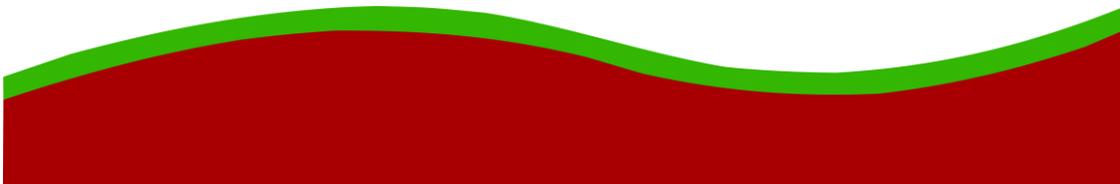




Institute of Professional Soil Scientists

Code of Conduct



Contents

Objectives.....	2
Basic Principles.....	3
Professional Obligations	4
Employment Principles.....	5
Defence of Members.....	6
Interpretation.....	6

Objectives

The objectives of the Institute are:

- To advance the study and practice of soil science and allied disciplines, to develop their application within the industry and society, and to promote and improve the professional standards of members so engaged.
- To promote awareness and understanding of the overall global importance of soils, and to encourage the responsible use of the Earth's land resources;
- To prescribe and uphold standards of qualifications, competence and conduct;
- To co-operate with universities, other educational institutions and authorities, for the initiation and furtherance of education in Soil Science or practice;
- To establish, maintain and promote the professional qualifications, status and standards of those engaged in the practice of soil science, land use and environmental management;
- To promote an ethic of environmental care within the profession and to organisations employing members; and
- To act, both nationally and internationally, in an advisory consultative and representative capacity in all matters connected with soils, related to the above objectives.

In fulfilling the objectives of the Institute members are bound by this Code of Professional Conduct, which demonstrates and enforces their standard of commitment, integrity, self discipline and professional competence. Acceptance of the code is a condition of membership.

The Committee of the has the right and duty to remove from membership or take other action as appropriate, regarding any member who has contravened the Code.

The Code shall be construed in accordance with the Laws of England and Wales, or of Scotland, and the members hereby subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts for such purpose.

Basic Principles

Members of the IPSS shall always give priority to respecting and protecting the environment in the widest sense during their professional work and agree to:

- encourage the integration of environmental considerations in land management, the effective application of international conventions, national laws and regulation of directives relating to environmental matters;
- promote the exchange of information on soil science and related environmental matters locally, nationally and internationally.

Professional Obligations

Members shall at all times:

- uphold the dignity and reputation of the profession of Soil Science by safeguarding the world's land resource and the public interest in matters concerning the environment;
- discharge their responsibilities with integrity and due scientific and technical competence;
- accept fully the moral, creative, cultural, scientific and economic responsibilities and challenges implied by environmental stewardship;
- ensure that at all times they do not do, or omit to do, anything which might bring the Institute or British Society of Soil Science into disrepute or be inconsistent with or harmful to the objectives of the Institute;
- uphold the principle of equal opportunity and non-discrimination in all activities;
- maintain a high standard of awareness of new developments in environmental practice, ecology and environmental management;
- conform to the Institute's requirements for continuing professional development;
- wherever possible, make scientific data collected during the course of the work available to appropriate recording centres;

- be held responsible for the acts of staff under their supervision in so far as they relate to matters coming within the scope of the Institute's working practice, whether or not the staff are members of the Institute;
- recognise and respect the professional status of fellow members and members of other qualified institutions active in environmental management;
- not represent themselves as spokesperson for the Institute without the Council's authority;
- ensure that they (or their employer) carries adequate professional indemnity insurance.

Employment Principles

In their dealings with employers, members shall:

- inform their employers of this Code and advise them that all professional business will be conducted in accordance with its provisions;
- keep good faith with their employers by agreeing at the outset the terms and conditions under which any services will be provided.

Defence of Members

The Institute will support any member who may be subject to improper pressure by or on behalf of their employer with the object of preventing the normal exercise of their profession or biasing their professional advice, and shall provide all reasonable assistance to any member who is unjustly accused, criticised or suffers professional discrimination in pursuance of the Code.

Any fees or costs incurred in providing such support may be charged to the Member.

Interpretation

Any dispute concerning the interpretation of the Code shall be referred to the Committee (through the Secretary) which may, if necessary, appoint an independent expert to give an interpretation. The Committee or any appointed person shall be deemed to act as an expert and not as an arbitrator. Such decision shall be within 30 days of notice and shall be final and binding on the parties. Any fees or costs for so acting shall be borne by the parties in equal shares unless circumstances (i.e. particular conduct by either party) dictate that a particular party shall bear all of such costs.

In the event that the Committee of the Institute is one of the disputing parties, an independent expert will be appointed jointly by both parties and any fees or costs jointly shared. Again, such person shall be deemed to act as an expert and not as an arbitrator; shall give the decision within 30 days of notice and such decision shall be final and binding on both parties.

