



Guidance for Institution Codes of Professional Conduct

The Code of Professional Conduct of each licensed Professional Engineering Institution and each Professional Affiliate is a key element of the contract of membership between the member and the Institution. The Code must place a personal obligation on the members to act with integrity and in the public interest. It should explicitly refer to the Statement of Ethical Principles published by the Engineering Council and the Royal Academy of Engineering (revised 2017).

The Statement of Ethical Principles is designed for all persons engaged in engineering, whether institution members or not, from the youngest student or apprentice to the most senior practitioners. It should apply with a higher degree of expectation to those who have accepted the additional obligations of registration and/or membership of a professional body operating for the public benefit. Using the Statement as the basis of institution Codes of Professional Conduct will promote consistency across the profession and avoid ambiguity.

In addition to requiring its members to observe the provisions of the Statement of Ethical Principles, each Institution's Code of Professional Conduct should oblige members to:

1. Uphold the reputation and standing of the Institution.
Note: the term 'dignity' was considered anachronistic and has been removed from the revised Statement in respect of the profession.
2. Observe the provisions of the Institution's governing document and supporting rules and regulations.
3. Accept appropriate responsibility for work carried out under their supervision.
4. Assess relevant liability, and if appropriate hold professional indemnity insurance.
5. Support a 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 affects others ('blows the whistle').
6. Notify the Institution if they have:
 - received a criminal conviction, or an adverse civil court judgement, related to any aspect of the Institution's Code of Professional Conduct (whether in UK or overseas);
 - been declared bankrupt or disqualified as a Company Director or Charity Trustee;
 - had membership of another professional body terminated as the result of a disciplinary procedure.
7. Notify the Institution of any significant violation of the Institution's Code of Professional Conduct by another member.

Members must be required to comply with their Institution's Code of Professional Conduct; but if any elements of a Code of Professional Conduct conflict with local laws, the member should be required to comply with his/her Code of Professional Conduct to the maximum extent possible without breaching such laws.

Each Institution must ensure that it has a disciplinary procedure in place within its Regulations to deal with alleged breaches of its Code of Professional Conduct, and that its procedure complies with the related Engineering Council Guidance.