



Code of Conduct

Versie 1.0 definitief

Explanatory notes to this document

The Code of Conduct of the Restauratoren Register contains the principles for the work of the (Senior) RegisterRestaurator. This concerns the usual standards pertaining to the performance of the practice in managing and preserving movable cultural heritage and historical interiors. By signing the document, the (Senior) RegisterRestaurator declares that he/she will abide by this Code of Conduct. The signature and solemn affirmation to comply form a condition for the admission to the Restauratoren Register (Registration requirement 3).

The (Senior) RegisterRestaurator is obliged to comply with this Code of Conduct. If complaints regarding the failure to comply with the Code of Conduct are considered well-founded, this may have consequences for the registration and in the most extreme case may result in removal from the Restauratoren Register.

→ [Complaints Procedure Restauratoren Register](#)

Background of this Code of Conduct

Where possible, the Code of Conduct is aligned with the E.C.C.O. code of ethics (broadly accepted throughout Europe). The application of the E.C.C.O. code of ethics within the scope of the Restauratoren Register required a number of amendments and additions:

- The articles were formulated in sufficiently concrete terms and were provided with requirements.
- The articles apply only to members of the Register, that is the (Senior) RegisterRestaurators. Obligations towards third parties could not be included in the Code of Conduct of the Restauratoren Register.

A number of alterations were also made to improve the text. In drawing up the Code of Conduct, the following codes were consulted, among others: the CAPC Code of Ethics & Guidance for Practice, the Restauratoren Nederland Ethical Guidelines, the AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice, the AICCM Code of Ethics and Code of Practice and the ICON Professional Standards and Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct cannot be viewed separately from the other elements of the Restauratoren Register. Together these describe the work and ethics of the (Senior) RegisterRestaurator.

Articles of the Code of Conduct of the Restauratoren Register:

Article 1: The Code of Conduct embodies the principles, obligations and behaviour that I shall strive for as a (Senior) RegisterRestaurator in the practice of the profession. I am required to abide by the Code of Conduct and I must have the proper qualifications, skills and competence for the tasks I undertake.

Article 2: The profession of the (Senior) RegisterRestaurator constitutes an activity of public interest and I shall therefore always practise in observance of all pertinent national and European laws and agreements, particularly those concerning stolen property.

Article 3: As (Senior) RegisterRestaurator, I work directly on cultural heritage and I am personally responsible to the owner, to the heritage and to society. I am entitled to practise without hindrance to my liberty and independence. I have the right to refuse any request which I believe to be contrary to the terms of this code.

Article 4: I recognise that failure to observe the principles, obligations and prohibitions of the Code constitutes unprofessional practice and will bring the profession into disrepute. If I am found to be in conscious non-compliance with the spirit of this code, I may be subject to the consequences as set out by the Restauratoren Register¹.

Article 5: In the conservation of cultural property, all my actions as a conservation professional shall be governed by an informed respect for the integrity of the property, including physical, conceptual/spiritual, historical and aesthetic considerations.

Article 6: It is my responsibility as (Senior) RegisterRestaurator, acting alone or with others, to make efforts to maintain a balance between the need in society to use a cultural property and to ensure the preservation of that cultural property at all times.

Article 7: While circumstances may limit both the resources allocated to a particular situation and the extent of the work, the quality of work that I perform as conservation professional shall not be compromised regardless of any opinion held with respect to the value or quality of the cultural property.

Article 8a: I recognise the critical importance of preventive conservation as the most effective means of promoting the long-term preservation of cultural property. I will therefore always consider preventive measures prior to direct intervention with the cultural property. I will limit the physical treatment to that which is required for the preservation of the integrity and the cultural-historical value of the heritage.

Article 8b: I recognise the importance of future preventive conservation by providing guidelines for continuing use and care, recommending appropriate environmental conditions for storage and exhibition, and encouraging proper procedures for handling, packing and transport to a level of detail as appropriate.

¹ *The Code of Conduct is not meant to dictate in detail the measures by which conservation work may be delivered. A (Senior) RegisterRestaurator, is free to use his/her best judgment to make a considered selection of appropriate, achievable measures that are in proportion to the significance and condition of an object or groups of objects and be free to develop new approaches.*

Article 9a: I will strive to use only products, materials and procedures, which, to the best of current knowledge, meet the objectives of treatment and have the least adverse effect on the cultural heritage, the environment or people.

Article 9b I shall choose only those materials that can be most easily and most completely removed with minimal risk to any original part. The advantages of the materials and methods chosen must be balanced against their potential adverse effects on future examination, scientific investigation, treatment, and function. I shall not deviate from this principle without proper explanation.

Article 10a: I am aware that the documentation, both in written text and in pictorial records are important for future conservation treatment(s) and for understanding the object. The extent of the documentation will correspond with the nature of the heritage and the treatment(s). This ranges from assessment and condition prior to, during and after the treatment, and planning and observations to support all choices made. Documentation should include the names of all those who have carried out the work.

Article 10b: Within the scope of my ability, I shall ensure that the documentation remains with the object, is safely stored for easy retrieval and remains available for future use.

Article 11: I am aware of my own abilities and of my limitations as a (Senior) RegisterRestaurator. I shall neither begin nor continue a treatment which is not in the best interest of the cultural heritage.

Article 12: I shall strive to enrich my knowledge and skills with the constant aim of improving the quality of my professional work.

Article 13: If I give advice on measures to be taken or if I perform procedures which go beyond the limits of my expertise and experience, I will consult specialists in those areas to assist me in determining the proper treatment. I am open to peer review.

Article 14: Emergency situations can pose serious risk of damage to or loss of cultural property that may warrant immediate intervention on my part as (Senior) RegisterRestaurator. In an emergency where cultural property is at risk, I shall render assistance where possible to preserve the cultural heritage, recognising that strict adherence to the code may not be possible.

Article 15: I shall not remove material from cultural heritage unless this is indispensable for its preservation or it substantially interferes with the historic, aesthetic, conceptual or spiritual value or the physical integrity of the cultural heritage. If the decision is made to remove materials, they must be conserved, if possible, and the procedure fully documented.

Article 16: When the social use of cultural heritage is incompatible with its preservation, I shall discuss with the owner or legal custodian whether making a reproduction of the object would be an appropriate intermediate solution. I shall recommend proper reproduction procedures in order not to damage the original. I acknowledge that a reproduction is not a restoration treatment.

Article 17: As (Senior) RegisterRestaurator I shall communicate openly and clearly with the owner/custodian so that there is a thorough understanding of risks and responsibilities, and that agreements between concerned parties reflect shared decisions and realistic expectations. The informed consent of the owner/custodian must be obtained prior to a direct intervention which may result in a change in the cultural property.

Article 18: I am always required to obtain prior consent from the owner/custodian before publishing images of or references to identifiable parts of the object.

Article 19: I must never support the illicit trade in cultural heritage and must work to the best of my ability to oppose it.

Article 20: I shall maintain a spirit of respect for the integrity and dignity of colleagues, the conservation-restoration profession, and related professions and professionals.

Article 21: Within the limits of my knowledge, competence, time and technical means, I will strive to participate in the training of interns and assistants. I am responsible for supervising the work entrusted to my assistants and interns and I have ultimate responsibility for the work undertaken under my supervision. I shall maintain a spirit of respect and integrity towards these colleagues.

Article 22: Where work is (in whole or in part) sub-contracted to another conservator-restorer, for whatever reason, I shall keep the owner or custodian informed. As the original (Senior) RegisterRestaurator, I am ultimately responsible for the work, unless prior arrangements are made to the contrary.

Article 23: I shall strive to contribute to the development of the profession by sharing experience and information with colleagues, adding to the profession's knowledge and providing and promoting educational opportunities within and outside the field.

Article 24: I shall strive to promote a deeper understanding of the profession and a greater awareness of conservation-restoration among other professions and the public.

Article 25: I must respect the authorship rights of my colleagues concerning shared conservation/restoration records. All conservation/restoration records, both written and photographic, are the intellectual property of the person(s) who generated them (subject to the terms of their contract of employment).

Article 26: As (Senior) RegisterRestaurator I am required to be aware of situations in which there is a potential for a conflict of interest that may affect the quality of work or lead to the dissemination of false information. I shall avoid these situations if a conflict of interest arises. This includes activities such as authentication, appraisal, and trade. I must be aware that research also presents potential for conflict of interest which could result in insufficient or steered research and false interpretation. Potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed in advance to relevant clients, colleagues and/or members of the public.

Article 27: When I undertake work that is outside the scope of conservation-restoration, I shall ensure that it does not conflict with this Code.

Article 28: To maintain the dignity and credibility of the profession, I am required to employ only appropriate and informative forms of publicity in relation to my work. Particular care must be exercised in relation to information technology/social media in order to avoid the dissemination of inappropriate, misleading, illegal or unauthorised information.

Article 29: As a (Senior) RegisterRestaurator, I shall be able to handle questions regarding the determination of value and ethical dilemmas in a manner that maintains the interest of the meaning(s) attributed to the cultural heritage as well as the respect of my colleagues.

Signature

For approval

Date:

Place: