

Code of ethics  
Nuclear Safety Council

**CSN**



Code of ethics  
**Nuclear Safety Council (CSN)**

As approved by the CSN Plenary on 1st June 2016





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## I. Introduction

Over recent years considerable efforts have been made to modernise public administrations combined with endeavours to reinforce public ethics and integrity values for public employees and managers.

Numerous legislative frameworks have been adopted with this aim in mind in the European Union and in the General State Administration in Spain. Moreover, international bodies and reference regulators for the Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) have also made similar contributions towards achievement of the same goal.

In this regard, in its Strategy Plan for 2011-2016 the CSN already envisaged the preparation of a code of ethics applicable to all personnel working for the regulatory body.

Likewise, in April 2014<sup>1</sup> Spain's Congress of Deputies (lower house of Parliament) urged the CSN to develop a code of ethics reflecting the principles on the basis of which decisions are

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<sup>1</sup> April 2014. Resolution twenty-two. The Congress of Deputies urges the CSN to develop a code of ethics reflecting the principles on the basis of which decisions are taken internally, with due attention given to its independence and care taken over the values of rigour and transparency.

taken internally in the CSN, with due attention paid to its independence and care taken over the values of rigour and transparency. The legislator did the same again in December 2014<sup>2</sup> when it urged the CSN to approve and implement through its internal governance bodies a code of ethics that would highlight the principles of independence, rigour and transparency and would bring the institution into line with the provisions of Act 19/2013, of 9th December on transparency, access to public information and good governance.

This Code of Ethics does not set out to modify the structure, organisation or content of the obligations of top management positions, civil servants and any other staff working for the CSN. Nor does it set out to establish any behavioural conduct commitments for anyone covered by its regulatory function. What it does set out to do, however, is to make the ethical values of the organisation explicit, and by doing so help to make them known to and accepted by all stakeholders.

Any lines of action, conduct and omissions contrary to the values of the Code of Ethics shall not be considered on their own as breaches of contractual good faith or abuse of confidence in the performance of the work. Therefore, no legal sanctions will apply to them as such, except insofar as the particular conduct or omission constitutes a breach of pre-existing legal or contractual obligations.

The Code of Ethics falls within the sphere of ethics and aims to specify the core values and ethical principles of the CSN. Consequently, it

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<sup>2</sup> December 2014. Resolution seven. The Congress of Deputies urges the Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) to approve and implement through its governance bodies a code of ethics highlighting the principles of Independence, rigour and transparency, and so bring it into line with the provisions of Act 19/2013, of 9th December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance.

does not contain any recommendations or obligations laid down by law or any mandatory rules that may be applicable to the CSN, nor any customary norms of social behaviour.

Pursuant to the above resolutions and recognising the importance of the task in hand the Plenary has approved this code of ethics that will contribute to accomplishing the Nuclear Safety Council's goals of effectiveness and efficiency, credibility, transparency, neutrality and independence.

## II. Purpose

The CSN code of ethics has been drawn up to meet the highest standards of excellence in the fulfilment of its mission, comply with the provisions of the organisation's Strategy Plan and accomplish its adaptation to satisfy the good governance requirements of our legal system and of reference international legislation.

The adoption of and compliance with this code of ethics aim to achieve a number of internal and external goals that have been the driver underpinning the development of this document.

The goals of the Nuclear Safety Council Code of Ethics are:

- Identify the values of the organisation and how they are integrated into professional practices at both an individual and collective level.
- Promote in all CSN personnel the attitudes that are most ideally suited to the achievement of the fundamental goal of the Council, i.e. the nuclear safety and radiological protection, and been in addition a reference to the stakeholders.

- Consolidate the climate of trust within the CSN by serving as a vehicle for the socialisation and cohesion of all the groups within the organisation.
- Strengthen stakeholder trust in the CSN.

### III. Scope

The code of ethics in its entirety is applicable to the members of the Plenary and all CSN personnel, whether or not they are working for the institution on a permanent or only temporary basis.

The code of ethics also applies to CSN accredited personnel, such as, for example, assignment inspectors of regional governments, whenever they are acting in their capacity as personnel accredited by the CSN and are performing the functions they have been tasked with.

Likewise, in general terms the code of ethics covers both external personnel providing services to the CSN, especially those people whose work position is in the organisation's head offices, as well as anyone who is on a temporary posting in the CSN headquarters.

## IV. Values

The values making up the CSN code of ethics are stated below:

### 1. Independence and neutrality

<i>Definition</i>	<i>How to achieve it</i>
<p>To act and take decisions with independence, objectivity and impartiality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By acting independently of government and public administrations, of political interests, of the licensees of facilities and activities, of the media and, in general, of all the actors with a stake in the matters falling within the scope of competences of the CSN.</li> <li>● By avoiding any influence in the regulatory sphere that runs counter to the CSN's mission.</li> <li>● By supporting final decisions with full, impartial and objective assessments.</li> <li>● By refusing to take a stance, within the sphere of any regulatory action, for or against the use of nuclear technology and ionising radiations in any of their applications.</li> </ul>

## 2. Integrity

<i>Definition</i>	<i>How to achieve it</i>
<p>To act with honesty when carrying out professional duties and when taking decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● By acting with honesty, integrity and sincerity so that the most thorough test/appraisal could be passed.</li><li>● By respecting legality and public duty in decision-making.</li><li>● By avoiding any conflicts of interest between professional duties and private interests.</li><li>● By highlighting, in a responsible fashion, any actions detected that are contrary to the code of ethics.</li><li>● By reporting through the proper channels any known facts that affect or might affect the safe operation of facilities and activities.</li></ul>

### 3. Commitment

<i>Definition</i>	<i>How to achieve it</i>
<p>An attitude that entails becoming aware of the importance of each person's individual contribution to the fulfilment of the CSN's mission and the achievement of its goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Internalizing the mission, the vision and the goals of the CSN.</li><li>● By doing the job with professionalism, responsibility, loyalty to the institution and technical rigour.</li><li>● By rigorously applying knowledge and experience to the performance of professional duties.</li><li>● By showing willingness and a constructive attitude in order to contribute ideas and seek solutions to different challenges.</li><li>● By fostering communication with the other members of the workforce.</li><li>● By maintaining an interest in professional development.</li><li>● By having a proactive attitude in the transmission of the values and principles of this code of ethics.</li></ul>

## 4. Competency/excellence

<i>Definition</i>	<i>How to achieve it</i>
<p>The systematic individual and collective pursuit of continuous improvement of professional activity, on the basis of knowledge and experience, geared to the optimal fulfilment of the CSN's mission and the achievement of its goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By performing professional duties effectively and efficiently at all times.</li> <li>● By striving for continuous improvement of professional and interpersonal knowledge and skills.</li> <li>● By sharing knowledge and experience internally and externally (other regulatory bodies, national and international reference institutions and professional associations linked to nuclear safety and radiological protection).</li> <li>● By learning from mistakes, experience and good practices.</li> <li>● By fostering a feeling of belonging to the CSN and to the public service it provides.</li> <li>● By making, within the framework of each person's respective competences and responsibilities, efficient use of the available resources and by prioritising the way they are used in order to fulfil the CSN's mission.</li> </ul>

## 5. Responsibility

<i>Definition</i>	<i>How to achieve it</i>
<p>The ability to recognise and accept the consequences of decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● By accepting the consequences of one's own decisions and actions and by not passing them on to subordinates and/or the rest of the organisation for no objective reason.</li><li>● By being aware of the fact that when carrying out professional duties each person is representing the regulatory body, not only themselves or the unit, team or department they belong to.</li><li>● By exercising the powers granted according to the principles of good faith and dedication to the public service and by refraining from any action that might compromise the fulfilment of the organisation's mission and/or damage its institutional reputation.</li><li>● By maintaining discretion and upholding professional secrecy, by respecting and protecting confidential information, security information and proprietary information obtained when performing professional duties and even afterwards when that is no longer the case.</li><li>● By dedicating the financial and material resources available to the sole and exclusive purpose of fulfilling the CSN mission, through the sustainable use of those resources.</li></ul>

## 6. Transparency

<i>Definition</i>	<i>How to achieve it</i>
<p>A set of actions and provisions through which the Organism provides CSN personnel, citizens and stakeholders with access to the information within the sphere of its competences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● By providing the hierarchical reporting line with the arguments, information and justifications necessary for decisions to be made on the matters that come within one's own sphere of competence.</li> <li>● By justifying regulatory decisions in technical and legal terms and communicating them internally and to the licensees, citizens, the media and to stakeholders in general.</li> <li>● By providing information, both internally and externally on the arguments and criteria used when taking decisions regarding plans and strategies.</li> <li>● By making available to stakeholders and citizens through the proper communication channels, information on actions, processes and decisions taken based on the principles of rigour, veracity, accuracy and intelligibility as promptly as possible, compatible with these principles.</li> </ul>

## V. Implementation of the CSN code of ethics and its follow-up

The Council will ensure that members of the Plenary and all CSN personnel are individually aware of this code.

The Code of Ethics will be published together with all the other information the CSN is under the obligation to report under Act 19/2013, of 19th December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance.

The interpretation of the values and principles contained in the Code of Ethics will be the responsibility of the CSN Committee on the Management System and Security of the Information, which will also submit to the CSN Plenary any proposals to update the code or actions of any kind it deems appropriate in respect of any possible deviations from the values contained in it.

The actions of the CSN Committee on the Management System and Security of the Information relating to the interpretation of its values and proposals to the Plenary for any action to be taken in respect of possible deviations from them as well as any subsequent amendments to the Code of Ethics shall be governed by a management procedure that will be submitted by the General Secretariat to the Committee on the Management System and Security of the Information prior to the implementation of the Code of Ethics.

In any case, any further amendments to the Code of Ethics will be subject to a process of internal consultation that will be managed by the Committee on the Management System and Security of the Information following the relevant administrative management procedure.

Once the consolidated draft of the code of ethics is ready after an appraisal of the comments received, the Committee on the Management System and Security of the Information will submit the new version of the code to the Plenary for final approval and its subsequent publication.

*Approved by the CSN Plenary  
at its meeting held on 1st June 2016.*



