What makes you a professional?

Being a professional means that you have:

- a common body of knowledge
- benchmarked performance standards
- a representative professional organisation
- a code of ethics that you work within
- undergone the required training credentials for entry and career mobility
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- a vocation requiring knowledge of some department of learning or science

As a professional you are valued for your ethical behavior and sound judgment, however there may be times when you professionalism could be tested. Such situations may arise when there is:

- pressure from having to meet deadlines or performance goals
- a lack of resources, human or otherwise
- pressure to produce and get the job done
- a misunderstanding or belief that the action is not really illegal or unethical
- a misunderstanding or belief that it is in the individuals or organisations best interest
- a chance or belief that the action will never be discovered
- a fear of those in authority

In any of the instances above where you feel a threat to your professionalism you can contact CIMA for support.

CIMA is committed to upholding the highest ethical and professional standards, and to maintaining public confidence in management accounting.

As chartered management accountants, CIMA members (and registered students) throughout the world have a duty to observe the highest standards of conduct and integrity, and to uphold the good standing and reputation of the profession.

Members and students must refrain from any conduct which might discredit the profession. They must have regard to these guidelines irrespective of their field of activity, their contract of employment or of any other professional memberships they may hold.

CIMA members and students by upholding their Code of Ethics, are well placed to champion the business ethics principles that lend themselves to successful sustainability strategies.