



**COUNCIL FOR THE PROFESSIONS  
COMPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE**

**Code of Practice**

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**Environmental Health**

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## Table of Contents

Code of Practice – Environmental Health.....	2
1.0 Purpose.....	2
2.0 Our Services.....	3
3.0 What all Environmental Health Officers should do.....	4

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# Code of Practice – Environmental Health

## 1.0 Purpose

The Environmental Health Profession forms part of the Department of Public Health within the Health Division of the Ministry of Health. Environmental Health Officers are responsible to safeguard and protect human health. This is carried out by:

1. Ensuring that food produced, distributed, marketed and consumed by humans meets the highest possible standards of food safety and hygiene. This is done under the direction of the Food Safety Commission in collaboration with the other key players in the official control of foodstuffs in Malta as laid down by the Food Safety Act, 2002 (Act XIV of 2002; Chapter 449).
2. Carrying out environmental health policies emanating from the Public Health Act, 2003 (Act XIII of 2003; Chapter 465).
3. Participating in ‘health protection issues’ as may be directed from time to time by the Superintendent of Public Health through the Director Public Health and the Manager Health Inspectorate.

The above may be supplemented by the formulation of guidelines to assist the Environmental Health Officers in the execution of its duties.

The main services offered by the Environmental Health Officers are governed by a Quality Service Charter, that came into being in October 2001.

## 2.0 Our Services

The several units within the Health Inspectorate services are committed to:

- Investigate Public Health issues
- Reduce the incidence of communicable diseases and health hazards
- Monitor the wholesomeness of food products
- Monitor the quality of drinking and recreational water
- Monitor institutions
- Ensure rodent control
- Control the importation and exportation of foodstuffs
- Supervise the proper interment and repatriation of human remains
- Issue drug control cards with respect to narcotic and psychotropic drugs
- Make recommendations to licensing authorities and issue of licenses pertaining to the Superintendent of Public Health

This code of practice covers the way that Environmental Health Officers relate to other staff members within their department and other government entities and the public in general that they are serving.

It applies to inspections, monitoring, supervising and other activities as listed above.

### **3.0 What all Environmental Health Officers should do**

Treat staff and the public they are serving fairly, regardless of race, ethnic or national origin, age, religion, gender, marital status, disability or sexual orientation;

Conduct themselves with integrity, impartiality, honesty and without bias or misadministration;

Declare if they have any personal interest in any food business;

Take all reasonable steps to avoid circumstances, which may imply bias or the appearance of bias;

Carry out their activities so that these cause the minimum disruption to the establishment, organisation or general public;

Respect the confidentiality of information obtained subject to any statutory disclosure requirements;

Look for ways to continually improve and develop the way in which they undertake their activities;

Must be clear about their judgements and be able to demonstrate a clear audit trail of how they reach their decisions and evidence on which they are based;

Report their findings without fear and favour;

Seek out and spread examples of good practice;

Periodically participate in continuous training developments programmes to maintain high level of standards in carrying out duties pertaining to this profession.

It is highly recommended that every Environmental Health Officer carries out Continuing Professional Development.

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