

The Energy Institute Code of Professional Conduct

All members of the Energy Institute sign the Code of Professional Conduct when they join the EI. In doing so they show that they recognise the importance of their professional activities for the quality of life and the benefit of society as a whole. They accept a personal obligation to act ethically and with integrity in the public interest and to maintain and improve their competence.

The following Code, which is written in general terms, is designed to cover these broad principles. The Code is set by the Council of the Energy Institute in accordance with the By-laws. While it is not exhaustive it indicates the manner in which all members are required to conduct themselves in most situations. In other situations, members are required to order their conduct in accordance with the principle that in any conflict between the members' professional duties and their duty to other parties and interests, the members' professional duties will prevail.

Some Members will hold professional registrations awarded by the EI under license from another body. Where this is the case, in addition to adhering to the EI Code, they must ensure that they are aware of and uphold the standards and ethical codes relevant to the professional registrations or titles they hold.

1. Health, safety, security and the environment

1.1 Members will at all times take care to ensure that their work and the products of their work constitute no avoidable danger of death or injury or ill-health to any person.

1.2 Members will have due regard for the need to protect the environment and to provide energy services in a way that is safe and sustainable. They will make a systematic assessment of environmental, health and safety risks related to their work, their individual legal liability and the requirements of the jurisdiction in which they work, and seek to manage and communicate this effectively.

1.3 Members will act with skill, care and diligence and will ensure that their work complies with relevant quality standards and legislation as appropriate.

1.4 Members will adopt a security minded approach to their work, taking step to assess, manage and communicate vulnerabilities in assets, system and operations and to prevent avoidable risks to both physical and cyber security.

1.5 Members will hold professional indemnity insurance where appropriate to the area and context of their practice, and will inform clients whether professional indemnity insurance is held if specifically asked.

2. Maintaining and developing competence

2.1 Members will take all reasonable steps to maintain and develop their professional competence, keeping records to demonstrate their ongoing development as appropriate.

Where possible they will encourage and support the development of their staff and others, including in the achievement of appropriate professional membership and qualifications with the EI or appropriate professional body.

3. Integrity and responsibilities

3.1 Members will discharge their professional responsibilities with integrity and will accept personal responsibility for all work done by them, or under their supervision or direction, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that persons working under their authority are competent to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

3.2 Members will ensure that they and the persons working under their authority undertake technical tasks for others only if qualified by training or expertise and after full disclosure of relevant limitations.

3.3 Members will treat people fairly, with respect and without bias. They will not discriminate based on disability, age, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, or discrimination by association, and should seek to promote an inclusive working environment.

4. Gratuities, commissions and conflicts of interest

4.1 Members will reject bribery and all forms of corrupt behaviour, and make positive efforts to ensure others do likewise. They will not accept remuneration in connection with professional services rendered to their employer other than from their employer or with their employer's consent; nor will they receive directly or indirectly any royalty, gratuity or commission on any article or process used in or for the purpose of the work in respect of which they are employed unless or until such royalty, gratuity or commission has been authorised by their employer.

4.2 Members will not, without disclosing the fact in writing to their clients and to their employer, wittingly be a director or member of, or a shareholder in, or act as agent for, any contracting or manufacturing company or firm or business with which they may have occasion to deal on behalf of their clients or employer, or have any financial interest in or receive any benefit from or on behalf of such a business.

4.3 Members will not make false or exaggerated claims, or advertise any such claims expressly, in letters or articles for publication; nor will they permit others to use their name to endorse any such claims or in any form of advertising in relation to any product or process.

4.4 Members will not improperly seek work as an independent adviser, or consultant, either directly or through an agent; nor will they improperly pay any person for the introduction of such work.

4.5 Members will not seek to represent the Energy Institute, its members or its staff, unless expressly requested by the Chief Executive. Neither shall they use the EI or the designatory letters to which they are entitled to imply that they are acting on behalf of, or with the authority of, the Institute, except when conducting Institute business in the capacity of an honorary officer. If a member is invited to represent the EI on an external body, application should be made to the Chief Executive for details of EI's policy.

4.6 Members shall not use designatory letters to which they are not entitled.

5. Professional reputation

5.1 Members called upon to give an opinion in their professional capacity will, to the best of their ability, give an opinion that is objective and reliable and that includes clear statements of the impact and consequences of decisions and projects.

5.2 Subject to Paragraph 5.1, members will not set out to challenge the professional reputation of others unless it is in the public interest or necessary to protect their own professional reputation.

6. Improper conduct

6.1 Members will at all times uphold the good name and further the interests of the profession. They must notify the EI on receiving a civil court order or criminal conviction (excluding road traffic offences), becoming bankrupt or disqualification under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act, 1986. It will be for Council to consider whether such conviction, bankruptcy or disqualification is damaging to the EI or otherwise renders the member concerned unfit to be a member of the EI.

6.2 Members will act to raise a concern about a danger, risk, malpractice or wrongdoing which affects others ('blow the whistle'), and support a colleague or any other person to whom they have a duty of care who in good faith raises any such concern.

6.3 Members must notify the Institute if they have had membership of another professional body terminated as a result of a disciplinary procedure.

7. Confidentiality

7.1 Members will not divulge any information acquired by them which is not within the public knowledge or any information given to them in confidence without the express authority of the appropriate party, other than in evidence before a parliamentary committee, by order of a Court, or as required by law.

8. Violation by others

8.1 Members will report in writing to the Head of Membership and Accreditation any violation of these rules by another member of the EI.