

COSC244: Ethics

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1. What are your duties to your employer?

I believe that my duty to the employer is to work to the best of my ability and try to find all the bugs are programming errors that I can. As an employee in a review company it is important that I do my job and complete the task at hand and provide loyal service to my company, making sure that I am completing work that will benefit it. To justify this, section 2.5.1 of the ITTP code of ethics, which talks about clients and employers, it states that 'Members have a duty to provide loyal and competent service to their clients and employers. "Loyalty" implies looking out for their interests, giving fearless advice, providing strict confidentiality'. Another point relating to the ITTP code of ethics is section 1.4, where it states 'Members shall apply their skills and knowledge in the interests of their clients or employers for whom they will act without compromising any other of these Tenets;' meaning that as a member of the security company I should be applying the skills I have developed to my work and in the interests of my employer. This is explained further in the ITTP code of ethics section 2.4, where it mentions 'Competence is demonstrated by application of knowledge and skills to provide service, advice or opinion to clients or employers.' suggesting that competence should be demonstrated as an employee of the company. To conclude, even though the work that I am carrying may be involved in lies of omission to the public, I believe that it is important that I carry out my duty with competence as an employee to the company, as I have justified above using the ITTP code of ethics.

2. What are your duties to their client?

My duties to the client I would regard to be very similar to my duties to my employer. As an employee of a security review company, my goals should be to test the security product to the best of my ability. Also I should conduct my job with honesty to preserve honour and integrity in my work. The ITTP code of ethics states in section 1.2 that 'Members shall act in the execution of their profession with integrity, dignity and honour to merit the trust of the community and the profession, and apply honesty, skill, judgement and initiative to contribute positively to the well-being of society;' which justifies my point above saying that as an employee I should carry out honest work in my profession. Another part of the ITTP code of ethics, section 1.4 expresses that 'Members shall apply their skills and knowledge in the interests of their clients or employers for whom they will act without compromising any other of these Tenets;' which again justifies my point by saying in particular that members should apply their skills in the interests of their clients. These points are further explained in section 2.5.1 where it mentions 'Members have a duty to provide loyal and competent service to their clients and employers.' which requires me to stay loyal to both my company and client, this means that I would not be staying loyal to my client if I started saying bad things about my client and therefore breaching conditions of ITTP code of ethics. In conclusion, following the ITTP code of ethics and my own judgement I think that I should be completing my work and doing it to the best of my ability to satisfy the needs of the client while also staying loyal.

3. What are your duties to the general public?

My duties to both the employer and the client are different to my duties to the general public. I believe that the public have a right to know what each security company can actually provide, not a lie. Most of the general public will believe what the company will say and purchase the product. In my opinion this is a breach of trust between

public and the company. This can also be seen as a breach of the IITP code of ethics where it states in 1.3, 'Members' responsibility for the welfare and rights of the community shall come before their responsibility to their profession, sectional or private interests or to other members;'. I look upon this statement and think that the public's welfare is not of interest to the public. What gain is there for the public by lying to them? Another breach in the code of ethics is section 1.1 where it mentions 'Members shall treat people with dignity, good faith and equality; without discrimination; and have consideration for the values and cultural sensitivities of all groups within the community affected by their work;'. I deem that the company is not acting in good faith to the community by lying to them, it seems to me that it is more of an advertising stunt to benefit themselves rather than the public. The last point in the IITP code of ethics is in section 2.3.1 where it says 'Not being involved in any activity which is known to be fraudulent, dishonest or not in the interests of the community;'. Lying to the public or not telling them the full truth is being dishonest so again this would be another breach of the IITP code of ethics. To conclude, the company in my opinion are not looking out for the welfare of the community by lying to them. It seems to me that lying to them is not in good faith but rather to sell their product.

4. Can you continue to work at this job, and if so, what if anything should you do about the situation?

Initially I would stay working at the job, but I would like to inform my employer that I see this as an interest that may at conflict with my interests which may in the long term either result in a lower quality of work or my resignation. I think that being involved in work that involves lies would be ethically wrong in my opinion. As the IITP code of ethics, section 1.7, it mentions 'Members shall inform their clients or employers of any interest which may be, or may be perceived as being, in conflict with the interests of their clients or employers, or which may affect the quality of service or impartial judgement;'. I suppose that it would be best to bring up this conflict of interest to my employer. If the conflict was not resolved I would hand in my resignation as I feel that I would be breaching section 1.3 of the code of ethics where it states 'Members' responsibility for the welfare and rights of the community shall come before their responsibility to their profession, sectional or private interests or to other members;'. So as it says, the community should come before my profession. In conclusion, for me to continue to work at the job would depend on the response from my employer in regards to complaint of lies about the advertising of the security product.

References:

The IITP New Zealand Code of Ethics. (1960). [online] Available at: <http://www.cs.otago.ac.nz/cosc244/pdf/IITP-Code-of-Ethics.pdf> [Accessed 16 Sep. 2015].