



## **THE FUNDAMENTAL CANONS AND GUIDELINES OF ENGINEERING**

Engineers are to safeguard life, health, and property and promote the welfare of the public. To that end, engineers have obligations to the public, their employers and clients, other engineers and the Board.

### **The Engineer's obligation to the public**

Engineers are obligated to be honest, fair and timely in their dealings with the public, their clients and other licensed professionals.

Engineers must be able to demonstrate that their final documents and work products conform to accepted standards.

Engineers must inform their clients or employers of the harm that may come to the life, health, property and welfare of the public at such time as their professional judgment is overruled or disregarded. If the harm rises to the level of an imminent threat, the engineer is also obligated to inform the appropriate regulatory agency.

Engineers shall maintain their competency by continuing their professional development throughout their careers and shall provide opportunities for the professional development of those individuals under their supervision.

Engineers shall be objective and truthful in professional documents, reports, public and private statements and testimony; all material facts, and sufficient information to support conclusions or opinions expressed, must be included in said documents, reports, statements and testimony. Engineers shall not knowingly falsify, misrepresent or conceal a material fact in offering or providing services to a client or employer.

Engineers shall offer their services in a truthful, objective, professional manner that effects integrity and fosters public trust in the engineering professions.

Engineers should endeavor to extend the public knowledge of engineering.

Engineers shall accurately represent their academic credentials, professional qualifications and experience.

Engineers may advertise professional services only in ways that are representative of their qualifications, experience and capabilities.

Engineers shall forbid the use of their name or firm name by any person or firm that is engaging in fraudulent or dishonest business or professional practices.

### **The Engineer's obligation to employer and clients**

Engineers are expected to strive with the skill, diligence and judgment exercised by the prudent practitioner, to achieve the goals and objectives agreed upon with their client or employer. They are also expected to promptly inform the client or employer of progress and changes in conditions that may affect the appropriateness or achievability of some or all of the goals and objectives of the client or employer.

Engineers and their clients should have a clear and documented understanding and acceptance of the work to be performed by the engineer for the client. The engineer should maintain good records throughout the duration of the project to document progress, problems, changes in expectations, design modifications, agreements reached, dates and subject of conversations, dates of transmittals and other pertinent records consistent with prudent professional practice.

Engineers shall seal only documents prepared by them or under their direct supervision.

Engineers shall be competent in the technology and knowledgeable of the codes and regulations applicable to the services they perform.

Engineers must be qualified by education or experience in the technical field of engineering applicable to services performed.

Engineers may accept primary contractual responsibility requiring education or experience outside of their own fields of competence, provided, their services are restricted to those parts and aspects of the project in which they are qualified. Other qualified engineers shall perform and stamp the work for other parts and aspects of the project.

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

Engineers shall advise their employers or clients in a timely manner when, as a result of their studies and their professional judgment, they believe a project will not be successful.

Engineers shall avoid conflicts of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest, with their employers or clients. Engineers must promptly inform their employers or clients of any business association, interest, or circumstances that could influence their judgment or the quality of their services or would give the appearance that an existing business association, interest, or circumstances could result in influencing their judgment or the quality of their services.

Engineers shall accept compensation from only one party for services rendered on a specific project, unless the circumstances are fully disclosed and agreed to by the parties of interest.

#### **The Engineer's obligation to other engineers**

If engineers issue statements, critiques, evaluations or arguments on engineering matters, they shall clearly indicate on whose behalf the statements are made.

Engineers shall negotiate contracts for professional services fairly and on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications for the type of services required.

Engineers shall respond to inquiries from other engineers regarding their work in a timely, fair and honest manner as would be expected from a prudent practitioner.

#### **The Engineer's obligation to the board**

Engineers shall cooperate with the board by providing, in a timely manner, all records and information requested in writing by the board, or their designee.

Engineers shall respond to, or appear before the board at the time, date and location so stated in a legally served board order.

Engineers shall notify the board of suspected violations of chapter 18.43 or 18.235 RCW or of these rules by providing factual information in writing to convey the knowledge or reason(s) to believe another person or firm may be in violation.

#### **An Engineer shall never**

Aide or abet the unsupervised practice of engineering in the state by a person or firm that is not registered in accordance with chapter 18.43 RCW, or, aiding or abetting an unlicensed person to practice or operate a business or profession when a license is required.

The engineer shall not practice engineering when the engineer's license is expired, suspended, or revoked.

Fail to comply with the terms and conditions of an order issued by the board.

Fail to provide relevant information on plans in a clear manner consistent with prudent practice.

Fail to respond to inquiries from clients, or other professionals regarding conflicts with the engineer's work, opinions or procedures, in a manner that would be expected from a prudent practitioner.

Fail to correct engineering documents or drawings known to contain substantive errors.

Fail to notify a client or employer that a project could not, or would not, be completed once that assessment is made.

Modifying another licensee's work without notifying that licensee, and clearly delineating the modifications and sealing and signing the modifications made; EXCEPT where the plans, maps, or documents are modified by the owner to reflect changes over time for their own purposes and are not used for submittals or bid documents.

Offer or accept money, goods or other favors as inducement to receive favorable consideration for a professional assignment, or as an inducement to approve, authorize or influence the granting of a professional assignment.

Solicit or accept gratuities, directly or indirectly, from contractors, their agents, or other parties dealing with clients or employers in connection with work for which the engineer is responsible.

Use privileged information coming to engineers in the course of their assignments as a means of making personal profit beyond their professional compensation.

Request, propose, or accept professional commissions on a contingent basis under circumstances in which the engineer's integrity may be compromised.

Willfully attempt to interfere with a board investigation by falsifying records, making false statements and intimidating or influencing witnesses.

Willfully attempt to suborn another person to violate the law or administrative code, public policy or their code of professional ethics.