

IFE Code of Conduct



Contents

CONTENTS	2
CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT	3
ETHICAL PRINCIPLES	4
HONESTY AND INTEGRITY	4
RESPONSIBILITY TO SOCIETY	4
ACCURACY AND RIGOUR	4
LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION.....	5
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY, SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT	5

Code of Professional Conduct

Members of the Institution of Fire Engineers, of all grades, shall:

- ◆ uphold the reputation and standing of the Institution and the profession of fire engineering;
- ◆ observe the provisions of the Institution's governing documents and supporting rules and regulations;
- ◆ accept responsibility for work carried out by them, or under their supervision, exercising all reasonable professional skill and care in carrying out that work;
- ◆ hold adequate professional indemnity insurance, where required;
- ◆ exercise all reasonable professional skill and care to prevent avoidable danger to health or safety, and to prevent avoidable adverse environmental impacts;
- ◆ maintain their professional competence and only undertake professional tasks for which they are competent;
- ◆ avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest and advise affected parties if any such conflicts arise;
- ◆ discharge their professional duties with honesty, integrity, impartiality and objectivity;
- ◆ observe the duty of confidentiality owed to appropriate parties;
- ◆ support any colleague, or any other person to whom they have a duty of care, who in good faith raises any concern about a danger, risk, malpractice or wrongdoing which may affect others. (Refer to the Institution's Whistleblowing Policy for further guidance);
- ◆ notify the Institution of any serious or significant violation of this Code of Professional Conduct by another member. (Refer to the Institution's Whistleblowing Policy for further guidance); and
- ◆ notify the Institution immediately if they have:
 - received a criminal conviction, or an adverse civil court judgement, where either of these relate to any aspect of this Code of Professional Conduct;
 - been declared bankrupt or disqualified as a company director or charity trustee;
 - had membership of another professional body or institution terminated as a result of a disciplinary procedure.

Ethical Principles

In addition to complying with this Code of Professional Conduct, members are expected to comply with the following five Ethical Principles:

Honesty and Integrity

Members have a duty to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct at all times, including openness, fairness, honesty and integrity. They:

- ◆ act reliably and in trustworthy ways and are accountable for their actions;
- ◆ respect confidentiality, intellectual property and personal or sensitive information, and respect the privacy of individuals and communities ;
- ◆ identify, declare and address conflicts of interest ;
- ◆ avoid knowingly misleading others and take steps to prevent corrupt practices, including plagiarism, misinformation and false representation ;
- ◆ reject bribery and improper influence.

Responsibility to Society

Members have a duty to protect people, respect rights, uphold the trust placed in them by society nationally and globally, and obey all applicable laws and regulations. They give due weight to facts, published standards and guidance, and act to assess and manage risks. They:

- ◆ make the health and safety of others a leading priority and draw attention to hazards ;
- ◆ report malpractice and irresponsible or unsafe practice, whether within the workplace or outside ;
- ◆ are aware of how their work and behaviour might affect others, and respect rights of individuals and communities;
- ◆ ensure their work is lawful, justified, evidence-based and in the public interest ;
- ◆ recognise the importance of physical and cyber security and data protection ;
- ◆ work to deliver inclusive outcomes, meeting diverse needs across society.

Accuracy and Rigour

Members have a duty to acquire, maintain and use wisely the understanding, knowledge and skills needed in their role, and apply this to their work so that it meets the highest standards. They:

- ◆ act with care and diligence in all professional work, recognising that public trust depends on its accuracy, integrity and quality;
- ◆ undertake work only within their current competence or under competent supervision, applying sound judgment and critical thinking;

- ◆ ensure that they have the right knowledge and expertise to tackle a project, applying sound judgment and critical thinking especially in novel or emerging areas;
- ◆ actively maintain knowledge, skills and competence, and support others to do the same;
- ◆ test evidence objectively and without bias, respecting the views of others and with awareness of assumptions, uncertainty and limits of understanding.

Leadership and Communication

Members have a duty to uphold and promote high standards of leadership and communication. They:

- ◆ engage with communities and wider society, and communicate responsibly about how engineering should meet people's needs;
- ◆ foster a culture where concerns can be raised without fear of reprisal, and act on well-founded concerns;
- ◆ communicate clearly, accessibly and proportionately about benefits, risks, uncertainties and trade-offs in engineering works;
- ◆ promote equity, equality, diversity, fairness and inclusion, creating inclusive cultures to support everyone in the profession;
- ◆ acknowledge and communicate uncertainty, limits of evidence, and unknowns;
- ◆ maintain public trust and uphold the reputation and standing of the profession

Responsibility for the future of technology, society and the environment

Members have a duty to act as stewards of technology, developing technology responsibly, with an awareness of the lasting consequences of their work for society and the environment and taking account of the long-term, systemic, intergenerational and environmental impacts. As far as is reasonably practicable, they:

- ◆ consider fully the risks and ethical implications of emerging and fast-moving technologies, such as artificial intelligence and technologies with autonomous or semi-autonomous capabilities;
- ◆ anticipate wider and emergent consequences and potential for misuse of technologies, and apply precaution proportionately where potential harms are serious or irreversible;
- ◆ account for immediate, cumulative and systemic risks – including climate change, biodiversity loss, inequality and resource depletion;
- ◆ manage technology responsibly across its lifecycle, including decommissioning;
- ◆ protect and, where possible, restore natural and built environments;
- ◆ consider future impacts of engineering and avoid shifting risks or burdens to future generations, distant geographical locations or supply chains, whether local or global.

We're here to help

If you have any queries, please contact us. You can also find further information at IFE.org.uk

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