

AMOS Code of Conduct

20 January 2011

Preamble

AMOS represents a diverse range of disciplines, encompassing meteorology, oceanography, climate science, and the accompanying natural hazards and societal impacts. The AMOS membership is equally diverse, including amateur enthusiasts, students, engineers and scientists. This code of conduct is written with this diversity in mind, and it is appreciated that some aspects may not be relevant to the activities of all members. However, the code of conduct provides a minimum standard of behaviour for all members and serious breaches of this code would be interpreted as 'conduct unbecoming a member' under the AMOS rules.

The AMOS community

AMOS provides a mechanism for amateurs and professionals with mutual interests to network, coordinate, and communicate.

Members are expected to behave in a manner that honours AMOS and the disciplines it represents.

Members should treat other members and participants in AMOS activities with professional courtesy and respect.

Members involved in AMOS activities should not discriminate on the basis of age, race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation.

Scientific conduct

A large proportion of AMOS activities are in the scientific realm. Our members are active in Australia and overseas, contributing to the advancement of multiple disciplines.

Members involved in scientific activities should base those activities on sound scientific principles.

Members should communicate their work broadly through written publications, conference presentations, and to the general public when appropriate.

Members should provide due acknowledgement of other people's work.

Members should avoid any conflicts of interest that may arise in scientific activities and peer review, and disclose any conflicts of interest that are unavoidable.

Plagiarism, fabrication or falsification of data, and other misleading behaviour are all unacceptable.

Commercial activities

AMOS members provide important services to the public and private sectors on demand. These activities facilitate knowledge transfer to the broader community, sharing the expertise and experience that AMOS fosters.

Members undertaking work for a client should ensure the client is aware of both the likelihood of success of the activity and the scientific validity of the approach.

Members should ensure that their clients have proper appreciation of the uncertainties and limitations associated with data, forecasts, and projections provided to them.

Members should decline requests to provide expert evidence or consultancies if the subject falls outside their area of expertise.

Public statements

Engagement with the general public, the media, politicians and other bodies is an essential mechanism to disseminate important scientific outcomes, influence policy, and demonstrate the relevance of the broad range of AMOS activities. In that regard, members are free to make public statements and provide expert opinion on their own behalf.

Public statements and expert opinion should be limited to the member's areas of expertise and not deliberately contain false or misleading information, or exaggerations.

As per the AMOS rules, certain people can make statements or submit evidence on behalf of the society. Those members with that permission should ensure that personal opinions are not incorrectly interpreted as an AMOS policy or position.
