envirosense

Impartiality & Independence Policy

Document Reference	D. DMS-007
Date of Approval	11 Sept 2026
Version	2
Document Owner	Robin Askey
Approval Signature	

Impartiality & Independence Policy

EnviroSense ensures independence in verification and validation by identifying and managing conflicts of interest. ISO/IEC 17029 mandates that verification bodies maintain impartiality and objectivity. This policy sets out what we are committed to; OP-008 Impartiality Procedure sets out how we put it into practice day to day, including the operation of the Impartiality Committee, whose composition and terms of reference are defined in OP-008.

Our Commitments

- **Independence Requirements**
  EnviroSense defines independence as reaching an objective verification or validation conclusion free from external influence. We recognise five categories of threat to impartiality: self-interest (a financial or other personal interest influencing judgement); self-review (verifying or validating work we were previously involved in producing); familiarity (a long-standing or close relationship with a client leading to bias); intimidation (being deterred from acting objectively by pressure, whether real or perceived); and advocacy (promoting a client's position to a degree that compromises objectivity). How each threat is identified, assessed, and safeguarded against is set out in full in OP-008 Impartiality Procedure.

- **Gifts and Hospitality**
  Gifts from a client or other interested party may be accepted up to a value of £50 per occasion (such as a gifted lunch, or a round of golf), and business hospitality (such as a meal taken as part of normal business dealings) is separately acceptable. Cash and cash-equivalents (vouchers, gift cards and similar) must never be accepted, regardless of value. Any gift or hospitality must be proportionate and could not reasonably be seen to influence a verification or validation decision. Anything above the £50 limit, offered repeatedly by the same party, or offered by a client during an active engagement, must be declared without delay via the Declarations Log in OPD-008.02 for review by the Impartiality Committee. Full requirements are set out in OP-008 Impartiality Procedure.

- **Managing Conflict of Interest**
  All potential conflicts of interest will be logged in the Declarations Log within OPD-008.02, assessed for significance, and mitigated through documented safeguards. If they are not manageable, they will be eliminated, leading to withdrawal from the verification and validation.

- **Verification and Validation Governance and Compliance**
  To uphold ISO/IEC 17029 principles, EnviroSense ensures that there will be annual independence reviews of all verification and validation and personnel and mandatory conflict of interest declarations before engagements. Independent quality reviewers, trained to the same level as the Lead Verifier, will conduct verification and validation reviews. Oversight of impartiality across the business, including review of declared conflicts and threats, is carried out by the Impartiality Committee; its composition and terms of reference are set out in OP-008 Impartiality Procedure.

- **Director's Responsibilities**
  EnviroSense Directors shall oversee compliance with ISO/IEC 17029 and ISO 14064-3; conduct an annual review of verification and validation independence and impartiality; document and address any potential conflicts of interest in verification and validation planning.

Implementation and Accountability

Our team is responsible for ensuring the implementation and enforcement of this Impartiality and Independence policy, which is reviewed annually.

Version History

Version	Date	Author	Approver
1	03 Jan 2025	Robin Askey	Robin Askey
2	10 Sept 2026	Rosie Moore	Robin Askey