

CERTIFIED ORGANIC ASSOCIATIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
ACCREDITATION BOARD
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PL44 IMPARTIALITY & CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Introduction

The intention of this policy is to ensure that accreditation is impartial and to prevent conflicts of interest influencing decision-making. This policy relates only to the COABC Accreditation Board, the Accreditation Board's decision-making committees, COABC staff associated with accreditation activities and the evaluators used for audits.

It is the responsibility of the Director of the COABC Accreditation Board to review appropriateness and propose revisions if necessary. The policy is distributed to staff/contractors involved in the accreditation activities and all members of the Accreditation Board when they join the board and annually with the Declaration of Interest Form.

1. Policy

1. The accreditation services of the COABC shall be provided by the COABC Accreditation Board which operates independently and at arm's length from the parent body.
2. All accreditation body personnel shall be free from any undue commercial, financial or other pressures that could compromise impartiality.
3. The Accreditation Board shall establish a process to safeguard impartiality which provides opportunity for effective involvement of interested parties with no single party predominating. This shall be achieved with the establishment of a committee with a balance of interests.
4. The AB shall identify risks to be brought to the Impartiality Committee.
5. The committee for impartiality process shall evaluate, monitor and document on an ongoing basis, all risks to impartiality including conflicts arising from the relationships of support personnel including staff and contractors, Accreditation Board members or the Accreditation Board itself.
6. All risks identified and how they are eliminated or minimized shall be documented. Any residual risk will be reviewed by the AB Director to determine if it is an acceptable risk. If the risk is not acceptable accreditation shall not be provided.