

Engineering Council

Operating under a Royal Charter, the Engineering Council is the UK regulatory body for the engineering profession. It sets and maintains the internationally recognised standards of professional competence and commitment, which are detailed in the UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC).

The Engineering Council also holds the national register of professional Engineering Technicians (EngTech), Incorporated Engineers (IEng), Chartered Engineers (CEng) and ICT Technicians (ICTTech). Holders of these titles must be members of a professional engineering institution licensed by the Engineering Council or in some cases a Professional Affiliate. In order to achieve registered status individuals will have demonstrated to their institution that they possess a range of technical and personal competences and are committed to keeping these up to date, and to acting with integrity in the public interest. The award and retention of these titles ensures that employers, government and wider society - both in the UK and overseas - can have confidence in the knowledge, experience and commitment of engineers and technicians on the register. The Engineering Council publishes more detailed Guidance on Sustainability, Risk, Security and Whistleblowing.

Royal Academy of Engineering

As the UK's national academy for engineering, the Royal Academy of Engineering brings together the most successful and talented engineers for a shared purpose: to advance and promote excellence in engineering.

The Academy provides analysis and policy support to promote the UK's role as a great place to do business. It takes a lead on engineering education and invests in the UK's world-class research base to underpin innovation. The Academy works to improve public awareness and understanding of engineering, and is a national academy with a global outlook.

The Royal Academy of Engineering has four strategic challenges:

- Make the UK the leading nation for engineering innovation
- Position engineering at the heart of society
- Address the engineering skills crisis
- Lead the profession



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ENGINEERING COUNCIL ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING



STATEMENT OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

for the engineering profession



www.engc.org.uk/professional-ethics



Statement of Ethical Principles

The Engineering Council and the Royal Academy of Engineering have jointly created a Statement of Ethical Principles for all engineering professionals¹.

Engineering professionals work to enhance the wellbeing of society. In doing so they are required to maintain and promote high ethical standards and challenge unethical behaviour. There are four fundamental principles for ethical behaviour and decision-making. These are set out below, together with examples of how each should be applied.

Engineering professionals should read this Statement in conjunction with their relevant Code of Conduct or Licence to Practise. The Statement by itself is not prescriptive: it is neither a Regulation nor a Standard.

1

Honesty and integrity

Engineering professionals have a duty to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct including openness, fairness, honesty and integrity. They should:

- act in a reliable and trustworthy manner
- be alert to the ways in which their work and behaviour might affect others and respect the privacy, rights and reputations of other parties and individuals
- respect confidentiality
- declare conflicts of interest
- avoid deception and take steps to prevent or report corrupt practices or professional misconduct
- reject bribery and improper influence

2

Respect for life, law, the environment and public good

Engineering professionals have a duty to obey all applicable laws and regulations and give due weight to facts, published standards and guidance and the wider public interest. They should:

- hold paramount the health and safety of others and draw attention to hazards
- ensure their work is lawful and justified
- recognise the importance of physical and cyber security and data protection

3

- respect and protect personal information and intellectual property
- protect, and where possible improve, the quality of built and natural environments
- maximise the public good and minimise both actual and potential adverse effects for their own and succeeding generations
- take due account of the limited availability of natural resources
- uphold the reputation and standing of the profession

Accuracy and rigour

Engineering professionals have a duty to acquire and use wisely the understanding, knowledge and skills needed to perform their role. They should:

- always act with care
- perform services only in areas in which they are currently competent or under competent supervision
- keep their knowledge and skills up to date
- assist the development of engineering knowledge and skills in others
- present and review theory, evidence and interpretation honestly, accurately, objectively and without bias, while respecting reasoned alternative views
- identify, evaluate, quantify, mitigate and manage risks
- not knowingly mislead or allow others to be misled

4

Leadership and communication

Engineering professionals have a duty to abide by and promote high standards of leadership and communication. They should:

- be aware of the issues that engineering and technology raise for society, and listen to the aspirations and concerns of others
- promote equality, diversity and inclusion
- promote public awareness and understanding of the impact and benefits of engineering achievements
- be objective and truthful in any statement made in their professional capacity
- challenge statements or policies that cause them professional concern

¹In this Statement, "engineering professionals" means "professional engineers and those technicians, tradespeople, students, apprentices and trainees engaged in engineering". Non-engineers managing or teaching engineering professionals should be made aware of this Statement