



## Global Alliance of Accreditation Societies

***Global Alliance of Accreditation Societies, Inc.***



# **GAAS Policy Statement and Code of Conduct for GAAS Members Issue 3, Version 1 (GAAS COC 1:2015)**

This Code of Conduct has been prepared to outline the broad principles of legal and ethical business conduct embraced by GAAS. It is not a complete list of legal or ethical questions that may be faced during business, and, therefore, this Code must be used together with common sense and sound judgment. This Code signifies voluntary assumption by GAAS members of a standard of conduct that may often be above and beyond the requirements of the law. Acceptance of this Code of Conduct is mandatory for GAAS members as a condition of membership of GAAS. Failure to abide by the Code of Conduct will serve as a basis for disciplinary action, at the discretion of the GAAS Board, up to and including suspension or termination of GAAS membership.

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Issue 3, Version 1

Prepared by: GAAS Executive Committee

Approved by: GAAS Members

Issue Date: 22 December 2015

Date: 5 December 2015

Effective: 22 December 2015

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### **GAAS Members' Code of Conduct**

GAAS, through its members, has responsibility for the integrity of accredited certification and inspection activities. As such, we are committed to maintaining the trust and respect of our clients and the public at large through unquestionable integrity, honesty and ethical business conduct. GAAS members have a responsibility to uphold this dedication to corporate ethics. In addition to the requirements of conduct created by this code, an GAAS member shall comply with applicable laws and regulations both domestic and international. The key to the corporate integrity of GAAS lies with all of us as follows:

1. An GAAS member shall act impartially ensuring that it is independent in judgment and actions and take all reasonable steps to be satisfied as to the soundness of all decisions taken.
2. An GAAS member shall act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of GAAS, not engaging in conduct likely to bring discredit upon GAAS.
3. An GAAS member shall use due care and diligence in fulfilling the functions of an GAAS member and exercising the powers attached to its membership.
4. An GAAS member shall inform the GAAS Board via the GAAS Secretary of any conflicts, or potential conflicts of interest, arising out of the fulfillment of its GAAS membership duties and the responsibilities of membership.
5. An GAAS member shall treat as confidential all information which is
  - i. obtained through its professional access to bodies subject to accreditation (applicable to Accreditation Bodies only);
  - ii. identified by the source from which it was obtained (including GAAS) as confidential.

Such confidential information remains the property of the source from which it was obtained; the GAAS member shall not disclose it, or allow it to be disclosed to a third party or parties, unless that disclosure is required by law or has been authorized by the person from whom the information was received.

6. An GAAS member shall contact the GAAS Board via the GAAS Secretary if it is in doubt with regard to a specific business conduct question, or would like to report an infraction. The GAAS Board will promptly investigate, in accordance with the GAAS Complaints' Procedure, any alleged non-compliance with the Code.

***Global Alliance of Accreditation Societies  
Members' Code of Conduct***

**THE MEMBER, (NAME OF GAAS MEMBER)**

on behalf of which this sheet is signed, acknowledges that it has read and understood the GAAS Member Code of Conduct, and is committed to abide by the Code in its role as a member of the Global Alliance of Accreditation Societies, Inc.

Signature  
Stamp / Seal  
Date:

Name of Person Signing Position / Office of Person Signing Name of Organization Economy

