

POLICY STATEMENT ON IMPARTIALITY

At Aspirata, impartiality is paramount in fulfilling our management system certification mandate.

To achieve this, Aspirata shall identify, analyse, evaluate, treat, monitor, and document risks related to conflicts of interest arising from the provision of certification and any relationships we have, on an ongoing basis. Aspirata commits itself to manage these possible conflicts to enhance our objectivity and to value our management system certification service. All certification activities shall be undertaken impartially and without bias. Any residual risk remaining is required to be reviewed by Aspirata top management to determine if it is within the level of acceptable risk.

This is strengthened through the actions we undertake – Aspirata SHALL NOT:

- a) Provide certification when a relationship poses an unacceptable threat to impartiality.
- b) Provide management system consultancy to the clients it certifies (this applies to any part of the Aspirata legal entity).
- c) Provide internal audits to its certification clients.
- d) Provide certification for a period of two (2) years after a client has received management system consultancy or internal audits from Aspirata.
- e) Outsource audits to management system consultant establishments.
- f) Link its services with the activities of an establishment that provide management system consultancy. Aspirata shall take action to correct inappropriate links or statements by any consultancy organisation stating or implying that certification would be simpler, easier, faster, or less expensive if Aspirata was used.
- g) Use any of its personnel or external auditors for two (2) years, where they have been involved in management system consultancy or internal audits, towards the applying client.
- h) Allow commercial, financial or other pressures to compromise its impartiality. All Aspirata personnel or committees, both internal and external, who could influence the certification activities, shall act impartially.
- i) Provide certification services to other certification bodies for their quality management system.
- j) Be the designer, manufacturer, installer, distributor or maintainer of a certified product; be the designer, implementer, operator or maintainer of a certified process; or be the designer, implementer, provider or maintainer of a certified service (this applies to any part of the Aspirata legal entity and entities under its control).

Aspirata SHALL:

- a) Take action and respond to any threats to its impartiality as a result of the actions of other persons, bodies, or organizations.
- b) Require all internal and external personnel to reveal any situation known to them that may present them or Aspirata with a potential or actual conflict of interest. This information shall be recorded and used as input to identifying threats to impartiality raised by the activities of such personnel or by the organisations that employ them. Aspirata shall not involve such personnel (internal or external) in certification activities.



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HEAD OF CERTIFICATION & INSPECTION

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