

Conduct of Research

All human factors professionals/ergonomists shall comply with the Geneva Convention and Helsinki Accord in treating both human and animal subjects, in addition to obeying national and local laws and regulations, as well as generally accepted procedures within the scientific community. In particular, human factors professionals/ergonomists shall:

1. where there is any potential for harm, seek and act on guidance from a competent ethics advisor or committee.
2. identify all potential sources or causes of harm in the research they are conducting. These hazards must then be effectively managed, including compliance with any requirements of the ethics advisor, to ensure that the risk of harm to participants is minimised.
3. ensure that participants are fully informed of the outcome of the risk assessment and of any requirements identified by the independent ethics advisor before seeking informed consent.
4. obtain prior written informed consent from human participants. Information must be provided in writing and orally to human participants in plain and clear language indicating the terms of participation, particularly about any hazards involved. Occasionally there may be exceptions in which the human participant is not able to consent. In such cases prior informed consent should be obtained from a person with (preferably legal) responsibility for the participant.
5. empower human participants to terminate their involvement in the research at any time without prejudice.
6. terminate any research process or experiment immediately if the participant's exposure to hazards exceeds commonly accepted thresholds. Further, if necessary, medical treatment must be provided.
7. keep the identity of human participants confidential unless permission is obtained from the participants.
8. not coerce any potential human research subject to participate as a subject in a research project, nor use undue monetary reward to induce subjects to take risks they would not otherwise take.
9. ensure these ethical guidelines are followed by their collaborators, assistants, students, and employees.

Reporting of Research

In pursuit of their profession, human factors professionals/ergonomists who are engaged in research and scholarly activities have an obligation to report their work to the scientific community. In particular, human factors professionals/ergonomists shall:

1. ensure the integrity and accuracy of the data recorded before reporting results and conclusions to the scientific community.
2. maintain the highest degree of objectivity when they are reviewing or editing works of other colleagues. In particular, they must ensure that their objectivity is not impaired by their own views even if the data and the reported results conflict with their own previously published work.
3. identify original sources (i.e. not plagiarise) and give credit to those who have contributed on a professional level to the work.
4. pay special attention to communication of research findings so as to facilitate their practical application.