Code of Professional Ethics for Industrial Hygienists

OBJECTIVE

These canons provide standards of ethical conduct for Industrial Hygienists as they practice their profession and exercise their primary mission, to protect the health and well-being of working people and the public from chemical, microbiological, and physical health hazards present at or emanating from, the workplace.

CANONS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Industrial hygienists shall:

1. Practice their profession following recognized scientific principles with the realization that the lives, health, and well-being of people may depend on their professional judgment, and that they are obligated to protect the health and well-being of people.
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• Industrial hygienists should base their professional opinions, judgments, interpretations of findings, and recommendations on recognized scientific principles and practices which preserve and protect the health and well-being of people.

• Industrial hygienists shall not distort, alter, or hide facts in rendering professional opinions or recommendations.

• Industrial hygienists shall not knowingly make statements that misrepresent or omit facts.

Code of Professional Ethics for Industrial Hygienists

CANONS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Industrial hygienists shall:

2. Counsel affected parties factually regarding potential health risks and precautions necessary to avoid adverse health effects.
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- Industrial hygienists should obtain information regarding potential health risks from reliable sources.
- Industrial hygienists should review the pertinent, readily available information to factually inform the affected parties.
- Industrial hygienists should initiate appropriate measures to see that the health risks are effectively communicated to the affected parties.
- Parties may include management, clients, employees, contractor employers, or other dependent on circumstances at the time.

Code of Professional Ethics for Industrial Hygienists

CANONS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Industrial hygienists shall:

3. Keep confidential personal and business information obtained during the exercise of industrial hygiene activities, except when required by law or overriding health and safety considerations.
Industrial hygienists should report and communicate information which is necessary to protect the health and safety of workers and the community.

- If their professional judgment is overruled under circumstances where the health and lives of people are endangered, industrial hygienists shall notify their employer or client or other such authority as may be appropriate.
- Industrial hygienists should release confidential personal or business information only with the information owner’s express authorization, except when there is a duty to disclose information as required by law or regulation.

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**CANONS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

Industrial hygienists shall:

4. Avoid circumstances where a compromise of professional judgment or conflict of interest may arise.
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- Industrial hygienists should promptly disclose known or potential conflicts of interest to parties that may be affected.

- Industrial hygienists shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable consideration from any party, directly or indirectly, which is intended to influence professional judgment.

- Industrial hygienists shall not offer any substantial gift of other valuable consideration in order to secure work.

4. Avoid circumstances where a compromise of professional judgment or conflict of interest may arise.

- Industrial hygienists should advise their clients or employer when they initially believe a project to improve industrial hygiene conditions will not be successful.

- Industrial hygienists should not accept work that negatively impacts the ability to fulfill existing commitments.

- In the event that this code of ethics appears to conflict with another professional code to which industrial hygienists are bound, they will resolve the conflict in the manner that protects the health of affected parties.
Code of Professional Ethics for Industrial Hygienists

CANONS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Industrial hygienists shall:

5. Perform services only in the areas of their competence.

- Industrial hygienists should undertake to perform services only when qualified by education, training, or experience in the specific technical field involved unless sufficient assistance is provided by qualified associates, consultants or employees.
- Industrial hygienists shall obtain appropriate certifications, registrations and/or licenses as required by federal, state, and/or local regulatory agencies prior to providing industrial hygiene services where such credentials are required.
- Industrial hygienists shall affix or authorize the use of their seal, stamp, or signature only when the document is prepared by the industrial hygienist or someone under their direction and control.
Code of Professional Ethics for Industrial Hygienists

CANONS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Industrial hygienists shall:

6. Act responsibly to uphold the integrity of the profession.

- Industrial hygienists shall avoid conduct or practice which is likely to discredit the profession or deceive the public.

- Industrial hygienists shall not permit the use of their name or firm name by any person or firm which they have reason to believe is engaging in fraudulent or dishonest industrial hygiene practices.

- Industrial hygienists shall not use statements in advertising their expertise or services containing a material misrepresentation of fact or omitting a material fact necessary to keep statements from being misleading.
6. Act responsibly to uphold the integrity of the profession.

- Industrial hygienists shall not knowingly permit their employees, their employers, or others to misrepresent the individuals' professional background, expertise or services, which are misrepresentations of fact.

- Industrial hygienists shall not misrepresent their professional education, experience, or credentials.

THINK about the situation objectively

- Clearly understand the situation
  - Know the facts
  - Identify the real issues
RECOGNIZE and analyze motivations

• If the situation troubles you, ask yourself why
• Consider the other party’s motivations

UNDERSTAND the company policy and applicable laws

• Consider all options
• Know whom and when to ask for help
**SATISFY** the headline test

- Ask yourself if you’d feel comfortable seeing your action reported in the news
- Think about how your family and colleagues would feel about your decision
- Consider the consequences of your decision - on the company, on customers, on your family, on yourself

**TAKE** responsibility for your actions

- Make an appropriate choice and act accordingly
- Remember, you’re accountable for the outcome of your decision