

NZIFST CODE OF ETHICS – SUMMARY

To view the full code please email rosemary@nzifst.org.nz

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Part I - ETHICAL VALUES

Rigorous demands are placed on all production, distributing and marketing of foods because of the need for nutrition in society and the capacity of food to help and harm people. Therefore members of NZIFST, as members of the FS&T professional community face demanding ethical obligations of honesty, integrity and protection to people, to society and to the environment.

Within their activities in FS&T, members shall endeavour to ensure:

- i. **Public health, safety and wellbeing**, through responsible production of foods;
- ii. **Respect for consumers' rights**, through providing sufficient and accurate information, and ensuring that publicity does not mislead, includes clear disclosure of risks and accurate information on claimed benefits;
- iii. **Professionalism of conduct**, through acting with honesty, objectivity and integrity and undertaking activities within their levels of competence;
- iv. **Sustainability**, through maximising positive benefits and minimising detriments to society and the environment in food production;
- v. **Advancement of FS&T knowledge**, through contributing to the development of their own and the FS&T professional community's knowledge, skill and expertise to enhance the public health of consumers, and for the wider benefit of society.

PART II – MINIMUM STANDARDS OF ACCEPTABLE ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR BY MEMBERS

There are minimum standards by which the behaviour of members of NZIFST will be judged. These minimum standards are not set out in definite terms. In any professional activity the member will be required to exercise judgement. The ultimate test is what would a reasonable member of the FS&T professional community have done in the same circumstances.

- i. **GENERAL OBLIGATIONS TO SOCIETY**
 - Take reasonable steps to safeguard health and safety
 - Take reasonable steps to inform consumers
 - Have regard to effects on environment and need for sustainability
 - Act with honesty, objectivity, and integrity
 - Share FS&T knowledge for the benefit of society
 - Have regard to the impact of FS&T activities on society
- ii. **GENERAL PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS**
 - Not misrepresent competence
 - Not misrepresent membership status
 - Inform others of consequences of not following advice
 - Not promise, give, or accept inducements
- iii. **OBLIGATIONS TO EMPLOYERS AND CLIENTS**
 - Not disclose confidential information
 - Not misuse confidential information for personal benefit
 - Disclose conflicts of interest
- iv. **OBLIGATIONS OWED TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FS&T PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY**
 - Not review work without taking reasonable steps to inform and investigate
 - Take into account the reputation of the FS&T professional community and the Institute