

Code of Ethics

Preamble

The responsibility of those persons who engage in the business of performing independent inspections of buildings and all such structures involved in a real estate transaction imposes integrity beyond those of a person involved in ordinary commerce.

Each inspector agrees to maintain a high standard of professionalism, independence and fairness in all such actions while in the performance of inspections in a real estate transaction.

Accepting this standard as his own, every inspector pledges himself to observe the spirit of this standard and to conduct his business in accordance with the following Code of Ethics:

ARTICLE I: Inspector-Client Relationship

- A.** In accepting employment as an inspector, the inspector shall protect and promote the interests of his client to the best of his ability and knowledge, recognizing that his client has placed his trust and confidence in the inspector.
- B.** The inspector shall endeavor always, in the interests of his client and his profession, to maintain and increase his level of knowledge regarding new developments in the field of inspection.
- C.** The inspector shall conduct his business in a manner that will assure his client of the inspector's independence from outside influences and interests that might compromise his ability to render a fair and impartial opinion regarding any inspection performed.
- D.** The inspector shall maintain and promote fairness in all business transactions with this client, reporting conditions of items inspected using his utmost in judgment, ability and knowledge to protect the rights and interests of his client.
- E.** The inspector shall meet the requirements of the Texas Real Estate Licensing Act, where those requirements exceed those listed above.

ARTICLE II: Inspector-Public Relationship

- A.** The inspector shall deal with the general public at all times and in all manners in a method that is conducive to the promotion of professionalism, independence and fairness of himself, his business and of the inspection industry.
- B.** The inspector shall advertise, conduct business promotions, and generally conduct his marketing activities in a manner that reflects the professionalism, independence and fairness to the profession.
- C.** The inspector, in recognizing his obligations to the general public, shall endeavor to maintain a high standard of knowledge and education regarding items that he undertakes to inspect, and further accepts the responsibility of increasing such knowledge at every reasonable opportunity.

- D. The inspector should attempt to assist the general public in recognizing and understanding the need for inspections, regardless of whether he is selected to perform such inspection or not.
- E. The inspector accepts the duty of protecting the public against fraud, misrepresentation or unethical practices in the field of real estate inspections.

ARTICLE III: Inspector-Inspector Relationship

- A. The inspector shall bind himself to the duty of maintaining fairness and integrity in all his dealings with other inspectors and other persons performing real estate inspections.
- B. The inspector should seek no unfair advantage over other inspectors, and should be willing to share with other inspectors the lessons of his experience and studies.
- C. The inspector should not solicit the services of employees of his fellow inspector, or his competitors, without the knowledge of his fellow inspector or competitor.
- D. Should an inspector be charged with unethical practices, negligence, misrepresentation, or such alleged breach, and a second inspector has knowledge or information of the alleged breach, the second inspector shall place the facts before the proper tribunal for investigation and judgment.
- E. The inspector shall conduct his business so as to avoid controversy with other inspectors. However, should a controversy arise between inspectors, said inspectors agree to place the facts before the Professional Ethics Committee of the Association for investigation and recommendations as to resolution of the controversy.
- F. The inspector shall cooperate with other inspectors to insure the continued promotion of the high standards of the real estate inspection profession, and pledges himself to the continued pursuit of increasing competence, fairness, education and knowledge necessary to achieve the confidence of the public.