

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Members shall:

1. exercise professional skills and judgement to the best of their ability and discharge professional responsibilities safely and with integrity;
2. strive to ensure the enhancement of environmental quality and sustainable development and the mitigation of environmental harm;
3. have full regard for the public interest at all times;
4. commit to maintaining professional competence by undertaking appropriate continuing professional development and give all reasonable assistance to further the education, training and professional development of others; and
5. promote the Institution's object, aims, values and standing.

GUIDANCE NOTES ON THE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT & THEIR INTERPRETATION & APPLICATION

Introduction

The IES publishes a Code of Professional Conduct laying down the ethical and professional standards by which Members should abide. The code applies to all Professional Members, irrespective of the professional role they fulfil and the countries in which they practice.

Members should always be aware of their responsibility to the public good. A member's obligations to their employer or client can never override this and they should therefore not enter into undertakings which compromise this responsibility.

If a Member is confronted by an ethical problem or put into a position where a breach of the Code of Professional Conduct may arise, they should contact the IES Office who will arrange a confidential discussion with a senior member of the Institution to assist in reconciling the problem confronted by the member.

These Guidance Notes are designed to help members interpret and apply the rules of professional conduct. They are not exhaustive and do not cover all contingencies.

Rule 1: Members shall exercise professional skills and judgement to the best of their ability and discharge professional responsibilities safely and with integrity

Members shall at all times order their conduct as to uphold the dignity and reputation of their profession.

Members should be competent in the work they undertake. They should ensure that they have the relevant knowledge and expertise. Where appropriate, this may include access to the knowledge and experience of others, or access to other relevant sources of knowledge. They must disclose, where appropriate, any relevant limitations upon their competence. Members must also acknowledge sources of knowledge in undertaking their professional duties.

Members should give professional opinions that are objective, reliable and backed with scientific rigour. They should be responsible and accountable for their own actions and decisions.

Members must comply with all relevant legislation and regulations in the countries where they are operating. They should not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation or discrimination. They should respect, and not seek personal advantage from, all confidential, personal and commercially sensitive information that comes into their possession. They should ensure that their professional activities do not risk the health and safety of others.

Members should treat people on an equitable basis, without discrimination or bias on grounds of any protected characteristics. Members should encourage diversity and respect the customs, practices and reasonable ambitions of others. Members should treat colleagues on an equitable basis, recognising their specific needs, pressures and problems.

Potential breaches of Rule 1 could include:

- Failing to carry out their professional duties with complete objectivity and impartiality, including failing to declare conflicts of interest or to acknowledge the work of others.

- Failing to have due regard to their duty of confidence in relation to all parties with whom they have dealings as part of their professional duties.
- Failing to carry appropriate insurance, either personally or through their employers, failing to advise their clients of the position before accepting the engagement.
- Maliciously or recklessly injuring or attempting to injure, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation of another.
- Having any form of involvement, whether direct or indirect, and whether for the benefit of the member, the member's employer, or a third party, in bribery, extortion, fraud, deception, collusion or any other corrupt activity. Members should neither offer nor accept gifts, hospitality or services which could create or imply an improper obligation.
- Being guilty of any form of plagiarism or collusion.
- Failing to take all reasonable steps to protect the health and safety of members of the public and of those engaged in the project.

Rule 2: Members shall strive to ensure the enhancement of environmental quality and sustainable development and the mitigation of environmental harm

All human beings have the right to enjoy a global environment that meets their potential, adequately supports their health and wellbeing but also respects the existence of all forms of life. This global stewardship is an ethical, cultural, scientific and economic responsibility shared by all people, relevant as much to future generations as to the current generation.

Members shall therefore fully accept the responsibilities implied by environmental stewardship. Members shall strive to ensure sustainable use of resources, and protection of ecosystems and species through integrating natural resource conservation with socio-economic development, whilst taking account of the needs of a diverse society.

Rule 3: Members shall have full regard at all times for the public interest at all times

Except when authorised in the national or public interest, members shall not do anything or sanction anything to be done of which the probable consequences would, in their professional judgement, endanger human life or safety, needlessly pollute the environment, waste resources, degrade ecosystems or expose property to the risk of destruction or serious damage.

Members should take account of the broader public interest - the interests of all stakeholders in any project must be taken properly into account, including the impact on future generations. This must include regard for the impact upon the society and quality of life of affected individuals, groups or communities, and upon their cultural, archaeological and ethnic heritage, and the broader interests of humanity as a whole.

Rule 4: Members commit to maintaining professional competence by undertaking appropriate continuing professional development and give all reasonable assistance to further the education training and professional development of others

Members should strive for excellence and serve as an example to others. They should use their skills and experience to serve the needs of the environment and society. They should seek support if they are asked to act beyond their current level of capability.

All members have a duty to improve and update technical knowledge and competence, and to keep abreast of relevant developments, including new or changed statutory provisions.

Every member has a duty to be proactive in the training and continuing professional development of others, especially those for whom the member has line management responsibility. They should value and recognise others' contributions and achievements, and support colleagues to fully understand their responsibilities, areas of authority and accountability.

Rule 5 Members shall promote the Institution's object and mission, values and standing.

Members should be aware of the object and values of the organisation and seek to further those objects and values.

Members must notify the Institution if convicted of a serious criminal offence. A serious criminal offence means an offence involving dishonesty or deception or any other offence punishable by a Court of competent jurisdiction by a term of imprisonment of 12 months or more (whether or not any custodial sentence is in fact imposed).

Members shall observe the standards and professional conduct and behaviour as set out in this Code. They shall uphold the professions integrity and good standing, and refrain from conduct which detracts from its reputation.

Members should challenge, and report conduct or behaviour which you suspect to be unlawful or unethical, and encourage others to do so. You must report any breach of the Code of Professional Conduct by another member.