

Code of Professional Ethics for Centro de Navegación Members

General Rules

This Code is aimed at all Ship Agents performing their activity in Argentinian Ports, setting moral obligations for such professionals in the execution of their activity, since they shall behave according to ethical and unchangeable principles and become morally responsible for all those acts that shall or shall not be penalized by the current Positive Law, but that are equally condemned in view of honesty and correctness policies that shall prevail in the professional practice.

Ethics rules determined in this Code do not contradict others which are not expressed and which shall emerge from the professional practice in a consistent, honest and dignified way.

In order to correctly interpret these rules, it shall not be understood that everything which is not specifically forbidden shall be allowed, since such rules are general and tend to avoid failures in professional ethics.

Therefore, the rules expressed in this Code of Ethics shall be understood as the setting of principles and rules that shall govern the profession of the Ship Agent. The practice of this activity is not only aimed at technical aspects but also to reinforce a socially responsible and respectful role of human dignity.

Development

1. The Ship Agent shall perform his profession with decency, dignity and honesty, keeping ethical principles above his personal and company's interests.
2. He shall observe the profession dignity, rejecting and reporting all illegal actions and any activity that shall be dishonest, corrupt or inappropriate and generally every event that shall represent desqualification, incompetence and dishonour for the profession.
3. He shall not allow other people to perform inappropriate activities for the professional practice on his behalf, nor take part in businesses that shall be incompatible with the profession and the Law. He shall not allow the use of his professional name or credit to simplify, make it possible or hide the professional practice of those that are not legally authorised to do it.
4. He shall not guarantee with his signature based on a valuable consideration or for no consideration at all, documentation attached to the profession that should have not been personally considered, performed or controlled or that shall be false or lack a true basis.

5. He shall refrain from lending professional services to people or organizations, whose practice or honor shall be against legal or ethical principles.

6. He shall serve to the represented party with all his ability and knowledge, trying to obtain the best results. He shall demonstrate his ability, information, honesty, courtesy and respect, assuring his activity to be used for the common good and economy in general.

7. He shall keep professional secret as a rule of behaviour in all his activities related to his professional practice, unless the parties involved shall authorize him to disclose information. This obligation shall only cease in case of need of self defense when being object of accusations by the represented parties. He then shall be able to reveal all that shall be essential for his defense to the extent that his judgement shall advise him.

8. He shall never provide wrong information to his represented or third parties, refraining from exaggerating the conditions of all services rendered leading the interested parties to fraud.

9. He shall make his represented parties know that his work shall be performed within the limitations imposed by the laws and by this Code of Ethics, depriving disproportionate ambitions of individuals through professional advise.

10. The fulfillment of legal and statutory obligations of his profession, his behaviour and methods shall be based in moral rules and not only in the coactivity of the law.

11. He shall not advise any act that according to his judgement shall not be convenient for his represented parties; refraining from making statements or inaccurate negotiations, incomplete written assesments or against the truth. He shall be responsible for mistakes and omissions that shall arise from his acts.

12. He shall not illegally withhold documents that may not belong to him.

13. Satisfacion of the accomplished duty shall be the best prize and encouragement he may pretend. He must defend his right to a decent payment for his work, always considering that profit is just an accessory from the aim, and it shall not become a decisive motive in his practice.

14. He shall use advertising in a decent and dignified way, according to the hierarchy of his profession; refraining from advertising that shall maliciously exalt false virtues or characteristics for the services that have been already entrusted.

15. He shall decently act before his colleagues, abstaining from criticizing and condemning the existence of serious irregularities.

16. He shall obtain and keep his represented parties according to decent proceedings, avoiding disloyal competition and the use of advertising and participation that shall not be compatible with the honor of the profession. Cordiality shall be his goal before his colleagues, providing all the information that shall be useful for them as long as that provision shall not contravene national or

international regulations in force, such as –but not limited- Anti-Trust Law. He shall additionally refrain from taking part in all those issues entrusted to other colleagues without justified cause and without prior notice to them, always preserving their rights.

17. He shall receive the agreed fees or the ones that by Law or by custom and usage shall belong to him, disregarding the best obtained price, except just cause of gratitude. In no case shall the Centro de Navegación and/or its members set any fees and the laws of free competition that rule the market, independently and competitively acting, shall always be conformed to.

Proceeding Rules

1. Any infringement to any of the regulations within this Code shall be object of disciplinary sanction, being their enumeration strictly expository.

2. Disciplinary sanctions and legal accessory to be applied shall be determined in the by-laws of the Centro de Navegación.

3. The Board of Directors of the Centro de Navegación, in case of any complaint of infringement to any of the rules within this Code, by means of a substantial resolution, shall express if there are or not reasons to take the complaint to the Court of Ethics. In case of deciding in favour of the creation of a disciplinary record, the Board of Directors shall send it without further delay to that Court.

4. The Court of Ethics, previous to any other process, shall summon the informant to ratify the complaint, who shall appear within the fixed time limit determined by the Court, with the warning that his presentation shall be considered declined. After that and within the same time limit, the Court shall summon the defendant to explain, under penalty of continuing the proceedings in default. Once these proceedings shall be fulfilled or once the dates shall expire, the case shall be tried with additional evidence and the right of defense; establishing the period of 15 working days for the receipt of all the evidence and instructing to produce it within the period of 30 working days. Once the trial period shall be closed, such Court shall pronounce within the same period, unless due to exceptional reasons it shall consider it necessary to extend the terms. The respective extensions shall not exceed a total of 60 working days. Once such periods shall expire without any decision, the interested party shall complaint to the Court before the Board of Directors due to delay. It shall direct everything considered necessary in order to pronounce judgement.

5. The decision of the Court of Ethics shall always be well founded and once enforceable it shall be informed to the Board of Directors in order to be fulfilled and recorded.

6. For a better performance, the Court of Ethics shall be assisted by an “ad-hoc” Secretary with lawyer degree.