

ASES ON-CHAIN PROTOCOL

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Version 1.0



February 2024

www.nat5.bio



INTRODUCTION

Trust in the integrity of the aOCP is fundamental to ensuring its success. A conflict of interest can arise when a person or organization has a personal interest that can influence their judgment or behavior in a way that negatively affects the credibility of the standard.

The formulation and application of this Conflict of Interest Policy helps to protect the integrity of decisions, ensuring the trust of companies and society in general towards the standard, preventing corruption and abuse of power, and promoting transparency and accountability.

I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all members, entities, and individuals involved in the aOCP's development, implementation, and management. This includes:

- Members of the aOCP certification body, including the Internal Team of Technical Experts, Steering Committee, and Scientific Committee;
- Independent Validators and Verifiers;
- Project Developers.

II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Financial conflict

A financial conflict of interest may arise if any member directly related to the aOCP has a financial stake in a certification project.

Commercial conflict

A commercial conflict of interest may arise when any member has business interests that seek to benefit themselves by compromising the integrity of the aOCP.

Fiduciary conflict

When a person within the aOCP has a duty to more than one party, whose interests may not coincide, fiduciary conflicts of interest may arise. In these cases, the person must report the conflict and refrain from participating in any decision-making process that may be affected by the outcome.

Immediate family members

A conflict may arise if any member or Internal Validator and Verifier has a family relationship or close personal relationship with someone who has a financial interest in a certification project.

III. MEASURES TO PREVENT AND MANAGE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The aOCP will implement the following measures to prevent and manage conflicts of interest of any kind:

- a) **Declaration of Interests:** All members of the certification body, independent validators and verifiers, project developers, and experts must declare any personal interest that may be relevant to their participation in the development, implementation, or management of the certification standard;
- b) **Evaluation of Conflicts of Interest:** The aOCP will establish a process to evaluate declared conflicts of interest and determine what measures will be implemented to mitigate them:
- Excluding the person or organization from the decision-making process;
 - Requesting that the person or organization abstain from participating in certain activities or decisions;
 - Establishing a supervision mechanism to ensure that the person or organization does not unduly influence the certification process.
- c) An independent Validator and Verifier cannot and should not simultaneously perform both functions in a project (Validator and Verifier);
- d) All members of the aOCP Internal Team of Technical Experts and the Steering Committee staff shall sign a confidentiality agreement and have a contract with the organization that prevents them from engaging in corrupt practices and integrity violations. This contract is subject to the law of the French government and is strictly enforced.

DOCUMENT HISTORY		
Version	Date	Comments
V1.0	15/02/2024	● Initial version released for review by the aOCP Steering Committee under the aOCP Version 1.