

AFNOR UK Impartiality Policy

AFNOR UK LTD understands the importance of impartiality in carrying out its management system certification activities and has processes in place to identify and manage conflicts of interest, ensuring objectivity within its certification duties.

AFNOR UK Ltd has set in place measures within its processes to identify, analyse, manage, monitor and document the risks related to conflict of interests arising from provision of certification, including any conflicts arising from its relationships, on an ongoing basis. Where threats to impartiality are identified, AFNOR UK Ltd will document and demonstrate how it eliminates or minimises such threats and document any residual risk.

The demonstration will cover all potential threats that are identified, whether they arise directly within AFNOR UK Ltd or from the activities of other persons, or organisations under our control.

Principles implemented to ensure Impartiality include :

- No services are provided by AFNOR UK Ltd that may be considered as having a conflict of interest.
- AFNOR UK Ltd does not provide certification services to related body
- AFNOR UK Ltd does not offer an internal audit service to its certified clients.
- Persons who have provided consultancy within two years to the organisation seeking certification, shall not be appointed to take part in any part of the certification process. Contracted personnel are required to reveal any situation which may present a conflict of interest.
- AFNOR UK Ltd ensures that different people take decisions on certification to those who carry out the audit.
- AFNOR UK Ltd does not offer specific training to any company in respect of implementing a particular standard for that company. Any training offered by AFNOR UK Ltd is general in nature and available to all companies or individuals who wish to attend.
- All AFNOR UK Ltd personnel, whether internal or external, are required to declare that they are free from any undue pressures, which could affect their impartiality.
- AFNOR UK Ltd ensures that the activities of related bodies do not affect the confidentiality, objectivity and impartiality of its certification. AFNOR UK Ltd avoids any situation that would create a conflict of interest arising from the activities of any related body, particularly where the related body may have a vested interest in the outcome of any audit process.
- Where a conflict of interest is identified, AFNOR UK Ltd shall not provide certification to the related body and shall ensure that it neither suggests nor implies, that certification would be simpler, faster or less expensive, if any specific individual or consultancy company were used. AFNOR UK Ltd activities shall not be presented as being linked with the activities of any organization providing consultancy.

An Impartiality Committee, composed of representatives from our various stakeholders in certification issues, assures the impartiality of our processes and the absence of conflicts of interests. This policy is reviewed by the Impartiality Committee to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate and is endorsed by the AFNOR UK Ltd Managing Director.

This policy is communicated to employees, suppliers and sub-contractors and is made available to the public.

Fabienne Boninbree
Managing Director, AFNOR UK Ltd
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