



The Royal Academy  
of Engineering



# Statement of Ethical Principles



# Statement of Ethical Principles

***The Royal Academy of Engineering, in collaboration with Engineering Council (UK) 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](http://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 Britain's national academy for engineering, we bring together the country's most eminent engineers from all disciplines to promote excellence in the science, art and practice of engineering. Our strategic priorities are to enhance the UK's engineering capabilities, to celebrate excellence and inspire the next generation, and to lead debate by guiding informed thinking and influencing public policy.

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

## Enhancing national capabilities

As a priority, we encourage, support and facilitate links between academia and industry. Through targeted national and international programmes, we enhance – and reflect abroad – the UK's performance in the application of science, technology transfer, and the promotion and exploitation of innovation. We support high quality engineering research, encourage an interdisciplinary ethos, facilitate international exchange and provide a means of determining and disseminating best practice. In particular, our activities focus on complex and multidisciplinary areas of rapid development.

## Recognising excellence and inspiring the next generation

Excellence breeds excellence. We celebrate engineering excellence and use it to inspire, support and challenge tomorrow's engineering leaders. We focus our initiatives to develop excellence and, through creative and collaborative activity, we demonstrate to the young, and those who influence them, the relevance of engineering to society.

## Leading debate

Using the leadership and expertise of our Fellowship, we guide informed thinking, influence public policy making, provide a forum for the mutual exchange of ideas, and pursue effective engagement with society on matters within our competence. The Academy advocates progressive, forward-looking solutions based on impartial advice and quality foundations, and works to enhance appreciation of the positive role of engineering and its contribution to the economic strength of the nation.

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## EC<sup>UK</sup>

Under its Royal Charter, the Engineering Council UK (EC<sup>UK</sup>) regulates the engineering profession in the UK, through 35 professional engineering institutions who are licensed to put suitably qualified members on the EC<sup>UK</sup>'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 EC<sup>UK</sup>.



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

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