

## **Food Export – Midwest & Food Export USA – Northeast**

### **Code of Ethics**

This Code of Ethics (“Code”) of Food Export – Midwest & Food Export USA - Northeast, is a statement of the Organizations’ common values and of our common commitment to promote the highest possible standards of professional business conduct for the mutual benefit of the industry and for the ultimate benefit of the consumer.

### **BUSINESS PURPOSE**

Food Export Association of the Midwest USA and Food Export Northeast – USA are non-profit organizations that promote the export of food and agricultural products from the Midwest and Northeast region of the United States. These State Regional Trade Groups have been helping exporters sell their products overseas for over four decades when they were created as a cooperative effort between 12 Midwestern and 10 Northeastern State Agricultural Promotions Agencies and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### **ETHICS GOAL**

Food Export Midwest & Food Export Northeast - USA, by adopting and enforcing this Code, seek to maintain and enhance the reputation of our Organizations and of our Participants within the industry.

### **CODE OF ETHICS**

It is expected that Food Export – Midwest & Food Export – USA Northeast Staff, Members, Contractors, and Participants in our activities:

- Strove to maintain the highest standards of business conduct by using only legal and ethical means in all business activity.
- Actively promote and encourage the highest level of integrity within the trade.
- Cooperate in every reasonable and proper way with other related Organizations, as appropriate, and work with them toward the advancement of the food and agricultural exporting industry.
- Be fair, equitable and respectful to employer(s), employees, associates, competitors, customers, the public, and all business or professional relationships arising through contact with Food Export - Midwest & Food Export - Northeast.
- Adhere to honesty in advertising and in representations to the public, including in any application or reimbursement claim to Food Export – Midwest & Food Export – Northeast.
- Treat customers and suppliers honestly, fairly and objectively.
- Observe all applicable state, federal, foreign or international laws and regulations.
- Provide a safe working environment.
- Avoid any unfair or deceptive practice and always present our products, programs, or services in an honest and forthright manner.
- Refrain from discriminatory practices in dealing with employees, contractors, participants, customers and vendors.
- Respect the rights of others concerning their intellectual property such as patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, or any other proprietary business information and, if any innocent breach occurs, promptly address and rectify any such breach.
- Recognize that other participants will compete for business within lawful, reasonable and customary practice.
- Comply in good faith with contractual obligations.
- Never pay any bribe, kickback or other corrupt payment in any form directly or indirectly to or for anyone for the purpose of obtaining or retaining business or obtaining any other favorable action, nor offer or extend any gift or entertainment that is illegal, known to be in violation of the rules of the recipient’s organization, or likely to result in a feeling or expectation of personal obligation on the part of the recipient.
- Act in a manner consistent with, and make every effort to uphold this Code of Ethics.
- This Code of Ethics does not set forth all aspects of good conduct and ethical behavior. Acceptance of, and adherence to this Code is a condition of participation with or employment by Food Export – Midwest & Food Export – Northeast

**Food Export – Midwest & Food Export USA – Northeast does not tolerate fraud in the operation of its programs.**

**Any incident of suspected fraud can be reported (anonymously) by:**

- **Calling 1-855-727-6715 (Domestic toll-free, international calling rates apply)**
- **Filing a report online at [www.foodexport.ethicspoint.com](http://www.foodexport.ethicspoint.com)**