



**Issue Date: 06 February 2024**  
**Approval by: Managing Director**  
**Application Date: Immediate**  
**S-F01**

## **STANDARD STATEMENT ON CONFIDENTIALITY AND IMPARTIALITY**

The Managing Director of **AFRICA STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS (Pty) Ltd (ASC)** makes the following public statement on **ASC's** understanding of the concept of Impartiality and Confidentiality and its importance thereof when managing conflicts of interest and to ensure objectivity when carrying out conformity assessment activities.

Impartiality and Confidentiality is the actual and perceived presence of objectivity. Objectivity means that conflict of interest does not exist or is resolved so as not to adversely influence the activities of **ASC**. Some of the synonyms that are useful in conveying the element of impartiality and confidentiality are:

objectivity, independence, freedom from conflicts of interest, freedom from bias, lack of prejudice, neutrality, fairness, open-mindedness, even-handedness, detachment and balance.

Being impartial, and being perceived to be impartial, is necessary for ASC to be able to deliver a credible conformity assessment service that provides confidence to clients, the public and all other interested parties. It is recognised that the main source of revenue for ASC is that of our client paying for our services and that this is a potential threat to impartiality and confidentiality. Our fee structure will be based upon the degree of responsibility and skill involved and the time necessarily occupied on the work, plus the reimbursement of outlays. We will contract our fees in advance with our clients and will not allow the fact that the payment of fees by clients to become a threat to impartiality and confidentiality.

To obtain and maintain confidence, ASC will always be able to demonstrate that our decisions are based on objective evidence and that our decisions have not been improperly influenced by other interests or by other parties. Threats to impartiality and confidentiality include:

- Self-interest threats – threats that arise from a person or enterprise acting in their own interest, for example financial self-interest.
- Self-review threats – threats that arise from a person or enterprise reviewing the work done by them.
- Familiarity (or trust) threats – threats that arise from a person or body being too familiar with or trusting towards another person instead of seeking and evaluating objective evidence on which to base the conformity assessment conclusion or decision.
- Intimidation threats – threats that arise from a person or enterprise having a perception or experience of being coerced openly or secretly, such as a threat to be replaced or reported to a supervisor if he does not do what the person who is coercing him/her wants.

The above statement is made by ASC in the interest of transparency and so that all our clients may be aware of our intentions.

**Managing Director Name:** B. A. Khanyile

**Managing Director Signature:** 

**Date:** 06/02/2024