

ISO Code of Ethics



*Each ISO player
contributes to the performance*



ISO Code of Ethics



Committed and organized to meet the challenges of the 21st Century



Voluntary standardization, in the way it is practised by ISO and its members, is an appropriate mechanism to address the complex challenges faced by business, government and society as a whole at the outset of the 21st century. Its transparent and consensus-based processes, relying on the contributions of the relevant experts and the participation of the concerned stakeholders, provide realistic and state of the art solutions for disseminating technology and innovation, facilitating trade, establishing efficient processes and making them more effective, ensuring the quality of products and services and safeguarding the environment.

As providers of solutions to business, government and society, ISO and its members recognize that it is imperative to conduct activities in an ethical manner that deserves the confidence of all parties involved in standardization and of the general public. Each ISO member and each of ISO's organizational entities, including its technical and governance bodies and core support functions, are expected to act in accordance with this Code of ethics and to promote adherence to the values of ISO by other organizations and individuals participating in the ISO standardization system.

Each ISO member undertakes to be the organization most broadly representative of standardization in its country. An

ISO member may delegate some of its ISO rights and obligations to other organizations in its country, but remains responsible towards the other members of ISO for its primary responsibilities and for making sure that when delegated, these are not compromised.

Developing globally relevant International Standards in a fair, responsive and efficient manner



ISO members are committed to developing globally relevant International Standards by:

ensuring fair and responsive application of the principles of due process, transparency, openness, impartiality and voluntary nature of standardization by:

- organizing national input in a timely and effective manner, taking into account all relevant interests at national level;
- taking appropriate measures to facilitate the participation of consumers and other affected parties from civil society, SMEs and public authorities.

ISO parties are committed to:

making their best endeavours to contribute to ISO's consensus-building mechanisms, coherence and global relevance by:

- applying ISO's authorized procedures properly and diligently;

- preventing conflicts of interest by communicating in a fair and transparent manner to interested parties when work on new standards is initiated and subsequently on the progress of their development, ensuring that market needs are the driver for the development of standards.

Promoting the implementation of International Standards and associated good conformity assessment practices

In regard to the implementation of ISO International Standards and related conformity assessment activities, ISO members are committed to:

promoting the implementation of International Standards and other ISO normative publications effectively to support the dissemination of technology, good practice and sustainable development, and to reduce barriers to trade, including those that may be created by technical regulations;

contributing to the development of standards and guides for conformity assessment and promoting their adoption and fair use, in particular as far as requirements for integrity, objectivity and impartiality are concerned;

implementing the requirements of (ISO/IEC) conformity assessment standards and guides in their own conformity assessment activities if they, or a body related to them, undertake such activities.

Monitoring ISO's integrity and protecting ISO's image

ISO members shall:

act on behalf and in the interest of ISO as a whole, when serving by election or appointment by the ISO membership to a position in ISO's governing bodies;

accept to contribute their fair share of the cost of maintaining the ISO infrastructure, including the costs associated with the core functions of the ISO Central Secretariat, according to subscription levels decided by the ISO Council.

All ISO parties shall:

apply the conditions decided by Council when reproducing or distributing ISO publications protected by copyright;

make their best efforts and take all appropriate action to ensure the proper use of the ISO name, mark and logo, and to prevent unauthorized sales in any form of the text of ISO publications.

Taking into account the development dimension

ISO parties shall:

contribute to ISO's actions to help its members from developing countries improve their capacity and their participation in international standardization.



The term "ISO parties" is used herein to designate the aggregate of all ISO members and ISO organizational entities.