

# Code of Ethics

February 2023

## **Code of Ethics (2023)**

The Institution of Engineers of Ireland (operating as Engineers Ireland) is the professional body for engineers in Ireland. Established in 1835, it was recognised by Royal Charter in 1877 and by Acts of the Oireachtas in 1960 and 1969.

Membership of The Institution of Engineers of Ireland (Engineers Ireland) gives rights and privileges to members. In return, members must meet the standards of ethics and conduct set out in its Code of Ethics. The Code applies to all Engineers Ireland members, irrespective of their grade, the professional role they fulfil, or the country or countries in which they practice. It is the duty of each member to comply with the provisions of the Code.

Professions in general promote and enforce codes of ethical behaviour through their professional organisations.

The Code covers, in plain language, those basic things that members must do. Members should use their judgement to apply the principles to their practice and the situations they face. In the course of their careers members may undertake roles that remove them from direct involvement with engineering matters. This does not, however, remove from them the obligation, as members of Engineers Ireland, to act in accordance with the Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics (2023) replaces the Code of Ethics (2018), Sections 1 – 3, approved by Council in December 2017, and which has since been withdrawn. This Code is effective from 1st February 2023.

### **Code of Ethics**

Members must act at all times with fairness, courtesy and good faith toward all persons with whom the member has professional dealings, and in accordance with the public good. A member's obligations to the client can never override their responsibility to the public good, and members of Engineers Ireland should not enter undertakings which compromise this responsibility. Members must uphold the values of truth, honesty, and trustworthiness and safeguard human life and welfare, and the environment.

In keeping with these basic tenets, members must:

1. hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public; the protection of the environment; and the promotion of health and safety in the workplace;
2. carry out their work with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and practice only in those fields where training and ability make the engineer professionally competent;
3. have regard for the substance and intent of current national, European Union and other legislation relevant to their field of engineering practice. In addition, members must have regard for applicable standards, guidance, policies, plans, and practices established by the government or Engineers Ireland, (including in relation to applicable professional documentation);
4. maintain competence in the necessary standards applicable to their field of engineering practice, including advances in the relevant practices and technological developments, and encourage others, particularly engineering professionals for whom they have responsibility, to do so;
5. provide accurate information in respect of qualifications and experience;
6. provide professional opinions that distinguish between facts, assumptions, and opinions;
7. avoid situations and circumstances in which there is a conflict of interest and endeavour to ensure conflicts of interest are properly disclosed and necessary measures are taken so a conflict of interest does not bias decisions or recommendations;
8. report to Engineers Ireland and, if applicable, any other appropriate authority, if the member, on reasonable and probable grounds, believes that:
  - a. the continued practice by another member might pose a risk of significant harm to the environment or to the health or safety of the public or a group of people; or
  - b. a member has made decisions or engaged in practices which may be illegal or unethical;
9. communicate in a courteous, timely and professional manner and, separately, present clearly to employers and clients the possible consequences if professional decisions or judgements are overruled or disregarded;
10. clearly identify each engineer who has contributed professional work, including recommendations, reports, statements, or opinions and accept, as well as give, honest and fair professional comment;
11. maintain high standards of conduct and behaviour and uphold the reputation and standing of the profession; and
12. conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, and with fairness, courtesy, and good faith towards clients, colleagues, and others.



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