

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR URA LICENSED PROFESSIONALS

According to Section 35 of the Utility Regulatory Act (26/2020), the Board of Utility Regulatory Authority (URA) hereby adopts the CODE OF CONDUCT for Professional Licensees on 15th November 2022.

This code shall form part of the licensing condition for any professionals that are issued with a license under the URA. Such, professionals include technicians, electricians, plumbers and engineers with any valid license from URA who operate within the electricity, water, sanitation and waste sectors.

This code of conduct reflects the ethics, principles and values of professionals issued with licenses under the URA. The professionals should observe a system of moral principles and values as a set of dynamic criteria to guide their behaviour and way of life, rather than passive perception.

It is the duty of the professionals to practice according to this code of conduct.

Responsibility to Society and Profession	1.	Under this article, a registered professional shall :
	(a)	discharge his/her duties with absolute fidelity to his/her clients and employers, and to act at all times, with fairness and impartiality to all, having due regard to public interest and welfare.
	(b)	uphold the honour and dignity of his/her profession and, therefore, avoid association with any person or enterprises of known questionable character.
	(c)	approve and sign only those technical documents that has been prepared or are being prepared under his/her direction, supervision or control of the licensee
	(d)	check with due diligence the accuracy of facts and data before signing or endorsing any statement or claim. Professionals shall not sign-off/endorse such documents unless, where necessary, licensee has made rectifications on errors and inaccuracies.
	(e)	strive to upgrade his/her skill and knowledge in their respective field in order to give the best possible service to the public which could be attained by interchanging information and experiences with other professionals.

		(f)	only advertise the work or merit in a simple manner and avoid any practice that will discredit or do injury to the dignity and honour of the profession.
		(g)	not reveal facts, data or information without prior consent of the client or employer except as authorized or required by the law or when withholding of such information is contrary to the safety of the public.
		(h)	shall issue statements/communicate only in an objective and truthful manner and avoid and discourage spreading untrue, unfair, and exaggerated statements as follows.
		(i)	a registered professional shall be objective and truthful in professional reports, statements and testimonies. Licensee shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or testimonies, which should bear the date indicating when it was current.
		(ii)	a registered professional may express publicly only technical opinions that are founded upon his/her competence and knowledge of facts in subject matter.
		(iii)	a registered professional shall not issue a statement, criticism or argument on technical matter that is inspired or paid for by interested parties on whose behalf he/she is speaking and by revealing the existence of any interest he/she may have in the matter.
		(i)	have due regard at all times for the safety and health of his/her employees, other workers, as well as of the general public and for the protection of individuals or property that may be affected by the work.
		(j)	report on having knowledge of any violation of this code and relevant regulations to the appropriate professional bodies and, when relevant, also to public authorities and cooperate with the proper authorities in furnishing such information or assistance as may be required.
		(k)	using their knowledge and skill for the enhancement of human welfare and the environment
Responsibility to Client/Employer	2.	A registered professional shall -	
		(a)	perform services only in areas of competence.
		(b)	not falsify his/her qualifications or permit misrepresentation of his/her associates' qualifications. Licensee shall not misrepresent or exaggerate responsibility in or for the subject matter of previous

		assignments, neither misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint ventures, or past accomplishments.
	(c)	be fair, impartial and reasonable in rendering professional service to the clients, employers and contractors regarding contracts or other agreements.
	(d)	disclose all known or potential conflicts of interest that could influence or appear to influence his judgement or the quality of his services, ensuring transparency in all such matters.
	(e)	be vigilant in guarding against conditions that may be dangerous or threatening to life, health, or property on work for which Licensee is responsible, or otherwise bring such conditions to the attention of those responsible.
	(f)	present clearly the known possible consequences or limitations of the work for which he/she will be responsible.
	(g)	honestly advise Licensee's clients or employer to engage the services of other experts and specialists, and should cooperate with them in the interests of his client or employer.
	(h)	not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one interested party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by all interested parties.
	(i)	not solicit or accept financial or other valuable consideration, directly or indirectly, from outside agents in connection with the work for which he/she is responsible.
	(j)	not divulge confidential matters or information which has come to Licensee knowledge concerning affairs of Licensee's client or employer, without their consent.
	(k)	not be financially interested in the bids of a contractor on competitive work for which he/she has been or expects to be employed as a professional, unless he/she has the consent of his client or employer.
	(l)	promptly disclose to Licensee's client or employer of interest which Licensee may have in a business that may conflict with or affect their decision regarding the work for which Licensee is employed or which licensee may be called upon to perform.

		(m)	not offer, give, solicit or receive, either directly or indirectly, any contribution to influence the award of a contract which may be reasonably construed as having the effect of intent to influence the award of a contract. The Licensee shall not offer any gift or other valuable consideration in order to secure work. The Licensee shall not pay a commission, percentage or brokerage fee in order to secure work.
Responsibility to industry	3.	A registered professional shall -	
		(a)	endeavour at all times to protect their profession collectively and individually against misrepresentation, distortion, misunderstanding or unfair criticism.
		(b)	give credit for the professional work to the person whom the credit is due, including adherence to copyright and intellectual property laws and practices.
		(c)	live up to the standards of professional practice in their respective field(s).
		(d)	not directly or indirectly injure the professional reputation, prospects, or practice of fellow workers. Licensee should not hesitate to bring the matter to the proper forum for disciplinary or for other appropriate action(s), whenever he/she finds a professional violating the rules of unethical or unprofessional practices.
		(e)	not compete with another professional from their field on the basis of compensation for particular work by means of underbidding, after the results of a public bidding are announced.
		(f)	not directly or indirectly -
		(i)	supplant or attempt to supplant another registered professional;
		(ii)	intervene or attempt to intervene in connection with the work of any kind which to Licensee's knowledge has already been entrusted to another professional; or
		(iii)	take over any work of another professional acting for the same client unless licensee has
(1)	obtained the consent of that other registered professional or a consultancy practice; or		
(2)	been formally notified by the client that the services of that other registered professional or a consultancy practice have been terminated in accordance with the provisions of any contract for professional		

				services entered into between that other professional or consultancy practice and the client.
		(g)	shall continue their professional development throughout their careers, and shall provide opportunities for the professional development of those civil engineers under their supervision	
		(h)	notify URA in writing within three (3) months if he/she is convicted of an offence involving false or negligent certification, fraud or dishonesty within the Maldives or abroad	
Penal Provisions	4.	Violation of any provisions of this Code shall be constituted as unethical, unprofessional and dishonourable conduct and the violator shall be subjected to disciplinary action(s) by URA. The violations includes -		
		(a)	submitting documents which does not comply to Authority standards.	
		(b)	making changes/modifications/forged to the already approved documents.	
		(c)	any alteration to the digital stamp/signature.	
		(d)	any act of duress that violates this code	
		(e)	any act of violence or threat towards the staff of URA or/and other professionals.	
		(f)	if the professional is found to be permitting misrepresentation of the certificate or falsifying academic qualification(s).	
