

## JOINT INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATIONS

### MEMBER ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

ACGIH<sup>®</sup> is dedicated to the promotion of healthy and safe environments by advancing the science, principles, practice and value of industrial hygiene and occupational and environmental health and safety.

ACGIH members are expected to give priority to health and safety interests related to the protection of people, and act in a manner that promotes sound scientific principles, integrity and reflects positively on the profession, consistent with accepted moral, ethical and legal standards.

As researchers, scientists, and practitioners in the field of industrial hygiene, ACGIH members have the obligation to: maintain high standards of integrity and professional conduct, follow recognized sound scientific principles, accept responsibility for their actions, continually seek to enhance their professional capabilities, practice with fairness and honesty, and encourage others to act in a professional manner consistent with the member and ethical responsibilities set forth below.

#### I. Responsibilities to the Professional Organizations, the Profession and the Public.

A. In order to satisfy organizational and legal policies and rules, members should:

1. Comply with laws, regulations, policies, and ethical standards governing professional practice of industrial hygiene and related activities, including those of professional associations and credentialing organizations.
2. Provide accurate and truthful information to professional associations and credentialing organizations.
3. Cooperate with professional associations and credentialing organizations concerning ethics matters and the collection of information related to an ethics matter.
4. Report apparent violations of applicable professional organizations' ethical standards to appropriate organizations and agencies upon a reasonable and clear factual basis.
5. Refrain from any public behavior that is clearly in violation of accepted professional, ethical or legal standards.
6. Promote equal opportunity and diversity in professional activities.
7. Support and disseminate the association's ethics principles to other professionals.

*Approved by the ACGIH<sup>®</sup> Board of Directors on April 30, 2007*

II. Responsibilities to Clients, Employers, Employees and the Public.

A. In order to provide ethical professional services, members should:

1. Deliver competent services in a timely manner, and with objective and independent professional judgment in decision-making.
2. Recognize the limitations of one's professional ability, and provide services only when qualified. The member is responsible for determining the limits of his/her own professional abilities based on education, knowledge, skills, practice experience, and other relevant considerations.
3. Provide appropriate professional referrals when unable to provide competent professional assistance.
4. Maintain and respect the confidentiality of sensitive information obtained in the course of professional or related activities unless: the information pertains to an illegal activity; a court or governmental agency lawfully directs the release of the information; the client/employer expressly authorizes the release of specific information; or, the failure to release such information would likely result in death or serious physical harm to employees and/or the public.
5. Properly use professional credentials and provide truthful and accurate representations concerning education, experience, competency and the performance of services.
6. Provide truthful and accurate representations to the public in advertising, public statements/representations, and in the preparation of estimates concerning costs, services, and expected results.
7. Recognize and respect the intellectual property rights of others, and act in an accurate, truthful, and complete manner, including activities related to professional work and research.
8. Affix or authorize the use of one's seal, stamp or signature only when the document is prepared by the certificant/candidate or someone under his/her direction and control.
9. Refrain from business activities and practices that unlawfully restrict competition.

B. In order to satisfy organizational policies and legal requirements concerning possible conflicts of interest and similar issues, members should:

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1. Disclose to clients or employers significant circumstances that could be construed as a conflict of interest, or an appearance of impropriety.
  2. Avoid conduct that could cause a conflict of interest with a client, employer, employee, or the public.
  3. Assure that a conflict of interest does not compromise legitimate interests of a client, employer, employee, or the public and does not influence/interfere with professional judgments.
  4. Refrain from offering, or accepting inappropriate payments, gifts, or other forms of compensation or benefits in order to secure work, or that are intended to influence professional judgment.
- C. In order to satisfy organizational policies and legal requirements concerning public health and safety, members should:
1. Follow appropriate health and safety procedures in the course of performing professional work to protect clients, employers, employees, and the public from conditions where injury and damage are reasonably foreseeable.
  2. Inform appropriate management representatives and/or governmental bodies of violations of legal and regulatory requirements when obligated or otherwise clearly appropriate.
  3. Make reasonable efforts to ensure that the results of industrial hygiene assessments are communicated to exposed populations.