

Global Conflicts of Interest Standards – Bringing Confidence to the Users of Surveying Related Activities

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SUMMARY

Conflicts of interest cut across the surveying profession regardless of geography or specialism. If conflicts arise and are not appropriately identified and managed, the integrity of the profession and those in it are at stake. What constitutes a conflict, and when should a professional step aside from acting, or proceed with appropriate management systems in place? There are no currently agreed global principles in this area

Robust professional standards facilitate public confidence in those they employ not to mention surveying related professionals and firms to be competitive in their marketplaces. Without public confidence in the professionalism of those providing surveying services, the long-term value of surveyors and those acting within this industry will be jeopardised.

It is important that practitioners in this sector continue to provide an environment allowing new firms to be established and new practitioners to enter the profession. Existing practitioners also need to be allowed to grow, innovate and continue to provide a range of competitive services to those who need them. At the same time, consumer protection and the confidence in the profession are critical.

The object of the exercise is to give confidence to the users of surveying related services, especially regarding concerns over perceived and actual conflicts of interest. Without a standardised, high level approach – the chances of public confidence being undermined are high. A working group has formed to look at this issue and to propose a standardised approach to the identification and handling of conflicts of interest. This presentation will highlight some of the issues involved, the engagement process and the current status of the initiative.