The NSPE or National Society of Professional Engineers Code of Ethics sets standards that guide engineers toward responsible, trustworthy, and socially beneficial practice. At its heart the Code balances technical competence with moral responsibility. This code is built on fundamental canons that engineers must perform.

The first canon or principle is to hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public. This means that engineers should hold the safety of the public above all their considerations, such as client desires, deadlines, or profit. Engineering failures can cause fatalities, environmental catastrophes, or widespread economic loss. Making safety the first priority is the ethical bedrock that legitimizes the profession. The second canon states that engineers perform services only in areas of their competence, ensuring that projects are designed and reviewed by individuals qualified to judge their safety, and issuing public statements in an honest and objective manner. The code also requires engineers to act as faithful agents or trustees for their clients and employers while avoiding deceptive acts or conflicts of interest. Lastly, the code states engineers must conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

For example, A computer engineer testing a new line of processors discovers that under heavy workloads, the chip overheats and can permanently damage connected components and sometimes start a fire Management urges the team to ship the product anyway, arguing that only "power users" would encounter the issue. When the engineer applies the NSPE code, specifically the principles: holding paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and avoid deceptive act. Releasing this chip after the problem has been discovered can be considered as a deceptive act. This is because releasing a product to the public means its is ready for wide use, releasing it while still in that state is deceiving and causes harm to the public. The engineer should report the overheating issue to management in writing, request further testing, and, and if ignored and pressured to approve or certify the faulty processor, the engineer must refuse, as doing otherwise would be deceptive and unprofessional.

In conclusion, The NSPE code provides the engineers a standard they should meet in order to work ethically. By emphasizing safety, honesty, and integrity above profit or convenience, the code reinforces the trust of the society to the engineering profession. By holding onto

this standard, it not only protects an engineers profession and reputation, also the safety of those around the engineer.