

Australian Cable Initiative - Code of Ethics

1. Introduction

- a. The Australian Cable Initiative (ACI) has expanded rapidly during 2023 and 2024; the purpose of this code is to remind and highlight to all members that the ACI is a responsible and ethical organisation in all its actions and dealings.
Compliance with all aspects of this code is mandatory

2. About the ACI

- a. The ACI is a not-for-profit, non-commercial organisation, based in Australia, run by a Board of directors.
- b. Initially, the ACI was established to operate a cable surveillance scheme to check that electrical cables available in the market are compliant with Australian standards and safe to use. Subsequently, the scope of activities has been expanded to incorporate aspects related to sustainability and workplace health and safety.
- c. Responsibility for the running of the ACI is vested in the Board of Directors. There are no full-time employees.
- d. Membership of the ACI is open to companies that either manufacture or sell cables in Australia. There is a special membership category for companies which support the industry with ancillary services.

3. Compliance

- a. Members of the ACI openly compete in the market. A key priority of the Board is to ensure that there are no inadvertent breaches of the Anti-Competition regulations in Australia while at the same time using the combined knowledge of the membership to enhance sustainability and WHS to the greater good of Australian businesses
- b. This code is to ensure all members, coming from a variety of organisations, understand the importance of remaining completely ethical in all dealings associated with the ACI. Any member who discovers an illegal or questionable activity is obliged to report this matter to the Board immediately
- c. At every meeting of the ACI, a Probity Officer is appointed. That person is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that no anti-competitive behaviour takes place. If such is detected, then the Chairperson shall ask the offender to desist and leave the meeting. Further, all members when dealing with ACI business shall conduct themselves in accordance with this Code.
- d. Compliance with this Code is mandatory for all members when representing the ACI or dealing with ACI business.
- e. This Code applies to all Officeholders of the ACI and to all members' representatives.
- f. The ACI operates in Australia and is governed by the laws of Australia. In particular, the ACI insists on member compliance with respect to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) guidelines on Cartel and Anti-competitive conduct. For clarity, Appendix 1 lists examples of behaviour that would breach the ACCC guidelines.

4. Instructions for use -
 - a. Hopefully the Code is clear enough to follow, However, if any clarifications or concerns are encountered with the application and use of this Code, if advice is required or you want to suggest changes to the Code then all these matters should be dealt with by the Board via the Secretary. Please email the Secretary at secretary@australiacablemakers.com outlining your questions or concerns. It is then the responsibility of the Secretary to bring the matter to the Board and to seek a rapid response to the query.

5. Additional Requirements
 - a. All media release, in the name of the ACI, are to be approved by the Board prior to being issued to avoid inadvertently making public claims that are erroneous or unsupported by the ACI
 - b. All official ACI representations to government agencies, federal or state, are to be approved by the Board prior to release.
 - c. ACI members seek to collaborate to drive improvements in WHS and sustainability. The ACCC has recently introduced new principles aimed at ensuring environmental and sustainability claims are legitimate. The ACI strongly supports the principles which are, at the time of writing:
 - i. Make accurate and truthful claims
 - ii. Have evidence to back up your claims
 - iii. Do not hide or omit important information
 - iv. Explain any conditions or qualifications on your claims
 - v. Avoid broad and unqualified claims
 - vi. Use clear and easy-to-understand language
 - vii. Visual elements should not give the wrong impression
 - viii. Be direct and open about your environmental sustainability transition
 - d. Members of the ACI are expected to operate well run, safe and environmentally aware workplaces. The ACI encourages all members to consider diversity in the workplace and to incorporate suitable wellness and enhancement programmes within day-to-day business programmes
 - e. The ACI has a Mission and Statement of Purpose which sets out the fundamental expectations of the organisation
 - f. The Secretary is responsible for coordinating all activities and communications between the members and the Board
 - g. It is a fundamental requirement that all Officeholders are open and transparent in their dealings with the ACI. Similarly, it is a requirement that all members communicate promptly and clearly any issues that may impact the ACI. Such communication should be made via the Secretary
 - h. The ACI is a not-for-profit organisation funded by the members. There is a schedule of fees set each year, by the Board, for the different categories of membership. Members are expected to pay their fees promptly once invoices have been sent.
 - i. The ACI understands the need to provide value to the members and regularly reviews the various work programmes that are underway. It is an expectation that members will contribute to these reviews to maintain purpose within the organisation

- j. Members of the Board are expected to set an example of responsible and compliant behaviour to all members.
- k. Some directors have special tasks assigned such as listed below. It is an expectation that these assignments will be undertaken promptly and diligently:
 - i. Chairperson for meetings
 - ii. Authority to approve expenditure
 - iii. Financial auditing.
- l. Board members are required to adhere to all laws and regulation
- m. Board members periodically review important documents such as the Constitution, the Mission and Statement of Purpose and, the Charter.

Appendix 1 – Examples of prohibited behaviour

- You cannot discuss or agree the prices of products or service you provide to the market with other members of the ACI
- You cannot make agreements with other members of the ACI on the supply of products and services to the market