EOCP
Environmental Operators Certification Program

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Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Environmental Operators

The objectives of Environmental Operators are to conduct their professional lives and activities in an ethical manner. Fairness, courtesy, and good faith form moral philosophy which, associated with a mutual interest among people, constitute the foundation of ethics. Environmental Operators should recognize such a standard, not in passive observance, but as a set of principles guiding their conduct and way of life. It is their duty to practice their profession according to this Code of Ethics.

As the keystone of professional conduct is integrity, Environmental Operators will discharge their duties to the public, their employers, fellow members, and clients, with fairness and impartiality. It is their duty to interest themselves in public welfare, and to be ready to apply their special knowledge for the benefit of all humans and their environment.

Policy

This Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice must be seen in the context of the Environmental Operators Certification Program's Mission Statement:

> *"To advance certified excellence in skilled operators, empowering leadership and integrity to safeguard public health, the environment, and resilient water and wastewater systems across British Columbia and the Yukon, while dismantling barriers and fostering inclusion for diverse communities."*

The Code of Ethics is not an external set of restrictions. Rather, it embodies the shared values of the EOCP's members. Membership implies a commitment to these shared values. Members who contravene this Code of Ethics, as determined by the EOCP, may have their certification suspended or revoked as outlined in the Disciplinary Matrix. Review of complaints/concerns regarding contraventions will be investigated by the EOCP's Ombudsperson Committee which comprises of two Board Directors and two EOCP staff members.

Fundamentals

As an Operator certified by the Environmental Operators Certification Program, I shall:

1. act at all times, with fairness, courtesy and good faith to my fellow members, employers, employees, and clients, and with a commitment to the needs of the public;
2. uphold the values of truth, honesty, and trustworthiness, and safeguard human life and the environment;
3. hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public, the protection of the environment, and promote health and safety within the workplace;
4. undertake and accept responsibility for work only when qualified by training or experience;

5. not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;
6. examine all my relationships or actions, which could be legitimately interpreted as a conflict of interest by clients, officials, the public, or peers;
7. conduct myself with fairness, courtesy, and good faith towards clients, colleagues, and others, give credit where it is due, and accept as well as give, honest and fair professional feedback,
8. record all data accurately and retain records;
9. comply with all regulatory requirements;
10. report to the EOCP or other appropriate agencies any hazardous, illegal, or unethical professional decisions or practices by members, or others; and
11. keep myself informed in order to maintain competence, strive to advance the body of knowledge within which I work, and provide opportunities for the professional development of fellow members; and
12. be committed to upholding a positive environment that reflects equity, inclusion, and mutual respect.

I confirm that I actively support, practice, and promote this Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Environmental Operators.

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

Disciplinary Matrix

The purpose of this matrix is to ensure that the disciplinary actions issued by the Environmental Operators Certification Program are conducted in a fair, transparent, and consistent manner whilst taking into consideration the need for protection of public health and the environment.

Violation	First Time	Second Time
Charged with an offence under legislation pertinent to job duties as a certified Operator	Immediate suspension of EOCP certification until the charges are withdrawn or the matter is resolved in court	Immediate suspension of EOCP certification until the charges are withdrawn or the matter is resolved in court
Convicted of an offence under legislation pertinent to job duties as a certified Operator	Up to a five-year suspension depending on the severity of the conviction* If an Operator wants to re-certify following their suspension, they must follow the re-certification process outlined in the Program Guide	Full revocation of EOCP certification with no possibility of recertification by the EOCP
Providing false or misleading information on classification or certification forms	Denial of application Applicant will have to wait a one-year period before re-applying	Applicant will have to wait a minimum of two years to re-apply
Cheating on an exam	Exam will not be scored If already certified, immediate one-year suspension and must wait two years to re-apply to write any exam If first exam, must wait two years to re-apply to write an exam	If already certified, suspension of EOCP certification and no possibility of writing any exams If first exam, cannot write any more exams
Breach of Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Environmental Operators	Freeze certification until the situation has been investigated and resolved (freeze means cannot write any new exams)	Freeze certification until the situation has been investigated and resolved (freeze means cannot write any new exams)

*Minor – convictions that do, or could reasonably be expected to have a minimal (one to three years) adverse impact to public health or the environment.

*Major – convictions that do, or could reasonably be expected to have a substantial (more than three years) adverse impact to public health or the environment.