

Charlie Coleman

2016 August 09

Chapter 2

Page 44 Question 3

I don't believe there is any moral dilemma present. The chairs in a cafeteria do not necessarily have to be comfortable for long periods of time, but perhaps should be at least be comfortable for the length of time that most people spend eating. It is a different case than if you were to compare it to the design of park benches that are meant to dissuade the homeless from sleeping there. Those designs have a much more significant moral dilemma present, because the homeless do need a place to sleep, and the design of benches simply to 'clean up' the city by moving the homeless out of sight is a tricky question. This moral dilemma is more of a dilemma for the boss who is giving the instructions, and how it will affect the mood of the employees is something s/he will need to take into account when setting this plan into action. There is a possibility that changing the chairs to be more uncomfortable may put employees in a worse mood and affect their productivity outside of the cafeteria. I don't believe that the moral dilemma falls on the engineer, because he is not harming the public or doing anything remotely illegal.

When designing the new chairs for the cafeteria, it is important to make the design reasonable. Don't go overboard on the discomfort caused by the chair, making it so that no one wants to sit there in the first place, but make it uncomfortable enough that the employees will not want to sit there for a long time. This can be very difficult to do, but if done correctly, will be very effective. This balance is much more difficult than the moral choices. In my opinion, the only immoral thing that the engineer could do would be to make the chairs too bad to use at all, but that is not the goal.