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**THE SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERS GUIDE FOR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

**Preamble**

Engineers recognize that the practice of engineering has a vital influence on the quality of life for all people. Engineers should exhibit high standards of competency, honesty, integrity, and impartiality; be fair and equitable; and accept a personal responsibility for adherence to applicable laws, the protection of the environment, and safeguarding the public welfare in their professional actions and behavior. These principles govern professional conduct in serving the interests of the public, clients, employers, colleagues, and the profession.

**The Fundamental Principle**

The engineer as a professional is dedicated to improving competence, service, fairness, and the exercise of well-founded judgment in the ethical practice of engineering for all who use engineering services with fundamental concern for protecting the environment and safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of the public in the pursuit of this practice.

## **Canons of Professional Conduct**

1. Engineers offer services in the areas of their competence and experience, affording full disclosure of their qualifications.
2. Engineers consider the consequences of their work and societal issues pertinent to it and seek to extend public understanding of those relationships.
3. Engineers are honest, truthful, ethical, and fair in presenting information and in making public statements, which reflect on professional matters and their professional role.
4. Engineers engage in professional relationships without bias because of race, religion, gender, age, ethnic or national origin, attire, or disability.
5. Engineers act in professional matters for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees disclosing nothing of a proprietary or confidential nature concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer without the necessary consent.
6. Engineers disclose to affected parties any known or potential conflicts or other circumstances, which might influence, or appear to influence, judgment or impair the fairness or quality of their performance.
7. Engineers are responsible for enhancing their professional competence throughout their careers and for encouraging similar actions by their colleagues.
8. Engineers accept responsibility for their actions; seek and acknowledge criticism of their work; offer honest and constructive criticism of the work of others; properly credit the contributions of others; and do not accept credit for work not their own.
9. Engineers, perceiving a consequence of their professional duties to adversely affect the present or future public health and safety, shall formally advise their employers or clients, and, if warranted, consider further disclosure.
10. Engineers seek to adopt technical and economical measures to minimize environmental impact.
11. Engineers participate with other professionals in multi-discipline teams to create synergy and to add value to their work product.
12. Engineers act in accordance with all applicable laws and the canons of ethics as applicable to the practice of engineering as stated in the laws and regulations governing the practice of engineering in their country, territory, or state, and lend support to others who strive to do likewise.

*Approved by the Board of Directors September 26, 2004*