STATEMENT OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES
for the Engineering Profession

www.engc.org.uk/professional-ethics
Statement of Ethical Principles

The Engineering Council, in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Engineering and a number of the leading professional engineering institutions, has created a Statement of Ethical Principles to which it believes all professional engineers and technicians, and related bodies should subscribe.

Professional engineers and technicians 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. It guides them in meeting the UK-SPEC\(^1\) requirement to exercise responsibilities in an ethical manner. The values on which it is based should apply in every situation in which professional engineers and technicians exercise their judgement.

There are four fundamental principles that should guide engineers and technicians in achieving the high ideals of professional life. These express the beliefs and values of the profession and are amplified below.

1. **Accuracy and rigour**

   Professional engineers and technicians 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

\(^1\)The UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence - www.engc.org.uk/ukspec
Honesty and integrity
Professional engineers and technicians 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 and technicians 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 and technicians 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
Engineering Council

Operating under a Royal Charter, the Engineering Council is the UK regulatory body for the engineering profession. It sets and maintains the internationally recognised standards of professional competence and commitment, which are detailed in the UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence (UK-SPEC).

The Engineering Council also holds the national register of professional Engineering Technicians (EngTech), Incorporated Engineers (IEng), Chartered Engineers (CEng) and ICT Technicians (ICTTech). Holders of these titles must be members of a professional engineering institution licensed by the Engineering Council or in some cases a Professional Affiliate. In order to achieve registered status individuals will have demonstrated to their institution that they possess a range of technical and personal competences and are committed to keeping these up to date, and to acting with integrity in the public interest. The award and retention of these titles ensures that employers, government and wider society - both in the UK and overseas - can have confidence in the knowledge, experience and commitment of engineers and technicians on the register.

Royal Academy of Engineering

As the UK’s national academy for engineering, we bring together the most successful and talented engineers for a shared purpose: to advance and promote excellence in engineering.

We provide analysis and policy support to promote the UK’s role as a great place to do business. We take a lead on engineering education and we invest in the UK’s world-class research base to underpin innovation. We work to improve public awareness and understanding of engineering. We are a national academy with a global outlook.

We have four strategic challenges: drive faster and more balanced economic growth; foster better education and skills; lead the profession; and promote engineering at the heart of society.