



**LICENSED  
BUILDING  
PRACTITIONERS**  
Building confidence

## A new code of ethics for Licensed Building Practitioners

In October 2021, the Government announced a new code of ethics for Licensed Building Practitioners (LBPs), with a one-year transition period before it becomes enforceable.

The code of ethics, effective from 25 October 2022, sets behavioural standards for LBPs to give both the industry and consumers clarity on what is expected from LBPs, and to hold them to account.

### Why have a code of ethics?

The code of ethics will ensure high standards are maintained in the industry, while giving the public more confidence that LBPs are undertaking building work in a safe, legal, and professional way, and that they will take responsibility for their work.

Most LBPs already work to the highest professional and ethical standards. Formalising this into a code of ethics aligns the LBP scheme with international best practice and provides clear grounds for the Building Practitioners Board to take disciplinary action against LBPs who behave unprofessionally.

### What does the code of ethics include?

The code of ethics is made up of nineteen standards, which sit under the following four key principles:

#### 1. Work safely

- Take responsibility for health and safety
- Report unsafe behaviour by others on a building site
- Avoid harming the environment.

#### 2. Act within the law

- Comply with the law
- Report breaches of the law.

#### 3. Take responsibility for your actions

- Know what building work you are allowed to do
- Explain risks to your client
- Inform and educate your client
- Be accountable for building work carried out by you, or someone under your supervision
- Advise clients of any delays as soon as they become apparent
- Act in your client's interests
- Generally, you should follow your client's instructions unless the instructions are dangerous, are contrary to contracts or consents, or would mean you would not be acting within the law.



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#### **4. Behave professionally**

- Behave professionally
- Act in good faith during dispute resolution
- Price work fairly and reasonably
- Declare and manage actual or potential conflicts of interest appropriately
- Maintain confidentiality of client details, unless there is good reason for sharing information
- Acknowledge and respect the cultural norms and values of your clients and colleagues
- Conduct your business in a methodical and responsible manner.

#### **What happens if an LBP breaches the code of ethics?**

If an LBP does not comply with their obligations, a complaint can be made against them which may result in disciplinary action by the Building Practitioners Board.

As the code of ethics is not enforceable by the Building Practitioners Board until 25 October 2022, complaints about someone breaching the code of ethics can only be made if the breach took place on or after 25 October 2022.

#### **Where can I find more information?**

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has developed information and education resources to help LBPs and the public learn more about the code of ethics.

These are available on the LBP website and include a detailed guidance document and an interactive on-line learning module.

[Code of ethics information and resources – LBP website](#)