

Code of Ethics & Standards of Practice for Water Works Professionals

Preamble

Water Works Professionals are responsible for the treatment, testing, and distribution of water for potable and non-potable uses. Every day millions of people open their water taps without regard to where their water has come from or what process has been undertaken to deliver safe drinking water. Most do this with the confidence that the water they have obtained is safe to use for the consumer's intended purposes. Every person uses water in one form or the other, from the President of the United States to the most recently born citizen. Moreover, it is axiomatic that a link exists between the quality of water and the state of health of a community. In essence, Water Works Professionals are accountable for the health and well being of most individuals. Our responsibility covers the entire gamut of society, more so than any physician, lawyer, or other professional practitioner could endeavor. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to practice and execute our duties with regard to the public interest. Due to these facts, it is of utmost importance that our profession adopt and abide by the proposed tenets hereby inscribed and enumerated below as the code of ethics for Water Works Professionals. This paradigm will act as a guide to the ethical conduct based on those principles and standards of behaviors that uphold the integrity of the water works professional. The standards we shall hold true and consciously strive to attain self-regulation.

Creed

Water Works Professionals shall uphold the public trust and conduct their duties in an ethical manner. They shall be responsible for the validity of all data collected and analysis performed set forth by the limits of their cognitive knowledge.

The Four Fundamental Canons of Responsibility

I. The Professional's Responsibility to the Public

Water Works Professionals will:

1. Execute their duties with fidelity to the public.
2. Apply their specialized knowledge with due diligence for the benefit of mankind.
3. Make sound decisions based on the objectivity of scientific and technological data with regards to ecological, environmental and economic impacts.
4. Promote the protection of the source water supply and its associated surrounding environment.

II. The Professional's Responsibility to the Employers

Water Works Professionals will:

1. Act as a faithful agent of their employers.
2. Avoid any potential conflict of interest or impropriety that may damage the reputation of their employer.
3. Not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or discrimination.
4. Incorporate the use of the best management practices that are technically and economically feasible.

III. The Professional's Responsibility to the Profession

Water Works Professionals will:

1. Maintain the integrity of their profession by performing professional activities with diligence and competence.
2. Encourage the development of their profession through education and research.
3. Stay informed and knowledgeable of the developments in the profession that may enhance water quality through the treatment process.
4. Not undermine or discredit the work of a fellow Water Works Professional without just cause and sufficient evidence.

IV. The Professional's Responsibility to One's Self

Water Works Professionals will:

1. Have self respect and treat others in an equitable manner.
2. Endeavor to improve upon oneself in the realm of academic knowledge and hands on experience.
3. Have confidence in his or her ability to perform tasks that he or she is qualified to undertake.
4. Have the right to demand adequate training and the ability to ask for help during events requiring assistance or in situations of uncertainty.