

Ethical Dilemma Response

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During my internship on a construction project, I witnessed an ethical dilemma involving material substitutions. The contractor proposed using a cheaper alternative for structural concrete, claiming it was "within tolerance" despite it not being approved in the design specifications. Although the substitution would reduce cost and avoid a delivery delay, I knew it could compromise long-term durability.

I felt pressure from a project manager who emphasized the importance of staying on schedule and budget. However, I decided to escalate the issue to the lead engineer and presented documentation showing the approved standards and potential risks. While it created temporary tension on the team, my decision resulted in re-aligning the procurement process with ethical engineering standards.

This experience reinforced the importance of integrity, transparency, and technical accountability in leadership. As an engineering leader, I commit to making decisions that prioritize safety, compliance, and ethical transparency, even when those choices are difficult.