



गत्याय नमः

Government of India

CODE OF ETHICS



Atomic Energy Regulatory Board
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Atomic Energy Regulatory Board
Mumbai, India



MISSION OF AERB

The mission of AERB is to ensure that the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause unacceptable impact on the health of workers and the members of the public and on the environment.

ATOMIC ENERGY REGULATORY BOARD

CODE OF ETHICS

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was constituted on November 15, 1983 as per Section 27 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions under the Act. The regulatory authority of AERB is derived from the rules and notifications promulgated under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. AERB also administers the provisions of the Factories Act 1948 in the units of the Department of Atomic Energy under its jurisdiction.

An informal code of ethics is being followed in AERB right from its inception. However, to better focus on professional ethical values, a need was felt to develop and adopt a formal Code of Ethics to be followed by all AERB employees in the discharge of their duties. This Code of Ethics has accordingly been developed comprising of Fundamental Principles and Core Values.

Fundamental Principles

In order to ensure that all the activities in nuclear and radiation facilities in India are conducted in compliance with the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the rules promulgated thereunder, the AERB professionals shall be guided by the following principles:

- Maintain a high level of professional competence. Commit to continual learning and acknowledge areas that are outside the expertise available in AERB.
- Maintain a high degree of honesty and integrity and be principled and consistent in application of regulations. Be trustworthy and live up to commitments.
- Act in an objective manner. Regulatory decisions shall be based on factual information and sound judgement and shall not be influenced by competing or conflicting interests.
- Have the courage to make difficult decisions when required using all relevant facts and information to promote wise and fair decisions.
- Be respectful to all, peers, subordinates and licensees, and treat all individuals with dignity and courtesy.
- Apply legal and regulatory standards equitably.
- Consider the views of all stakeholders in the decision making processes in an appropriate manner.

Core Values

Duty

Our role as regulatory professionals is defined by our duty to ensure and enhance safety in the use of ionising radiation and nuclear energy in India.

We, the AERB professionals shall:

- Have a duty to the development, dissemination and unbiased interpretation of safety regulations and related guidance documents.
- Have a duty to ensure that the use of ionising radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause undue hazard to the workers, the public and the environment.
- Have a duty to maintain integrity in our profession and to strive to win the confidence and respect of all stakeholders.

Competence

Competence means having the requisite knowledge, abilities and skills to effectively discharge the assigned duties. The diversity of scientific disciplines involved and the evolving nature of the nuclear regulatory profession necessitate commitment to an appropriate level of knowledge that is to be achieved through formal education, work experience, professional training and a continual learning process.

We, the AERB professionals shall:

- Seek to remain informed and knowledgeable about the latest developments and emerging trends in all areas relevant to our work.
- Encourage and support opportunities for professional growth and development among peers and subordinates.

Objectivity

Objectivity is treating or dealing with facts without distortion by personal feelings or biases and ability to evaluate information and arrive at decisions taking all relevant points of view into account.

We, the AERB professionals shall:

- Respond carefully to all opinions recognizing that there is no single right or wrong answer in many cases.

- Consider all reasonable options and associated risks in the safety review process leading to issuing of authorisations.
- Ensure that regulatory decisions are not influenced by personal preferences and biases.

Integrity

Integrity is the commitment to a set of values which leads individuals to be principled, scrupulous and trustworthy and their beliefs, words and actions to be congruent and consistent.

We, the AERB professionals shall:

- Maintain the confidentiality of information where necessary.
- Live up to our commitments.
- Hold convictions, recognizing that what we do should be the best course of action in the interest of safety and may not be of short-term interest.
- Give due credit to work of others and do not attempt to take credit from someone else's work.
- Not compromise our actions or decisions for personal gain or career enhancement or for doing favour to someone.

Honesty

Honesty is understood as truthfulness, candour and sincerity. It requires a person to act in ways free from deceit or deception, be candid and forthcoming, and refrain from making false statements.

We, the AERB professionals shall:

- Ensure that any information provided to licensees is accurate and complete without significant omissions or false impressions implied.
- Resist pressures to relax standards to achieve undue expediency.
- Not demand undue favours from our licensees.

Courage

Courage is the act of choosing the right course of action even when doing so is difficult, as also to admit mistakes if rightly pointed out and stand corrected.

We, the AERB professionals shall:

- Review our actions and approach when necessary and be flexible to change when appropriate.
- Have the courage to properly evaluate, conclude, and provide consistent and accurate regulatory decisions.
- Not shy away from asking for technical support when needed.
- Encourage an open exchange of views that challenge regulatory decisions.
- Admit mistakes and take appropriate measures to promptly correct them.

Fairness

Fairness means that all persons are treated equitably. In particular, it includes the principle of treating all persons in accordance with the rules and regulations and holding all those with common responsibilities to a common standard.

We, the AERB professionals shall:

- Respect the letter and spirit of rules and regulations promulgated for ensuring safety.
- Apply the appropriate regulatory standards to all cases in a consistent manner.
- Present the facts and analyses of scientific information using sound interpretation that strives to eliminate bias even while giving results that may contain some element of uncertainty.
- Strive to ensure that the legitimate interests of all stakeholders, public and private, are appropriately considered in the regulatory decision making processes.

Respect

Respect is the regard for or appreciation of the worth or value of others.

We, the AERB professionals shall:

- Listen in a fair and objective way to what others have to say.
- Respect the role of our colleagues and also recognize and acknowledge the role of all stakeholders.
- Refrain from embarrassing, ridiculing or hurting others in their actions or omission of actions.
- Treat all stakeholders, regardless of level or position, with dignity, civility and courtesy.
- Accept that personal differences will occur, but work diligently towards finding a position that accommodates those differences.
- Create a positive environment that encourages and promotes respect.
- Share what we know in a non-intimidating way and be tolerant to those who do not understand initially.
- Avoid conflict where possible. If not possible, find creative ways to resolve conflict in an effort to preserve a positive relationship.

Statement of Responsibility

We, the AERB professionals realize that it is the ethical responsibility of everyone in AERB to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct in the performance of our professional duties.

We acknowledge our commitment to make a positive contribution to ensure and continually enhance safety in the use of nuclear energy and application of ionizing radiations for societal benefits in India and shall aspire to adhere to the core values articulated in this Code of Ethics.

Acknowledgement: While developing the AERB Code of Ethics, substantial use has been made of the material contained in the Code of Ethics for Regulatory Affairs Professionals, published by the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society, USA, which is gratefully acknowledged.