

# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Rev 2

Issued April 2025

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**AARSLEFF CENTRUM**



## **POLICY STATEMENT**

**1.1 This policy applies to all companies within Aarsleff Ground Engineering Ltd UK and Avoncross Ltd, including companies trading as Centrum Pile and Cannon Piling (referred to in this statement as 'The Company').**

1.2 This policy is non-contractual and the Company reserves the right to amend or withdraw the policy at any time at the Company's discretion.

1.3 Aarsleff Ground Engineering Limited is committed to abiding by The Equality Act 2010 and The Worker Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023, promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion in employment. Our employees and job applicants will receive equal treatment regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation (Protected Characteristics).

1.4 Definitions:

1.4.1 Equality means ensuring that everyone has the same opportunities to fulfil their potential free from discrimination.

1.4.2 Inclusion means ensuring that everyone feels comfortable to be themselves at work and feels the worth of their contribution.

1.4.3 Diversity means the celebration of individual differences amongst the workforce.

## **2. ABOUT THIS POLICY**

2.1 This policy sets out our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion and the avoidance of discrimination at work. It applies to all aspects of employment with us, including recruitment, pay and conditions, training, appraisals, promotion, conduct at work, disciplinary and grievance procedures, and termination of employment.

2.2 This policy covers all employees, officers, consultants, contractors, casual workers, agency workers, customers, suppliers and stakeholder.

2.3 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time.

## **3. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THIS POLICY**

3.1 Our Board of Directors have overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy and for ensuring compliance with discrimination law.



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3.2 All managers must set an appropriate standard of behaviour, lead by example and ensure that those they manage adhere to the policy and promote our aims and objectives with regard to equality, diversity and inclusion. Line managers will be given appropriate training on equality, diversity and inclusion awareness, unconscious bias and equal opportunities recruitment and selection best practice.

3.3 This policy is reviewed annually by the management team and forms part of the Integrated Management System.

3.4 Employees are invited to comment on this policy and suggest ways in which it might be improved by contacting the HR department.

#### **4. DISCRIMINATION**

4.1 You must not unlawfully discriminate against or harass other people including current and former employees, job applicants, clients, customers, suppliers and visitors. This applies in the workplace, outside the workplace (when dealing with customers, suppliers or other work-related contacts or when wearing a work uniform), and on work-related trips or events including social events.

4.2 The following forms of discrimination are prohibited under this policy and are unlawful:

4.2.1 Direct discrimination: treating someone less favourably because of a Protected Characteristic. For example, rejecting a job applicant because of their religious views or because of their sexual orientation.

4.2.2 Indirect discrimination: a provision, criterion or practice that applies to everyone but adversely affects people with a particular Protected Characteristic more than others and is not justified. For example, requiring a job to be done full-time rather than part-time would adversely affect women because they generally have greater childcare commitments than men. Such a requirement would be discriminatory unless it can be justified.

4.2.3 Harassment: this includes sexual harassment and other unwanted conduct related to a Protected Characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating someone's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for them.

4.2.4 Victimisation: retaliation against someone who has complained or has supported someone else's complaint about discrimination or harassment.

4.2.5 Disability discrimination: this includes direct and indirect discrimination, any unjustified less favourable treatment because of the effects of a disability, and failure to make reasonable adjustments to alleviate disadvantages caused by a disability.

4.3 The Company takes its obligations to protect employees from workplace sexual harassment very seriously and is committed to taking a proactive and preventative approach. This includes regular training, conducting awareness campaigns and providing a robust and supportive process for any concerns to be raised.

## 5. RECRUITMENT & SELECTION

5.1 Recruitment, promotion, and other selection exercises such as redundancy selection will be conducted on the basis of merit, against objective criteria that avoid discrimination. Shortlisting should be done by more than one person and with the involvement of the Human Resources Department, where possible. Our recruitment procedures should be reviewed regularly to ensure that individuals are treated on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities.

5.2 Vacancies should generally be advertised to a diverse section of the labour market. Advertisements should avoid stereotyping or using wording that may discourage particular groups from applying.

5.3 We take steps to ensure that our vacancies are advertised to a diverse labour market. Where appropriate, we may approve the use of lawful exemptions to recruit someone with a particular Protected Characteristic, for example, where the job can only be done by a woman. The advertisement should specify the exemption that applies.

5.4 Job applicants should not be asked questions which might suggest an intention to discriminate on grounds of a Protected Characteristic. For example, applicants should not be asked whether they are pregnant or planning to have children.

5.5 Job applicants should not be asked about health or disability before a job offer is made. There are limited exceptions which should only be used with the approval of the Human Resources Department. For example:

5.5.1 Questions necessary to establish if an applicant can perform an intrinsic part of the job (subject to any reasonable adjustments).

5.5.2 Questions to establish if an applicant is fit to attend an assessment or any reasonable adjustments that may be needed at interview or assessment.

5.5.3 Positive action to recruit disabled persons.

5.5.4 Equal opportunities monitoring (which will not form part of the selection or decision-making process). Where necessary, job offers can be made conditional on a satisfactory medical check.

5.6 We are required by law to ensure that all employees are entitled to work in the UK. Assumptions about immigration status should not be made based on appearance or apparent nationality. All prospective employees, regardless of nationality, must be able to produce original documents (such as a passport) before employment starts, to satisfy current immigration legislation. The list of acceptable documents is available from the Human Resources Department.

5.7 To ensure that this policy is operating effectively, and to identify groups that may be underrepresented or disadvantaged in our organisation, we will monitor applicants' ethnic group, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age as part of the recruitment procedure. Provision of this information is voluntary, and it will not adversely affect an individual's chances of recruitment or any other decision related to their employment. The information is removed from applications before shortlisting and kept in an anonymised format solely for the purposes stated in this policy. Analysing this data will help us take appropriate steps to avoid discrimination and improve equality and diversity.

## **6. TRAINING, PROMOTION & CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

6.1 Training needs will be identified through regular performance reviews. You will be given appropriate access to training to enable you to progress within the organisation and all promotion decisions will be made on the basis of merit.

6.2 Our conditions of service, benefits and facilities are reviewed regularly to ensure that they are available to all of you who should have access to them and that there are no unlawful obstacles to accessing them.

## **7. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT**

7.1 We will ensure that redundancy criteria and procedures are fair and objective and are not directly or indirectly discriminatory.

7.2 We will also ensure that disciplinary procedures and penalties are applied without discrimination, whether they result in disciplinary warnings, dismissal or other disciplinary action.

## **8. DISABILITIES**

8.1 If you are disabled or become disabled, we encourage you to tell us about your condition so that we can support you as appropriate.

8.2 If you experience difficulties at work because of your disability, you may wish to contact your line manager to discuss any reasonable adjustments that would help overcome or minimise the difficulty. Your line manager may wish to consult with you and your medical adviser about possible adjustments. We will consider the matter carefully and try to accommodate your needs within reason. If we consider a particular adjustment would not be reasonable, we will explain our reasons and try to find an alternative solution where possible.

8.3 We will monitor the physical features of our premises to consider whether they might place anyone with a disability at a substantial disadvantage. Where necessary, we will take reasonable steps to improve access.

## **9. PART TIME AND FIXED-TERM WORK**

9.1 Part-time and fixed-term staff should be treated the same as comparable full-time or permanent staff and enjoy no less favourable terms and conditions (on a pro-rata basis where appropriate), unless different treatment is justified.

## **10. BREACHES OF THIS POLICY**

10.1 We take a strict approach to breaches of this policy, which will be dealt with in accordance with our Disciplinary Procedure. Serious cases of deliberate discrimination may amount to Gross Misconduct resulting in dismissal.

10.2 If you believe that you have suffered discrimination you can raise the matter through the Grievance Procedure. Complaints will be treated in confidence and investigated appropriately.

10.3 There must be no victimisation or retaliation against staff who complain about discrimination. However, making a false allegation deliberately and in bad faith will be treated as Misconduct and dealt with under the company Disciplinary Procedure.



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