

CODE OF CONDUCT

IACS Code of Conduct for Member Societies

IACS

International Association
of Classification Societies

1. Introduction

The two main purposes of IACS are: (i) to establish, review, promote and develop minimum technical requirements in relation to the design, construction, maintenance and survey of ships and other marine related facilities; and (ii) to assist international regulatory bodies and standard organisations to develop, implement and interpret statutory regulations and industry standards in ship design, construction and maintenance with a view to improving safety at sea and prevention of marine pollution.

Members shall act with honesty and integrity in carrying out activities within IACS to achieve those purposes.

The observance of this Code of Conduct is an essential measure for safeguarding the reputation of IACS (“Member Societies” or “Members”) and for strengthening mutual understanding and trust among Members to achieve the abovementioned common aims. Member Societies are to adhere to this Code of Conduct.

2. General

2.1 Guiding Principles and Purpose

Member Societies are dedicated to improving safety at sea and protecting the environment including by the application of their respective Classification Rules and Regulations and the requirements of the International Conventions, as mandated by the flag Administrations which authorize Members to act on their behalf.

2.2 Credibility

In soliciting work, Member Societies shall refrain from using any improper, unethical or questionable methods, including the use of false, inaccurate or misleading information. Member Societies shall not use any unethical means to obtain advancement in the marine field nor to cause detriment to others in the marine community.

Member Societies are committed to conducting their undertakings with professional integrity and maintaining high ethical standards. Member Societies and IACS will not undertake or tolerate unlawful practices or actions that reduce IACS value and have negatively influence external opinion on the credibility and integrity of IACS.

In their activities, Member Societies shall strive to ensure high standards in relation to the safety of life and property at sea.

Member Societies, when performing membership activities, should be free from any influence resulting from Member’s individual interest or external pressure from third party.

2.3 Confidentiality of Information

Member Societies shall consider all submitted information and survey reports to be proprietary and the contents or copies shall not be made available to another party, except; as already in public domain; as defined in the Rules of the Society, required by applicable legislation court order, legal proceedings, Flag State requests, or by Owner’s authorization. Any information published in the members’ Register, including due dates of periodical surveys, are considered public information and available to any interested parties.

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The Member Societies shall follow the confidentiality provisions of IACS Procedural Requirements 2A and 2B (and as may be amended from time to time).

3. Conduct

3.1 General

3.1.1. Competition between Member Societies shall be on the basis of maintaining a fair and competitive environment in their work and to adhering to all applicable laws which regulate IACS and its Members activities in these markets.

3.1.2. Members undertake not to deliberately or recklessly make false or misleading statements about other Members or IACS. In internal and external relationships Members are guided by respect towards other Members and IACS. If any conflict arises Members will make every effort to reach an agreement in good faith.

3.2 Conflict of Interest

3.2.1. Each Member Society shall do its best to avoid conflict of interest which goes against activities, common aims or the purpose of IACS.

3.2.2. Each Member Society shall do its best to act loyally and be guided by the IACS' best interest to achieve common aims.

3.3 Marketing & Communication

3.3.1. Each Member Society is free to market its technical and related activities in a manner considered necessary to achieve its objectives.

3.3.2. Any Member, or a group of Members, can decide to apply and publicize any change to its or their Classification Rules and Regulations that go beyond the standards or procedures established within IACS. However, when notifying the industry of these changes, Member Societies shall do so in a manner that is not misleading.

3.3.3. In cases of a ship changing flag, when transfer of Class is contemplated, a Member Society should not misrepresent the degree of recognition provided to a Member Society by the new National Administration.