

IMPARTIALITY POLICY STATEMENT



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6. A-Europe staff or subcontractors shall not suggest or imply to imply that certification would be simpler, easier or less expensive if consultancy or training services were used. In addition subcontract staff cannot offer consultancy or training services to A-Europe' clients that they have been assigned to audit, during or after the assigned task has been completed.
7. Overall the certification of companies who supply a service to A-Europe is not deemed to be an unacceptable threat to conflict of interest. However, certification of a company in partnership with whom A-Europe Limited provides a direct service is deemed to be an unacceptable threat to impartiality. Should such a partnership develop, a new accredited certification body will be sourced to continue the certification.

A-Europe recognize that the source of revenue for a certification body is the client paying for certification, and that this is a potential threat to impartiality. Therefore A-Europe is a self-financed independent organisation, with a number of controls to ensure that impartiality is retained.

To obtain and maintain confidence, it is essential that A-Europe' certification decisions are based on objective evidence of conformity or nonconformity, and that any decisions made are not influenced by other interests or by other parties. Certification decisions are made and signed for by a competent Certification Manager who was not responsible for the audit and was not a member of the audit team

A-Europe recognizes that threats to impartiality include the following.

- Self-interest threats arising from a person or body acting in their own interest.
- Self-review threats arising from a person reviewing the work that they have conducted themselves.
- Familiarity (or trust) threats arising from a person becoming too familiar with or too trusting of another, instead of seeking audit evidence.
- Intimidation threats arising from a person having a perception of being coerced openly or secretly, such as a threat to be replaced or reported to a supervisor.