

## **PROFESSIONAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS**

In order to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills and practice in the profession of water system operations and to safeguard the life, health, property, and welfare of the public, the following code of professional conduct has been developed by the New England Water Works Association, Operator Certification Committee and is adopted by the Maine Board Of Licensure of Water System Operators.

### **THE WATER SYSTEM OPERATOR SHALL:**

1. At all times, recognize the primary obligation to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public during the performance of duties.
2. Inform a decision maker who has overruled the licensed operator's judgement in circumstances relating to the protection of public health, safety and welfare of the possible consequences of the action(s) and notify proper authorities as may be appropriate.
3. Accept and perform direct supervision of water operation assignments only in the specific technical and level of operations where qualified by education and experience. This does not include circumstances of work performed under the direct supervision of licensed qualified co-workers, consultants or employers.
4. Be completely objective and truthful in all professional reports, statements, or testimony. The operator shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or testimony.
5. Avoid conflicts of interest with employers, suppliers or customers but, when unavoidable, the water system operator shall promptly disclose to any business association, interest, or circumstances which could influence the judgement, or the quality of his, or her, work.
6. Not review, or influence decisions of his, or her employees' work for any public body on which the employee may serve.
7. Not solicit, or accept financial or other valuable items from contractors, material, or equipment suppliers for specifying their product or in connection with work for which the operator is responsible.
8. Not falsify academic or professional qualifications, not misrepresent, or exaggerate the degree of responsibility in prior assignments, duties, or accomplishments to enhance his, or her qualifications and work.
9. Not knowingly associate with, or permit the use of his, or her name, or employer's name in a business venture by any person, or company which the operator knows, or has reason to believe, is engaging in business, or professional practices of fraudulent or dishonest nature.
10. Present information to the appropriate regulatory agency in writing, if the water system operator has knowledge or reason to believe that another licensed water operator may be in violation of this code and shall cooperate with the regulatory agency in furnishing information or assistance as may be required by the agency.