



EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

FOREWORD

AACS Consulting is an independently owned and managed professional service firm, formed by a common desire to provide the highest quality of services to their clients. We exist to make a positive difference to their futures. High standards, common work ethic and clear focus make us valuable partners for a varied client base nationwide.

Whether you have just joined our staff or have been at AACS Consulting for a while, we are confident that you will find our company a dynamic and rewarding place in which to work, and we look forward to a productive and successful association. We consider the employees of AACS Consulting to be one of its most valuable resources. This handbook has been written to serve as the guide for the employer/employee relationship.

There are several things to keep in mind about this handbook. First, it contains only general information and guidelines. It is not intended to be comprehensive or to address all the possible applications of, or exceptions to, the general policies and procedures described. For that reason, if you have any questions concerning eligibility for a particular benefit or the applicability of a policy or practice to you, you should address your specific questions to the Human Resource department. Neither this handbook nor any other company document confers any contractual right, either express or implied, to remain in the company's employ.

Nor does it guarantee any fixed terms and conditions of your employment. Your employment is not for any specific time and may be terminated at will with or without cause and without prior notice by the company, or you may resign for any reason at any time. No supervisor or other representative of the company (except the president/CEO) has the authority to enter into any agreement for employment for any specified period of time or to make any agreement contrary to the above.

The procedures, practices, policies and benefits described here may be modified or discontinued from time to time. We will try to inform you of any changes as they occur.

This handbook and the information in it should be treated as confidential. No portion of this handbook should be disclosed to others, except AACS Consulting employees and others affiliated with AACS Consulting whose knowledge of the information is required in the normal course of business.

Some subjects described in this handbook are covered in detail in official policy documents. Refer to these documents for specific information because the handbook only briefly summarizes those guidelines and benefits.

Sincerely,

Alamzeb Zarghoon
Founder & President – AACS Consulting

Diversity at AACS Consulting

Equal Employment Opportunity Statement

AACS Consulting provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, amnesty or status as a covered in accordance with applicable Afghanistan laws. AACS Consulting complies with applicable Afghanistan laws governing nondiscrimination in employment in every location in which the company has facilities and operates. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, and transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training.

AACS Consulting expressly prohibits any form of unlawful employee harassment based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, genetic information, disability or veteran status. Improper interference with the ability of AACS Consulting employees to perform their expected job duties is absolutely not tolerated.

AACS Consulting Anti-Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedure

AACS Consulting is committed to a work environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual has the right to work in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal employment opportunities and prohibits unlawful discriminatory practices, including harassment. Therefore, AACS Consulting expects that all relationships among persons in the office will be business-like and free of bias, prejudice and harassment.

It is the policy of AACS Consulting to ensure equal employment opportunity without discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, amnesty or status as a covered in applicable law of Afghanistan. AACS Consulting prohibits any such discrimination or harassment.

AACS Consulting encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination or harassment. It is the policy of AACS Consulting to promptly and thoroughly investigate such reports. AACS Consulting prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination or harassment or who participates in an investigation of such reports.

Definitions of Harassment

Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is illegal under Afghanistan and local laws. For the purposes of this policy, sexual harassment is defined, as in the Equal Employment Guidelines of MoLSA, Afghanistan, as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when, for example

- a) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
- b) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
- c) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not-so-subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Depending on the circumstances, these behaviors may include unwanted sexual advances or requests for sexual favors; sexual jokes and innuendo; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies; leering, whistling or touching; insulting or obscene comments or gestures; display in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects or pictures; and other physical, verbal or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

Harassment on the basis of any other protected characteristic is also strictly prohibited. Under this policy, harassment is verbal, written or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of his/her race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or that of his/her relatives, friends or associates, and that:

- a) Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment;
- b) Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance; or
- c) Otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment opportunities.

Harassing conduct includes epithets, slurs or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; denigrating jokes; and written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group and that is placed on walls or elsewhere on the employer's premises or circulated in the workplace, on company time or using company equipment via e-mail, phone (including voice messages), text messages, tweets, blogs, social networking sites or other means.

Individuals and Conduct Covered

These policies apply to all applicants and employees, whether related to conduct engaged in by fellow employees or someone not directly connected to AACS Consulting (e.g., an outside vendor, consultant or customer).

Conduct prohibited by these policies is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related setting outside the workplace, such as during business trips, business meetings and business-related social events.

Complaint Process

Individuals who believe they have been the victims of conduct prohibited by this policy statement or who believe they have witnessed such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor, Human Resources or any member of management.

When possible, AACS Consulting encourages individuals who believe they are being subjected to such conduct to promptly advise the offender that his or her behavior is unwelcome and request that it be discontinued. Often this action alone will resolve the problem. AACS Consulting recognizes, however, that an individual may prefer to pursue the matter through complaint procedures. AACS Consulting encourages the prompt reporting of complaints or concerns so that rapid and constructive action can be taken before relationships become irreparably strained. Therefore, although no fixed reporting period has been established, early reporting and intervention have proven to be the most effective method of resolving actual or perceived incidents of harassment.

Any reported allegations of harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be investigated promptly. The investigation may include individual interviews with the parties involved and, where necessary, with individuals who may have observed the alleged conduct or may have other relevant knowledge.

Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigatory process to the extent consistent with adequate investigation and appropriate corrective action. Retaliation against an individual for reporting harassment or discrimination or for participating in an investigation of a claim of harassment or discrimination is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action.

Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated and addressed. Misconduct constituting harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be dealt with appropriately. If a party to a complaint does not agree with its resolution, that party may appeal to AACS Consulting's higher management. False and malicious complaints of harassment, discrimination or retaliation may be the subject of appropriate disciplinary action.

Employment

Employee Classification Categories

AACS Consulting has established the following categories for AACS Consulting employees, our employees will come under each category based on their work and mutual agreement with AACS Consulting:

- **Regular, full time:** Employees who are not in a temporary status and who are regularly scheduled to work the company's full-time schedule of 45 hours per week. Generally, these employees are eligible for the full benefits package, subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of each benefits program.
- **Temporary, full time:** Employees who are hired as interim replacements to temporarily supplement the workforce or to assist in the completion of a specific project and who are temporarily scheduled to work the company's full-time schedule for a limited duration. Employment beyond any initially stated period does not in any way imply a change in employment status.
- **Temporary, part time:** Employees who are hired as interim replacements to temporarily supplement the workforce or to assist in the completion of a specific project and who are temporarily scheduled to work less than the company's full-time schedule for a limited duration. Employment beyond any initially stated period does not in any way imply a change in employment status.

Temporary employees are not eligible for company benefits unless specifically stated otherwise in company policy or are deemed eligible according to plan documents.

Background and Reference Checks

To ensure that individuals who join AACCS Consulting are well qualified and to ensure that AACCS Consulting maintains a safe and productive work environment, it is our policy to conduct pre-employment background checks on all applicants who accept an offer of employment. Background checks may include verification of any information on the applicant's resume or application form and either criminal records check with Crime and Investigation Departments of Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan.

All offers of employment are conditioned on receipt of a background check report that is acceptable to AACCS Consulting. Reports are kept confidential and are only viewed by individuals involved in the hiring process.

If information obtained in a background check would lead AACCS Consulting to deny employment, a copy of the report will be provided to the applicant, and the applicant will have the opportunity to dispute the report's accuracy. Background checks may include a criminal record check, although a criminal conviction does not automatically bar an applicant from employment.

Additional checks such as a driving record or credit report may be made on applicants for particular job categories if appropriate and job related. AACCS Consulting also reserves the right to conduct a background check for current employees to determine eligibility for promotion or reassignment in the same manner as described above.

Internal Transfers/Promotions

Employees with more than twelve months of service may request consideration to transfer to other jobs as vacancies become available and will be considered along with other applicants. At the same time, the company may initiate transfers of employees between departments and facilities to meet specified work requirements and reassignment of work requirements.

AACCS Consulting offers employee's promotions to higher-level positions when appropriate. Management prefers to promote from within and may first consider current employees with the necessary qualifications and skills to fill vacancies above the entry level, unless outside recruitment is considered to be in the company's best interest.

To be considered, employees must have held their current position for at least 12 months, have a satisfactory performance record and have no disciplinary actions during the last 12 months. Management retains the discretion to make exceptions to the policy.

Nepotism, Employment of Relatives and Personal Relationships

AACS Consulting wants to ensure that corporate practices do not create situations such as conflict of interest or favoritism. This extends to practices that involve employee hiring, promotion and transfer. Close relatives, partners, those in a dating relationship or members of the same household are not permitted to be in positions that have a reporting responsibility to each other. Close relatives are defined as husband, wife, domestic partner, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, son, son-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, cousins and domestic partner relatives.

If employees begin a dating relationship or become relatives, partners or members of the same household and if one party is in a supervisory position, that person is required to inform management and Human Resources of the relationship. AACS Consulting reserves the right to apply this policy to situations where there is a conflict or the potential for conflict because of the relationship between employees, even if there is no direct-reporting relationship or authority involved.

Progressive Discipline

Every employee has the duty and the responsibility to be aware of and abide by existing rules and policies. Employees also have the responsibility to perform his/her duties to the best of his/her ability and to the standards as set forth in his/her job description or as otherwise established.

AACS Consulting supports the use of progressive discipline to address issues such as poor work performance or misconduct. Our progressive discipline policy is designed to provide a corrective action process to improve and prevent a recurrence of undesirable behavior and/or performance issues. Our progressive discipline policy has been designed consistent with our organizational values, HR best practices and employment laws.

Outlined below are the steps of our progressive discipline policy and procedure. AACS Consulting reserves the right to combine or skip steps in this process depending on the facts of each situation and the nature of the offense. The level of disciplinary intervention may also vary. Some of the factors that will be considered are whether the offense is repeated despite coaching, counseling and/or training; the employee's work record; and the impact the conduct and performance issues have on our firm.

The following outlines AACS Consulting progressive discipline process:

Verbal warning:

A supervisor verbally counsels an employee about an issue of concern, and a written record of the discussion is placed in the employee's file for future reference.

Written warning:

Written warnings are used for behavior or violations that a supervisor considers serious or in situations when a verbal warning has not helped change unacceptable behavior. Written warnings are placed in an employee's personnel file. Employees should recognize the grave nature of the written warning.

Performance improvement plan:

Whenever an employee has been involved in a disciplinary situation that has not been readily resolved or when he/she has demonstrated an inability to perform assigned work responsibilities efficiently, the employee may be given a final warning or placed on a performance improvement plan (PIP). PIP status will last for a predetermined amount of time not to exceed 30 days. Within this time period, the employee must demonstrate a willingness and ability to meet and maintain the conduct and/or work requirements as specified by the supervisor and the organization. At the end of the performance improvement period, the performance improvement plan may be closed or, if established goals are not met, dismissal may occur.

AACS Consulting reserves the right to determine the appropriate level of discipline for any inappropriate conduct, including oral and written warnings, suspension with or without pay, demotion and discharge.

Separation of Employment

Separation of employment within an organization can occur for several different reasons.

Resignation:

Although we hope your employment with us will be a mutually rewarding experience, we understand that varying circumstances cause employees to voluntarily resign employment. Resigning employees are encouraged to provide 30 days' notice, preferably in writing, to facilitate a smooth transition out of the AACS Consulting. Management reserves the right to provide an employee with 30 days' pay in lieu of notice in situations where job or business needs warrant such action. If an employee provides less notice than requested, the employer may deem the individual to be ineligible for rehire depending on the circumstances regarding the notice given and will not be eligible for compensation for the short period of notice.

Job abandonment:

Employees who fail to report to work or contact their supervisor for three (3) consecutive workdays shall be considered to have abandoned the job without notice, effective at the end of their normal shift on the third day. The supervisor shall notify the Human Resource department at the expiration of the third workday and initiate the paperwork to terminate the employee. Employees who are separated due to job abandonment are ineligible to receive accrued benefits and are ineligible for rehire.

Termination:

Employees of AACS Consulting are employed on an at-will basis, and the company retains the right to terminate an employee at any time with 30 days' written notice before resigning / terminating the employment.

Return of Company Property

The separating employee must return all company property at the time of separation, including uniforms, cell phones, keys, PCs and identification cards. Failure to return some items may result in deductions from the final paycheck. An employee will be required to sign the Wage Deduction Authorization Agreement to deduct the costs of such items from the final paycheck.

The separating employee shall contact the Human Resource department as soon as notice is given to schedule an exit interview. The interview will be on the employee's last day of work or another day, as mutually agreed on. Accrued vacation leave will be paid in the last paycheck unless the employee resigned and did not give and work a full one-month notice.

Rehire

Former employees who left AACS Consulting in good standing and were classified as eligible for rehire may be considered for reemployment. An application must be submitted to the Human Resource department, and the applicant must meet all minimum qualifications and requirements of the position, including any qualifying exam, when required.

Supervisors must obtain approval from the Human Resource department or designee prior to rehiring a former employee. Rehired employees begin benefits just as any other new employee. Previous tenure will not be considered in calculating longevity, leave accruals or any other benefits. An applicant or employee who is terminated for violating policy or who resigned in lieu of termination from employment due to a policy violation will be ineligible for rehire.

Workplace Safety

Drug-Free Workplace

AACS Consulting has a longstanding commitment to provide a safe and productive work environment. Alcohol and drug abuse pose a threat to the health and safety of employees and to the security of our equipment and facilities. For these reasons, AACS Consulting is committed to the elimination of drug and/or alcohol use and abuse in the workplace.

This policy outlines the practice and procedure designed to correct instances of identified alcohol and/or drug use in the workplace. This policy applies to all employees and all applicants for employment of AACS Consulting. The Human Resource department is responsible for policy administration.

Work Rules

The following work rules apply to all employees:

- Whenever employees are working, are operating any company vehicle, are present on company premises, or are conducting related work off-site, they are prohibited from:
 - Using, possessing, buying, selling, manufacturing or dispensing an illegal drug (to include possession of drug paraphernalia).
 - Being under the influence of alcohol or an illegal drug as defined in this policy.
- The presence of any detectable amount of any illegal drug or illegal controlled substance in an employee's body while performing company business or while in a company facility is prohibited.
- AACS Consulting will not allow any employee to perform their duties while taking prescribed drugs that are adversely affecting the employee's ability to safely and effectively perform their job duties. Employees taking a prescribed medication must carry it in the container labeled by a licensed pharmacist or be prepared to produce it if asked.
- Any illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia will be turned over to an appropriate law enforcement agency and may result in criminal prosecution.

Required Testing

The company retains the right to require the following tests:

Pre-employment:

All applicants must pass a drug test before beginning work or receiving an offer of employment. Refusal to submit to testing will result in disqualification of further employment consideration.

Reasonable suspicion:

Employees are subject to testing based on observations by a supervisor of apparent workplace use, possession or impairment. Human Resources must be consulted before sending an employee for reasonable suspicion testing.

Post-accident:

Employees are subject to testing when they cause or contribute to accidents that seriously damage a company vehicle, machinery, equipment or property and/or result in an injury to themselves or another employee requiring off-site medical attention. In any of these instances, the investigation and subsequent testing must take place within two (2) hours following the accident, if not sooner.

Follow-up:

Employees who have tested positive, or otherwise violated this policy, are subject to discipline up to and including discharge. Depending on the circumstances and the employee's work history/record, AACS Consulting may offer an employee who violates this policy or tests positive the opportunity to return to work on a last-chance basis pursuant to mutually agreeable terms, which could include follow-up drug testing at times and frequencies for a minimum of one (1) year but not more than two (2) years. If the employee either does not complete his/her rehabilitation program or tests positive after completing the rehabilitation program, he/she will be subject to immediate discharge from employment.

Consequences

Applicants who refuse to cooperate in a drug test or who test positive will not be hired.

Employees who refuse to cooperate in required tests or who use, possess, buy, sell, manufacture or dispense an illegal drug in violation of this policy will be terminated.

The first time an employee tests positive for alcohol or illegal drug use under this policy, the result will be discipline up to and including discharge.

Employees will be paid for time spent in alcohol/drug testing and then suspended pending the results of the drug/alcohol test. After the results of the test are received, a date/time will be scheduled to discuss the results of the test; this meeting will include a member of management and Human Resources. Should the results prove to be negative; the employee will receive back pay for the times/days of suspension.

Confidentiality

Information and records relating to positive test results, drug and alcohol dependencies and legitimate medical explanations provided to the medical review officer (MRO) shall be kept confidential to the extent required by law and maintained in secure files separate from normal personnel files.

Inspections

AACS Consulting reserves the right to inspect all portions of its premises for drugs, alcohol or other contraband. All employees, contract employees and visitors may be asked to cooperate in inspections of their persons, work areas and property that might conceal a drug, alcohol or other contraband. Employees who possess such contraband or refuse to cooperate in such inspections are subject to appropriate discipline up to and including discharge.

Crimes Involving Drugs

AACS Consulting prohibits all employees from manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing or using an illegal drug in or on company premises or while conducting company business. Employees are also prohibited from misusing legally prescribed or over-the-counter (OTC) drugs. Law enforcement personnel shall be notified, as appropriate, when criminal activity is suspected.

Workplace Bullying

AACS Consulting defines bullying as “repeated inappropriate behavior, either direct or indirect, whether verbal, physical or otherwise, conducted by one or more persons against another or others, at the place of work and/or in the course of employment.” Such behavior violates the company Code of Ethics, which clearly states that all employees will be treated with dignity and respect.

The purpose of this policy is to communicate to all employees, including supervisors, managers and executives, that the company will not tolerate bullying behavior. Employees found in violation of this policy will be disciplined up to and including termination. Bullying may be intentional or unintentional. However, it must be noted that where an allegation of bullying is made, the intention of the alleged bully is irrelevant and will not be given consideration when meting out discipline. As in sexual harassment, it is the effect of the behavior upon the individual that is important. AACS Consulting considers the following types of behavior examples of bullying:

- **Verbal bullying:** Slandering, ridiculing or maligning a person or his/her family; persistent name calling that is hurtful, insulting or humiliating; using a person as the butt of jokes; abusive and offensive remarks.
- **Physical bullying:** Pushing, shoving, kicking, poking, tripping, assault or threat of physical assault; damage to a person’s work area or property.
- **Gesture bullying:** Nonverbal threatening gestures or glances that convey threatening messages.
- **Exclusion:** Socially or physically excluding or disregarding a person in work-related activities.

Violence in the Workplace

All employees, customers, vendors and business associates must be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. Employees are expected to refrain from conduct that may be dangerous to others. Conduct that threatens intimidates or coerces another employee, customer, vendor or business associate will not be tolerated. AACS Consulting resources may not be used to threaten, stalk or harass anyone at the workplace or outside the workplace. AACS Consulting treats threats coming from an abusive personal relationship as it does other forms of violence.

Indirect or direct threats of violence, incidents of actual violence and suspicious individuals or activities should be reported as soon as possible to a supervisor, security personnel, Human Resources, member of AACS Consulting Threat Management Team or any member of senior management. When reporting a threat or incident of violence, the employee should be as specific and detailed as possible. Employees should not place themselves in peril, nor should they attempt to intercede during an incident.

Employees should promptly inform the Human Resource department of any protective or restraining order that they have obtained that lists the workplace as a protected area. Employees are encouraged to report safety concerns with regard to intimate partner violence. AACS Consulting will not retaliate against employees making good-faith reports. AACS Consulting is committed to supporting victims of intimate partner violence by providing referrals to AACS Consulting employee assistance program (EAP) and community resources and providing time off for reasons related to intimate partner violence.

AACS Consulting will promptly and thoroughly investigate all reports of threats of violence or incidents of actual violence and of suspicious individuals or activities. The identity of the individual making a report will be protected as much as possible. AACS Consulting will not retaliate against employees making good-faith reports of violence, threats or suspicious individuals or activities. In order to maintain workplace safety and the integrity of its investigation, AACS Consulting may suspend employees suspected of workplace violence or threats of violence, either with or without pay, pending investigation.

Anyone found to be responsible for threats of or actual violence or other conduct that is in violation of these guidelines will be subject to prompt disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

AACS Consulting encourages employees to bring their disputes to the attention of their supervisors or Human Resources before the situation escalates. AACS Consulting will not discipline employees for raising such concerns.

Safety and Security

It is the responsibility of each employee to conduct all tasks in a safe and efficient manner complying with all local and Afghanistan safety and health regulations and program standards, and with any special safety concerns for use in a particular area or with a client.

Although most safety regulations are consistent throughout each department and program, each employee has the responsibility to identify and familiarize her/himself with the emergency plan for his/her working area. Each facility shall have posted an emergency plan detailing procedures in handling emergencies such as fire, weather-related events and medical crises.

It is the responsibility of the employee to complete an Accident and Incident Report for each safety and health infraction that occurs by an employee or that the employee witnesses. Failure to report such an infraction may result in employee disciplinary action, including termination.

Furthermore, management requires that every person in the organization assumes the responsibility of individual and company safety. Failure to follow company safety and health guidelines or engaging in conduct that places the employee, client or company property at risk can lead to employee disciplinary action and/or termination.

The Health and Safety Committee and the safety director shall have the responsibility to develop and the authority to implement the safety and health program in the interest of a safer work environment.

Smoke-Free Workplace

It is the policy of AACCS Consulting to prohibit smoking on all company premises in order to provide and maintain a safe and healthy work environment for all employees. The law defines smoking as the "act of lighting, smoking or carrying a lighted or smoldering cigar, cigarette or pipe of any kind."

The smoke-free workplace policy applies to:

- All areas of company buildings.
- All company-sponsored off-site conferences and meetings.
- All vehicles owned or leased by the company.
- All visitors (customers and vendors) to the company premises.
- All contractors and consultants and/or their employees working on the company premises.
- All employees, temporary employees and t interns.

Smoking is permitted in the company's premises designated area only.

Employees who violate the smoking policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including immediate discharge.

Workplace Expectations

Confidentiality

Our clients and other parties with whom we do business entrust the company with important information relating to their businesses. It is our policy that all information considered confidential will not be disclosed to external parties or to employees without a “need to know.” If an employee questions whether certain information is considered confidential, he/she should first check with his/her immediate supervisor. This policy is intended to alert employees to the need for discretion at all times and is not intended to inhibit normal business communications.

Conflicts of Interest

Employees must avoid any relationship or activity that might impair, or even appear to impair, their ability to make objective and fair decisions when performing their jobs. At times, an employee may be faced with situations in which business actions taken on behalf of AACCS Consulting may conflict with the employee’s own personal interests. Company property, information or business opportunities may not be used for personal gain.

Conflicts of interest could arise in the following circumstances:

- Being employed by, or acting as a consultant to, a competitor or potential competitor, supplier or contractor, regardless of the nature of the employment, while employed with AACCS Consulting.
- Hiring or supervising family members or closely related persons.
- Serving as a board member for an outside commercial company or organization.
- Owning or having a substantial interest in a competitor, supplier or contractor.
- Accepting gifts, discounts, favors or services from a customer/potential customer, competitor or supplier, unless equally available to all company employees.
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Employees with a conflict-of-interest question should seek advice from management. Before engaging in any activity, transaction or relationship that might give rise to a conflict of interest, employees must seek review from their manager or the Human Resource department.

Outside Employment

Employees are permitted to engage in outside work or to hold other jobs, subject to certain restrictions as outlined below. Activities and conduct away from the job must not compete with, conflict with or compromise the company interests or adversely affect job performance and the ability to fulfill all job responsibilities. Employees are prohibited from performing any services for customers on nonworking time that are normally performed by AACCS Consulting. This prohibition also extends to the unauthorized use of any company tools or equipment and the unauthorized use or application of any confidential information. In addition, employees are not to solicit or conduct any outside business during paid working time. Employees are cautioned to carefully consider the demands that additional work activity will create before accepting outside employment. Outside employment will not be considered an excuse for poor job performance, absenteeism, tardiness, leaving early, refusal to travel or refusal to work overtime or different hours. If AACCS Consulting determines that an employee’s outside work interferes with performance, the employee may be asked to terminate the outside employment. Employees who have accepted outside employment may not use paid sick leave to work on the outside job. Fraudulent use of sick leave will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Attendance and Punctuality

Vacation and holidays must be scheduled with one's supervisor in advance. Sick leave may be used in the case of emergency or sudden illness without prior scheduling. Patterns of absenteeism or tardiness may result in discipline even if the employee has not yet exhausted available paid time off. Absences due to illnesses or injuries that qualify an employee will not be counted against an employee's attendance record and only those days will be payable coming under the sick leave. Medical documentation may be required in these instances.

Not reporting to work and not calling to report the absence is a no-call/no-show and is a serious matter. The first instance of a no call/no show will result in a final written warning. The second separate offense may result in termination of employment with no additional disciplinary steps.

A no call/no show lasting three days may be considered job abandonment and may be deemed an employee's voluntary resignation of employment.

Attire and Grooming

It is important for all employees to project a professional image while at work by being appropriately attired. AACS Consulting employees are expected to be neat, clean and well groomed while on the job. Clothing must be consistent with the standards for a business environment and must be appropriate to the type of work being performed.

All employees must be covered from shoulders to knees at all times (no see-through or sleeveless clothing is permitted at any time). Natural and artificial scents may become a distraction from a well-functioning workplace and are also subject to this policy. AACS Consulting is confident that employees will use their best judgment regarding attire and appearance. Management reserves the right to determine appropriateness. Any employee who is improperly dressed will be counseled or in severe cases may be sent home to change clothes. Continued disregard of this policy may be cause for disciplinary action, which may result in termination.

Electronic Communication and Internet Use

The following guidelines have been established for using the Internet, company-provided cell phones and e-mail in an appropriate, ethical and professional manner:

- Internet, company-provided equipment (e.g., cell phone, laptops, and computers) and services may not be used for transmitting, retrieving or storing any communications of a defamatory, discriminatory, harassing or pornographic nature.
- The following actions are forbidden: using disparaging, abusive, profane or offensive language; creating, viewing or displaying materials that might adversely or negatively reflect upon AACS Consulting or be contrary to AACS Consulting best interests; and engaging in any illegal activities, including piracy, cracking, extortion, blackmail, copyright infringement, and unauthorized access of any computers and company-provided equipment such as cell phones and laptops.
- Employees may not copy, retrieve, modify or forward copyrighted materials, except with permission or as a single copy to reference only.

- Employees must not use the system in a way that disrupts its use by others. Employees must not send or receive large files that could be saved/ transferred via thumb drives. Employees are prohibited from sending or receiving files that are not related to work.
- Employees should not open suspicious e-mails, pop-ups or downloads. Contact IT with any questions or concerns to reduce the release of viruses or to contain viruses immediately.
- Internal and external e-mails are considered business records and may be subject to discovery in the event of litigation. Be aware of this possibility when sending e-mail within and outside the company.

Right to Monitor

All company-supplied technology and company-related work records belong to the company and not to the employee. AACCS Consulting routinely monitors use of company-supplied technology. Inappropriate or illegal use or communications may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

Social Media—Acceptable Use

Below are guidelines for social media use.

1. Employees may not post financial, confidential, sensitive or proprietary information about the company, clients, employees or applicants.
2. Employees may not post obscenities, slurs or personal attacks that can damage the reputation of the company, clients, employees or applicants.
3. When posting on social media sites, employees must use the following disclaimer when discussing job-related matters, ***“The opinions expressed on this site are my own and do not necessarily represent the views of AACCS Consulting.”***
4. AACCS Consulting may monitor content out on the Internet. Policy violations may result in discipline up to and including termination of employment.

Solicitations, Distributions and Posting of Materials

AACCS Consulting prohibits the solicitation, distribution and posting of materials on or at company property by any employee or nonemployee, except as may be permitted by this policy. The sole exceptions to this policy are charitable and community activities supported by AACCS Consulting management and company-sponsored programs related to AACCS Consulting products and services.

Provisions:

- Nonemployees may not solicit employees or distribute literature of any kind on company premises at any time.
- Employees may only admit nonemployees to work areas with management approval or as part of a company-sponsored program. These visits should not disrupt workflow. An employee must accompany the nonemployee at all times. Former employees are not permitted onto company property except for official company business.

- Employees may not solicit other employees during work times, except in connection with a company-approved or sponsored event.
- Employees may not distribute literature of any kind during work times or in any work area at any time, except in connection with a company-sponsored event
- The posting of materials or electronic announcements are permitted with approval from Human Resources.

Violations of this policy should be reported to Human Resources.

Employee Personnel Files

Employee files are maintained by the Human Resource department and are considered confidential. Managers and supervisors may only have access to personnel file information on a need-to-know basis.

A manager or supervisor considering the hire of a former employee or transfer of a current employee may be granted access to the file, or limited parts of it, in accordance with antidiscrimination laws. Personnel file access by current employees and former employees upon request will generally be permitted within three days of the request unless otherwise required law. Personnel files are to be reviewed in the Human Resource department. Personnel files may not be taken outside the department.

Representatives of government or law enforcement agencies, in the course of their duties, may be allowed access to file information. Please be advised that company policy may be subject to govt; requirements, including potential requirements to provide copies of personnel files.

Compensation

Performance and Salary Review

Performance appraisals are conducted on an annual cycle. Employees will receive a performance review on the established date each year. The performance appraisal will be discussed, and both the employee and manager will sign the form to ensure that all strengths, areas for improvement and job goals for the next review period have been clearly communicated. Performance evaluation forms will be retained in the employee's personnel file.

Merit increases are based on company performance and financials and are not guaranteed. A performance review does not always result in an automatic salary increase. The employee's overall performance and salary level relative to his/her position responsibilities are evaluated to determine if a salary increase would be warranted.

Budget allocations for merit increases are planned for and allocated before the start of each calendar year. The annual salary increase program is designed to assist management in planning and allocating merit and promotional increases that reward individual performance, that are market competitive and that are internally equitable.

Salary adjustments are occasionally requested or warranted at times other than the employee's scheduled annual salary reviews. Out-of-cycle salary increases must be preapproved by the department manager, HR and the company president. Human Resources will review all salary increase/adjustment requests to ensure internal equity and compliance with company policies and guidelines.

Payment of Salaries

Salary payment is made on monthly basis for base salary due up to the pay date. Paydays are usually 5th of the next month. It is the company's policy that employee paychecks / cash will only be given personally to that employee or mailed to his/her home address. If the normal payday falls on a company-recognized holiday, paychecks / cash will be distributed one workday before or after the aforementioned schedule.

Employees may be paid by check or through direct deposit of funds to either a savings or checking account at the financial institution of their choice or by cash. In the event of a lost paycheck, the Human Resource department must be notified in writing as soon as possible and before a replacement check can be issued. In the event the lost paycheck is recovered and the company identifies the endorsement as that of the employee, the employee must remit the amount of the replacement check to the company within 24 hours of the time it is demanded. Except for extreme emergencies and vacation pay, no salary advances will be made.

Time Reporting

A work hour is any hour of the day that is worked and should be recorded to the nearest tenth of an hour. The workday is defined as the 24-hour period starting at 12:00 a.m. and ending at 11:59 p.m. The workweek covers six consecutive days beginning on Saturday and ending on Thursday. The usual workweek period is 45 hours.

Meal/Rest Periods

The scheduling of meal periods at AACS Consulting is set by the employee's immediate manager with the goal of providing the least possible disruption to company operations.

Mandatory Meal Period

Employee meal periods are important to company productivity and employee health. Employees who work at least 9 consecutive hours per day will be provided a meal break not to exceed 60 minutes starting from 12:00 PM to 01:00 PM. The meal period will be included in the total hours of work per day and is compensable.

Impermissible Use of Meal Period and/or Rest Breaks

Neither the lunch period nor the rest break(s) may be used to account for an employee's late arrival or early departure or to cover time off for other purposes—for example, rest breaks may not be accumulated to extend a meal period, and rest breaks may not be combined to allow one half-hour long break.

Employee Travel and Reimbursement

Employees will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with approved travel on behalf of the company not for any personal travels.

Travelers seeking reimbursement should incur the lowest reasonable travel expenses and exercise care to avoid the appearance of impropriety. If a circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in the travel policies, the most conservative course of action should be adopted.

Travel for staff must be authorized in advance. Travelers should verify that planned travel is eligible for reimbursement before making travel arrangements. Upon completion of the trip, and within 30 days, the traveler must submit a Travel Reimbursement Form and supporting documentation to obtain reimbursement of expenses.

Time Off, Leaves of Absence

Public Holidays Pay

AACS Consulting recognizes nine paid holidays each year:

- Independence day from Russia
- New Year Day
- Afghanistan Islamic Revolution Day
- Eide Holidays
- Independence day from British
- Ahmad Shah Masood Martyred Day
- Muharram Day
- Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.W) Day

Time off may be granted to employees who desire to observe a religious holiday that is not recognized by the company.

Vacations

All full- and part-time employees are eligible for vacation leave benefits. Part-time employees working 20 to 29 hours per week will earn vacation on a prorated basis. Full-time employees are those working 40-plus hours per week. Vacation accrual begins on the first day of full- or part-time employment. Vacation is accrued according to the schedule in this policy. Vacation can be used only after it is earned. Vacation leave will not be earned during an unpaid leave of absence.

To schedule vacation time, employees should submit a completed leave form to the supervisor at least two weeks before the requested leave. Employees must ensure that they have enough accrued leave available to cover the dates requested. Requests will be approved based on a number of factors, including department operating and staffing requirements. The supervisor should return the leave request to the employee within three business days of the date it is submitted indicating that the request has been approved or denied. If the request for vacation leave is denied, the supervisor should provide an appropriate reason on the form returned to the employee.

Vacation will be paid at the employee's base rate at the time the leave is taken. Vacation pay is not included in overtime calculation and does not include any special forms of compensation such as incentives, commissions, bonuses or shift differentials. If a holiday falls during the employee's vacation, the day will be charged to holiday pay rather than to vacation pay.

Leave taken beyond an employee's available vacation balance may be unpaid unless otherwise required under local or Afghanistan law.

If employment is terminated, accrued unused vacation leave earned through the last day of active employment will be paid at the employee's base rate of pay at termination. In the event of the employee's death, earned unused vacation time will be paid to the employee's estate or designated beneficiary.

Sick Leave

All full-time, regular employees accrue sick leave from the date of hire, for a total of 8 days per year. Part-time, regular employees accrue sick leave from the date of hire, in a prorated amount using the full-time total of 8 days per year and the average number of hours the part-time employee works per week.

Sick leave may be used for an employee's personal illness, well-care, and medical and dental appointments. Sick leave may also be used for illness and well-care in an employee's immediate family. All sick leaves are application to permanent employees not during the trial period. Sick leave may be accrued to a maximum of 72 hours. Sick leave may not be used before accrual. If sick leave is exhausted, any available vacation hours will be used in its place. An employee who has a sick leave absence in excess of three consecutive working days must present medical documentation for the absence. Employees are not paid for unused sick leave upon termination of employment.

Personal Leave of Absence

Employees who require time off in addition to vacation may request a personal leave of absence without pay for up to a maximum of 30 days. An extension may be approved in limited circumstances. All regular employees employed for a minimum of 90 days are eligible to apply for an unpaid personal leave of absence. Job performance, absenteeism and departmental requirements will all be taken into consideration before a request is approved. Please contact Human Resources for more information on request procedures. The employee must return to work on the scheduled return date or be considered to have voluntarily resigned from his or her employment. Extensions of leave will only be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Bereavement Leave

An employee who wishes to take time off due to the death of an immediate family member should notify his or her supervisor immediately. Bereavement leave will be granted unless there are unusual business needs or staffing requirements.

Paid bereavement leave is granted according to the following schedule:

- Employees are allowed five days of paid leave in the event of the death of the employee's spouse, child, mother, brother, sister.
- Employees are allowed two days of paid leave in the event of death of the employee's brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, aunt, uncle, grandparent, grandchild or spouse's grandparent.
- Employees are allowed up to four hours of bereavement leave to attend the funeral of an employee or friends or any relatives.

Annual Leave

AACS Consulting will provide 15 days' annual leave upon on completion successful one year services to company, this leave is applicable at the end of fiscal year. All employees taking annual should notify their supervisor and submit application to HR department 15 days before taking annual leave.

Voting Leave

AACS Consulting will allow all Afghan National employees to take one-day leave for voting and they are eligible to take active part in voting in Afghanistan.

Benefits

For more information regarding benefits programs, please refer to the company Summary Plan Descriptions, which were provided to employees upon hire, or contact the Human Resource department.

Workers' Compensation Benefits

The company is covered under statutory Afghanistan workers' compensation laws. Employees who sustain work-related injuries must immediately notify their department supervisor.

Skills Development Programs and Assistance

The company will work on capacity of employee's skills development for continuing education through an accredited program that either offers growth in an area related to his or her current position or might lead to promotional opportunities. Courses include seminars and certification short time programs. Employees must earn a passing grade of "B" or its equivalent or obtain a certification to receive any reimbursement. Expenses must be validated by receipts, and a copy of the final grade card or certification must be presented to show hours or certification received.