

# Code of Professional Conduct for Members of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

## Introduction

1. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is a professional body. In this capacity it has a responsibility to define, maintain and uphold the professional standards of all members of the CIEH.
2. For their part, members accept certain on-going responsibilities associated with membership. These are set out in the Byelaws of the CIEH.
3. In respect of disciplinary matters, which are within the remit of this code of conduct, Byelaw 9 states:

*"Members shall be obliged at all times to uphold the reputation of their profession and to observe the Laws of the Chartered Institute. A member may be subject to disciplinary action by the Chartered Institute if found guilty of misconduct. Misconduct shall include failure to comply with the laws of the Chartered Institute, or being found guilty, or subject to an adverse decision, by another body, court or tribunal in respect of an offence or allegation relevant to membership of the Chartered Institute. The procedure for dealing with complaints against members and the sanctions or penalties which the Chartered Institute may impose, shall be set out in Regulations which shall have regard to the relevant principles of natural justice and human rights. The Regulations may also provide for the publication of appropriate details of disciplinary proceedings."*

## Purpose of the Code of Professional Conduct

4. The authority of the CIEH depends on the confidence and trust placed in the profession. Without such authority the CIEH would be unable to achieve the objectives set out in its Charter.

*"The object for which the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health was established is to promote for the public benefit the theory and science of environmental health in all its aspects and the dissemination of knowledge about environmental health."*

5. A code of conduct is an essential feature of a profession and underpins the integrity of that profession. This is important because the standing and credibility of the CIEH is defined by the perceptions of those individuals and organisations with which it interacts. A key function of the code of conduct is to sustain the reputation of the CIEH.
6. The Code of Professional Conduct states the standards which are to be expected of all members of the CIEH. As such this code establishes a benchmark which members recognise as being appropriate for the profession. It should be considered as a base-line standard for the purposes of measuring compliance with the code. It is not an aspirational or negotiable standard. The code is embraced by the Byelaw definition of laws of the CIEH and failure to comply with it can result in disciplinary proceedings.
7. This code of conduct, taken together with the Charter and Byelaws and the Regulations for Disciplinary Procedures relating to members sets out the framework to uphold professional standards. The Code of Professional Conduct is a regulation. It should be read together with the associated documents which are available on the CIEH's web site at [www.cieh.org](http://www.cieh.org)

8. On being granted membership of the CIEH it is the responsibility of every member to familiarise themselves with the associated responsibilities.

## The Code of Professional Conduct for Members

9. A member must support the promotion of the object of the CIEH and comply with the laws of the CIEH, which includes all regulations relating to continuing professional development.
10. A member shall be deemed to be in breach of the code if found guilty, or subject to an adverse decision, by another body, court or tribunal in respect of an offence or allegation relevant to membership of the CIEH.
11. A member shall be honest when called upon to give an opinion or otherwise acting in a professional capacity.
12. A member shall exercise proper independent professional judgment at all times.
13. A member shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that information he provides in a professional capacity on a matter within his knowledge or competence is accurate and complete.
14. A member shall have, and demonstrate if appropriate, respect for other members of the CIEH and acknowledge diversity of opinion within the environmental health community.
15. A member shall uphold the principle that equality of treatment shall be given in all relevant contexts to all persons regardless of age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, belief, or disability.
16. A member shall follow all environmental health legislation, guidance, codes of practice and other legal requirements bearing on them in a professional capacity.
17. A member shall not improperly communicate to any third party information which is privileged or confidential.
18. A member shall not use data without permission for purposes other than those intended.
19. A member shall not offer, accept or encourage any inducements which may be seen to prejudice professional independence or breach contractual or moral obligations.
20. A member shall not put forward views on behalf of the CIEH without the authority to do so.

## Commencement and amendment of regulations

21. These regulations shall take effect on the date of adoption and may only be amended, varied or rescinded by Council.

22. These regulations supersede and replace those made by the CIEH in General Meeting on 15 June 2002.

**Adopted** as a regulation by Council on 4 September 2006