

Revisions to the ISA Certified Arborist Code of Ethics

submitted by Brian Cassity; reprinted with permission from ISA's *CERT Today*

About two years ago, ISA introduced an ISA Certified Arborist Code of Ethics. The purpose of the code is to establish a benchmark for the behavior and actions of ISA certified arborists. It is intended to improve professional practice, and provide a measure of protection for consumers of arboricultural services.

While most credential holders agreed in theory that implementation of ethical standards was necessary, we did hear significant feedback about certain parts of the agreement. Because all ISA certified arborists are required to sign the agreement to receive or maintain their ISA credential, it is important that this document reflect the best practices of a professional arborist and that ISA certified arborists believe that this agreement advances the profession.

The ISA Certification Board has listened to the feedback of the credential holders and has taken action. Specifically, they have modified the requirement for disclosure, now limiting the scope of this disclosure requirement by asking all ISA

certified arborists to only report those activities which are related to the professional practice of arboriculture. All ISA certified arborists will be asked to acknowledge the changes by signing the updated agreement when they come up for recertification. You are welcome to view the revised ISA Code of Ethics and Certification Agreement/Release Authorization and complete the online agreement at this time.

The ISA Certification Board believes that the Code of Ethics and Certification Agreement create a level of accountability within the profession. Our goal is to ensure that homeowners and consumers have a positive experience because of the high quality of service they receive from an ISA Certified Arborist, which increases the likelihood that they will support the ISA Certification Program over the long-term.

Should you have any questions about the Certification Agreement, please contact the ISA Certification Department at 217-355-9411 or email cert@isa-arbor.com.