Soy Australia Limited
Code of Ethics/Conduct
Charter of Values

The charter of values introduces the reasoning behind the Code of Ethics/Conduct. It outlines the body's mission, vision, values and principles upon which it works. It can also delineate who the stakeholders are in Soy Australia, industry and the rights and obligations they are agreeing to by becoming signatories to this document, whether or not it is a voluntary Code. It includes the following sections:

Mission Statement
Soy Australia Limited has been established to promote the interests and development of the Australian soybean industry.

Vision Statement
Soy Australia envisages the soybean industry will grow in value and volume. This will be achieved through shifting the focus of soybean production and marketing to culinary bean products and value added specialty oils and expanding the demand for the premium soy product. Success will require a reliable supply, an understanding of the market and soy products and development of close relationships within the value-chain.

Values Statement
In carrying out its activities, Soy Australia bases its activities on the following values:
- Teamwork
- Integrity
- Innovative thinking
- Commitment to achieving goals

Our Principles
In carrying out its duties Soy Australia and its members, associates, employees, directors and stakeholders will work by the following principles:
- To act in an honest manner
- To avoid ‘conflicts of interest’ and to declare any such conflicts
- Respect to the environment
- Contribute to community growth

Stakeholders
Soy Australia acknowledges the following stakeholders in its activities and goals:
- Directors
- Employees
- Members
- Commercial partners
- Growers
- Communities with which Soy Australia has relationships through its activities
- Environment
Code of Ethics/Conduct

The goal of Soy Australia is the creation of a strong and globally competitive soy industry in Australia that will continue to support communities and stakeholders in the industry far into the future.

The Code of Ethics is a guide for respecting the principles laid down in the Charter of Values and it also confirms the commitment of Soy Australia to the Soybean Industry in Australia.

The Code of Ethics also defines the principles of business conduct and collaborative spirit and commitment with regard to the positions that are required from Directors, Employees and Commercial partners, as well as the rules that govern the company’s conduct towards all stakeholders in Soy Australia.

As the Code of Ethics guides the policies and directives of each stakeholder and collaborator with Soy Australia, it is required that our members and commercial partners respect these values and principles.

Introduction

Soy Australia is a joint venture between the three regional soybean associations – northern Australia Soybean Industry Association (NASIA), North Coast Oilseed Growers Association (NCOGA) and the Riverina Soybean Growers Association (RSGA). Soy Australia works closely with the Australian Oilseed Federation (AOF).

A key aim of Soy Australia is to work in partnership with members of the Australian National Soybean Breeding Program (ANSB) and its commercial partners to develop new varieties for the benefits of the Australian soybean industry.

Members of Soy Australia are committed to the improvement of soybean varieties and increasing the industries awareness of high-end market opportunities. Soy Australia’s soybean improvement program is designed to meet the growing demand for culinary/premium soy products and endeavours to find opportunities for the industry to access these markets.

This Code of Ethics aims to set out guidelines by which Soy Australia employees, directors, commercial partners, distributors, associates and members conduct business and relations with others inside the industry so as not to bring disrepute to the industry or governing bodies.

Member Obligations

Soy Australia requires that its employees, members, stakeholders, commercial partners, directors and other associated parties:

- Act at all times ethically, with integrity and honesty;
- Ensure that the provision of this Code of Ethics are both understood and complied with by appropriate company staff;
With respect to directors of Soy Australia it is expected that any conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts will be declared in writing to Soy Australia’s Management and Board of Directors.

Where a conflict of interest is found to be genuine the member who has that conflict of interest will be bound by the decision made by the other Board Members and/or Soy Australia’s Management with regard to how the Conflict of Interest will be dealt with.

Ensure that all public claims for products made by Soy Australia or its associates are consistent with the product registration, labeling or reporting requirements approved by Soy Australia and appropriate regulating laws in Australia.

**Code of Ethics Area of Application**

The principles and measures contained in the Code of Ethics are binding upon the Directors, Employees and all those who collaborate with Soy Australia.

Soy Australia is committed to bringing the Code of Ethics to the knowledge of all those persons who have ongoing, long-term relationships with Soy Australia. The Code of Ethics will also be brought to the attention of all those persons upon whom there may be conferred tasks of a specific nature in the future.

1. **Marketing:**
   
i. It is a breach of the Code of Ethics to market, promote or pack a product in a way that is a breach of the laws of Australia.
   
ii. Methods of advertising must conform to normally acceptable advertising practice of the industry and must not bring discredit upon Soy Australia or its members.
   
iii. Product information furnished must be accurate and balanced and must not be misleading, either directly or by implication.
   
iv. The product or services of other companies should not be unfairly represented whether directly or by implication.
   
v. The Soy Australia logo and/or other Soy Australia material can only be used with the consent of Soy Australia’s.
   
vi. Soy Australia members should not misrepresent any products in such a manner that will bring the industry into disrepute.

2. **Claims and Comparisons:**
   
i. Claims for the usefulness of products should be based on up-to-date evaluation.
   
ii. Comparisons of product must be factual, fair and capable of substantiation.
iii. Members shall avoid price or saving claims that are misleading.

3. Advertising and Promotion:

i. There shall be no bearing on the performance of the product which uses reprints, abstracts or quotations in such a way as to mislead the reader by omitting relevant parts or by quoting in such a way as to imply a meaning that was not reasonably reflect the whole of the material from which the reprint, abstract or quotation was taken.

ii. Methods of promotion and advertising must conform to normally acceptable advertising practice of the industry and must not bring discredit upon Soy Australia or its members.

iii. Promotional material should not imitate the layout in a way that is likely to mislead or confuse.

iv. Advertising adopted from scientific data should be able to be fully substantiated.

4. Public Relations:

i. Information furnished on any aspect of the industry generally should be accurate and in no way derogatory to Soy Australia or any of its members.

5. Production:

i. Members involved in production and packaging will ensure that these activities are at all times carried out in accordance with commercially accepted practices.

ii. Labels must be so produced and fixed to containers as to remain legible and attached under all storage, transport and other conditions likely to be experienced.

iii. All members must be aware of the relevant Soy Australia Crop Management Guidelines and terms & Conditions for Seed Production and that these guidelines must be adhered to at all times.

6. Distribution and Storage:

i. Packaging must be new and suitable for all storage compliant with the intended form of transport and use of the soybean product.

Sanctions

This Code of Ethics sets out a series of obligations. Meeting these obligations is a condition of Soy Australia membership and support.

For members:
As a member/signatory to Soy Australia’s Code of Ethics members are agreeing to:

- Comply with the Code of Ethics and up-hold the spirit of the document;
- Make only accurate statements in product claims and publicity material; and
- Act ethically when conducting business when using products carrying the Soy Australia logo/trademark brand.

Contravening the Code of Ethics will result in potential withdrawal as a member of Soy Australia

For distributors:

Withdrawal of distributor rights by Soy Australia or its commercial partner organizations;

Dispute Resolution

For Soy Australia to arbitrate in any dispute the issue must relate to Soybeans and both parties to the dispute must be Soy Australia members.

Both the Complainant and the Respondent will choose an arbitrator from willing Soy Australia Members.

In any dispute resolution process, both parties will agree to meet the costs of the process in advance. Soy Australia Management will have the final decision of the relevance or conditions pertaining to any claim, and how any costs are allocated to the parties.

Soy Australia Management will administer the Code of Ethics in respect to an alleged breach of the Code of Ethics.

1. If a person (the Complainant) alleges another person (the Respondent) has breached the Code of Ethics, the Complainant shall notify the member by whom the breach is alleged (the Respondent) in writing.

2. The Complainant notifies Soy Australia Management that a breach has taken place.

3. The Board of Directors/Soy Australia’s Management may at its option:

   a. Decide if Soy Australia can arbitrate;

   b. Resolve the dispute by mediation or other means;

   c. Call upon the Complainant or Respondent to provide such further information as may be required to investigate and resolve the dispute.
d. Arbitrate in the dispute – all parties must agree to accept the final decision.

4. Rejection:

   a. If it is found that the goods do not conform to the description and/or approved sample provided by the seller, the buyer shall be required, at his cost, to establish the authenticity of any claim. Three representative samples shall be drawn by an independent surveyor and distributed as follows: one to the seller, one to the buyer and one to the testing authority. If the claim is proven, any costs and losses incurred will then be at the seller’s expenses. Nothing in this clause shall derogate either party’s rights to institute court proceedings.

   b. Any quality concerns must be raised with the supplier at time of uploading product and made in writing within 48 hours.

5. Sellers warranty under specification:

   a. The seller warrants that any certificate supplied providing proof of sale specifications is representative of the goods supplied under this contract.

**Review of Code**

The Code of Ethics will be kept under constant review by Soy Australia’s Management/Board of Directors and amended from time to time where necessary to bring it up to date and relevant to the industry.