

### 1.11 SSAIB Impartiality Policy Statement

Impartiality is a fundamental principle of the provision of third-party certification and assessment services and is integral to the work of SSAIB. It is a cornerstone of the SSAIB's procedures, and all employees make an annual declaration agreeing to the principles.

Impartiality ensures objective and fair assessment within certification. Without it, the values of third-party certification are undermined. Along with maintenance of confidentiality and freedom from prejudice and bias, impartiality is vital.

SSAIB is governed by its company Members who have formed a Committee for the Safeguarding of Impartiality to monitor and ensure the principles of impartiality are upheld. If any threat to impartiality is identified or reported to SSAIB, immediate action will be taken to rectify the problem and prevent any reoccurrence.

SSAIB holds accreditation from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), which operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the UK Government through the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. Continued UKAS accreditation to the BS EN ISO/IEC 17021-1 and 17065 standards depends on SSAIB satisfying UKAS of its impartiality.

For the avoidance of doubt, the following statements represent the official company position and are intended to be understood and followed by all those involved in the certification process.

1. SSAIB does not pay commissions or finder's fees to consultants or similar.
2. SSAIB will not adjust assessment times in order to achieve lower quotations. Conversely, if any fee adjustment is deemed appropriate, it shall not affect the duration or rigour of the assessment process.
4. SSAIB assessments shall not be influenced by threats or inducements. Such occurrences must be reported to the SSAIB immediately.
5. Auditors are expected to undertake audits without fear or favour and must avoid placing undue reliance on trust particularly where there may be a long-standing relationship with the auditee.
6. Auditors are expected to carry out audits without regard to race, ethnicity, beliefs, gender, sexual orientation or other attributes on the part of the auditee.
7. Auditors and decision makers are required to declare any associations with applicant and registered firms, including consultancy, previous employment, financial and family relationships. Declarations should also be made of any matters which could call the impartiality of the SSAIB into question, including gifts and hospitality.
8. Auditors are instructed that they should avoid giving detailed "how-to" instructions to auditees. General guidance is appropriate, provided it observes confidentiality. A positive and constructive demeanour with clients is required at all times.
9. SSAIB does not provide, for outright adoption by Applicant or Registered Firms, quality manuals, procedures and the like. It may at its discretion provide general guidance and advice on the preparation of such documents.

Signed:

Paul Phillips, Chief Executive  
Date: August 2026

