



CSTB  
Ethics charter



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- › the effectiveness and credibility of the CSTB in its relationships with external points of contact (clients, parent bodies, experts, partners, suppliers and users) referred to collectively hereafter as ‘stakeholders’.
- › the professional integrity and reputation of its staff members by providing them with a reference framework.

All the scientific and technical services provided by the CSTB contribute to facilitating innovation as a trusted partner of sustainable construction stakeholders.

Every year, a report covering the implementation of this charter and the wider CSTB ethics policy, as specified in the “Procedure for implementing Ethics policy and prevention of conflicts of interest”, is prepared by the External Ethics Committee for submission to the CSTB Board.

<sup>1</sup> This Charter has been written for the CSTB in its capacity as a state-owned industrial and commercial undertaking. The following CSTB Group companies have adopted the principles set out in this charter, and have adapted them to suit their own procedures: Certivéa and Laboratoire Aérodynamique Eiffel.

This charter sets out the 6 inseparable fundamental principles that apply to all CSTB activities



## 1 IMPARTIALITY OF JUDGMENT

In delivering its missions, the CSTB is guided solely by scientific and technical considerations, completely independent of any specific economic and/or commercial interest. It provides each of its clients impartially and objectively with the results it has obtained and its recommendations.

It ensures that its own bodies and entities promote attention to detail and scientific neutrality both internally and in the work they do.

Under no circumstances does its actions promote or facilitate the market entry of a manufacturer or technology development, or create a barrier to the market entry of a manufacturer or technology development.

More specifically, the impartiality of its judgments are based on the integrity, honesty and objectivity of every CSTB employee in carrying out their professional duties, and the ability to apply collective expertise whenever necessary.

The CSTB is committed to delivering its missions in the absence of any conflict of interest likely to influence its judgment and compromise its objectivity.

Wherever a risk of possible conflict of interest is identified, the CSTB implements an organizational structure that ensures compliance with its own ethics framework. In the event of any doubt, it seeks the advice of the CSTB External Ethics Committee.

In terms of the professional conduct of CSTB employees, no compromise is ever accepted or made where a personal interest is identified.

## **2** SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The CSTB wishes to respond effectively to the social concerns of end users by contributing to the improvement of living spaces and their surroundings.

The reputation of the CSTB in its entirety rests on the work done by each CSTB team.

The CSTB treats all its clients with the same consideration and in strict accordance with its own principle of fairness. The CSTB ensures equal access to its procedures.

The CSTB also monitors the consistency between the cost and content of its services relative to its priority concern to remain accessible and affordable to all while operating within the framework of a well-designed financial model.

**3****TRANSPARENCY**

The CSTB ensures the transparency and traceability of its scientific and technical sources, the quality of its scientific and technical knowledge, the clarity of its methods, the rigorous precision of its reasoning, and the neutrality, clarity and transparency of its procedures.

**4****SHARING AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

Externally, the CSTB produces and disseminates scientific and technical knowledge to advance the technical debate and scientific dialog. It contributes to promoting innovation in construction by building on the scientific and technical culture of its stakeholders and facilitating the development of that culture.

This commitment to sharing is fulfilled without compromising the obligation to maintain discretion, confidentiality, the intellectual property rights of third parties and the contractual obligations of the CSTB.

The sharing of scientific and technical knowledge gained in fulfilling its public missions contributes to the development of collective competency throughout the sustainable construction sector.

Internally, the CSTB structures the hybridization of knowledge to ensure that each expert becomes an enlightened expert with the ability to leverage other skills as part of providing a comprehensive analysis.

Delivering a comprehensive response to the questions it is asked is the ultimate goal of CSTB expertise. The expertise offered on a particular issue must be informed by the consequences that the solution could potentially have for other aspects. The CSTB is structured in such a way as to facilitate the cross-disciplinarity and skills sharing essential to inter-team working.

## 5 DUTY OF ALERT

In delivering its missions, the central concern of the CSTB is permanently focused on the end user. In accordance with French law 2013-316 of April 16, 2013 concerning the independence of health and environment expertise and whistleblowers' protection, the CSTB has a right of alert in matters of public and environmental health.

In accordance with French decree 2014-1628 of December 26, 2014, which sets out the list of those public establishments and organizations required to hold a register of warning alerts in environmental and public health matters, the CSTB maintains a register of those alerts flagged up by its own employees, and the resulting action taken.

In accordance with conditions set out in the legal texts referred to above, the stakeholders concerned are then alerted to those aspects that could clearly pose a threat to public safety and security and the quality of constructions.

## 6 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL QUALITY

The positions adopted by the CSTB are dictated by scientific and technical considerations based on the current state-of-the-art in scientific and technical knowledge viewed in the wider context of the environmental, economic and social challenges faced by the construction industry.

The CSTB implements the human and material resources required to maintain the scientific and technical quality on which its reputation has been built.

In order to ensure an excellent level of service delivery, the CSTB periodically evaluates the skills of its employees, and provides them with the resources needed to update their knowledge.