

# **ISA CODE OF ETHICS** **AND** **AGREEMENT AND RELEASE AUTHORIZATION**

The International Society of Arboriculture, Inc. (ISA) is a voluntary, non-profit, professional association. ISA certifies qualified practitioners in the field of arboriculture, who have met the professional knowledge standards established by ISA.

Regardless of any other professional affiliation, this ISA Code of Ethics applies to those individuals seeking ISA certification (candidates), and all individuals certified by the ISA as (credential holders). The ISA Code of Ethics establishes appropriate and enforceable professional conduct standards, and explains the minimal ethical behavior requirements for credential holders and candidates. The ISA Code of Ethics also serves as a professional resource for arborists, as well as for those served by credential holders and candidates, with respect to such standards and requirements.

## **I. Responsibilities to ISA, the profession and the public.**

### **A. Compliance with all organizational rules, policies and legal requirements.** **Credential Holders and candidates must:**

1. Comply with all applicable laws, regulations, policies and ethical standards governing professional practice of arboriculture.
2. Comply with all accepted professional standards related to arboriculture practice, including national practice standards and policies.
3. Provide accurate, complete, and truthful representations concerning all certification and renewal information.
4. Maintain the security of ISA examination information and materials, including the prevention of unauthorized disclosures of test information.
5. Cooperate with ISA concerning ethics matters and the collection of information related to an ethics matter.
6. Report to ISA, in a timely manner, their personal conduct that may violate any provision of the ISA Code of Ethics or the Ethics Case Procedures.
7. Refrain from behavior or conduct that is clearly in violation of professional, ethical, or legal standards related to occupational services and/or activities.

## **II. Responsibilities to clients, employers, employees, and the public.**

### **A. Responsibilities concerning the performance of professional services.**

Credential holders and candidates must:

1. Deliver safe and competent services with objective and independent professional judgment in decision-making.
2. Recognize the limitations of their professional ability and provide services only when qualified. The credential holder/candidate is responsible for determining the limits of his/her own professional abilities based on qualifications, education, knowledge, skills, practice experience, and other relevant considerations.
3. Make a reasonable effort to provide appropriate professional referrals when unable to provide competent professional assistance.
4. Maintain and respect the confidentiality of sensitive information obtained in the course of professional activities unless: the information is reasonably understood to pertain to unlawful activity; a court or governmental agency lawfully directs the release of the information; the client or the employer expressly authorizes the release of specific information; or, the failure to release such information would likely result in death or serious physical harm to employees and/or the public.
5. Properly use professional credentials, and provide truthful and accurate representations concerning education, experience, competency and the performance of services.
6. Provide truthful and accurate representations to the public in advertising, public statements, and other representations, and in the preparation of estimates concerning costs, services and expected results.
7. Recognize and respect the intellectual property rights of others and act in an accurate, complete, and truthful manner, including activities related to professional work and research.

### **B. Responsibilities concerning conflicts of interest and appearances of impropriety. Credential holder and candidates must:**

1. Disclose to clients or employers significant circumstances that could be construed as a potential or real conflict of interest or an appearance of impropriety.
2. Avoid conduct that could cause a conflict of interest with a client, employer, employee, or the public.

3. Assure that a conflict of interest does not compromise legitimate interests of a client, employer, employee, or the public and does not influence or interfere with professional judgments.
4. Refrain from offering or accepting significant payments, gifts or other forms of compensation or benefits in order to secure work or that are intended to influence professional judgment.

C. Responsibilities concerning public health and safety. Credential holders and candidates must:

1. Follow appropriate health and safety procedures, in the course of performing professional activities, to protect clients, employers, employees, and the public from conditions where injury and/or other harm are reasonably foreseeable.
2. Inform appropriate government representatives or agencies when aware of an activity or circumstance that may cause an unsafe condition or violate legal requirements.