

South African Bioproduct Organisation (SABO) Code of Ethics and Conduct

The aim of SABO is to be recognised as the principle representative of the agricultural bio-product industry, conducting its functions with professionalism and excellence. SABO's objectives are to **1)** promote the bio-product industry, **2)** promote products that are developed based on sound scientific research and that are fully compliant from a regulatory perspective, and **3)** serve as platform for its members to engage with relevant stakeholders.

It is incumbent on us as members of SABO to operate in an ethical manner for us to promote our industry and be recognised for taking stewardship. In order to achieve our aim and objectives, SABO members need to work together as an industry to promote excellence and compliance with all applicable laws and/or regulations.

The purpose of this SABO Code of Ethics and Conduct is to encourage SABO members to operate within the regulatory framework, conducting business in an ethical manner.

A. By subscribing to the Code of Ethics and Conduct SABO members undertake to:

1. Produce, commercialize, distribute and market biological products by respecting and complying with all applicable regulations and laws;
2. Conform to SABO's mission statement, and comply with the objectives stipulated in SABO's Memorandum of Incorporation and Constitution;
3. Have compelling scientific evidence to justify any claims we make for our products;
4. Make sufficient scientific information about products and active ingredients available to the public in order to enable them to make informed decisions about purchasing and use. If requested, we will provide authorities with access to the full data from our research, subject to data protection and confidentiality provisions;
5. Not make any off-label claims or recommendations, and avoid misrepresenting or misleading information for the benefit of our products and business;
6. SABO's board will further strengthen the commitment in this Code of Ethics and Conduct through reviewing it regularly, and by updating it as necessary to take into consideration relevant legislative, regulatory, scientific, technical and other developments;
7. In due time, a quality mark on packaging material may be developed to help eligible bioproduct producers or registration holders communicate their respect for the terms of this commitment to stakeholders.

B. Implementing our commitment:

1. By signature hereof, each SABO member hereby confirms its commitment to this Code of Ethics and Conduct in writing. All signed copies shall be lodged with and maintained by the SABO Executive Committee.
2. Upon receipt of the signed Code of Ethics and Conduct, SABO members will receive a unique membership number and certificate stating their SABO membership.
3. Commitment to the Code of Ethics and Conduct is mandatory to SABO membership. SABO reserves the right in terms of the SABO Memorandum of Incorporation and Section C below to suspend and/or terminate the membership of any SABO member who fails to comply with the terms of this Code of Ethics and Conduct.
4. The Code of Ethics and Conduct will appear on SABO's website where further details about implementation and related news will be documented.
5. SABO members in good standing will have their logo displayed on SABO's website with a link to their own website. In addition, SABO members in good standing will have their logo included on SABO marketing material and be able to participate in SABO marketing initiatives.
6. Should a quality mark be developed, SABO members may, subject to SABO's authorisation be permitted to include it on their labels and marketing materials, where appropriate, to confirm their commitment to this Code of Ethics and Conduct.

C. Procedure when SABO members do not respect their commitments under this Code of Ethics and Conduct:

1. Reports of non-compliance with this Code of Ethics and Conduct will be referred to SABO's Executive Committee for consideration. Complaints may be made anonymously but must be made in writing. All complaints shall be treated as strictly confidential.
2. Complaints shall be investigated and dealt with in accordance with the SABO Memorandum of Incorporation and Constitution.
3. If the complaint is considered to be grounded, the necessary actions will be taken by SABO's Executive Committee. SABO's Executive Committee will provide feedback on actions taken to the SABO board on a regular basis.
4. On the basis of non-compliant issues, the SABO Executive Committee will establish a dialogue with the company in question in order to seek an amicable solution within a reasonable time frame.
5. SABO reserves the right to suspend the membership of any SABO member while any complaint is being investigated. Once the non-compliance issue has been resolved, the company in question will be reinstated to all benefits associated with being a SABO member.
6. In accordance with the SABO Memorandum of Incorporation, the SABO Board may pass a resolution to terminate the membership of any SABO member found to have breached the terms of this Code of Ethics and Conduct. Upon termination, the SABO member shall no longer be entitled to claim any association with SABO, and be required (at its own expense) to immediately remove all references to SABO (including the SABO quality mark if applicable) from all of its products, packaging, websites, communication and marketing material.
7. SABO's Executive Committee will provide regular feedback to the SABO board on actions to be taken.

By signing below the SABO member agrees to the terms and conditions as set out in this Code of Ethics and Conduct and confirms that it will abide by stipulations in this Code of Ethics and Conduct.

.....
Signature of SABO Member representative

.....
Date

Name:
Position:
Who warrants authority on behalf of
Company Name:
Registration number:

.....
Signature of SABO representative
(Board member)

.....
Date

