



*The Constitution*  
*And*  
*By-Laws of*  
*Rural Contractors New Zealand*  
*Incorporated*

*As passed by the Annual General Meeting in Napier*  
*on 20 July 2010*

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## CONSTITUTION

### 1. NAME

- 1.1 The name of the society shall be the "***Rural Contractors New Zealand Incorporated***".

### 2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 2.1 Definitions: In this Constitution, and any Standing Orders and By-laws, unless the context otherwise requires:

**"Annual Subscription"** is the amount payable annually by Members in accordance with clause 7.

**"Associate Member"** means a company, firm or other person granted associate membership of the Federation pursuant to clause 6.

**"By-law"** means a by-law made by the Council pursuant to clause 23.

**"Code of Ethics"** means the Code of Ethics approved by the Council.

**"Chairman"** means the chairman of any Meeting in relation to which the clause applies.

**"Constitution"** means this constitution, as altered from time to time.

**"Council"** means the Council as defined in clause 14.

**"Council Meeting"** means a meeting of the Council.

**"Deputy Chairman"** means the person who would be the chairman of any Meeting in relation to which the clause applies, if the Chairman were absent.

**"Federation"** means the Rural Contractors New Zealand Incorporated.

**"Financial Member"** means a Member with no outstanding subscription or levy to the Federation pursuant to clauses 7.

**"Full Member"** means an individual elected to Full Membership of the Federation pursuant to clause 6.

**"General Meeting"** means an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Federation.

**"Individual"** means a natural person.

**"Life Member"** means an individual elected to Life Membership of the Federation pursuant to clause 6.

**"Meeting"** means a General Meeting or Council Meeting.

**"Member"** means any Full, Associate Life or Social Member.

**"Month"** means calendar month.

"**Officer**" means a person elected as one of the Federation's Officers set out in clause 12 and pursuant to clause 13.

"**Person**" means any individual or a partnership, firm, company, body corporate, association, organisation or any other entity or organisation whether incorporated or not.

"**President**" means the president of the Federation elected pursuant to clause 12.

"**Remit**" means a notice of a motion proposed for decision by the Federation.

"**Social Member**" means an individual granted Social Membership of the Federation pursuant to clause 6.

"**Standing Orders**" means the Federation's standing orders.

"**Year**" means the Federation's financial year of 1 April to 31 March of the following year.

2.2 Interpretation: In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the table of contents and headings are inserted for convenience only and shall be ignored in construing this Constitution;
- (b) where any word or expression is defined in this Constitution, any other grammatical form of that word or expression has a corresponding meaning;
- (c) the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- (d) references to clauses are to clauses in this Constitution;
- (e) reference to any legislation or to any provision of any legislation includes:
  - (i) that legislation or provision as from time to time amended, re-enacted or substituted; and
  - (ii) any statutory instruments, regulations, clauses and orders issued under that legislation or provision; and
  - (iii) where a number is expressed as a percentage, the resulting number shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number below.

### 3. REGISTERED OFFICE

3.1 The registered office of the Federation shall be at 11 Wisteria Grove, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt, or such other places from time to time as may be authorised by resolution of the Council.

**4. OBJECTS**

4.1 The objects are:

- (a) To maintain a national organisation for the rural contracting industry with the principal object of protecting and enhancing the interest of its members and to improve contractors work opportunities.
- (b) To represent the rural contracting industry at all levels and to maintain and improve industry public relations.
- (c) To maintain and improve industry safety, quality, and ethics.
- (d) To foster and co-ordinate industry training.
- (e) To maintain a professional advisory and information service.
- (f) To represent and advocate for the Federation and its members on all legislative and public policy matters, relevant to its interests.
- (g) To engage in marketing, research, promotional and educational activities for the advancement of members.
- (h) To service the needs of the members and provide tangible membership benefits.
- (i) To associate with any body with common interests, in New Zealand or overseas.
- (j) To do all matters reasonably incidental to any of the foregoing objects or considered to be in the best interests of the Federation.

**5. POWERS**

5.1 The Federation has the power to do the following in the pursuance of its objects, subject to any limitation imposed by this Constitution:

- (a) To purchase, erect build, take or lease, or otherwise obtain the use or occupation of and to manage, extend, improve, develop, alter, maintain and repair and to sell, let, lease, donate or otherwise dispose of real and personal property of every description, provided however that if the value of any of the above transactions exceeds \$20,000, the decision must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of members present at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.
- (b) To accept any gifts for the furtherance of the objects of the Federation or any of them and to accept and to discharge trusts attached to the subject matter of any such gifts.
- (c) To borrow or raise or secure the payment of any monies for the furtherance of the objects of the Federation either with or without security, provided however that any loan, or where the Federation offers a security, which exceeds \$10,000, must first be approved by a two thirds majority of members present at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose.

- (d) To invest all or any monies held by the Federation on the Federation's behalf thereof in and upon investment authorised by the law for the time being in force in New Zealand for the investment by Trustees of the trust funds.
- (e) To contract or employ any person or persons or set up sub-committees of members for carrying out or furthering any objects of the Federation.
- (f) To adopt such means as the Council may from time to time determine for the purpose of raising money and for obtaining property for the furtherance of the objects of the Federation.
- (g) To determine and implement the procedures for operating cheque and other accounts held in the name of the Federation, and for the banking of all monies received, and for the daily operation of the financial affairs of the Federation.
- (h) To do all things that are deemed necessary for the carrying out of any one or more of the objects of the Federation.

## 6. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) **Classes of Membership:** The Members of the Federation shall be divided into the following classes:
  - (i) Full,
  - (ii) Associate,
  - (iii) Life; and
  - (iv) Social
- (b) **Full Membership.** Any person engaged in business in New Zealand as a contractor at the time of application shall be eligible for membership of the Federation. Persons desiring to become Members shall submit a written application on a form to be approved by the Council and shall become Members of the Federation when such application has been approved by the Council and any subscription that may be required has been paid.
- (c) **Associate Membership.** Any person engaged in providing goods and services to Federation members may on written application to the Council and with the approval by the Council be admitted as an Associate Member upon payment of the membership fee. Associate Members may attend and speak at meetings but have no power to vote, and are not eligible to be elected to office.
- (d) **Life Membership.** Any individual who in the opinion of the Council has given outstanding service to the Federation and/or the rural contracting industry may be elected as a Life Member. A Life Member may vote and hold office.
- (e) **Social Membership.** Any person who has been previously been a member and is no longer actively working in the rural contracting

industry may become a Social Member on invitation by the Council. Social Members may attend meetings but have no power to vote, and are not eligible to be elected to office.

- (f) **Rejection of Membership Application.** Any person whose application is rejected must be advised of the reasons for the rejection and given the opportunity to comment on those reasons. The Council is required to consider any comments made by an unsuccessful applicant before advising whether the original decision has been reversed or affirmed.

## 7. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

- 7.1 All classes of Members shall pay such annual or other subscription as may be fixed from time to time by the Council.
- 7.2 If any Member fails to pay the Annual Subscription by 30 June in the year in which it is due and unless arrangements have been made for the subscription to be paid by equal regular instalments over the course of the financial year:
  - (a) they shall thereupon automatically cease to be a Member of the Federation;
  - (b) they shall not be relieved from payment of any subscription, levy or other payment due or payable at the time of cessation of membership;
  - (c) no subscriptions, levies or other payments already paid to the Federation shall be refunded;
  - (d) if the person wishes to be reinstated as a Member, they shall reapply for Full Membership pursuant to clause 6(b).
- 7.3 Subscriptions are payable as follows:
  - (a) Annually on 1 April thereafter.
  - (b) A pro rata subscription for the number of months from the date of joining to the end of that financial Year.
  - (c) Council may determine a rebate for prompt payment of subscriptions as it deems appropriate.

## 8. LEVY

- 8.1 A General Meeting or the Council may make a special levy on all Members for the purpose of meeting any liability incurred by the Federation or for any other purpose which, in the opinion of a General meeting or Council, is necessary for the Federation's welfare. In either case, such resolution must be passed by seventy five percent (75%) of those present at the meeting. The total amount levied on any member in any financial year shall not exceed the annual subscription payable by that member.

## 9. RESIGNATION

- 9.1 Any Member may terminate their membership by giving one month's notice of their resignation in writing to the Executive Director.

9.2 No such resignation shall relieve any Member from payment of any subscription, levy or other payment due or payable at the time of resignation.

9.3 No subscriptions, levies or other payments already paid to the Federation by a resigning Member shall be refunded on resignation.

## 10. TERMINATION, EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

10.1 **Termination:** The Council may terminate the membership of any Member who has:

- (a) Ceased carrying on business as a Contractor; or
- (b) Defaulted, for three calendar months in paying any subscription, levy or other payment due to the Federation providing that any such member may be re-admitted to membership upon full payment of all outstanding sums due.
- (c) Become bankrupt or made an assignment for the benefit of creditors.

10.2 **Grounds for expulsion:** A Member shall be liable to be expelled from the Federation if they:

- (a) breach this Constitution; or
- (b) take any action, in the opinion of the Council, which could bring the Federation into disrepute or has acted against the interests of the Federation.
- (c) are found guilty of breaching the Code of Ethics by a general meeting of that Member's Zone, which has been called for the purpose of hearing and adjudicating upon the alleged breaches of the Code of Ethics. The Member has the right to hear the allegations and make written or oral submissions at the Zone general meeting.

10.3 **Procedure for expulsion:**

- (a) A Member or the Executive Director may notify the Council if they believe a Member may be liable to expulsion pursuant to clause 10.2.
- (b) Where the Council receives such notice and wishes to pursue it, it may decide to refer the issue for investigation by the Executive Director. If it does so, it must advise the Member subject to the investigation that:
  - (i) their conduct is being investigated; and
  - (ii) they may make submissions to the Council in writing and/or in person or by representative.
- (c) On completion of the investigation, the Executive Director shall report to the Council as to whether, in his or her opinion, the Member's actions have breached this Constitution; have or are likely to have brought the Federation into disrepute, have acted against the interests of the Federation or breached the Code of Ethics.
- (d) A copy of the Executive Director's report shall be given to the Member

concerned at the same time as it is given to the Council.

- (e) The Council shall call a meeting to consider the Executive Director's report. At that meeting, the Member concerned may make written and/or oral submissions and may have independent representation. The Member must be given at least 7 days' notice of that meeting and reminded of their right to make submissions.
- (f) The Council may elect to expel the Member concerned, by simple majority. If it does so, such expulsion is to take effect immediately,

10.4 Any Member who has been convicted of a crime or of any other offence which in the opinion of a majority of the Council brings the Federation into disrepute, shall, subject to a majority vote of the Council, be liable for immediate expulsion from the Federation.

10.5 A Member who has been expelled may require the Council to submit the matter to a mediator, agreed on by both parties. If the parties cannot agree upon a mediator, the local District Law Society shall be asked to appoint a mediator and the costs of such mediation shall be divided equally between the Member and the Federation. The mediator may revoke, confirm or modify the Council's decision. Any such decision will be binding on all the parties involved.

10.6 **Suspension:** The Council may elect to suspend a Member:

- (a) Who is the subject of an investigation pursuant to clause 10.2 for the duration of the investigation if, in the opinion of the majority of the Council, continuation of membership would bring the Federation into disrepute or be against the interests of the Federation.
- (b) Who is found guilty of breaching the Code of Ethics by a general meeting of that Member's Zone, which has been called for the purpose of hearing and adjudicating upon the alleged breaches of the Code of Ethics. The Member has the right to hear the allegations and make written or oral submissions at the Zone general meeting and at any Council meeting before suspension is decided upon. No suspension period shall exceed twelve (12) months.

## 11. PROPERTY

11.1 Membership of the Federation does not give any Member any transmissible or assignable interest by operation of law or otherwise, in any of the property or funds of the Federation.

11.2 Any information, which the Federation provides for Members, remains the property of the Federation. Members must not pass any such information on to any non-Member without the written consent of the Federation.

## 12. OFFICERS

12.1 Financial Members may be elected to hold the following Council positions:

- (a) Two (2) Councillors elected at the Annual General Meeting of each of the Zones.

- 12.2 The President and Vice-President shall be elected by the incoming Council from within their number as soon as possible after the election of the Council.
- 12.3 The President, Vice-President and Executive Director shall be signatories for the Federation.
- 12.4 Officers term of office shall be from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting immediately after their election until the conclusion of the following Annual General Meeting unless sooner removed by death, resignation or otherwise. Officers are eligible for re-election.
- 12.5 No Officer shall be liable for the acts or defaults of any other Officer or any loss caused by such acts or defaults, unless caused by their own wilful default or wilful acquiescence.
- 12.6 The Officers shall be indemnified by the Federation for all liabilities and costs reasonably incurred by them in proper performance of their functions and duties, other than as a result of their wilful default.

### **13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- 13.1 Each Zone shall select two (2) Councillors, by ballot if necessary at the annual general meeting held under clause 22.4.
- 13.2 Ballots shall be secret and only Financial Members and Life Members may vote. The nominee for each office gaining the highest number of the votes shall be declared to be successful.
- 13.3 Any vacancy in any office may be filled by selection of another Financial Member by the Council from the Zone where the vacancy has occurred.
- 13.4 **Removal of Officers:** Any Officer may be removed from office at any **General Meeting** of the Federation in accordance with the following:
  - (a) A notice of motion of no confidence in that Officer, signed by at least two (2) Financial Members, shall reach the Executive Director not less than twenty-one (21) days before a General Meeting.
  - (b) A copy of the notice in clause 13.5(a) must be given to the Officer concerned at least fourteen (14) days' before the Meeting.
  - (c) The Officer concerned must be given the opportunity to appear before and speak at that Meeting.
  - (d) The motion of no confidence in the Officer concerned may be passed by a simple majority of Members present at the Meeting.
  - (e) If the motion is passed, the Officer concerned shall be removed from office with immediate effect.
- 13.5 An Officer who has been convicted of a crime or of any other offence which in the opinion of a majority of the Council brings the Federation into disrepute, shall automatically and immediately be removed from office

- 13.6 The Council may elect to remove an Officer who becomes physically or mentally incapacitated to the extent that he or she cannot carry out his or her duties as a Council Member.
- 13.7 Any Officer absent from two consecutive meetings, without leave of absence, shall forfeit his or her office.
- 13.8 No Officer who has been removed from office shall be eligible for re-election without the consent of a General Meeting.

**14. COUNCIL**

- 14.1 The regulation and government of the Federation shall be vested in the Council.
- 14.2 Council shall consist of:
- (a) all the Officers of the Federation referred to in clause 12; and
  - (b) other persons may be appointed to the Council by the Officers to represent the industry sectors such as chemical applicators, horticulture and viticulture. Such appointments are to be made on the recommendation of the respective sectors. Such appointed persons shall cease to be a Council member at the next Annual General Meeting but may be appointed for the following year. Persons appointed to the Council have the same voting privileges as elected Councillors.

**15. COUNCIL: DUTIES AND POWERS**

- 15.1 The Council shall, subject to any limitations imposed by this Constitution, conduct and manage the business and affairs of the Federation, exercise all the powers and authorities of the Federation as set out in clause 5, and do such other acts and things as it deems necessary or expedient for carrying on the business of the Federation.
- 15.2 **Powers:** Without limiting clause 15.1, the Council shall have the power to:
- (a) co-opt any person to assist with its functions;
  - (b) appoint committees or sub-committees for particular purposes, members of whom need not be Councillors;
  - (c) make, amend or rescind by-laws (provided that any by-laws are not inconsistent with this Constitution or the Incorporated Societies Act 1908), which shall be binding on all Members;
  - (d) obtain the opinion of Members by circular or otherwise in lieu of calling a formal General Meeting of the Federation, and act in accordance with the published majority opinion so obtained as if it had been determined by General Meeting;
- 15.3 The funds of the Federation shall be under the control of the Council subject to control and regulations by any resolution of the Federation in General Meeting.

- 15.4 In the event of any matter not provided for in these rules, with the exception of variations to the rules as described in clause 24, the Council shall have full authority to dispose of the matter in a way that it thinks fit, provided always that this is in observation of its rightful powers and functions in the ordinary conduct of the business of the Federation.
- 15.5 Any decision of the Council on the construction and interpretation of any clause in this Constitution shall be binding on all Members unless and until it is overruled by a General Meeting.

**16. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- 16.1 The Council shall appoint an Executive Director to carry out all such duties as are required to manage the affairs of the Federation. The Executive Director shall be accountable to the Council.
- 16.2 The role and responsibilities of the Executive Director shall be detailed in a Position Description, which shall be kept up to date by the Council.
- 16.3 The Executive Director shall attend and take part in every Council Meeting and General Meeting, but shall not be entitled to exercise a vote on any question.

**17. AUDITOR**

- 17.1 The accounts of the Federation shall be audited annually by a qualified accountant, not being a Member, who shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Council shall have the power to fill any temporary vacancy in the office of Auditor by selecting another person.
- 17.2 The Auditor shall be paid such reasonable fees as he or she may set, as approved by the Council.
- 17.3 The Auditor shall have the power to call for the production of all books, papers and documents (including electronic documents) relating to the affairs of the Federation.
- 17.4 The Financial Statements shall be audited by the Auditor and, if correct, certified in writing under his hand before they are submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

**18. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 18.1 An Annual General Meeting of the Federation shall be held by 30 September each Year in such place decided by the Council, for the purpose of:
- (a) receiving and adopting the Annual Report of the Council;
  - (b) receiving and adopting the Financial Statements for the previous Year;
  - (c) considering, and if necessary taking action on, any motion of which due notice has been given;
  - (d) confirmation of election of Officers;
  - (e) appointment of Auditor; and

(f) general business.

18.2 Members will be notified of the time, date and venue of the Annual General Meeting at least sixty (60) days prior to the event.

18.3 At least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting notice of the Annual General Meeting and the business to be conducted shall be sent to all Financial Members:

## **19. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

19.1 The Executive Director shall call a Special General Meeting if at any time:

- (a) the Council considers such a Meeting necessary or desirable; or
- (b) the Executive Director receives a written request to do so signed by not less than ten per cent (10%) of Financial Members.

19.2 A date for the Special General Meeting must be set within one (1) month and that Meeting must occur within three (3) months of receipt of a valid request under clause 19.1(b).

19.3 At least fourteen (14) days before the date of a Special General Meeting, a written notice specifying the object, date, time and place of the meeting, must be sent to all Members.

19.4 Only the business specified in the notice of a Special General Meeting or any other matters authorised by the President may be transacted at the Meeting.

## **20. CONDUCT OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

20.1 At all General Meetings, the chairman shall be:

- (a) the President; or
- (b) in the President's absence, the Vice-President; or
- (c) in the absence of the President and Vice-President, a Council member elected by the Meeting.

20.2 The quorum of any General Meeting shall be five percent (5%) of the Financial Members.

20.3 If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the scheduled time for a General Meeting, that Meeting shall be cancelled and a new General Meeting called.

20.4 Any General Meeting may adjourn its proceedings from time to time.

20.5 Each Financial Member (Full or Life) of the Federation shall have one vote only at such Meetings. Where a Member is represented by more than one person, they shall nominate one person to exercise voting rights on behalf of that Member.

20.6 Votes by proxy shall not be allowed (except pursuant to clause 28.5).

- 20.7 Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, all questions raised at a General Meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast.
- 20.8 All resolutions passed at any Meeting shall be conclusive and binding on all Members whether present or not, provided that the Meeting was held in substantial conformity with this Constitution.
- 20.9 The conduct of all Meetings shall be in accordance with the Federation's Standing Orders, as amended from time to time.

**21. COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- 21.1 The Executive Director shall call a Council Meeting:
- (a) at such place(s) and time as the President or, in the President's absence, the Vice-President directs; or
  - (b) on requisition in writing setting out the purpose for which the Meeting is required, signed by three (3) members of the Council.
- 21.2 A date for a Council Meeting must be set within four (4) days of the Executive Director receiving a valid requisition under clause 21.1(b) and a meeting must be held within three (3) weeks of the requisition.
- 21.3 A notice specifying the purpose for which the Meeting is convened, and the date, time and place of the Meeting shall be sent to all Council members:
- (a) at least seven (7) days before the date of a Council Meeting to be held in person; or
  - (b) at least three (3) days before the date of the Meeting in the case of a meeting to be held by telephone conference; or
  - (c) such shorter time as in the opinion of the President or the Vice-President as is necessary given the urgency of the matter or matters to be considered at the Meeting.
- 21.4 In the case of a meeting under clause 21.3 (c) the following shall apply:
- (a) reasonable efforts must be made to inform each Council Member personally of the purpose, date, time and place of the Meeting;
  - (b) sixty six percent (66%) of all Officers shall be a quorum;
  - (c) any three Council Members who wish the matter or matters discussed at the meeting to be reconsidered may requisition a further meeting under clause 21.1 (b) for the purpose of reconsidering the matter or matters; and
  - (d) any such further Meeting must be held within seven (7) days of the Executive Director receiving a valid requisition under clause 21.1 (b).
- 21.5 A Council Meeting may be held in two or more places simultaneously via telephone, video or electronic conference.
- 21.6 At all Council Meetings, the chairman shall be:

- (a) the President; or
  - (b) in the President's absence, the Vice-President; or
  - (c) in the absence of the President and Vice-President, another Council Member elected by the Meeting.
- 21.7 At all Council Meetings sixty six percent (66%) of all Officers shall be a quorum.
- 21.8 If a quorum is not present within half an hour of the scheduled time for a Council Meeting, that Meeting shall be adjourned until such time and date set by those present.
- 21.9 Any Council Meeting may adjourn its proceedings from time to time
- 21.10 Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution, all questions raised at a Council Meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast.
- 21.11 The Executive Director may conduct a poll of Council Members by facsimile, telephone or email in relation to any issue, and any majority decision of the Council so obtained shall be deemed a resolution passed by the Council, subject to ratification at the next Council Meeting.

## 22. ZONES

- 22.1 **Zones established:** For the purposes of administration, the Federation shall be divided into Zones within geographical areas as determined from time to time by the Council and shall be administered

within the framework of policy determined by the Federation and Council and under the general direction of the Council.

- 22.2 Each Zone shall be responsible to the Council for the proper management of the Zone including the observance of these Rules by Zone members and the keeping of records and any accounts.
- 22.3 **Zone annual general meeting:** Each Zone shall hold an annual general meeting of members, before the annual general meeting of the Federation, at a place and on a date decided by the Zone Committee, at which the following business will be conducted
- (a) Consideration of the Chair's annual report
  - (b) Consideration of all resolutions and other matters detailed in the notice of meeting.
  - (c) Any other matter authorised by the Chair to be discussed.
  - (d) If required, election of a Zone Chairperson, Secretary and as many committee members as deemed necessary.
  - (e) Election of two (2) Councillors to represent that Zone on the Council.
  - (f) Remits for the Annual General Meeting.
  - (g) Any other business required by these Rules to be transacted.

- 22.4 **General meetings:** The Chair or Secretary shall order other general meetings of the Zone members as necessary, or upon the request of twenty five per cent (25%) of the Zone membership.
- 22.5 **Committee members must be financial members:** No member who is not a Financial Member or who is under suspension, shall be elected to the Committee.
- 22.6 **Forfeiture of office for absence:** Any Zone Committee member absent from three (3) consecutive meetings shall forfeit her or his office, unless leave or absence has been granted by the Zone Committee
- 22.7 **Vacancies in committees may be filled:** The Zone Committee may fill any vacancies in its membership.
- 22.8 **Sub-committee's may be appointed:** The Zone Committee may appoint subcommittees in any locality or for any specific purposes. Such committees shall report to and be subordinate to the Zone Committee.
- 22.9 **Zone committees to meet at least two times per year:** Each Zone Committee shall meet not less than two (2) times a year to transact Zone business and at such other times as deemed necessary.
- 22.10 **Quorum:** The Zone Committee shall determine its quorum, provided that it shall not be less than three. The quorum for a Zone general meeting shall be not less than the quorum for Zone committee meetings.
- 22.11 **Appointment of Secretary:** The Zone Committee may appoint a Secretary to carry out the Zone's secretarial work under the direction of the Committee. The Secretary's conditions of engagement shall be determined by the Committee.
- 22.12 **Duties of Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep and properly maintain all Zone records, accounts, correspondence and, attend and take minutes of meetings and such other duties as may be required by the Zone Committee.

## 23. BY-LAWS AND STANDING ORDERS

- 23.1 All new or amended By-laws and Standing Orders shall be submitted to the next General Meeting for approval.
- 23.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of clause 23.1, the Council may fix the date on which any By-law or Standing Order shall come into force.

## 24. ALTERATIONS OF CONSTITUTION RULES

- 24.1 No new clause, nor any alteration or suspension of an existing clause in this Constitution, shall be made unless sixty-six percent (66%) of the Members present at a General Meeting vote in favour.
- 24.2 Notice of any proposed new clause, or alteration or suspension of an existing clause must be in writing to the Executive Director.
- 24.3 In the case of such a motion being proposed for an Annual General Meeting, the Executive Director must receive the notice not later than thirty (30) days before the advertised date of the Annual General Meeting.

- 24.4 Notice of the proposed change shall be sent to Members no later than twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Meeting.
- 24.5 No addition to or alteration of the not for profit aims, personal benefit clause or the winding up clause shall be approved without the Inland Revenue Department's consideration. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

**25. REMITS**

- 25.1 All Financial Members shall have the right to submit for inclusion at the Annual General Meeting, any Remit on any matter provided the Remit shall reach the Executive Director not later than thirty (30) days before the advertised date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 25.2 The Council shall have the power to bring forward business of any nature at the Annual General Meeting without complying with clauses 24.3 or 25.1.
- 25.3 Notice of any proposed remit shall be sent to Financial Members no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

**26. COMMON SEAL**

- 26.1 The common seal of the Federation shall be retained in the custody of the Executive Director, and shall be used only in pursuance of a duly passed resolution of the Council or of the Federation, and in the presence of two (2) persons appointed by the Council as authorised signatories of the Federation.

**27. PECUNIARY GAIN**

- 27.1 No Member of the Federation shall receive or obtain any pecuniary gain as a Member of the Federation, however this shall not prevent any person receiving a wage, salary or contractual payment from the Federation or any Member receiving reimbursement for expenses incurred performing duties for, or on behalf of, the Federation.
- 27.2 Any income, benefit or advantage shall be applied to the objectives of the Federation. No member of the Federation or any person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the Federation in respect of payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person of any income, benefit or advantage whatsoever.
- 27.3 Any such income shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arms length transaction (being open market value).
- 27.4 The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

**28. WINDING UP**

- 28.1 The Federation may only be dissolved:
- (a) at a Special General Meeting called by the Council for that purpose;  
or

(b) as provided for in the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

28.2 The Council shall call a Special General Meeting to consider the dissolution of the Federation on application in writing to it by twenty percent (20%) of the Financial Members.

28.3 Notice of such a Meeting shall be sent to each Member at least sixty (60) days before the date of the Meeting.

28.4 The quorum at such a Meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) of the Financial Members.

28.5 At such a Meeting votes by proxy shall be admitted.

28.6 The Council shall administer the winding up or dissolution of the Federation.

28.7 After payment of all debts and liabilities and costs of winding up, the excess assets and/or funds of the Federation realised shall be distributed to either:

(a) one or more charitable organisations or institutions; or

(b) an organisation similar to the Federation with a compatible constitution, provided that there is no opportunity for division of that organisation's assets or funds among the membership,

as directed by the Meeting, or in the absence of such a direction, as decided by the Council.

28.8 Notwithstanding the provision in clause 24 for the amendment of this Constitution, there shall be no power for clause 28.7 to be amended so as to allow distribution of any Federation funds to the membership of this or any subsequent organisation.

**APPENDIX 1**

**STANDING ORDERS**

1. Proceedings of all Meetings of the Federation, including Council and Zone meetings, shall be governed by these Standing Orders.
2. **Suspension of Standing Orders:** Any Meeting may suspend any Standing Order upon request of three (3) Members present, and upon a vote carried by seventy five percent (75%) of the Members present. Any such suspension shall be limited in its operation to the particular purpose for which it is granted.
3. **Conduct of meetings:**
  - (a) Every Member shall obey the orders and rulings of the Chairman. If any Member refuses to obey any such order or ruling, the Meeting may resolve by majority that that Member be:
    - (i) held guilty of contempt; and
    - (ii) suspended for one or more meetings.
  - (b) No Member shall speak on any question after it has been put by the Chairman, nor during a vote, except to a point of order.
4. **Chairman's Ruling Disagreed With:** On submission of a motion, "That the Chairman's ruling be not upheld", then the following shall apply:
  - (a) The Chairman shall immediately leave the chair, which will then be occupied by the Deputy Chairman or his or her nominee.
  - (b) The Member moving the motion shall explain to the Meeting his or her reason for challenging the Chairman's decision.
  - (c) The Chairman shall give his or her reason for such decision.
  - (d) The Meeting will then vote on the issue, which will be carried or rejected by a simple majority of Members present.
  - (e) If the motion is carried, the debate on the original question shall proceed, and a new vote shall take place, following which the Chairman shall return to the chair.
  - (f) If the motion is rejected, the Chairman shall return to the chair.
5. **Voting: General Meeting**
  - (a) Voting shall be by a show of hands at all Meetings except in the case of:
    - (i) election of officers, which shall be in accordance with clause 13.3; or
    - (ii) any Member present demanding a secret ballot: or
    - (iii) where the Chairman considers a ballot appropriate.

- (b) If demanded, a secret ballot shall be taken in such a manner as the Chairman directs.
- (c) In the case of equal votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

**6. Voting: Council meetings**

- (a) Every Council member present must vote when a question is put, or have recorded his or her abstention.
- (b) The vote shall first be taken on a show of hands.
- (c) A declaration by the Chairman as to the result shall be conclusive, unless:
  - (i) the Chairman considers a poll necessary and/or advisable; or
  - (ii) at least two (2) Council members request a poll
- (d) A poll shall be taken in such a manner as the Chairman directs.
- (e) In the case of equal votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

**APPENDIX 2**

**CODE OF ETHICS**

1. **Preamble.** While recognising that competition is a necessary and vital part of the free enterprise system, the Federation nevertheless believes there is a code of ethics, in accordance with which business should be conducted, so as to avoid unfairness to both the public and fellow members and to maintain the high standard of the contracting industry.
2. **Code of Ethics** is as follows:
  - (a) Members shall conduct their affairs at all times in an ethical and fair manner and in accordance with this code of ethics.
  - (b) Members shall complete their contracting obligations to their clients in a fair and equitable manner, in accordance with the best standards of workmanship and with integrity and courtesy.
  - (c) Members shall be good employers with fair and reasonable conditions of employment, healthy and safe work places, and employment practices that promote equality of opportunity for all persons regardless of their sex, marital status, religious belief, colour, race, ethnic or national origins, disability, age, political opinion, employment status, family status or sexual orientation.
  - (d) Members shall be good citizens ensuring that the health and safety of the public is protected at all times and that the environment is preserved and protected in accordance with the best environmental management practices.
  - (e) Members shall not express adverse comments or criticism to the general public on the services, fees or conduct of another member. However each member has a duty to maintain the standard of the industry by referring to the Federation, conduct which may breach this Code or otherwise appear to bring discredit on the Federation, its Members or the rural contracting industry.
  - (f) Members shall not be associated in any way with anything that may bring that member or the Federation into disrepute.
  - (g) Members shall not disclose to or discuss with non members confidential information obtained through membership of the Federation.
  - (h) Members shall be loyal to the Federation and where possible actively involve themselves in the affairs of the Federation
  - (i) Members shall give preference, where appropriate, to other members and associate members when utilising services provided by fellow members and associate members.
  - (j) Members charged with a breach of this code of ethics shall voluntarily provide all relevant information to a duly constituted tribunal of the Federation for investigation and judgement.