

IOHA Code of Ethics



Introduction

The IOHA Code of Ethics is intended to provide general principles and appropriate ethical practice guidance for occupational hygiene associations who are members of IOHA. Occupational hygiene is synonymous with the term industrial hygiene.

The IOHA Code of Ethics establishes (a) the code of ethics for IOHA Board members, and (b) the general principles expected in the codes of ethics of those associations who are members of IOHA.

Code of Ethics for IOHA Members

(A) IOHA BOARD MEMBER ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

The International Occupational Hygiene Association is dedicated to improving, promoting and developing occupational hygiene worldwide through its member organisations, and to establish, improve and maintain a safe and healthy working environment for all.

IOHA Board members are expected to give priority to health and safety interests related to the protection of people, workplaces, communities, and the natural environment. IOHA Board members are expected to act and practice occupational hygiene in a manner that promotes sound scientific principles, integrity and reflects positively on the profession, consistent with accepted moral, ethical and legal standards.

Responsibilities to the Professional Organizations, the Profession and the Public:

To satisfy organizational and legal policies and rules, IOHA Board members should:

1. Comply with laws, regulations, policies, and ethical standards governing professional practice of occupational hygiene and related activities, including those of their professional associations and credentialing organizations.
2. Cooperate with professional associations and credentialing organizations concerning ethics matters and the collection of information related to an ethics matter.
3. Report apparent violations of applicable professional organizations' ethical standards to appropriate organizations and agencies upon a reasonable and clear factual basis.
4. Refrain from any public behaviour that is clearly in violation of accepted professional, ethical or legal standards.
5. Promote equal opportunity and diversity in professional activities.
6. Support and disseminate the association's ethics principles to other professionals.
7. Carry out occupational hygiene responsibility without compromising with business ethics.

(B) GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE CODES OF ETHICS OF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATIONS.

1. Professional responsibility

Principles of this responsibility

Occupational hygienists are responsible for exercising their profession in an honest and competent manner in accordance with the recognised principles of Occupational Hygiene, which acknowledge that the life, health and well-being of individuals depend on their professional judgement. Avoid circumstances which might compromise professional judgement or give rise to conflicts of interest, so that they uphold the integrity of their profession. They conduct their work in accordance with agreed standards of quality assurance.

2. Responsibility for themselves and others

Object of this responsibility

Occupational hygienists to maintain a high degree of integrity and competence, use appropriate scientific methods and interpret their results with good faith in a neutral manner. They should share scientific knowledge for the well-being of workers, society and the profession, protect confidential information and only deal with subjects within their own sphere of competence. They apply a systematic approach based on a sound analysis of hazard, risk and risk management methods.

3. Responsibility towards workers

Protection of health and well-being of workers

Occupational hygienists should acknowledge that their first duty is to protect the health and well-being of workers. They take an objective approach to the assessment, identification, evaluation and control of risks to health, without subjecting themselves to external influences, in recognizing that the health and well-being of workers and other persons depend on their competence and professional judgement. They aim to provide the same standard of care, in an even-handed manner, to all the workers for whom they are responsible.

4. Responsibility for towards employers and clients

The basis of relations with employers and clients

Occupational hygienists should provide advice to employers and clients in an honest, responsible and competent manner. They should respect confidentiality and properly discharge their responsibilities to employers and clients. However, these responsibilities are subordinate to their ultimate responsibility, which is to protect the lives and well-being of workers. They advise employers and clients on current standards, directives, and all other legal requirements in occupational hygiene. They report their results and make their recommendations in a true and honest manner and make sure that their professional judgement is applied only within their own sphere of competence and expertise. They manage and administer their professional services providing a high standard of sound and reliable reporting, which records and explains the results obtained and the conclusions drawn from them.

5. Responsibilities towards the public and the environment

The impact of decisions on public health and ecology

Occupational hygienists should consider the eventual impact of the decisions and actions they take on the public and the natural environment. They give honest, effective and pragmatic advice to all parties that are concerned with the potential risks to health and the means of protection. They apply the principles of occupational hygiene in a responsible manner to contribute to the creation and maintenance of a good (i.e., healthy and collaborative) environment for everyone.

6. Responsibilities towards the community

The management of conflicts of interest

Occupational hygienists should operate on the principle that in dealing with risks that impinge on both the working and the wider communities, employers, clients, workers and the public will have common interests. However, if possible, conflicts of interest appear, members should:

- Disclose to clients or employers significant circumstances that could be construed as a conflict of interest, or an appearance of impropriety;
- Avoid conduct that could cause a conflict of interest with a client, employer, worker, or the public;
- Assure that a conflict of interest does not compromise legitimate interests of a client, employer, worker, or the public and does not influence/interfere with professional judgments; and
- 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.

7. Responsibilities to Clients, Employers, Workers and the Public

Refrain from giving or receiving inappropriate compensation or benefit to secure work or that are intended to influence professional judgement.