

Asset Management – Procurement of Contractors

Policy No.			
Version No.	4	Date:	June 2022
Board meeting date of acceptance	June 2022		
Effective date	June 2022		
Review date	July 2024		
Related policies and documents	Code of conduct Conflict of interest Confidentiality agreement		

Scope

This policy applies to all staff and contractors of Amélie Housing who are applying to deliver contract services or who are existing contractors providing services to Amélie Housing tenants or involved in responsive planned and cyclical maintenance.

Policy Statement

The purpose of the Contractors policy is to outline Amélie Housing's procurement procedure and provide clear guidelines on

- Risk management,
- Amélie Housing's Maintenance Code of Conduct,
- compliance and inspection of work,
- audit and quality assurance, escalation of non-compliance,
- how outstanding work orders are dealt with,
- the schedule of rates and breaches of the contractors' Code of Conduct.

Compliance

This policy assists Amélie Housing in complying with:

Compliance Document	Section/Number	Area
National Regulatory Framework	4b	Governance
	5a	Probity
National Community Housing Standards	7.2	Staff management and development
	5.2	Good governance
	5.3	Information management systems

Procurement

For Amélie Housing to secure contractors whose services meet our needs in terms of quality, quantity and time frame, Amélie Housing ensures

- all contractors are experienced,
- they hold appropriate licenses for the trade in which they are working and
- supply copies of current insurances.

A contractor may not be eligible to work for Amélie Housing where there is a conflict of interest. Amélie Housing must be advised of anything which may be considered a conflict of interest. This possible conflict of interest is assessed before the Contractor is engaged to perform any work.

Contractor Risk Management

All contractors engaged by Amélie Housing are qualified and experienced in their field and can demonstrate consistent work to a quality standard.

Amélie Housing uses feedback received in the annual tenant survey and auditing of works to ensure the quality of work is always maintained to the highest standard.

Contractors are placed on annual agreements, which are reviewed against contractors' Key Performance Indicators. Failure to perform and meet Key Performance Indicators may result in a review and termination of the agreement.

Code of Conduct

Amélie Housing has a Maintenance Code of Conduct which outlines the standard of behaviour required of contractors performing work on our behalf.

To ensure work is completed as smoothly as possible, contractors must treat tenants and property with care and respect.

Amélie Housing's Maintenance Code of Conduct applies to the conduct of staff, visitors, sub-contractors, suppliers, suppliers, and visitors.

The organisation and its employees must be observed at all times when working on or visiting Amélie Housing's properties and in dealings with Amélie Housing's members, employees and tenants.

The Maintenance Code of Conduct:

General

The Organisation and its Officers have a duty to Contractors, their Staff, and Sub Contractors to:

- Act fairly
- Maintain high ethical standards in their dealings.
- Honour agreements and undertakings and act in good faith
- Establish a fair and equal basis for relationships
- Be courteous at all times

Contractors have a similar duty to:

- Act reasonably and in good faith
- Adopt high ethical standards in their dealings with the organisation
- Honour agreements and undertakings
- Be courteous to the Organisation's clients and its employees at all times
- Perform all Work under a contract following this Code of Conduct and in conjunction with the Maintenance Work. Requirements and all other processes and requirements outlined within the contract

Difficulties faced On-Site by Contractors during the course of the contract

In situations where Contractors, their Staff, or Subcontractors consider there is a viable risk to the Health and Safety of staff, they may

- Leave the property involved
- Not perform the works ordered
- Not suffer a penalty under the terms of the contract for not performing the Work (subject to the contract)
- These actions are to be taken in full compliance with all Work, Health and Safety Legislation

Examples impacting contractor safety could be

- Where a Client or other people at the property appear affected by alcohol or other substances and entry onto or remaining on the property may provoke an undesirable situation

- Where there are groups of people at or near the property and their demeanour and general attitude are one menace
- If a Client is agitated and is displaying erratic or other inappropriate behaviour which may be a threat to personal safety
- If aggression is displayed and directed towards the Contractor, including by an animal (such as a dog)
- In any instance (whether caused by or contributed to by the Contractor) where the Contractor determines that the safety of himself, his Staff or Sub Contractors his machinery, equipment, and other property is either in danger or under threat of danger, or where an unsafe situation has developed

In all such instances or others representing a personal threat, contractors are advised not to enter or leave the property immediately or as soon as it is safe to do so.

Contractors are requested to advise Amélie Housing immediately of any issues arising so support can be put in place for the tenant and appropriate action taken to ensure the required works can be carried out safely, securely, and timely.

Contacting clients and when you first arrive at a client's home

Upon receiving a Work order from the Organisation – Contact the Client and negotiate a compatible time and day to commence/complete the requested work order. Arrive at the Clients premises at the negotiated day and time - seek out the client, show your Identification Card and Work Order, and in a friendly and courteous manner, ask if it is convenient to commence working.

Do not announce your arrival by a loud entry of your vehicles and equipment in the driveway or the front street. Park your vehicles in the street or other proper designated parking area, and then seek the client's permission to enter the property

Compliance and Inspection of work

Amélie Housing expects all contractors' work to comply with Australian standards. Amélie Housing inspects 10% of all work to ensure contractors comply with Australian standards.

Audit and Quality Assurance

10% of all works are regularly audited to ensure contractors' work complies with Australian standards; inspections are also conducted to assess the quality of workmanship.

Amélie Housing also uses the annual tenant surveys to help understand tenant satisfaction with the quality of work performed in their properties.

Escalation of Non-Compliance

Ensuring all work complies with Australian standards is of the utmost importance to Amélie Housing. Where contractors' work is identified as being non-compliant, they will be contacted immediately and asked to attend and rectify works within 24 hours.

Completion of Work Orders

- Every week, all work orders are assessed to ensure no outstanding work. Where outstanding works are identified, the Contractor will be contacted to ascertain whether there is a valid reason for the delay.
- Where a valid reason for the delay is identified, the work order completion date will be updated to reflect the new due date

Schedule of Rates

As required, Amélie Housing uses Housing NSW's schedule of rates as a basic pricing guideline.

Code of Conduct and Breach of Code of Conduct

The Amélie Housing Code of Conduct is made available to all new contractors, and they are expected to ensure that anyone they send to an Amélie Housing property adheres to this. Contractors are held responsible for the behaviour of any person they send to a property.

Amélie Housing's key commitments to our suppliers and contractors are to:

- Act honestly and fairly in our business relationships
- Not engage in bribery or corruption
- Encourage suppliers and contractors to abide by the principles of our Code of Conduct
- Endeavour only to procure goods and services from those organisations demonstrating good ethical practice.

If there is a breach of the Code of Conduct, Amélie Housing will assess the severity and may choose to speak to the Contractor verbally about the situation. On the second occurrence of a breach or where the first occurrence is severe, Amélie Housing's Asset Manager will write to the Contractor outlining the breach and reminding them of the Maintenance Code of Conduct.

If there are any severe breaches of the Maintenance Code of Conduct, Amélie Housing may cease the relationship with the Contractor.

Amélie Housing also has a confidentiality agreement with their contractors:

Contractors confidentiality

Contractors must recognise that confidentiality is important in many aspects of their work.

Contractors will observe our confidentiality principles at all times:

- Nothing learnt about a client, including their contact with the organisation or their tenancy, will be passed on to anyone outside the organisation to identify the client.
- Any personal information about clients, staff members or management, will not be discussed outside the organisation or inappropriately with anyone inside the organisation
- Confidentiality will be maintained after a person ceases to be an employee, management member or Contractor

Commitment to the Code of confidentiality for contractors

I have read and understood the Code of Confidentiality

I agree to behave in ways consistent with this Code in carrying out my duties for and on behalf of the organisation.

I realise that any breach of the Code will be taken very seriously and may result in my contract being rescinded.

Name.....

Signature.....

Date.....