



acpo

**Association of the
Chemical Profession
of Ontario**



History

The necessity of establishing a legal status for chemists was recognized in the late 1950's and enabling legislation was passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1963 to incorporate the ACPO. Its members were further granted exclusive use of the title "Chartered Chemist" in 1984 under the "Association of the Chemical Profession of Ontario Act", being chapter Pr10.

The legislation allows the ACPO to impose a strict Code of Ethics on its members. Prior to being accepted as members of the ACPO applicants are thoroughly screened to ensure that their qualifications and experience conform to the requirements of the act.

The Need for Licensure

One of the aims of the Association is to attain licensure of the chemical profession in Ontario. This would result in a closed act restricting the practice of chemistry to individuals governed by the Association's Code of Ethics. This action has been recommended by the Federal Industrial Adjustment Committee on the Supply and Demand of Chemical Professionals in Canada. The ACPO believes that licensure of the profession of chemistry is necessary for the protection and welfare of the public.

a) Services to the General Public

The Chartered Chemist designation is evidence that the individual has met the exacting acceptance standards of the Association, and is bound by a Code of Ethics to place the public welfare above all other considerations. The ACPO works to inform and educate the general public on chemical matters. In this way, we seek to provide accurate information and correct misconceptions about chemicals and chemistry. Our credibility and ability to carry out this very important task would be helped by the Provincial licensure of chemists.

b) Safety in the Workplace

The need for qualified professional chemists to monitor and safeguard the workplace is recognized. Chartered Chemists supervise, and accept the responsibility for, research and chemical testing in the field of occupational health.



c) The Environment

Chartered Chemists have the knowledge and experience to prevent ecological disasters, accurately measure environmental contaminants, and to propose solutions to current environmental problems. The licensing of Chartered Chemists will ensure that highly qualified and experienced professionals are involved in decisions regarding environmental issues. Under Ontario Regulation 153/04, Chartered Chemists are currently defined as “Qualified Persons” able to conduct or supervise Environmental Site Assessments (Phase I and Phase II ESA) and Risk Assessments, and sign certain certifications in the Record of Site Condition. This provision will be revoked on October 1, 2006, and replaced by a certification program that is currently being developed by the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

Benefits of Being a Member

Members of the ACPO are permitted to use the title Chartered Chemist (C. Chem.) after their names. This qualification is recognized in other jurisdictions. All members of the ACPO receive a certificate identifying them as members in good standing, a stamp with their names and the C. Chem. designation for their use and a copy of the Association’s newsletter (The Chartered Chemist News). Member services also include career transition assistance, group insurance, professional development counseling and a wide variety of social activities. Reduced membership fees are available for retired, associate and affiliate members.

Membership

a) Categories

There are three categories of membership available for the ACPO:

i) Full Members of the ACPO:

These are individuals who have satisfied the formal requirements of the Association and are eligible to call themselves Chartered Chemists and to use the abbreviation C. Chem. after their names,

ii) Associate Members of the ACPO:

These are individuals who are working as chemists, or in chemistry-related fields, and are in the process of fulfilling the formal requirements for membership,

iii) Affiliate Members of the ACPO:

These are student members currently studying chemistry, biochemistry or chemical engineering in an accredited university program.

b) Qualifications/Requirements

Individuals who possess the following academic qualifications or training and experience may be admitted as members:

- i) An Honours undergraduate degree, or its equivalent from an accredited university program, in Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, or the Chemical Sciences, plus two years of work experience acceptable to the Association. Post Graduate training will be credited as equivalent to work experience,
- ii) Other academic qualifications, e.g., a three-year undergraduate degree with a major in Chemistry, extensive work experience (a minimum 5 years), and a record of professional competence in the chemical field as evidenced by publications or patents,



- iii) Individuals who have at least six years of acceptable experience in the chemical field, but who do not possess the above academic qualifications, may qualify for membership by passing the Graduate Record Examination, (Chemistry Section).
- iv) In special cases, the Board of Examiners may present individuals to the Council for consideration based on their exceptional contributions to the science of chemistry as recognized by their peers.

Code Of Ethics

The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to provide guidelines to ensure that Chartered Chemists in Ontario adhere to high ethical standards of practice. The majority of Chartered Chemists in Ontario are employee practitioners.

As such, they may be subjected to undue pressure to violate accepted ethical standards of practice based on economic or other considerations.

It is intended that the principles expressed in this Code of Ethics clarify what the Association regards as acceptable standards of practice.

Therefore, regarding:

a) Duties of Chartered Chemists to the Public

Chartered Chemists shall:

- i) place the public welfare above any consideration of self-interest and resolve any conflicts in favour of the public good,
- ii) ensure that environmental and ecological concerns are taken into account in the performance of their duties,
- iii) protect the public welfare through cooperation with government, enforcement and consumer agencies,



- iv) report to the appropriate regulatory agency, without fear or favour, any deliberate breach of standards which may endanger the safety and welfare of the public.

b) Duties of Chartered Chemists to an Employer

Chartered Chemists shall:

- i) apprise themselves of the law as it relates to their practice and ensure that both the letter and spirit of the law are obeyed, in the performance of their duties,
- ii) advise their employer of possible contraventions of ethical standards of practice and the law,
- iii) undertake to do only work that they are competent to carry out,
- iv) protect trade secrets or information acquired by virtue of their professional capacity,
- v) be honest, diligent and conscientious in the performance of their duties.

c) Duties of Chartered Chemists to a Client when in Private Practice

Chartered Chemists shall:

- i) maintain confidentiality in all matters disclosed by a client,
- ii) protect the client's property, be it physical or knowledge per se,
- iii) set fees which reflect fairly the knowledge, skill and time involved in performing the professional service.

d) Duties of Chartered Chemists to other Chartered Chemists, Subordinates and other Professionals

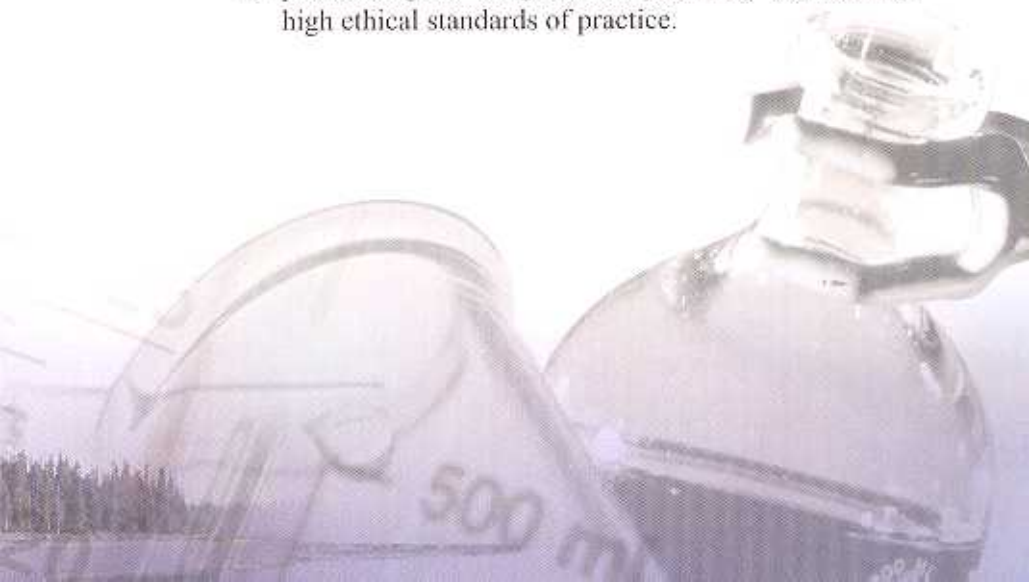
Chartered Chemists shall:

- i) delegate responsibility in chemical matters which require professional judgement only to another qualified chemist,
- ii) respect colleagues, subordinates and other professionals and not undertake to maliciously or otherwise undermine another's reputation,
- iii) properly supervise non-professional subordinates and other non-chemist professionals to ensure that they are not exposed to undue risk in the performance of work in a chemical environment,
- iv) willingly impart their knowledge to subordinates and others where appropriate, in order to enhance the overall standard of practice in their profession.

e) Duties of Chartered Chemists to Themselves

Chartered Chemists shall:

- i) maintain a high level of competence by continuing education throughout their practice,
- ii) present a good image to the public by maintaining high ethical standards of practice.



**Clean water,
clean air,
safe medicines,
safe foods...**

**Chartered Chemists are
working hard to make
sure that all of these
essentials of daily life
remain available to
Canadians.**

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Chemical Profession of Ontario**

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