

NEW ENGLAND WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION

PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS FOR LABORATORY PERSONNEL

POLICY STATEMENT

The New England Water Works Association Laboratory Operations Committee has developed a code of conduct and ethics for professional laboratory personnel.

This code has been promulgated in order to safeguard the health and welfare of the public and to establish high standards of Integrity, Independence, and Individual Development of professional laboratory personnel.

All NEWWA members associated with the operation of a drinking water laboratory are expected to have knowledge and understanding of this code of conduct and ethics. Adoption of this code by individual members is *strongly* recommended.

INTEGRITY

In circumstances where professional laboratory personnel recognize that the safety, health and welfare of the public is threatened or endangered, they will document concerns and the resulting possible consequences to their superiors and/or other authorities.

The integrity of professional laboratory personnel is ultimately based upon the factual reporting of scientific data. For reporting and compliance purposes, the data will be generated using *approved* or accepted *alternate test procedures*.* Professional laboratory personnel will include all relevant and pertinent information in all reports, statements, and testimony.

Professional laboratory personnel will avoid any conflict of interest or appearance thereof. Solicitation or acceptance of any gifts or financial gains from any source could suggest a compromise of integrity.

Professional laboratory personnel will not falsify or misrepresent their academic or professional qualifications to enhance their standing or work.

INDEPENDENCE

Professional laboratory personnel must be independent from internal and/or external influences that may compromise their duties and responsibilities to be able to report data objectively.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional laboratory personnel will be qualified through documented education, training and experience. These skills should continue to be maintained through continuing education, seminars, workshops, and membership in professional associations. An assignment outside their area of expertise and competence will not be accepted unless under the direct supervision of a duly qualified individual.

SUMMARY

Professional laboratory personnel must be prepared to face any and all disciplinary or legal consequences as a result of breaching this code. In the final analysis, personal integrity and public conscience must prevail.

* “Approved” and “alternate test procedures” are USEPA definitions found in the CFR part 141.