

ASF-GOV-003

Impartiality Policy

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Approved by	Prof. Giorgi Pkhakadze, MD, MPH, PhD — President, Accréditation Sans Frontières
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Related documents	ASF-GOV-002 Standards Development Committee ToR · ASF-OPS-002 Surveyor Competency Policy

Version History

Version	Date	Description	Approved by
V0.1	2026-10-23	Initial draft	—
V1.0	2026-11-06	Legal review (French law, EU)	ASF President
V2.0	2026-11-19	Final approved	Prof. G. Pkhakadze, ASF President

1. Scope and Purpose

1.1 This policy establishes ASF's requirements for impartiality in all accreditation activities, including standards development, assessments, surveyor conduct, and decision-making. Impartiality is fundamental to the credibility, integrity, and value of ASF accreditation.

1.2 This policy applies to ASF's President, Board members, Standards Development Committee members, all surveyors, all staff, advisers, and any other individuals engaged in ASF accreditation activities.

2. Core Principle — Independence from Consultancy

2.1 Accréditation Sans Frontières does not provide management consultancy services to any organisation that applies for, holds, or is seeking to maintain ASF accreditation.

2.2 No individual acting on behalf of ASF in an assessment, decision-making, or standards development capacity may simultaneously provide consultancy services to an applicant or accredited organisation in relation to the matters being assessed.

2.3 This separation between accreditation activities and consultancy is maintained absolutely and without exception. Any arrangement that would compromise this separation is prohibited.

3. Personnel Obligations

3.1 All individuals engaged in ASF accreditation activities (including but not limited to surveyors, Standards Development Committee members, decision committee members, and staff) are required to:

- a) act at all times in the interests of impartial, evidence-based assessment
- b) declare any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest before undertaking any specific activity
- c) withdraw from activities where a conflict of interest exists or cannot be adequately managed
- d) maintain the confidentiality of all information obtained during accreditation activities, in accordance with the ASF Confidentiality Policy (ASF-GOV-004)
- e) refrain from accepting gifts, hospitality, or other benefits from applicant or accredited organisations beyond those of nominal value

4. Conflict of Interest — Identification, Declaration, and Management

4.1 A conflict of interest exists where an individual's personal, professional, or financial interests could improperly influence their actions or decisions in relation to a specific accreditation activity.

4.2 Examples of conflicts of interest include:

- a) current or recent employment (within the past three years) at an organisation under assessment
- b) a financial interest in the organisation under assessment

- c) a close personal or family relationship with a senior member of the organisation under assessment
- d) a commercial relationship with the organisation that could create a perception of bias

4.3 All individuals must declare conflicts of interest in writing before each activity. Declarations are retained as controlled records.

4.4 Where a conflict is declared, the individual concerned shall not participate in the affected activity. The activity shall be reassigned to an individual without a conflict of interest.

4.5 Where uncertainty exists as to whether a conflict of interest is present, the individual shall err on the side of declaration and ASF leadership shall determine the appropriate course of action.

5. Commercial Separation

5.1 ASF maintains clear organisational and commercial separation between its accreditation activities and any other activities that could create a financial interest in accreditation outcomes.

5.2 ASF does not hold any ownership interest, financial stake, or commercial arrangement with any organisation that could benefit from accreditation outcomes in a manner that could compromise impartiality.

6. Monitoring of Impartiality

6.1 ASF periodically reviews its accreditation activities, personnel arrangements, and commercial relationships to identify and address any threats to impartiality.

6.2 The Standards Development Committee, Accreditation Decision Committee, and surveyor arrangements are each reviewed annually for compliance with this policy.

6.3 Any stakeholder who believes that ASF's impartiality has been compromised may raise a complaint in accordance with the ASF Complaints and Appeals Procedure (ASF-GOV-005).

7. Consequences of Breach

7.1 Breach of this policy may result in:

- a) the invalidation of any assessment, decision, or standards activity conducted in breach of impartiality requirements
- b) the suspension or termination of an individual's engagement with ASF
- c) where applicable, referral to relevant professional regulatory bodies

7.2 ASF reserves the right to review and if necessary reverse accreditation decisions where a material breach of impartiality is subsequently identified.

Approved by

Name and title	Signature	Date
Prof. Giorgi Pkhakadze, MD,		2026-11-19

Name and title	Signature	Date
MPH, PhD President, Accréditation Sans Frontières		

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