



IMPARTIALITY POLICY

NEXT GENERATIONS COMPANY LIMITED

As the legal entity accountable for certification activities, NGCL acknowledges the utmost importance of impartiality in the execution of its Certification Activities. NGCL, along with its managers, staff, and external auditors, is dedicated to maintaining impartiality in all interactions with clients and potential clients. To ensure the sustained and demonstrable adherence to impartiality, the following principles have been instituted:

- **Certificate Issuance:** NGCL Certificates are exclusively issued following a comprehensive review by an independent, authorized, and competent member of the management team. This individual, having not been involved in the audit process, ensures a thorough examination, thereby safeguarding against any potential conflicting interests.
- **Consultancy Services:** NGCL refrains from offering management system consultancy or any other form of consultancy to companies or individuals. This deliberate choice ensures a distinct separation between certification activities and consultancy services.
- **Internal Audit Services:** NGCL abstains from providing internal audit services to its certified clients. This practice reinforces the independence and objectivity integral to the certification process.
- **Ownership and Interests:** NGCL maintains a stance of non-possession of any financial or other interests in companies offering certification or management system consultancy services. Furthermore, NGCL avoids establishing affiliations with companies providing services that might compromise the impartiality of its certification services. Prior to formalizing any proposed relationships with other entities, the Committee for Impartiality conducts a meticulous risk assessment. Additionally, ongoing relationships with companies, organizations, and individuals undergo regular risk assessments to guarantee the preservation of impartiality.
- **Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** Individuals employed by or contracted to NGCL are mandated to document and disclose their existing and past relationships with all companies. Any situation, whether historical or ongoing, that could pose a potential conflict of interest must be reported. NGCL uses this information to identify potential threats to impartiality and abstains from engaging individuals in any capacity where a conflict of interest exists unless they can demonstrate the absence of such a conflict.
- **Past Relationships and Audits:** NGCL adheres to a policy where a staff member or external auditor will not be assigned to a management system audit if there exists a past relationship. Nevertheless, under exceptional circumstances and subject to the discretion of the Technical Manager or Managers, an individual or external auditor may be assigned to a management system audit if there has been no relationship for a minimum of 3 years.
- **Referral Fees:** NGCL has a strict prohibition against offering commissions, finders' fees, or any inducements to individuals or companies for client referrals unless specific conditions are met. These conditions encompass establishing clear and transparent terms and conditions for the referral, ensuring that the payment does not influence the audit outcome, conducting a thorough risk assessment to evaluate any potential threats to impartiality, and meticulously documenting all payments with traceable records.
- **Training Services:** NGCL refrains from providing specific training to companies on the implementation of standards. Any training offered by NGCL is of a general nature and is accessible to all companies and individuals interested in participating.
- **Marketing and Linkage:** NGCL takes measures to avoid any linkage or marketing that associates it with the activities of a management system consultancy. Should any such linkage be identified, prompt and appropriate actions are taken to rectify the situation.
- **Pressure and Influence:** Auditors and other individuals engaged in the certification process are explicitly prohibited from experiencing any form of pressure or influence that could compromise their impartiality or predispose them to predetermined conclusions regarding audit results.



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NGCL Saudi Arabia abides by the following principles to uphold impartiality in its certification activities:

- Audits are not outsourced to consultancy organizations.
- Referral fees are not paid to consultancy organizations.
- Communication with clients and consultancy organizations is information-based.
- Adherence to all accreditation and NGCL policies is maintained.
- NGCL exclusively focuses on its core business of certification and avoids involvement in conflicting services
- NGCL refrains from hiring professionals who conflict with its ethical policies.
- Auditors are prohibited from marketing services and conducting audits for the same client.
- Auditors are not allowed to engage in financial transactions with clients or consultants.
- NGCL avoids conducting business with consultants who exert pressures compromising impartiality.
- NGCL employees are obligated to disclose any situations that impair business ethics.
- Auditors are not permitted to audit a client for at least 2 years after relinquishing their services.
- Audit timing is not compromised as required by accreditation and NGCL norms.
- Auditors are assigned only to clients for which they have been approved.
- NGCL maintains transparency in all information.
- Confidential client information is not divulged to third parties without written consent from the client and approval by the General Manager.
- Auditors do not retain client information after the designated usage period and return all relevant documents.
- Thorough verification is conducted to determine the appropriate scope of certification.
- Any observed unethical practices are promptly reported to the management.
- Auditors are prohibited from accepting gifts from clients or consultants.
- Auditors do not conduct audits for organizations where their family members or close relatives hold decision-making positions.
- Disciplinary actions for non-adherence to impartiality policies are taken by the management in consultation with the Impartiality Committee.

As an independent, self-financed organization, NGCL recognizes the potential threat to impartiality posed by the fact that the revenue source for a certification body is the client paying for certification. To uphold confidence, NGCL ensures that certification decisions are exclusively grounded in objective evidence and remain uninfluenced by other interests or parties. Competent Certification Managers, who were not engaged in the audit process, are responsible for making and signing certification decisions. NGCL identifies threats to impartiality, including self-interest, self-review, familiarity or trust, and intimidation. Rigorous measures are implemented to mitigate these threats and safeguard impartiality.

Public Statement:

NGCL, in collaboration with its Directors, Managers, Staff, and all individuals involved in certifying organizations, recognizes the paramount importance of impartiality in the execution of its Certification Activities. NGCL affirms that all employees and personnel participating in Certification Activities will uphold impartiality in their interactions with clients and potential clients.

NGCL has meticulously identified and evaluated all relationships that might pose conflicts of interest or jeopardize impartiality, thereby ensuring the continual preservation of impartiality.

Managing Director