

Supplier's code of conduct



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1.0 Introduction

Suppliers help us in delivering excellent customer services to residents. We term 'suppliers' as contractors, suppliers or professional advisors working in residents' homes.

We want your commitment in meeting the requirements of this guide and delivering customer excellence.

2.0 General principles

Below (Sections 2 to 4) are the general principles suppliers **must** comply with at all times. This includes Appendix One: "Code for Operatives". This details the specific standards for all operatives working in and around our homes.

2.1 Customer service

2.1.1 We aim to be the best housing association in the UK by 2016. Our award-winning approach to customer service requires everyone working on our behalf to:

- Treat our residents in a way *they* want to be treated
- Demonstrate they're ready, willing and able *to help* – a '*can do*' approach
- Constantly seek solutions to problems by taking both ownership and responsibility
- Show they *care* about the resident, are *committed* to helping and can be *trusted* to do what they say they'll do

2.1.2 In short, each operative must recognise they make the difference in delivering excellent customer service.

2.2 Health and Safety Regulations

2.2.1 The supplier must comply with all legislation, regulations and codes of practice for Health and Safety.

2.2.2 All building maintenance suppliers must have Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) accreditation.

2.3 Data Protection Act 1998

2.3.1 We've strict data protection policies and procedures in place to maintain resident confidentiality. Suppliers working for us must be fully aware of the need to protect our residents' personal data.

2.3.2 Personal Information is any information which could identify a living individual. Operatives will be carrying personal data (on job tickets), overhearing private conversations and taking work-related photos in and around our residents' homes. Sometimes these will be in very sensitive locations, such as hostels.

2.3.3 They must take care at all times to keep personal data safe at all times.

2.4 Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

2.4.1 All suppliers are required to train their operatives to recognise and respond to safeguarding issues. Where they have a concern about a resident, a resident's family member or visitor, they should report it to their named contact at AmicusHorizon.

2.4.2 Suppliers must not remain on site if they are left alone with a person below the age of 16.

2.5 Bribery Act 2012 and Probity Policy

2.5.1 Our Probity Policy details AmicusHorizon's response to The Bribery Act 2010. The relevant elements are:

- **Inducement:** Any attempt to influence ordering of work or payment of costs will be interpreted as bribery and corruption.
- **Hospitality and Gifts:** Suppliers are discouraged from giving gifts to AmicusHorizon staff. Where suppliers would like to give small tokens, it must be marked for the attention of the Chief Executive and acknowledged on the understanding that it benefits all staff equally.
- **Friends and Relatives:** Under no circumstances must any member of the supplier's staff be a member of AmicusHorizon's Strategic board or governance structure.

2.5.2 Suppliers must disclose any staff member's close relationship with a member of the board, technical team or management structure.

2.6 Equality and Diversity

2.6.1 We only work with suppliers who share our principles of valuing diversity and promoting equality. We strive to understand people's needs, make our services accessible to all and believe no one should be treated less favourably than others.

2.6.2 We expect all suppliers to have an equality and diversity statement or policy and an active equality and diversity action plan. We'll help those who don't, develop their approach. A typical improvement action may be to recruit more people from the communities in which we work.

2.6.3 Our suppliers are the face of AmicusHorizon when visiting residents' homes. So we expect them to train their staff in equality and diversity. Our Suppliers must also have effective harassment policies and procedures.

We expect suppliers will:

- Take account of people's differing needs
- Not ask inappropriate or sensitive questions
- Ensure communications are effective and suit the individual
- Respond promptly to any reports of discriminatory behaviour by their operatives and advise us of the actions.

2.7 Grievances and Complaints

2.7.1 Operatives must immediately report any disputes between a resident and supplier to their project supervisor. This includes when they're not able to start or continue working for any reason.

2.7.2 If an operative feels threatened, unsafe, harassed, or a situation has become too difficult to handle, they should:

- Leave site immediately
- Contact their project supervisor. They will report to us and we'll investigate and take action.

2.7.3 Suppliers must immediately report to AmicusHorizon any complaint arising from a dispute in any form between them and resident.

3.0 Our Code of Conduct

3.1 We set out the detail of our Code of Conduct for Operatives in Appendix One. It prescribes how suppliers/operatives must behave at all times. All Suppliers must train their operatives in the Code. They must provide each operative with a laminated code card before they start work in our residents' homes.

4.0 Signing up to the Code

4.1.1 It may appear that all the obligations in the Code of Conduct (General principles and the Code for Operatives) fall upon the supplier. There are similar obligations in the tenancy agreements. Residents should give similar courtesy and respect to anyone working in their property. Our experience shows that, in general, people do respond to

being treated courteously and properly and this can only be for the good of all concerned.

4.1.2 We'll give copies of the code of conduct to our residents who contact us if they feel the code has been breached.

4.1.3 We'll investigate complaints from residents and report our findings to the responsible director. We expect suppliers to implement actions we agree. We may remove suppliers from the Approved Supplier List following any substantiated and serious breach of this Code.

**Code of conduct for AmicusHorizon suppliers:
General principles and Code of Conduct for Operatives**

Iof..... confirm I have read, understood and agree to conform to the AmicusHorizon's Supplier Code of Conduct.

Signed

Position

Company Name

Date

Code of Conduct for Operatives

1.1 Acceptable hours of work and arranging access

Except in emergencies, works will take place between 8.00 am and 8.00 pm, Monday to Friday; and 8.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturday

Appointments will meet the resident's preference and give adequate notice. Suppliers must confirm appointments using the residents preferred option, such as phone, text message, email or letter.

1.2 Have to break the appointment?

Please let residents know if you're going to be late arriving or unable to attend that day. Do this as soon you can. This gives them the opportunity to select an alternative appointment.

You'll also need to inform the Response Repairs Desk on 0800 121 6060 or 01795 434606.

1.3 On your way to the job

If it's dark before you arrive, phone the resident to confirm you're on your way.

Check your uniform is as smart as it can be.

Make sure your power tools are fully charged or charging.

Drive carefully in and around our neighbourhoods; park considerately, not causing damage to grass verges, or causing an obstruction.

2.1 Arriving at the door

Introduce yourself, stating:

- Your name
- Your company name
- An outline of what you've come to do.

Show your formal identification badge to the resident before entering the home. Let the resident know if you're a trainee (trainees must always be supervised on site).

2.2 No-one in?

If the resident doesn't answer the door, call the Response Repairs Desk on 0800 121 6060 or 01795 434606. They'll try to contact the resident. If no-one's in, leave a card stating you've called and asking them to re-arrange the appointment.

2.3 Before you start work

Explain clearly what the work will involve, which rooms you'll go in, what they need to do to help you, and how long it will take.

Your power tools must be sufficiently charged for the work. If on the rare occasion they're not, ask permission if you need to use gas, water and electrical supplies. Where the resident gives permission, be clear how you will repay the cost to the resident and agree the amount. The same principles apply to the use of a resident's phone or internet facilities.

Always ask permission before you use the resident's bathroom or kitchen facilities.

Where there is a risk of damage to, for example, plants or fencing, tell the resident before works starts.

Take time to ask if they have any other questions.

3.1 Respect for Others

We want you to treat our residents as the resident expects to be treated. Here are some things we don't accept:

- Language the resident finds abusive or offensive
- Behaviour the resident finds rude, obstructive, unhelpful or aggressive
- Criticising another's workmanship
- Playing loud music
- Using of the resident's equipment, e.g. kettle or microwave (unless offered)
- Harassment of any kind – this includes over-familiarity, sexist behaviour, derogatory or racist comments, intimidation of any kind
- Insensitivity towards disability, vulnerability or specific needs
- Asking questions not relevant to completing the task
- Smoking at any time whilst working on site
- Working under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Excessive use of mobile phone for personal reasons
- Carelessness with sharp tools, electrical equipment or toxic substances.

4.1 On the Job: Quality of Workmanship

The quality of workmanship must be of the highest standards, irrespective of the condition of the property.

4.2 On the Job: Getting permission to go next door

Don't trespass onto neighbouring property to complete repairs. You must first get permission from the adjoining owner or resident of that property.

4.3 On the Job: Protection of furniture, carpets, etc.

You must protect residents' furniture and carpets generously using clean dustsheets.

Ask before you move any furniture or equipment.

If a breakable or valuable item is present in the room (e.g. a plasma screen TV), ask the resident to move it to a safe place. If they refuse to move it or they aren't able to due to mobility or other vulnerability issues, ask them to sign a Disclaimer form before you move it. Contact your project supervisor if you aren't able to reach agreement.

If you have to lift fitted carpets, take care not to damage them. If the carpets are stuck to the floor, ask the resident to lift them before work starts. Use the [Disclaimer form](#) if they refuse or are unable to lift them themselves.

4.4 On the Job: Security and Safety of the Home

You're responsible for security where the resident leaves you on site alone.

Do not leave doors and windows open unnecessarily. This is a security issue but it also causes draughts and heat loss.

If, during work, the condition of the property becomes dangerous, you must immediately inform:

- The resident and or his/her family
- AmicusHorizon's supervising officer

Pay particular attention to the safety of young children, the elderly and disabled. This duty of care extends to all persons likely to be affected (i.e. residents, visitors, neighbours, the general public, etc.).

4.5 On the Job: Tools and Materials

You're expected to use your own tools and equipment. Under no circumstances can you use the resident's tools or equipment.

Compressor and pneumatic percussive tools should be fitted with a silencer and dust extractor recommended by the manufacturer.

Before carrying out any hot work or work in confined spaces, your project supervisor must obtain the necessary permits and comply with all Health and Safety Regulations.

Agree with the resident where you're going to put your tools and materials during the day and if necessary, overnight. Be mindful of obstructions and trip hazards.

4.6 On the Job: Overnight

You must:

- Leave the property inside and out tidy and safe overnight
- Leave the home secure, wind and watertight
- Remove surplus materials and rubbish regularly, preferably daily
- Stack ladders away securely and clear away all tools. If there's scaffolding, store ladders on the first lift
- Reconnect and test all services so that they're left working normally for the residents
- Before leaving give the residents your company's emergency phone number.

4.7 On the Job: Damage Done?

If, during your work, you damage something belonging to the resident, let them know immediately and apologise. Also inform your project supervisor.

The supplier must make good the damage caused within 10 days. If necessary, the supplier shall replace or pay compensation for such items, subject to the agreement of the resident. The resident should notify AmicusHorizon of such incidents within 24 hours of the occurrence.

The Supplier shall inform AmicusHorizon of all such incidents and keep a written record of it.

4.8 On the Job: Resident requests additional or private works

A resident may request further works whilst you're at the property. The decision about whether or not to do extra items of work depends on the nature of the job and your work schedule. If time doesn't allow the additional items, help the resident to report the repair to AmicusHorizon.

Whilst at the property, you may identify further works are needed. Report these to AmicusHorizon as soon as you can.

Residents may occasionally ask suppliers to carry out works for them privately. Such arrangements are between you and the resident but it is always advisable that the resident obtains our permission for the work first. If in doubt, contact AmicusHorizon for advice.

4.9 On the Job: Unable to complete the job that day?

Advise the resident and AmicusHorizon if parts are required for a job and these aren't readily available. Give a clear indication of how long it will be before you return to finish the job.

If, for another reason, you're unable to complete the work, make sure you're leaving the property in a safe and habitable condition.

Either way, before you leave, make proper arrangements for the work to be completed.

Tell the resident and AmicusHorizon the following:

- Why the work couldn't be completed
- When the work will start and
- When it will be completed.

Give the resident a contact name and number for your office.

5.1 Job finished: Clearing Up

Leave the area where the works have been undertaken in a clean and tidy condition.

Remove dust sheets and vacuum clean the affected rooms.

You mustn't leave any rubbish in and around the home or on site on completion of the works. Remove ballast, sand, etc, and sweep and wash down the area.

Put back any furniture, fixtures and fittings you moved to their original location. This includes those items where you obtained a signed disclaimer from the resident. If you are unable to reinstate an item, speak to your project supervisor or AmicusHorizon contact and agree a way forward.

5.2 Job finished: Resident Informed and Satisfied?

Check all the services are in a safe and working condition.

When you've tidied up and are almost ready to go, explain to the resident exactly what you've done. Make sure they're clear on what happens next, such as:

- How to use new controls – give them the opportunity to try them out while you're on hand
- What follow-on works are necessary and exactly who will be doing this

Tell them who to contact if there's a problem. Ask if they have questions.

Ask the resident if they're satisfied with the work and the way you've tidied up.

Attend to any minor issues there and then.



Contact us: **0800 121 60 60*** or **01795 434 606****

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*Calls free from a BT landline, charges from mobiles and other networks may vary. **If you are calling from a mobile, it may be cheaper for you to dial 01795 434 606. Calls may be recorded and monitored for quality and training purposes.