



By Brian Pallasch, EVP & CEO

IIBEC's Role—and Yours—in Ethics Reporting

YOU'VE LIKELY READ in these pages about the IIBEC Code of Ethics. It's a foundational element that sets IIBEC members apart from other building enclosure consultants—an assurance that our members serve only the interests of the building owner and the integrity of the asset.

Adopted in 2001, our Code of Ethics must be affirmed by every IIBEC member. But it's more than words on a page—it's enforceable. Any IIBEC member found to have violated the code faces disciplinary action.

Lately, I've been reflecting on our collective ethical responsibilities, especially after speaking with members who may have observed questionable behavior in the field. While some of these concerns may be serious, they were never submitted in writing to the IIBEC Ethics Committee—so no investigation could proceed.

Yes, the code is enforceable, but enforcement depends on process. And the first step in that process starts with you. If you become aware of a potential violation, please inform us in writing. You can email me and submit the ethics complaint form—part of Appendix A of this document:

<https://iibec.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/IIBEC-Ethics-Admin-Procedures-and-Appendices-Sept2015.pdf>.

HOW WE HANDLE COMPLAINTS

All written complaints alleging a violation are formally reviewed by the IIBEC Ethics Committee, which follows formal procedures approved by the IIBEC Board of Directors. The process is outlined in the *IIBEC Ethics Administrative Procedures*, including the following key provision:

Complaints can be lodged against an IIBEC member or credential holder if the complainant believes there was a potential breach of one or more of the Rules of Practice in the IIBEC Code of Ethics. All complaints must be filed within two years of the alleged violation and addressed to the attention of the Executive Vice President & CEO of IIBEC.

YOUR ROLE IS CRITICAL

As staff liaison to the Ethics Committee, I see all complaints that come in. But neither I nor the committee can act on informal conversations, hearsay, or concerns never officially submitted.

Since I became executive vice president and CEO of IIBEC in June 2019, the Ethics Committee has received fewer than 10 actionable complaints. Of those, only three resulted in findings and penalties against an IIBEC member.

If you believe someone has violated the IIBEC Code of Ethics, we need to hear from you—formally. Discussing concerns with colleagues may help validate your suspicions, but it is not enough. The Ethics Committee can only respond when you file a written complaint. (A conversation with me doesn't qualify.)

Once your complaint is on record, we can investigate—and, if appropriate, take action.

WHAT IT MEANS TO REPORT

We recognize that reporting suspected ethical violations can be uncomfortable, especially because complaints cannot be submitted anonymously. The *IIBEC Ethics Administrative Procedures* require the complainant to be identified, reinforcing the

importance and seriousness of the allegation. Putting your name to a complaint shows courage and commitment to the profession—it affirms that you place the industry's integrity above any personal or commercial interest.

WHY IT MATTERS

I hope you receive this message in the spirit it is intended: to underscore the solemn responsibility we share as consultants who specify millions of dollars in products and influence the life, safety, and sustainability of the built environment. These responsibilities can only be met when we place public safety, health, and welfare above all else—and when we consistently uphold the Rules of Practice laid out in the IIBEC Code of Ethics.

The code is only as strong as the members who stand behind it. When you join IIBEC or renew your membership, you commit to upholding it. But enforcement goes both ways: IIBEC can only act when members bring forward their concerns.

If you witness something that raises ethical concerns, don't let it end with a conversation. Put it in writing by submitting the ethics complaint form. I'm here to receive and act on your concerns. You can always reach me at bpallasch@iibec.org.

Together, we protect our profession—and elevate the standards that define it.