



Certified Emissions Reduction Technologies Foundation

CODE OF ETHICS

Binding Standards of Conduct for All CERT Persons

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1. Purpose and Application

1.1 This Code of Ethics translates CERT's core values (Charter Part III) into binding standards of personal conduct. It applies to all trustees, committee, panel and Council members, staff, secondees, contractors, and expert reviewers ("CERT Persons").

1.2 The Code is a condition of appointment, employment, and engagement. Each CERT Person acknowledges it in writing on appointment and annually.

1.3 Where local law imposes stricter requirements, the stricter requirement applies. Where this Code is stricter than local law, the Code applies to the extent lawful.

2. Fundamental Duties

2.1 Integrity first. CERT Persons act with honesty in every professional act. No commercial, reputational, or scheduling pressure justifies compromising the accuracy of a credit, a verification, or a public statement.

2.2 Public-benefit primacy. CERT exists for climate integrity, not for the convenience of any market participant — including CERT itself. Where CERT’s institutional interest (e.g., fee income, growth) conflicts with environmental integrity, integrity prevails, and the conflict is escalated to the Ethics and Integrity Committee.

2.3 Impartiality. Decisions are made on evidence and published rules, without favour to any applicant, buyer, VVB, or government.

2.4 Accountability. CERT Persons take responsibility for their decisions, cooperate fully with audits and investigations, and never obstruct, destroy, or falsify records.

3. Standards of Conduct

3.1 Accuracy of Information

3.1.1 No CERT Person shall knowingly create, approve, or transmit false or misleading information in any project document, review, registry record, or public communication. Errors discovered are corrected and disclosed promptly under the Rulebook's correction procedures.

3.2 Confidentiality and Information Handling

3.2.1 CERT operates transparency-by-default (Charter Part VI); confidentiality applies only to legally protected categories (personal data, security information, information under statutory restriction). CERT Persons must not disclose such protected information, nor use any non-public information for private benefit (see GOV-002 Clause 3.3).

3.3 Fair Dealing and Respect

3.3.1 CERT Persons treat colleagues, applicants, and stakeholders with respect. Harassment, discrimination, bullying, and retaliation are prohibited. Particular care applies in engagements with local communities and Indigenous Peoples, respecting free, prior, and informed consent processes required by CERT safeguards.

3.4 Use of Foundation Assets

3.4.1 Foundation funds, systems, data, and intellectual property are used only for authorised purposes. Registry system credentials are personal and non-transferable.

3.5 Gifts, Hospitality and External Positions

3.5.1 Gifts and hospitality are governed by the Anti-Corruption Policy (CERT-GOV-005); external positions and interests by the Conflict of Interest Policy (CERT-GOV-002). Acceptance of any advantage that could reasonably be seen to influence a CERT decision is prohibited regardless of value.

3.6 Public Statements

3.6.1 Only authorised spokespersons speak for CERT. CERT Persons expressing personal views on carbon markets identify them as personal and take care not to disclose non-public matter information or prejudge pending decisions.

3.7 Political Neutrality

3.7.1 CERT is politically neutral. CERT resources shall not support any political party or campaign. Engagement with governments is limited to CERT's standard-setting and regulatory-alignment mandate and is logged.

4. Special Obligations of Decision-Makers

4.1 Trustees and committee members additionally: prepare for and attend meetings; respect collective responsibility while retaining the duty to record dissent; maintain independence of judgement; and decline any instruction from an external party on how to vote.

4.2 Staff performing registration, issuance, or accreditation reviews document the basis of every decision so that a qualified third party could reconstruct it (auditability principle).

5. Raising Concerns and Enforcement

5.1 Every CERT Person has a duty to report suspected breaches of this Code through the channels in the Whistleblower Policy (CERT-GOV-004). Good-faith reporters are protected from retaliation.

5.2 Alleged breaches are investigated by or under the oversight of the Ethics and Integrity Committee with due process. Sanctions follow GOV-002 Clause 8.2 (censure through removal/termination and referral to authorities).

5.3 No waiver. Only the Board may waive a provision of this Code, only prospectively, only for exceptional cause, and any waiver is published with reasons. Waivers of Sections 2 and 3.1 are not permitted.

6. Administration

6.1 The Ethics and Integrity Committee owns this Code, delivers annual ethics training, answers interpretation questions, and reviews the Code at least every three years.

6.2 Cross-references: CERT-FDN-001 Part III and Clause 14; CERT-GOV-001 §6; CERT-GOV-002; CERT-GOV-004; CERT-GOV-005.