



**CODE OF ETHICS  
FOR  
LABORATORY, INSPECTION BODY AND RMP  
ACCREDITATION BODIES**

## **PURPOSE**

This document sets out the Code of Ethics that is binding on all APLAC full members, including signatories to the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). It is a statement of concepts concerning the way in which APLAC members, including signatories to the APLAC MRA, conduct their accreditation activities in an ethical manner. Accreditation bodies should recognise this Code as a set of dynamic principles governing their professional conduct.

## **AUTHORSHIP**

This publication has been written by the APLAC Board of Management.

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## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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## **APPLICATION**

This Code of Ethics is binding on all APLAC full members, including signatories to the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA), that are accreditors of testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies and reference material producers.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

1. The APLAC member shall at all times comply with its own policies, procedures, and operational rules, and with those of APLAC as set out in the APLAC *Constitution* and this *Code of Ethics*. In addition, signatories to the APLAC MRA shall comply with the additional requirements of the MRA (APLAC MR 002) and the related MRA documents.
2. Each member of APLAC shall conduct itself in a manner that will reflect positively upon itself, laboratory, inspection body and RMP accreditation, APLAC and the APLAC MRA. An APLAC member shall not actively solicit clients from other accreditation body members by offering inducements or advantages not available to all its clients, or by disparaging or misrepresenting the accreditation processes of those other members.
3. An APLAC member that is not a signatory to the APLAC MRA shall not represent its self-declaration of compliance with relevant international standards as a recognition by APLAC of any such compliance. An APLAC member that is not a signatory to the APLAC MRA shall not take any actions that state or imply that membership is equivalent to APLAC MRA signatory recognition.
4. An APLAC MRA signatory shall not make statements that misrepresent the purpose or scope of the MRA. An APLAC member that is a signatory to the APLAC MRA shall not take any actions that state or imply APLAC MRA recognition in areas outside its recognised scope.
5. The APLAC members and their accredited laboratories, inspection bodies and RMPs shall use the APLAC logo only in the manner approved by APLAC from time to time.

## **BREACHES OF THE CODE**

Alleged breaches of the Code have to be reported to the APLAC secretariat and dealt with by APLAC following APLAC's complaint handling procedure in section 10 of the APLAC *Constitution* (APLAC SEC 052).