

ARBORIST'S CODE OF ETHICS

This code of ethics serves as the national application document in Estonia of the arborists' ethics developed by the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture). The code stipulates arborists' mission, behavioural norms, values, attitudes and responsibility before nature, society and one another.

The mission of an arborist is to guarantee the health and longevity of trees in densely populated areas, crafting a safe and aesthetic living environment for people while preserving as many habitats for other forms of life as possible. An arborist committed to their vocation promotes the correct tree care techniques and their profession at every opportunity and in the spirit of their convictions and abilities.

BEHAVIOURAL NORMS OF ARBORIST

- Observes the legal acts of the Republic of Estonia, the arborist's occupational qualification standard and the arborist's code of ethics in their work.
- Bases their occupational decisions on the value, biology and health of the tree and on security requirements, not on their own business interests.
- Provides objective and independent advice and evaluations and avoids being influenced by a client's business or private interests when compiling advice and evaluations.
- Assesses their own occupational abilities objectively and only performs services within the limits of their competence and of the options open to them, referring the client to a more competent arborist where necessary.
- Follows occupational health and safety requirements when making decisions about tree maintenance, guaranteeing their own and other people's safety, as well as the safety of their personal belongings.
- Uses their professional certification for the intended purposes (i.e. does not 'sell' themselves or their certification on procurements in which they themselves are not taking part).
- Follows the principles of fair and honest business.
- Treats trees as living organisms and other forms of life related to trees with the respect and reverence they deserve, never taking decisions to cut them down lightly and avoiding damaging or destroying them.

- Continuously improves themselves professionally by keeping up to date with changes in the environment affecting arborists' work and technological developments in the field.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ARBORIST

- Foresees the consequences of their actions and inaction and takes responsibility for them.
- When maintaining a tree, sets the safety of people, their property and the surrounding environment and the sustainability of the tree as their goals, ensuring their own safety in the process.
- Consciously takes responsibility for other lives in a situation where choices must be made.
- Grasps the scope of responsibility that comes with working in a public space and the influence of their work culture on the reputation of the profession of arborist.