Preamble
Engineering is an important and learned profession. As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

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 deceptive acts.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

II. Rules of Practice
1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
   a. 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.
   b. Engineers shall approve only those engineering documents that are in conformity with applicable standards.
   c. Engineers shall not reveal facts, data, or information without the prior consent of the client or employer except as authorized or required by law or this Code.
   d. Engineers shall not permit the use of their name or associate in business ventures with any person or firm that they believe is engaged in fraudulent or dishonest enterprise.
   e. Engineers shall not aid or abet the unlawful practice of engineering by a person or firm.
   f. 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.

2. Engineers shall perform services only in the areas of their competence.
   a. Engineers shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education or experience in the specific technical fields involved.
   b. 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.
   c. 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.
   d. Engineers shall issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
      a. 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.
      b. Engineers may express publicly technical opinions that are founded upon knowledge of the facts and competence in the subject matter.
      c. Engineers shall issue no statements, criticisms, or arguments on technical matters that are inspired or paid for by interested parties, unless they have prefaced their comments by explicitly identifying the interested parties on whose behalf they are speaking, and by revealing the existence of any interest the engineers may have in the matters.

3. Engineers shall not offer, give, solicit, or receive, either directly or indirectly, any contribution to influence the award of a contract by public authority, or which may be reasonably construed by the public as having the effect or intent of influencing the awarding of a contract. They shall not offer any gift or other valuable consideration in order to secure work. They shall not pay a commission, percentage, or brokerage fee in order to secure work, except to a bona fide employee or bona fide established commercial or marketing agencies retained by them.

III. Professional Obligations
1. Engineers shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
   a. Engineers shall acknowledge their errors and shall not distort or alter the facts.
   b. Engineers shall advise their clients or employers when they believe a project will not be successful.
   c. Engineers shall not accept outside employment to the detriment of their regular work or interest. Before accepting any outside engineering employment, they will notify their employers.
   d. Engineers shall not attempt to attract an engineer from another employer by false or misleading pretenses.
   e. Engineers shall not promote their own interest at the expense of the dignity and integrity of the profession.

2. Engineers shall at all times strive to serve the public interest.
   a. Engineers are encouraged to participate in civic affairs; career guidance for youths; and work for the advancement of the safety, health, and well-being of their community.
   b. Engineers shall not complete, sign, or seal plans and/or specifications that are not in conformity with applicable engineering standards. If the client or employer insists on such unprofessional conduct, they shall notify the proper authorities and withdraw from further service on the project.
   c. Engineers are encouraged to extend public knowledge and appreciation of engineering and its achievements.
   d. Engineers are encouraged to adhere to the principles of sustainable development in order to protect the environment for future generations.
3. Engineers shall avoid all conduct or practice that deceives the public.
   a. Engineers shall avoid the use of statements containing a material
      misrepresentation of fact or omitting a material fact.
   b. Consistent with the foregoing, engineers may advertise for
      recruitment of personnel.
   c. Consistent with the foregoing, engineers may prepare articles for
      the lay or technical press, but such articles shall not imply credit
      to the author for work performed by others.
4. Engineers shall not disclose, without consent, confidential information
   concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or
   former client or employer, or public body on which they serve.
   a. Engineers shall not, without the consent of all interested parties,
      promote or arrange for new employment or practice in connection
      with a specific project for which the engineer has gained particular
      and specialized knowledge.
   b. Engineers shall not, without the consent of all interested parties,
      participate in or represent an adversary interest in connection with a
      specific project or proceeding in which the engineer has gained
      particular specialized knowledge on behalf of a former client or
      other suppliers.
5. Engineers shall not be influenced in their professional duties by
   conflicting interests.
   a. Engineers shall not accept financial or other considerations,
      including free engineering designs, from material or equipment
      suppliers for specifying their product.
   b. Engineers shall not accept commissions or allowances, directly or
      indirectly, from contractors or other parties dealing with clients or
      employers of the engineer in connection with work for which the
      engineer is responsible.
6. Engineers shall not attempt to obtain employment or advancement or
   professional engagements by untruthfully criticizing other engineers,
   or by other improper or questionable methods.
   a. Engineers shall not request, propose, or accept a commission on a
      contingent basis under circumstances in which their judgment may
      be compromised.
   b. Engineers in salaried positions shall accept part-time engineering
      work only to the extent consistent with policies of the employer and
      in accordance with ethical considerations.
   c. Engineers shall not, without consent, use equipment, supplies,
      laboratory, or office facilities of an employer to carry on outside
      private practice.
7. 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.
   a. Engineers in private practice shall not review the work of another
      engineer for the same client, except with the knowledge of such
      engineer, or unless the connection of such engineer with the work
      has been terminated.
   b. Engineers in governmental, industrial, or educational employ are
      entitled to review and evaluate the work of other engineers when so
      required by their employment duties.
   c. Engineers in sales or industrial employ are entitled to make
      engineering comparisons of represented products with products of
      other suppliers.
8. Engineers shall accept personal responsibility for their professional
   activities, provided, however, that engineers may seek indemnification
   for services arising out of their practice for other than gross
   negligence, where the engineer’s interests cannot otherwise be
   protected.
   a. Engineers shall conform with state registration laws in the practice
      of engineering.
   b. Engineers shall not use association with a nonengineer, a
      corporation, or partnership as a “cloak” for unethical acts.
9. Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom
   credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others.
   a. Engineers shall, whenever possible, name the person or persons
      who may be individually responsible for designs, inventions,
      writings, or other accomplishments.
   b. Engineers using designs supplied by a client recognize that the
      designs remain the property of the client and may not be duplicated
      by the engineer for others without express permission.
   c. Engineers, before undertaking work for others in connection with
      which the engineer may make improvements, plans, designs,
      inventions, or other records that may justify copyrights or patents,
      should enter into a positive agreement regarding ownership.
   d. Engineers’ designs, data, records, and notes referring exclusively to
      an employer’s work are the employer’s property. The employer
      should indemnify the engineer for use of the information for any
      purpose other than the original purpose.
   e. Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout
      their careers and should keep current in their specialty fields by
      engaging in professional practice, participating in continuing
      education courses, reading in the technical literature, and attending
      professional meetings and seminars.

Footnote 1 “Sustainable development” is the challenge of meeting human
needs for natural resources, industrial products, energy, food,
transportation, shelter, and effective waste management while
conserving and protecting environmental quality and the natural
resource base essential for future development.

As Revised July 2007

“By order of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia,
former Section 11(c) of the NSPE Code of Ethics prohibiting competitive
bidding, and all policy statements, opinions, rulings or other guidelines
interpreting its scope, have been rescinded as unlawfully interfering with the
legal right of engineers, protected under the antitrust laws, to provide price
information to prospective clients; accordingly, nothing contained in the NSPE
Code of Ethics, policy statements, opinions, rulings or other guidelines prohibits
the submission of price quotations or competitive bids for engineering services
at any time or in any amount.”

Statement by NSPE Executive Committee

In order to correct misunderstandings which have been indicated in some
instances since the issuance of the Supreme Court decision and the entry of the
Final Judgment, it is noted that in its decision of April 25, 1978, the Supreme
Court of the United States declared: “The Sherman Act does not require
competitive bidding.”

It is further noted that as made clear in the Supreme Court decision:
1. Engineers and firms may individually refuse to bid for engineering services.
2. Clients are not required to seek bids for engineering services.
3. Federal, state, and local laws governing procedures to procure engineering
   services are not affected, and remain in full force and effect.
4. State societies and local chapters are free to actively and aggressively seek
   legislation for professional selection and negotiation procedures by public
   agencies.
5. State registration board rules of professional conduct, including rules
   prohibiting competitive bidding for engineering services, are not affected and
   remain in full force and effect.
6. As noted by the Supreme Court, “nothing in the judgment prevents NSPE and
   its members from attempting to influence governmental action . . .”

Note: In regard to the question of application of the Code to corporations vis-a-vis real persons, business form or type should not negate nor
influence conformance of individuals to the Code. The Code deals with professional services, which services must be performed by real
persons. Real persons in turn establish and implement policies within business structures. The Code is clearly written to apply to the Engineer,
and it is incumbent on members of NSPE to endeavor to live up to its provisions. This applies to all pertinent sections of the Code.