

Board of Certified Safety Professionals



CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

This code sets forth the code of ethics and professional standards to be observed by holders of documents of certification conferred by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. Certificants shall, in their professional safety activities, sustain and advance the integrity, honor, and prestige of the safety profession by adherence to these standards.

Standards

1. Hold paramount the safety and health of people, the protection of the environment and protection of property in the performance of professional duties and exercise their obligation to advise employers, clients, employees, the public, and appropriate authorities of danger and unacceptable risks to people, the environment, or property.
2. Be honest, fair, and impartial; act with responsibility and integrity. Adhere to high standards of ethical conduct with balanced care for the interests of the public, employers, clients, employees, colleagues and the profession. Avoid all conduct or practice that is likely to discredit the profession or deceive the public.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner and only when founded upon knowledge of the facts and competence in the subject matter.
4. Undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields involved. Accept responsibility for their continued professional development by acquiring and maintaining competence through continuing education, experience and professional training.
5. Avoid deceptive acts that falsify or misrepresent their academic or professional qualifications. Not misrepresent or exaggerate their degree of responsibility in or for the subject matter of prior assignments. Presentations incident to the solicitation of employment shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, or past accomplishments with the intent and purpose of enhancing their qualifications and their work.
6. Conduct their professional relations by the highest standards of integrity and avoid compromise of their professional judgment by conflicts of interest.
7. Act in a manner free of bias with regard to religion, ethnicity, gender, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.
8. Seek opportunities to be of constructive service in civic affairs and work for the advancement of the safety, health and well-being of their community and their profession by sharing their knowledge and skills.

BCSP CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Interpretation #1—Approved October 28, 2006

Subject: Use of U.S. degrees that are not awarded by accredited schools and use of degrees from schools recognized by U.S. federal or state governments as diploma mills.

Interpretation: Use of degrees from colleges and universities not holding accreditation from a body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or degrees from colleges and universities identified by the United States government or any U.S. state government as a diploma mill or similar unacceptable institution when used to establish or demonstrate professional qualifications shall be deemed in violation of Standard #5 of the BCSP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, which states: Avoid deceptive acts which falsify or misrepresent their academic or professional qualifications. BCSP will rely on information found in these and other reference lists:

<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>

<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/search.asp>

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>

<http://www.ed.gov/students/prep/college/diplomamills/index.html>

<http://www.chea.org>

<http://www.chea.org/search/default.asp>

<http://www.chea.org/degreemills/frmStates.htm>

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Non-accreditedSchools_78090_7.pdf

<http://www.osac.state.or.us/oda/unaccredited.html>

Effective Date: This interpretation is effective January 1, 2007.

Implementation: Should BCSP receive a complaint after the effective date from anyone regarding an individual holding a certification or status with BCSP that includes suitable evidence of use of a degree defined above, BCSP will act to remove the certification or status from the individual in accordance with Article XIV of the BCSP Bylaws.

Filing a Complaint: The complaint must name the individual holding a certification or other status with BCSP and include supporting evidence. The evidence must show that the individual named in the complaint

- a) uses the unacceptable degree defined above on a business card, in a resume, curriculum vitae, promotional brochure or other document which presents to the public credentials or any such academic degree or in some other way uses the degree; and
- b) the degree named was awarded by an institution included in the definition above or the individual admitted the degree source on their own document.

A complaint that does not provide both elements of evidence is not considered a valid complaint under this interpretation.

BCSP Procedures:

- a) Upon receipt of a valid complaint that includes the required evidence, BCSP will notify the named individual and request that the individual
 - 1) provide evidence that the complaint is not true; and
 - 2) state in writing whether the individual wishes to retain the BCSP certification or status and agrees to discontinue use of the degree. BCSP may require the individual to sign a written agreement to comply with Interpretation #1 and to provide such evidence as may be required from time to time to satisfy BCSP that the individual remains in compliance.
- b) If there is no suitable response within 30 days of BCSP forwarding a copy of the complaint to the individual named in the valid complaint, BCSP may institute disciplinary action in accordance with Article XIV of the BCSP Bylaws.
- c) If BCSP receives a second valid complaint for the same person relating to the same or a different degree falling under Interpretation #1, BCSP may, upon giving notice to the individual, immediately take disciplinary action against the individual as provided in Article XIV of the BCSP Bylaws.