



---

***Publication  
Reference***

---

A large, light blue graphic with a grid pattern of thin white lines. The grid lines are curved and converge towards the center, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The text 'EA Code of Conduct' is centered in the middle of this graphic.

**EA Code of Conduct**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**  
**EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION FOR ACCREDITATION (EA)**  
(21<sup>st</sup> October 2023)

## **Introduction**

EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) is the European Association of National Accreditation Bodies. It is recognised by the European Commission according to Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 as the European Accreditation Infrastructure.

The EA members – the National Accreditation Bodies – are officially recognised by their national governments to accredit bodies, which perform conformity assessment activities such as testing, calibration, inspection, certification, and verification.

This Code of Conduct is an obligation for all persons and bodies, working for and within EA in the framework of the EA Articles of Association and Rules and Procedures, including EA members, stakeholders, observers as well as EA officers and staff – all these will hereafter be referred to as “EA actors”.

The principles contained herein set out non-negotiable minimum standards of behaviour. This Code is not meant to be exhaustive and cover all situations that may occur: it provides a framework and a foundation for expected conduct.

It is the responsibility of EA actors to ensure compliance with this Code of Conduct.

## **Principles of the EA Code of Conduct**

EA actors shall:

### **1. Respect others**

EA actors are committed to respecting others and the professional culture of European accreditation within EA.

In meetings EA actors are committed to:

- Conducting themselves in a professional manner
- Respecting others and their opinions
- Keeping as confidential all information that has been identified as such
- Ensuring that the views of all (including those whose first language is not English) are heard and understood.

### **2. Behaviour**

EA actors act in good faith and with due care and diligence.

They avoid collusive, anticompetitive or dominant behaviour and promote a culture of fair and ethical behaviour.

EA actors act honestly and in the best interest of EA, not engaging in conduct likely to bring discredit to EA.

### **3. Non-Discrimination**

Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.

### **4. Gender equ(al)ity**

EA actors are striving for gender equality, inter alia regarding to:

- Management positions within EA

EA actors are committed to promote gender equality, inter alia regarding to:

- Technical standards and schemes applied for the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies

### **5. Work for the benefit of the European community**

EA actors recognize that the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies is for the benefit of the European and international community. They are committed to advancing the European Accreditation Infrastructure and not hindering its development.

### **6. Respect and protect the brand and reputation of EA**

EA actors support the vision, mission and values of EA as outlined in its strategy. They promote and uphold the brand and reputation of EA.

### **7. Implementation and monitoring**

Any EA actor is bound to comply with this Code of Conduct. In case that someone is behaving not in compliance with this Code of Conduct, this shall be reported to the Executive Board via the Secretariat. Non-compliance may lead to the exclusion from the work for and within EA.