



The Royal Academy
of Engineering



Statement of Ethical Principles



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The Royal Academy of Engineering, in collaboration with the Engineering Council and a number of the leading professional engineering institutions, has created a Statement of Ethical Principles to which it believes all professional engineers and related bodies should subscribe.

Professional Engineers work to enhance the welfare, health and safety of all whilst paying due regard to the environment and the sustainability of resources. They have made personal and professional commitments to enhance the wellbeing of society through the exploitation of knowledge and the management of creative teams.

This Statement of Ethical Principles sets a standard to which members of the engineering profession should aspire in their working habits and relationships. The Statement is fully compatible with the principles in the UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser's Universal Ethical Code for Scientists*, with an emphasis on matters of particular relevance to engineers. The values on which it is based should apply in every situation in which professional engineers exercise their judgement.

There are four fundamental principles that should guide an engineer in achieving the high ideals of professional life. These express the beliefs and values of the profession and are amplified below.

* www.dti.gov.uk/science/science-and-society/public_engagement/code/page28030.html

Accuracy and Rigour

Professional Engineers have a duty to ensure that they acquire and use wisely and faithfully the knowledge that is relevant to the engineering skills needed in their work in the service of others. They should:

- always act with care and competence
- perform services only in areas of current competence.
- keep their knowledge and skills up to date and assist the development of engineering knowledge and skills in others.
- not knowingly mislead or allow others to be misled about engineering matters.
- present and review engineering evidence, theory and interpretation honestly, accurately and without bias.
- identify and evaluate and, where possible, quantify risks.

Honesty and Integrity

Professional Engineers should adopt the highest standards of professional conduct, openness, fairness and honesty. They should:

- be alert to the ways in which their work might affect others and duly respect the rights and reputations of other parties.
- avoid deceptive acts, take steps to prevent corrupt practices or professional misconduct, and declare conflicts of interest.
- reject bribery or improper influence.
- act for each employer or client in a reliable and trustworthy manner.

Respect for Life, Law and the Public Good

Professional Engineers should give due weight to all relevant law, facts and published guidance, and the wider public interest. They should:

- ensure that all work is lawful and justified.
- minimise and justify any adverse effect on society or on the natural environment for their own and succeeding generations.
- take due account of the limited availability of natural and human resources.
- hold paramount the health and safety of others.
- act honourably, responsibly and lawfully and uphold the reputation, standing and dignity of the profession.

Responsible Leadership: Listening and Informing

Professional Engineers should aspire to high standards of leadership in the exploitation and management of technology. They hold a privileged and trusted position in society, and are expected to demonstrate that they are seeking to serve wider society and to be sensitive to public concerns. They should:

- be aware of the issues that engineering and technology raise for society, and listen to the aspirations and concerns of others.
- actively 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.

The Royal Academy of Engineering

As the UK's national academy for engineering, we bring together the most successful and talented engineers from across the engineering sectors for a shared purpose: to advance and promote excellence in engineering. We provide analysis and policy support to promote the UK's role as a great place from which to do business. We take a lead on engineering education and we invest in the UK's world class research base to underpin innovation. We work to improve public awareness and understanding of engineering. We are a national academy with a global outlook and use our international partnerships to ensure that the UK benefits from international networks, expertise and investment.

The Academy's work programmes are driven by four strategic challenges, each of which provides a key contribution to a strong and vibrant engineering sector and to the health and wealth of society.

Drive faster and more balanced economic growth

The strategic challenge is to improve the capacity of UK entrepreneurs and enterprises to create innovative products and services, increase wealth and employment and rebalance the economy in favour of productive industry.

Lead the profession

The strategic challenge is to harness the collective expertise, energy and capacity of the engineering profession to enhance the UK's economic and social development.

Foster better education and skills

The strategic challenge is to create a system of engineering education and training that satisfies the aspirations of young people while delivering the high calibre engineers and technicians that businesses need.

Promote engineering at the heart of society

The strategic challenge is to improve public understanding of engineering, increase awareness of how engineering impacts on lives and increase public recognition for our most talented engineers.

Engineering Council

Under its Royal Charter, the Engineering Council regulates the engineering profession in the UK, through 36 professional engineering institutions who are licensed to put suitably qualified members on the Engineering Council's Register of Engineers. The Register has three sections: Chartered Engineer, Incorporated Engineer and Engineering Technician. Entry to the Register is governed by UK-SPEC, an internationally recognised standard of professional competence and ethics, for engineers, technologists and technicians, published by the Engineering Council.



The Royal Academy of Engineering promotes excellence in the science, art and practice of engineering.

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