plan adopted pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission (the “*SEC*”) Rule 10b5-1 and approved in writing by the Board or a committee of the Board or any officer of the Company designated by the Board.

### **Tipping**

No director, officer or employee of the Company shall directly or indirectly tip material, non-public information, whether the information relates to a security of the Company or any other entity, to anyone.

In addition, material, non-public information should not be communicated to anyone outside the Company under any circumstances, or to anyone within the Company other than on a need-to-know basis.

## **DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATION OF INSIDER TRADING**

### **Definitions**

“*Trading*” refers to the purchase or sale of a security.

“*Insider trading*” refers to a trade in a security of an entity by an “*insider*” while in possession of “*material*”, “*non-public*” information relating to the security. See below for an explanation of these terms.

“*Purchase*” and “*sale*” are defined broadly under U.S. federal securities law. “*Purchase*” includes not only the actual purchase of a security, but any contract to purchase or otherwise acquire a security. “*Sale*” includes not only the actual sale of a security, but any contract to sell or otherwise dispose of a security. These definitions extend to a broad range of transactions including conventional cash-for-shares transactions, conversions, the grant and exercise of options and acquisitions and exercises of warrants or puts, calls or other instruments related to a security.

“*Security*” includes a share, bond, note, debenture, option, restricted share, restricted share unit, warrant or similar instrument issued by an entity or a derivative security relating to any of them, whether or not issued by the entity.

It is generally understood that insider trading includes the following:

- trading by insiders while in possession of material, non-public information;
- trading by persons other than insiders while in possession of material, non-public information where the information either was given in breach of an insider’s fiduciary duty to keep it confidential or was misappropriated; or

- communicating or tipping material, non-public information to others, including recommending the purchase or sale of a security while in possession of such information.

### **What Facts are Material?**

The materiality of a fact depends upon the circumstances.

A fact is considered “*material*” if there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable investor would consider it important in making a decision to buy, sell or hold a security or where the fact is likely to have a significant effect on the market price of the security. Material information can be positive or negative and can relate to virtually any aspect of an entity’s business and to any type of security, debt or equity.

Examples of material information in relation to the securities of an entity include facts concerning:

- significant changes in prospects;
- significant write-downs in assets or increases in reserves;
- changes in dividends;
- changes in corporate earnings or earnings forecasts, or unusual gains or losses in major operations;
- proposals, plans or agreements, even if preliminary in nature, involving mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, recapitalizations, strategic alliances, licensing arrangements, or purchases or sales of substantial assets;
- developments regarding significant litigation or government agency investigations;
- major changes in management;
- offerings of securities;
- award or loss of a significant contract;
- significant borrowings or financings;
- defaults on borrowings; and
- bankruptcy.

Material information does not have to be related to an entity’s business. For example, the contents of an about-to-be-released newspaper article that is expected to affect the market price of a security can be material.

Moreover, material information is not limited to historical facts but may also include future events, projections and forecasts. With respect to a future event, such as a merger or acquisition or the introduction of a new product, the point at which negotiations or product development are determined to be material is determined by balancing the probability that the event will occur against the magnitude of the effect the event would have on an entity’s operations or stock price should it occur. Thus, information concerning an event that would have a large effect on stock price, such as a merger, may be material even if the possibility that the event will occur is relatively small. When in doubt about whether particular non-public information is material, you should presume it is material. **If you are unsure whether**

**any information is material, you should consult the Compliance Officer before making a decision on whether to disclose such information (other than to persons who need to know it) or to trade in or recommend securities to which that information relates.**

A good general rule of thumb is: **when in doubt, do not trade.**

### **What is Non-public?**

Information is “*non-public*” if it is not available to the general public.

In order for it to be considered available to the general public, information must be widely disseminated in a manner that makes it generally available to investors through such media as *Dow Jones, Reuters Economic Services, The Wall Street Journal, Associated Press* or *United Press International*. The circulation of rumors, even if accurate and reported in the media, does not necessarily constitute effective public dissemination.

In addition, even after a public announcement, a reasonable period of time must lapse in order for the market and investors to be able to react to the information. **Generally, one should allow a period of two full business days following publication before information is considered to be public.**

Non-public information may include:

- information available to a select group of analysts or brokers or institutional investors;
- undisclosed facts that are the subject of rumors, even if the rumors are widely circulated; and
- information that has been entrusted to an entity on a confidential basis until a public announcement of the information has been made and enough time has elapsed for the market to respond to a public announcement of the information.

**If you are not sure whether information is considered public, you should either consult with the Compliance Officer or assume that the information is non-public and treat it as confidential.**

### **Who is an Insider?**

“*Insiders*” include directors, officers and employees of an entity and anyone else who has material non-public information about the entity.

Insiders of an entity have independent fiduciary duties to the entity and its equity holders not to trade on material, non-public information relating to the entity’s securities. All directors, officers and employees of the Company should consider themselves insiders with respect to material, non-public information about the business, operations, activities and securities of the Company.

Directors, officers and employees of the Company may not trade the securities of the Company while in possession of material, non-public information relating to the Company and may not tip (or communicate except on a need-to-know basis) such information to others.

**Please note** that trading by members of a director’s, officer’s or employee’s family or

household can be the responsibility of the director, officer or employee under certain circumstances and could give rise to legal and Company-imposed sanctions.

### **Trading by Persons Other than an Insider**

Insiders may be liable for communicating or tipping material, non-public information to a third party (a “*tippee*”).

Also, insider trading violations are not limited to trading or tipping by insiders. Persons other than insiders also can be liable for insider trading, including tippees who trade on material, non-public information tipped to them and other individuals who trade on material, non-public information which has been misappropriated.

Tippees inherit an insider’s duties and are liable for trading on material, non-public information illegally tipped to them by an insider. Similarly, just as insiders are liable for the insider trading of their tippees, so too are tippees who pass the information along to others who trade. In other words, a tippee’s liability for insider trading is no different from that of an insider. Tippees can obtain material, non-public information by receiving overt tips from others or through such means as conversations at social, business or other gatherings.

### **Penalties for Engaging in Insider Trading**

Penalties for trading on or tipping material, non-public information can extend significantly beyond any profits made or losses avoided, both for individuals engaging in such unlawful conduct and their employers.

The SEC and the U.S. Department of Justice have made the civil and criminal prosecution of insider trading violations a top priority. Enforcement remedies available to the government or private plaintiffs under the U.S. federal securities laws include:

- SEC administrative sanctions;
- securities industry self-regulatory organization sanctions;
- civil injunctions;
- damage awards to private plaintiffs;
- disgorgement of all profits;
- civil fines for the violator of up to three times the amount of profit gained or loss avoided and civil fines for the violator’s employer of up to the greater of \$1,000,000 and three times the amount of profit gained or loss avoided by the violator;
- criminal fines of up to \$5,000,000 for violators who are individuals and \$25,000,000 for violators which are entities; and
- jail sentences of up to 20 years.

In addition, insider trading violations could result in serious sanctions by the Company, including termination of employment.

Insider trading violations are not limited to violations of U.S. federal securities laws. Other U.S. federal and state civil or criminal laws, such as the laws prohibiting mail and wire fraud and the U.S. Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) also may be

violated by insider trading.

### **Examples of Insider Trading**

Examples of insider trading cases include actions brought against:

- corporate directors, officers and employees who have traded a company's securities after learning of significant confidential corporate developments;
- friends, business associates, family members and other tippees of corporate directors, officers and employees who traded a company's securities after receiving information about such corporate developments;
- government employees who learned of corporate developments in the course of their employment; and
- other persons who misappropriated, and took advantage of, confidential information from their employers.

The following are illustrations of insider trading violations. These illustrations are hypothetical and consequently are not intended to reflect on the actual activities or business of the Company or any other entity.

#### *Trading by Insider*

An officer of X Corporation learns that earnings to be reported by X Corporation will increase dramatically. Before the public announcement of such earnings, the officer purchases X Corporation's shares.

The officer, an insider, is liable for all profits as well as penalties of up to three times the amount of all profits. The officer also is subject to, among other things, criminal prosecution, including up to \$5,000,000 in additional fines and 20 years in jail. Depending upon the circumstances, X Corporation and the individual to whom the officer reports also could be liable as controlling persons.

#### *Trading by Tippee*

An officer of X Corporation tells a friend that X Corporation is about to publicly announce that it has concluded an agreement for a major acquisition. This tip causes the friend to purchase X Corporation's shares in advance of the announcement.

The officer is jointly liable with his friend for all of the friend's profits and each of the officer and the friend is liable for penalties of up to three times the amount of the friend's profits. In addition, each of the officer and his friend are subject to, among other things, criminal prosecution, as described above.

### **Prohibition of Records Falsifications and False Statements**

Section 13(b)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act") requires companies subject to the Act to maintain proper internal books and records and to devise and maintain an adequate system of internal accounting controls.

The SEC has supplemented the statutory requirements by adopting rules that prohibit any person from falsifying records or accounts subject to the above requirements and officers

or directors from making any materially false, misleading or incomplete statement to any accountant in connection with any audit or filing with the SEC. These provisions reflect the SEC's intent to discourage officers, directors and other persons with access to the Company's books and records from taking action that might result in the communication of materially misleading financial information to the investing public.

## **PROCEDURES FOR PREVENTING INSIDER TRADING**

The Company has established, and will maintain and enforce, the following procedures to prevent insider trading.

Every director, officer and employee of the Company is required to follow these procedures.

### **Identifying Material, Non-Public Information**

Before directly or indirectly trading any security of the Company every director, officer and key employee is required to contact the Compliance Officer (as part of the pre-clearance procedure discussed below) and make an initial determination whether the Company and/or the director, officer or key employee is in possession of material, non-public information relating to the security.

In making such assessment, the explanations of "material" and "non-public" information set forth above should be of assistance.

If, after consulting with the Compliance Officer, it is determined that the Company and/or the director, officer or key employee is in possession of material, non-public information, trading in the security may not take place.

### **Information Relating to the Company**

#### *Access to Information*

Access to material, non-public information about the Company, including the Company's business, operations, earnings or prospects, should be limited to directors, officers and employees of the Company on a need-to-know basis. In addition, such information should not be communicated to anyone outside the Company under any circumstances or to anyone within the Company other than on a need-to-know basis.

In communicating material, non-public information to employees of the Company, all directors, officers and employees must take care to emphasize the need for confidential treatment of such information and adherence to the Company's policies with regard to confidential information.

#### *Inquiries from Third Parties*

Inquiries from third parties, such as industry analysts and members of the media, about the Company should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Financial Officer or other appropriate person designated by them.

### *Limitations on Access to Company Information*

The following procedures are designed to maintain confidentiality with respect to the Company's business operations and activities.

- (a) All directors, officers and employees should take all steps and precautions necessary to restrict access to, and secure, material, non-public information by, among other things:
- maintaining the confidentiality of Company related transactions;
  - conducting their business and social activities so as not to risk inadvertent disclosure of confidential information (Review of confidential documents in public places should be conducted so as to prevent access by unauthorized persons);
  - restricting access to documents and files (including computer files) containing material, non-public information to individuals on a need to know basis (including maintaining control over the distribution of documents and drafts of documents);
  - promptly removing and cleaning up all confidential documents and other materials from conference rooms following the conclusion of any meetings;
  - disposing of all confidential documents and other papers after there is no longer any business or other legally required need through shredders when appropriate;
  - restricting access to areas likely to contain confidential documents or material, non-public information; and
  - avoiding the discussion of material, non-public information in places where the information could be overheard by others such as in elevators, restrooms, hallways, restaurants, airplanes or taxicabs.
- (b) Personnel involved with material, non-public information, should, to the extent feasible, conduct their business and activities in areas separate from other Company activities.

### **Pre-Clearance of All Trades by All Directors, Officers and Key Employees**

To provide assistance in preventing inadvertent violations of applicable securities laws and to avoid the appearance of impropriety in connection with the purchase and sale of the Company's securities, **all transactions in Company securities (including purchases and sales of Company shares, the exercise of Company share options, the exercise of restricted shares or restricted share units and the sale of Company shares issued upon exercise of Company share options and restricted share units) by directors, officers and key employees (the "Covered Persons") must be pre-cleared by the Compliance Officer.**

These procedures also apply to transactions by a Covered Person's spouse and minor children and other persons living in a Covered Person's household and to transactions by entities over which a Covered Person exercises control.

Clearance of a transaction is valid only for a 48 hour period. If the transaction order is

not placed within that 48 hour period, clearance for the transaction must be re-requested. If clearance is denied, the fact of such denial must be kept confidential by the Covered Person who requested the clearance. Additionally, except for the exercise of Company share options that does not involve the sale of Company securities (eg, the cashless exercise of a Company share option involves the sale of Company securities and therefore would not qualify under this exception), **neither the Company nor a Covered Person may trade in any securities of the Company during a Prohibited Trading Period.**

From time to time, other types of material non-public information regarding the Company (such as negotiation of mergers, acquisitions or dispositions or new product developments) may be pending and not be publicly disclosed. While such material non-public information is pending, the Company may impose special blackout periods during which Covered Persons are prohibited from trading in the Company's securities. If it imposes a special blackout period, the Company will notify the Covered Persons.

### **Avoidance of Aggressive or Speculative Trading; Additional Prohibitions**

Directors, officers and employees of the Company and their respective family members (including spouses, minor children and other persons living in the same household) should ordinarily not directly or indirectly participate in transactions involving trading activities which by their aggressive or speculative nature may give rise to an appearance of impropriety. Such activities include purchasing put or call options, or the writing of such options, engaging in short sales (ie, selling shares one does not own and borrowing the shares to make delivery) or selling a security within six months of purchase (which is viewed as short-term or speculative transactions).

Securities held in a margin account or pledged as collateral for a loan may be sold by the broker if you fail to meet a margin call or by the lender in foreclosure if you default on the loan. You may not have control over these transactions as the securities may be sold at certain times without your consent. A margin or foreclosure sale that occurs when you are aware of material, non-public information may, under some circumstances, result in unlawful insider trading. Because of this danger, you should exercise caution in holding Company securities in a margin account or pledging Company securities as collateral for a loan.

### **Signing and Return of Certification of Compliance**

After reading this Policy, all directors, officers and key employees are required to sign and return to the Compliance Officer Attachment A - *Certification of Compliance Form*.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE**

**To:** Compliance Officer, Canadian Solar Inc. and its subsidiaries  
(together, the “*Company*”)

**Re:** Insider Trading Policy (the “*Policy*”)

I have received, reviewed and understand the Policy and agree, as a condition to my present and continued employment with the Company, to comply fully with the Policy.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_