

# **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS (ASHE)**

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

### **Introduction**

The members of the highway industry recognize that their work has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. As a result, the service provided by the various professionals, industries and businesses requires honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of public health, safety and welfare. ASHE members should be aware of the ASHE Mission Statement, which follows, and understand its impact to their profession and use it in their daily conduct of work.

### **Mission Statement**

ASHE provides a forum for members and partners of the transportation industry to promote a safe, efficient and sustainable highway system through education, innovation, and fellowship.

### **I. Society Member Objectives**

- A. The safety, health and welfare of the public shall be held prominent in their conduct of work.
- B. Members shall provide or perform services only in areas of their expertise or competence.
- C. Members shall act in a professional, ethical, and moral manner when conducting business and other matters related to the highway industry and their profession.
- D. Members shall avoid improper acts in the solicitation of their services.

Each of these objectives is defined in further detail below.

## **II. Code of Conduct**

- A. The safety, health and welfare of the public will be held prominent in the conduct of work by ASHE members.
  - 1. ASHE members shall perform their work recognizing the importance of protecting the safety, health, property and welfare of the public.
  - 2. If, during the conduct of work, a member's judgement is compromised or overruled in such a way that endangers the safety, health, property, or welfare of the public, the member shall notify the appropriate authority.
  - 3. Members shall refrain from association with any person or business venture, which they suspect to be engaged in fraudulent or dishonest business practices.
  
- B. Members should provide or perform services solely in areas of their expertise or competence.
  - 1. ASHE members shall perform work assignments only when qualified by training, education, or experience in the specified field or service involved.
  - 2. ASHE members shall recommend, approve or promote only those products or services in which they have competence and knowledge.
  
- C. Members shall act in a professional, ethical, and moral manner when conducting business and other matters related to the highway industry and their profession.
  - 1. ASHE members shall identify all known and potential conflicts of interest to their employers or clients informing them of any business association, which could influence or appear to influence their judgement or quality of service.
  - 2. ASHE members can accept compensation from more than one party for performing the same services providing that the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by all interested parties.

- D. Members should maintain the utmost integrity in the solicitation of their products and services.
  - 1. ASHE members shall be entirely truthful when representing their business experience, professional qualifications or product performance.
  - 2. ASHE members shall not offer, give, solicit or receive any gift, political contribution or other valuable consideration with the intent of receiving favorable consideration of a contract award, materials purchase or other work.
  
- E. ASHE members and ASHE guests shall conduct themselves in a professional, ethical and moral manner when attending and/or participating in ASHE-sponsored events.
  - 1. From time to time, ASHE National and/or its local affiliates host ASHE-sponsored networking or other professional events. It is expected that all ASHE members and guests of ASHE adhere to the highest professional, ethical, and moral conduct when attending or otherwise participating in these events. Failure of an ASHE member or ASHE guest to adhere to this minimum standard of conduct is grounds for exclusion from future ASHE-sponsored events and/or suspension or revocation of membership.

### **III. Member Obligations**

- A. Members of ASHE shall be guided in their provision of service by the highest standards of integrity.
  
- B. Members of ASHE shall strive to serve the public interest.
  
- C. Members of ASHE shall refrain from all conduct or practice, which may discredit the highway industry or deceive the public.
  
- D. Members of ASHE shall not disclose confidential information concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer without his consent.

- E. Conflicting interests shall not influence members of ASHE.
- F. Members of ASHE shall uphold the principle that adequate compensation be received for services provided to the highway industry.
- G. Members of ASHE shall be totally truthful in their efforts to gain employment or advancement and shall not criticize other members of the highway industry.
- H. Members of ASHE shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the reputation, prospects, practice or employment of other members of the highway industry.
- I. Members of ASHE shall cooperate with one another in extending the effectiveness of the highway industry by the exchange of information and experience with other members of ASHE and will provide opportunity for the advancement and development of other members of the highway industry.
- J. It is the responsibility of all members to disclose the loss of their professional license or certification to the appropriate Section, Region and National Board when such loss of license/certification is due to unethical, willful negligent or criminal activities.
- K. It is the responsibility of all members to report unethical, willful negligent or criminal activities by another member to the appropriate Section, Region and National Board. The report should be made immediately upon having knowledge of same activities.