

CODES OF ETHICS

The 'codes of ethics' exhibit

- rights
- duties
- obligations of the members of a profession and a professional society

Codes are based on

- broad principles of truth
- honesty
- trustworthiness
- respect for human life and welfare
- fairness
- openness
- competence
- accountability

1.ROLES EXHIBITED BY THE CODES:

- Inspiration and guidance
- Support to engineers
- Deterrence (discourage to act immorally)
- Education and mutual understanding
- Create good public image
- Protect the status quo
- Promotes business interests

2.MODEL CODES OF ETHICS

The professional engineers shall

- Offer services, advice on or undertake engineering assignments only in their areas of competence and practice in careful and diligent manner.
- Acts as faithful agents of their clients or employers, maintain confidentiality and disclose conflicts of interests
- Keep themselves informed in order to maintain their competence and provide opportunities for the professional development of their subordinates.
- Conduct themselves with fairness and good faith towards clients, colleagues and others, give credits where it is due and accept, as well as give, honest and fair professional criticisms

MODEL CODES OF ETHICS (CONTD.)

- Be aware of and ensure that clients and employers are aware of societal and environmental consequences of actions or projects and endeavor to interpret engineering issues to the public in an objective and truthful manner
- Present clearly to the clients and employers the consequences if engineering decisions or judgements are overruled or disregarded.
- Report to their association and/or appropriate agencies any illegal or unethical engineering decisions or practices by engineers or others.

3. LIMITATIONS

The codes are not remedy for all evils

- General and vague wordings.
- Not applicable to all situations
- Often have internal conflicts
- They can not be treated as final moral authority for professional conduct
- Only a few enroll as members in professional society and non-members can not be compelled.
- Even as members of the professional society, many are unaware of the codes
- Different societies have different codes. The codes can not be uniform or same.