

HKIOEH, Code of ethics

HKIOEH has the role to promote and develop the profession of occupational and environmental hygiene. The below Code of ethics is developed in line with the current HKIOEH Constitution. Every Corporate and non-Corporate Member of the Institute should maintain his or her conduct so as to uphold the dignity and reputation of the profession of occupational and environmental hygiene and to safeguard the public interest in matters of health and safety, primarily the workforce in a workplace environment.

Primary responsibility

The means to uphold occupational and environmental hygiene are to encourage the teaching, training and investigation in workplaces, particularly study through monitoring and assessment based on a sound analysis of hazard, risk and risk management methods. Members must 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. In providing advice to employers, clients or employees, members should give paramount consideration to safeguarding the health of the workforce in preventing ill health and bodily injuries. They should avoid circumstances, which might compromise their professional judgement or give rise to conflicts of interest, in order to assure the integrity of the profession.

Responsibilities to employers and clients

Members should provide advice to employers and clients in an honest, responsible and competent way with the ultimate aim to protect the health and safety of the workforce. They would recommend to the management on the good practices based on current standards and legal requirements in the area of occupational and environmental hygiene. They should respect confidentiality relating to one's business operations or trade processes, which are not common knowledge.

Responsibilities towards employees

Members should adopt an objective manner to the workplace assessment, identification, evaluation and control of risks to health, without subjecting themselves to outside influences, in recognising that the health and well-being of employees 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 employees for whom they are responsible.

Responsibilities to the general public

Members have the duty to serve the public interest by acting in an advisory capacity in matters relating to the science and practice of occupational and environmental hygiene. In order to maintain a good environment to the public at large, they should give honest, effective and practical information to all parties concerned with risks to health and the means of protection. However, if conflicts of interest do appear, they must be resolved in a manner which does least damage to workers and the environment.

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