

Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement Code of Ethics for Certified Occupational Hygienists

Occupational hygiene is the discipline which, with the objectives of protecting worker health and well-being and safeguarding the community at large, anticipates, recognizes, evaluates and controls health hazards due to harmful chemical, physical and biological agents and those related to human factors/ergonomics in the working environment.

An occupational hygienist is a professional who works to prevent health impairments of workers in workplaces by promoting efforts by the employers in the evaluation and management of risks relating to harmful chemical, physical, biological agents and human factors/ergonomics by means of providing necessary support using expertise in the field of occupational hygiene.

Autonomous management by employers in occupational safety and health is increasingly important in Japan, and there is an increasing requirement for advanced professionals such as occupational hygienists to support employers in managing risks arising from various chemical, physical and biological agents and those related to human factors/ergonomics in workplaces.

Therefore, the Japan Association for Working Environment Measurement (JAWE, hereinafter referred to as “the association”) has developed an advanced training curriculum and created teaching materials to produce professionals with advanced knowledge and skills in occupational hygiene. A person with a certain amount of professional experience in a specified eligible and relevant field such as a class I working environment measurement expert can undertake this training. This is followed by an examination to evaluate his/her advanced knowledge and skills as an occupational hygienist. Passing this examination makes the person eligible to apply for a "JAWE Certified Occupational Hygienist". The first such certified occupational hygienists were produced in 2010.

These standards are a minimum code of ethics to demonstrate the abilities of JAWE certified occupational hygienists and enable them to contribute appropriately to the prevention of health impairments of workers in workplaces, and represent a behavioral model for professionals. The association earnestly hopes that certified occupational hygienists will fulfill and conform to these standards as a basis for professional conduct.

The central duty of JAWE certified occupational hygienists is to safeguard the health and welfare of workers. They will dedicate themselves with pride to improving standards of occupational hygiene and achieving a pleasant work environment, being fully aware of their role as professionals and social responsibilities.

1. Comply with laws and social norms.
 - 1) Comply with laws, policies, social norms and codes of ethics relating to professional conduct in occupational hygiene and related fields.
 - 2) Use certification appropriately, and provide accurate information to third parties to justify their confidence in training, experience, ability and professional performance.
 - 3) Provide accurate and reliable information to the association on the acquisition of new qualifications and renewal of qualifications.
 - 4) Cooperate with the association in gathering information on ethics.

2. Maintain ethical standards in the performance of your business.
 - 1) Take no actions in business which clearly contravene the standards of the code of ethics.
 - 2) Do not allow a conflict of interest to harm a customer, employer, worker or public order, or influence your professional judgment.
 - 3) Avoid actions which may lead to a conflict of interest with a customer, employer, worker or member of the public.
 - 4) Refrain from giving or accepting money or goods with the intention of acquiring business or granting influence on your professional judgment.
 - 5) Recognize and respect the intellectual property rights of others with regard to your activities and research as an occupational hygienist, and act impeccably to foster trust.

3. Endeavour to build on your skills and learning, and conduct business sincerely as a professional.
 - 1) Provide quality services based on objective, independent and professional judgment.
 - 2) Recognize the limits to your abilities based on personal scientific background, knowledge and skills, practical experience, etc., and practice as an occupational hygienist to the extent you are confident you can handle.
 - 3) Give accurate explanations of announcements or advertising made to a third party, fees and service details, and estimates of anticipated results so as to foster trust.
 - 4) If you are unable to provide an adequate professional service in response to a request yourself, endeavor as far as is reasonable to recommend another party.
 - 5) Follow appropriate safety and hygiene procedures in the performance of services to avoid causing injury or damage to a customer, employer, worker or member of the public.
 - 6) Follow your own safety and hygiene rules in the performance of services and be a good example in the workplace.

4. Protect confidentiality.
 - 1) Observe confidentiality regarding information revealed in a professional capacity, except where such confidential information relates to illegal activities, where such confidential information is legally requested by the judiciary or administrative authorities, where the customer or employer has clearly given authority to provide such confidential information, or where it is likely that concealing such confidential information would lead to the death or serious bodily harm of a worker or member of the public.