

Engineering Ethics

Objectivity and Truthfulness, Public Health and Safety, Signing and Sealing of Engineering Drawings, and Misrepresentation

May 13, 2020

Arthur E. Schwartz, CAE
Deputy Chief Executive Officer & General Counsel
National Society of Professional Engineers
Alexandria, Virginia
aschwartz@nspe.org

NOTICE

The NSPE live webinar is presented and copyrighted by the National Society of Professional Engineers®. All rights are reserved. Any transmission, retransmission or republishing of the audio or written portions of this program without permission of the National Society of Professional Engineers® is prohibited.

Engineering Ethics

Objectivity and Truthfulness, Public Health and Safety, Signing and Sealing of Engineering Drawings, and Misrepresentation

has been approved for continuing education credit by New York State. Participants requiring documentation for New York will receive direction to the online quiz that is required following this session.



Engineering Ethics

- **Black and White Areas – Easy**
 - Right vs. Wrong
- **Gray Areas – Tougher**
 - Right vs. Right
 - Lesser of the Evils/Dilemma
- **Other Factors**
 - Time/Money
 - Family
 - Career
 - Reputation



Engineering Ethics

Why Study Engineering Ethics?

- To Understand the Standards Governing What is Acceptable Behavior in the Practice of Engineering

Why Practice Engineering Ethically?

- Personal Injury/Property Damage
- Disciplinary Action
- Impact on Reputation, Employer, Clients, Profession
- Possible Loss of Job, Business, etc.



Engineering Ethics

Three Basic Ethical Obligations:

(1) Public

(2) Employer/Client

(3) Other Professionals

- Never Mutually Exclusive - Reciprocal
- Not A “Zero Sum Game”
- All Need To Be Considered At All Times
- Should Be Complementary to Integrated With One Another to the Fullest Extent Possible
- Ethical Integration = Professional Integrity



Engineering Ethics

Seven Principles Impacting Each Obligation

1. Protecting the Public Health, Safety and Welfare
2. Demonstrating Professional Competence
3. Maintaining Objectivity/Truthfulness
4. Addressing Conflict of Interest
5. Preserving Confidentiality
6. Receiving and Providing Valuable Consideration
7. Emerging Areas/Emerging Challenges



Engineering Ethics

NSPE's Deputy Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel Arthur Schwartz, CAE will review will review engineering ethics principles and discuss relating to objectivity and truthfulness, public health and safety, signing and sealing of engineering drawings, and misrepresentation. Polling questions and opportunity for Q&A will allow opportunities for audience interaction.

Case:

Objectivity and Truthfulness— Professional Reference Policy



Objectivity and Truthfulness—Professional Reference Policy

Facts:

Engineer A is a principal for XYZ Consulting Engineering. Engineer A establishes an XYZ Consulting Engineering firm's policy. Under the firm's policy, it would be improper for XYZ firm employees to provide or serve as a professional licensure reference for past XYZ Consulting Engineering employees.



Case:
Objectivity and Truthfulness—Professional Reference Policy

Question:

Was it ethical for Engineer A to establish an XYZ Consulting Engineering firm policy under which it would be improper for employees to serve as professional licensure references for past employees of XYZ Consulting Engineering?



Case: Objectivity and Truthfulness—Professional Reference Policy

Section I.3. – NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

The image shows a page from the NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers. The header includes the NSPE logo and the title "Code of Ethics for Engineers". The page is divided into several sections: "Preamble", "Fundamental Canons", "Rules of Practice", and "Professional Obligations". The "Fundamental Canons" section includes the text: "Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner." The "Rules of Practice" section includes the text: "Engineers shall not issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner." The "Professional Obligations" section includes the text: "Engineers shall not issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner." The page also contains a footer with contact information for the NSPE.

Case: Objectivity and Truthfulness—Professional Reference Policy

Section II.3.a. – NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineers shall be objective and truthful in professional reports, statements, or testimony. They shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or testimony, which should bear the date indicating when it was current.

The image shows a screenshot of the NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers. The document is titled "Code of Ethics for Engineers" and is published by the National Society of Professional Engineers. It contains several sections, including "Fundamental Canons" and "Rules of Practice". The text is presented in a clean, professional layout with a blue header and footer.

NSPE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Code of Ethics for Engineers

Preamble

Engineering is an important and learned profession. Its members contribute to the betterment of the world by applying their special education and judgment to the problems of humanity. The engineer's responsibility to the public is paramount. The engineer's duty is to the public, to the client, to the employer, to the community, and to the profession. The engineer's conduct shall be guided by the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and objectivity. The engineer shall be truthful in all professional reports, statements, or testimony. The engineer shall include all relevant and pertinent information in such reports, statements, or testimony, which should bear the date indicating when it was current.

I. Fundamental Canons

Engineers, in the interest of the public welfare, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Avoid conflicts of interest.
4. Be fair and equitable to all parties.
5. Accept only such employment or assignments as will not constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully to enhance the honor, reputation, and confidence of the profession.

II. Rules of Practice

A. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

1. In all professional engagements, the engineer shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
3. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
4. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
5. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.

B. Engineers shall perform services only in areas of their competence.

1. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
2. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
3. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
4. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
5. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.

C. Engineers shall avoid conflicts of interest.

1. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
2. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
3. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
4. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
5. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.

D. Engineers shall be fair and equitable to all parties.

1. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
2. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
3. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
4. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
5. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.

E. Engineers shall accept only such employment or assignments as will not constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.

1. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
2. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
3. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
4. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
5. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.

F. Engineers shall conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully to enhance the honor, reputation, and confidence of the profession.

1. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
2. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
3. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
4. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.
5. The engineer shall not accept or perform any assignment that would constitute a conflict of interest with other professional obligations.

Case: Objectivity and Truthfulness—Professional Reference Policy

Section III.7. – NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineers shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other engineers. Engineers who believe others are guilty of unethical or illegal practice shall present such information to the proper authority for action.

The image shows a screenshot of the NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers. The header includes the NSPE logo and the title "Code of Ethics for Engineers". The document is organized into several sections:

- Preamble:** States that engineering is an important and learned profession, and that engineers have a responsibility to contribute to the betterment of the world.
- Fundamental Canons:** Lists 10 fundamental canons, including: 1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public; 2. Engineers shall perform their duties with integrity and honesty; 3. Engineers shall be objective and truthful; 4. Engineers shall maintain their competence; 5. Engineers shall avoid conflicts of interest; 6. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, or religion; 7. Engineers shall not attempt to injure other engineers; 8. Engineers shall not engage in unauthorized practice; 9. Engineers shall not disclose confidential information; 10. Engineers shall not accept bribes or kickbacks.
- Rules of Practice:** Lists 10 rules of practice, including: 1. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from more than one party without the consent of all parties; 2. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 3. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 4. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 5. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 6. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 7. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 8. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 9. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 10. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services.
- Professional Obligations:** Lists 10 professional obligations, including: 1. Engineers shall be objective and truthful; 2. Engineers shall not attempt to injure other engineers; 3. Engineers shall not engage in unauthorized practice; 4. Engineers shall not disclose confidential information; 5. Engineers shall not accept bribes or kickbacks; 6. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from more than one party without the consent of all parties; 7. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 8. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 9. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services; 10. Engineers shall not accept compensation for services from a party who is unable to pay for such services.

Case:

Objectivity and Truthfulness—Professional Reference Policy

Conclusion:

It was unethical for Engineer A to establish an XYZ Consulting Engineering firm policy under which it would be improper for all employees to serve as professional licensure references for past employees of XYZ Consulting Engineering.



Case:
Objectivity and Truthfulness—Professional Reference Policy

Polling Question #1

It would have been ethical for Engineer prevent *current* employees to serve as a professional licensure reference for current XYZ Consulting Engineering employees.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not Sure



Case:

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY— OBSERVED STRUCTURAL DEFECTS AND INSPECTION BY COUNTY BUILDING OFFICIAL



Case:
*Public Health and Safety—
Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official*

Facts:

Engineer A is hired by Client B to conduct a building investigation to determine the origin and cause of a fire resulting in financial loss. During the investigation, Engineer A, who was also a structural engineer, observes that the building is structurally unstable.



Case:
*Public Health and Safety—
Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official*

Facts *(continued):*

Engineer A performs a preliminary investigation of the building and after speaking with Client B, concludes that there were recent structural changes made to the building that may have caused the roof to sag and the walls to lean outward due to insufficient lateral restraint. Engineer A also learns that following construction modifications, the building was issued a certificate of occupancy by a county building official.



Case:
*Public Health and Safety—
Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official*

Facts *(continued):*

Although not imminent, collapse of the building is a danger, Engineer A believes. Engineer A immediately advises Client B and calls the county building official. The county building official did not return Engineer A's phone call. Engineer A also recommended to the owners to brace the building to prevent its collapse.



Case:
*Public Health and Safety—
Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official*

Question:

What are Engineer A's ethical obligations under the circumstances?



Case: Public Health and Safety— Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official

Section I.1. - NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

NSPE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
Code of Ethics for Engineers

Preamble

Engineering is an honorable and learned profession. Its members, practicing in various capacities, are entrusted with the highest responsibilities of society and integrity. Engineering that is well and able is required in the pursuit of life for a livable, healthy, safe, secure, and peaceful world. Engineers must be diligent in their service to the public, to their clients, and to their profession. Engineers must be diligent in their service to the public, to their clients, and to their profession. Engineers must be diligent in their service to the public, to their clients, and to their profession.

I. Fundamental Canons

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid conflicts of interest.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and confidence of the profession.

II. Rules of Practice

1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.

- a. In all work assignments, engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public and shall not be influenced by any other consideration.
- b. Engineers shall approve only those engineering documents that are in conformity with applicable laws and regulations.
- c. Engineers shall not seal, stamp, date, or otherwise indicate their approval of any work that has not been completed in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.
- d. Engineers shall not practice the sale of their services or act as agents or intermediaries in the sale of their services.
- e. Engineers shall not act as a consultant, contractor, or agent for any other person or organization that is engaged in the sale of their services.
- f. Engineers shall not act as a consultant, contractor, or agent for any other person or organization that is engaged in the sale of their services.

2. Engineers shall perform services only in areas of their competence.

- a. Engineers shall not undertake assignments unless they have the necessary education, training, and experience in the specific technical field involved.
- b. Engineers shall not allow their signatures to be placed on or otherwise used in connection with any work for which they are not qualified to perform.

3. Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.

- a. Engineers shall not issue public statements that are false, misleading, or deceptive.
- b. Engineers shall not issue public statements that are based on incomplete information.
- c. Engineers shall not issue public statements that are based on information that is not in their possession, custody, or control.
- d. Engineers shall not issue public statements that are based on information that is not in their possession, custody, or control.

4. Engineers shall act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.

- a. Engineers shall disclose to their employers or clients any conflicts of interest that may exist.
- b. Engineers shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and approved by the affected parties.
- c. Engineers shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable considerations, directly or indirectly, from outside agents to connect with the work for which they are responsible.
- d. Engineers in public service as members, officers, or employees of governmental or quasi-governmental organizations shall disclose to their employers or clients any conflicts of interest that may exist.
- e. Engineers shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and approved by the affected parties.
- f. Engineers shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable considerations, directly or indirectly, from outside agents to connect with the work for which they are responsible.

5. Engineers shall avoid conflicts of interest.

- a. Engineers shall not accept compensation, financial or otherwise, from more than one party for services on the same project, or for services pertaining to the same project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and approved by the affected parties.
- b. Engineers shall not solicit or accept financial or other valuable considerations, directly or indirectly, from outside agents to connect with the work for which they are responsible.

6. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, or national origin.

- a. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, or national origin in the selection of their employees or in the awarding of contracts.
- b. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, or national origin in the selection of their clients or in the awarding of contracts.
- c. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, or national origin in the selection of their subcontractors or in the awarding of contracts.

7. Engineers shall not engage in unauthorized practice of engineering.

- a. Engineers shall not engage in the practice of engineering in any state or jurisdiction where they are not licensed or otherwise authorized to practice.
- b. Engineers shall not engage in the practice of engineering in any state or jurisdiction where they are not licensed or otherwise authorized to practice.

8. Engineers shall not engage in the practice of engineering in any state or jurisdiction where they are not licensed or otherwise authorized to practice.

- a. Engineers shall not engage in the practice of engineering in any state or jurisdiction where they are not licensed or otherwise authorized to practice.
- b. Engineers shall not engage in the practice of engineering in any state or jurisdiction where they are not licensed or otherwise authorized to practice.

Case: Public Health and Safety— Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official

Section I.2. - NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall perform services only in areas of their competence.

The image shows a document titled "Code of Ethics for Engineers" from the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). The document is organized into several sections:

- Preamble:** States that engineering is an important and learned profession, and that engineers have a duty to society to use their knowledge and skills for the benefit of the public.
- Fundamental Canons:** Lists five basic principles of the profession, including the duty to the public, to the profession, to the employer, to the community, and to the environment.
- Rules of Practice:** Contains 11 numbered rules covering various aspects of professional conduct, such as:
 - 1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
 - 2. Engineers shall not accept or perform any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
 - 3. Engineers shall not engage in any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
 - 4. Engineers shall not engage in any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
 - 5. Engineers shall not engage in any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
 - 6. Engineers shall not engage in any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
 - 7. Engineers shall not engage in any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
 - 8. Engineers shall not engage in any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
 - 9. Engineers shall not engage in any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
 - 10. Engineers shall not engage in any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
 - 11. Engineers shall not engage in any engineering service unless they are properly licensed.
- Professional Obligations:** Lists 11 numbered obligations, including:
 - 1. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 2. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 3. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 4. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 5. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 6. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 7. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 8. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 9. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 10. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.
 - 11. Engineers shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or religion.

Case: Public Health and Safety— Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official

Section II.1.a. - NSPE Code of Ethics

If engineers' judgment is overruled under circumstances that endanger life or property, they shall notify their employer or client and such other authority as may be appropriate.

The image shows a screenshot of the NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers. The document is titled "Code of Ethics for Engineers" and is part of the "NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS". It contains several sections, including "Preamble", "Fundamental Canons", "Rules of Practice", and "Professional Obligations". The text is organized into numbered lists and paragraphs, detailing the ethical responsibilities of engineers. The document is presented in a clean, professional layout with a blue header and footer.

Case: Public Health and Safety— Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official

Section III.1.b. - NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineers shall advise their clients or employers when they believe a project will not be successful.

The image shows the cover page of the NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers. The header includes the NSPE logo and the title "Code of Ethics for Engineers". The main body of the page is divided into several sections: Preamble, Fundamental Canons, Rules of Practice, and Professional Obligations. The text is presented in a clean, professional layout with clear headings and bullet points.

Case:
*Public Health and Safety—
Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official*

Conclusion:

Engineer A had an obligation to continue to pursue a resolution of the matter by working with Client B and in contacting in writing the supervisor of the county official, the fire marshal, or any other agency with jurisdiction, advising them of the structural deficiencies.



Case:
*Public Health and Safety—
Observed Structural Defects and Inspection by County Building Official*

Polling Question #2

If Engineer A had received a response from the county building official, Engineer A's ethical obligations would have been satisfied.

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure



Case:

SIGNING AND SEALING—MANUFACTURER’S DRAWINGS



Case: *Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings*

Facts:

Engineer A is the lead engineer for FGH Design which is designing a plan to interface with a manufactured alarm and public address system with existing equipment at a State X Government Laboratory.



Case: *Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings*

Facts *(continued):*

The final design drawings will show the interconnections between Buzzpeak, the manufacturer of the alarm and public address system, and the State X facility infrastructure, such as speakers, and alarm triggers.



Case: *Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings*

Facts *(continued):*

The preliminary drawing package consists of two groups of documents: 1) the interconnection drawings specifically designed for the government client, and 2) the standard drawing from the PA system manufacturer of their cabinet, with modifications to facilitate connection to the facility.



Case: *Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings*

Facts *(continued):*

The Client, State X Government Laboratory, has requested that the final drawings be sealed by Engineer A, including drawings provided by Buzzpeak, which contain changes made by Buzzpeak to their drawings that were required for interfacing to the customer's systems at the request of the Engineer A.



Case:
Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings

Question:

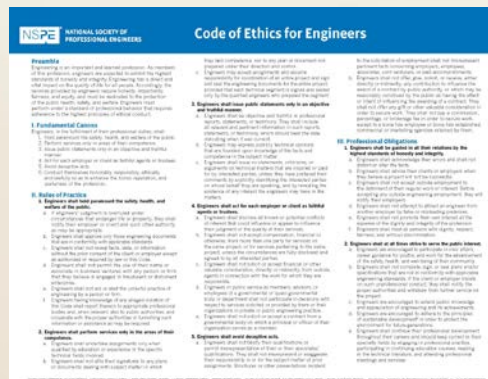
Would it be ethical for Engineer A to sign and seal drawings provided by the manufacturer, which contain changes made by the manufacturer to their drawings that were required for the interfacing to the customer's systems?



Case: Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings

Section II.2.a. - NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineers shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields involved.



Case: Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings

Section II.2.b. - NSPE Code of Ethics

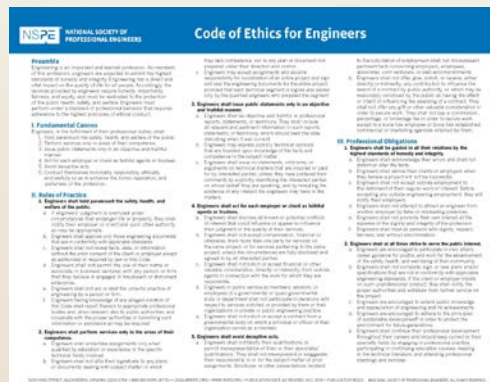
Engineers shall not affix their signatures to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competence, nor to any plan or document not prepared under their direction and control.



Case: Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings

Section II.2.c. - NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineers may accept assignments and assume responsibility for coordination of an entire project and sign and seal the engineering documents for the entire project, provided that each technical segment is signed and sealed only by the qualified engineers who prepared the segment.



Case:
Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings

Conclusion:

It would not be ethical for Engineer A to sign and seal drawings prepared by the manufacturer that contain changes made by the manufacturer to their equipment that are required for the interfacing to the customer's systems.



Case:
Signing and Sealing—Manufacturer's Drawings

Polling Question #3

I have a clear understanding what the engineering licensing laws and regulations require in connection with the signing and sealing of drawings that show the integration of manufactured systems into a facility being constructed.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not Sure



Case:

MISREPRESENTATION— CLAIMING CREDIT FOR WORK OF FORMER EMPLOYER

Good Intentions
Misrepresentation
Deception

Case:
Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Facts:

Engineer A is a professional engineer and owner of ABC Engineering. Engineer A recently learned that Engineer B, a former employee of ABC who recently started his own firm (EFG Engineering), is claiming “extensive project experience.” The EFG Engineering website references a list of “past clients” and “past projects.”



Case:
Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Facts *(continued)*:

In fact, Engineer A was the Engineer of Record and it was Engineer A's company (ABC Engineering) that was responsible for the design of the “past projects” referenced for “past clients.” On none of the projects Engineer B lists on the EFG website was Engineer B the Engineer of Record.



Case:
Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Facts *(continued)*:

Engineer B was an engineer-intern for most of Engineer B's tenure with ABC Engineering. While Engineer B performed tasks for the referenced clients and on "past projects," Engineer B's role was as a junior member of the design team.



Case:
Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Question:

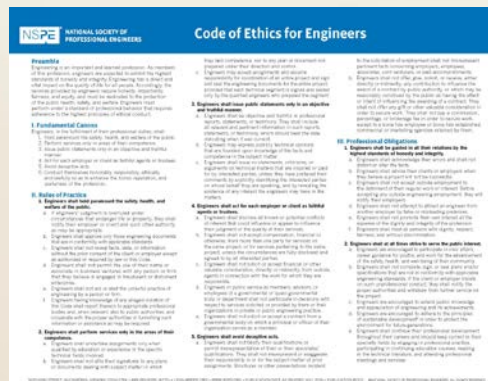
What are Engineer A's ethical responsibilities?



Case: Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Section II.1.f. - NSPE Code of Ethics

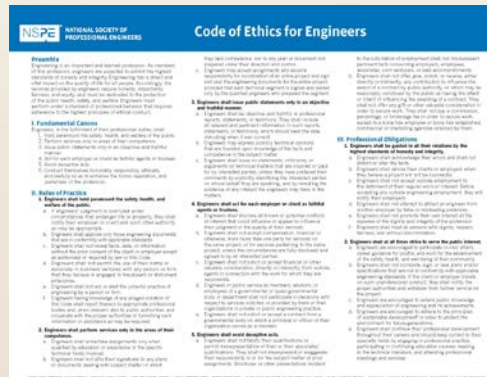
Engineers having knowledge of any alleged violation of this Code shall report thereon to appropriate professional bodies and, when relevant, also to public authorities, and cooperate with the proper authorities in furnishing such information or assistance as may be required.



Case: Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Section II.4. - NSPE Code of Ethics

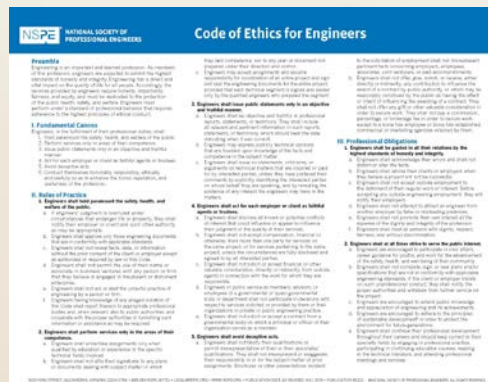
Engineers shall act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.



Case: Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Section II.5.a. - NSPE Code of Ethics

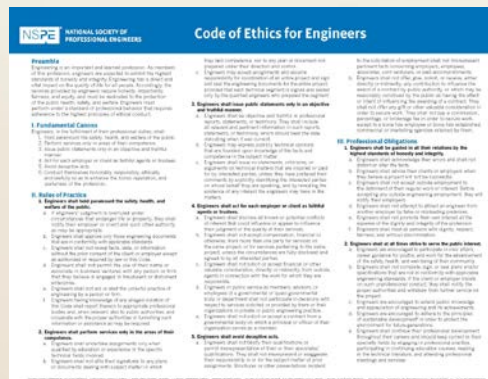
Engineers shall not falsify their qualifications or permit misrepresentation of their or their associates' qualifications. They shall not misrepresent or exaggerate their responsibility in or for the subject matter of prior assignments. Brochures or other presentations incident to the solicitation of employment shall not misrepresent pertinent facts concerning employers, employees, associates, joint venturers, or past accomplishments.



Case: Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Section III.9. - NSPE Code of Ethics

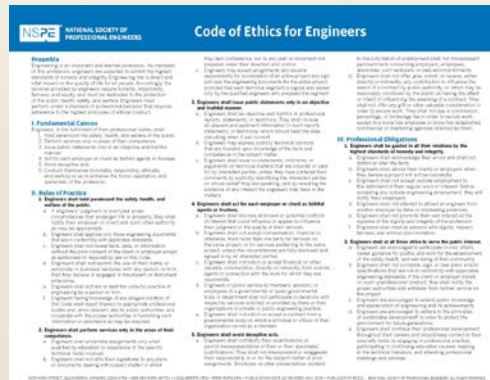
Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others.



Case: Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Section III.9.a. - NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineers shall, whenever possible, name the person or persons who may be individually responsible for designs, inventions, writings, or other accomplishments.



Case:
Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Conclusion:

Engineer A should:

- (1) consider sending a letter to Engineer B, noting the fact that Engineer B and Engineer B's firm are improperly and falsely claiming credit for work for which they were not responsible or in which Engineer B played a minor role;
- (2) demanding that Engineer B and Engineer B's firm cease and desist from including the subject references on their website; and,
- (3) where appropriate, Engineer A shall report Engineer B to the state board of professional engineers.



Case:
Misrepresentation—Claiming Credit for Work of Former Employer

Polling Question #4

I think it is an acceptable form of promotion and advancement to overstate to a certain degree one's qualifications and experience on individual or company resume or C.V.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Not sure



Engineering Ethics

Key Ethics Points

Review

Engineering Ethics

- Black and white ethical situations are among the easiest ethical situations to resolve.
- A conflict between the public health and safety and the duty of confidentiality is an example of a gray area ethical situation.
- In the hierarchy of ethical obligations, protection of public health and safety is paramount.

Review

Engineering Ethics

- While it is important to understand the various individual provisions of the Code of Ethics, reading the Code in its entirety is critical to understanding an engineer's ethical obligations.
- Engineers practicing internationally should be mindful of their obligations to continue to adhere to US laws and regulations.
- Giving due credit to and recognizing the contributions of professional colleagues is a critical part of being an ethical professional engineer.

Review

Engineering Ethics

- Conforming to the requirements of state engineering licensure laws and regulations often involves proactive measures on the part of a professional engineer in relation to the public, employers/clients and professional colleagues.
- Sustainable design and development principles should be incorporated in all professional engineer's services.

Review

Engineering Ethics

Discussion



Check out NSPE on

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/NSPE>

and

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/19Rfak>



NOTICE

The NSPE Online Seminar series is presented and copyrighted by the National Society of Professional Engineers®. All rights are reserved. Any transmission, retransmission or republishing of the audio or written portions of this program without permission of the National Society of Professional Engineers® is prohibited.

**Thank
You!**