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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES ETHICS GUIDELINES

Preamble

Consulting engineering is an important and learned profession. The members of the profession recognize that their work has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by consulting engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity and must be dedicated to the protection of public health, safety and welfare. In the practice of their profession, consulting engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior which requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct on behalf of the public, clients, employees and the profession.

Fundamental Canons

Consulting engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act in professional matters for each client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid improper solicitation of professional assignments

CASE STUDIES

1. ABC Mechanical Design advertises on the local radio. ABC Mechanical Design will pay a ten per cent finders fee for any type of mechanical engineering work referred to them.
2. CFG Mechanical Group is owned by Carby Freque, PE. He has no other employees. He solicits other engineering companies for their job histories. Then he tells future clients that the other engineering company employees are employed by his CFG Mechanical Group.
3. JJQ Mechanical Partners gives the local mayor free consulting advice for his real estate projects in exchange for engineering work referrals.
4. RPX Mechanical Associates has two large engineering projects involving different clients, LLQ Interests and CCQ Enterprises. When prospective clients of LLQ Interests call RPX Mechanical Associates with questions regarding product design, RPX Mechanical Associates refers the prospective clients to CCQ Enterprises.
5. XXY Mechanical Experts employs only mechanical engineers. Their board of registration requires a special examination for performing seismic design. Engineers at XXY Mechanical Experts have never taken the seismic exam. XXY Mechanical Experts periodically performs structural design requiring seismic expertise.
6. QQY Mechanical Engineers has designed several railroad intersections for the city transit authority where several accidents have occurred because of faulty crossing gate design.
7. RQF Mechanical Consultants has designed several boilers which they know do not meet county specifications.

CASE STUDIES (continued)

8. The president of QPQ Mechanical Design Group tells the county commissioners that an unknown source told him (the president) that another engineering company makes faulty designs.
9. RVQ Mechanical Designers pays contractors for their recommendations to multi-story building owners.
10. AQQ Mechanical Consulting accepts payments from contractors to make the latter sole bidders on certain projects.
11. YQX Mechanical Associates uses the most expensive contractors for the construction projects that they have designed. One of their clients objects; YQX Mechanical Associates then gives the work to a notoriously incompetent contractor.
12. YYF Mechanical Design Construction prepares bids for a client's project. The brother of the president of YYF Mechanical Design owns a plumbing company and bids on the project. The brother bids \$47,000. The lowest bid is \$45,000. The president forges his brother's bid to \$42,000. The client approves the low bid of \$42,000. Later, the president issues several false change orders after the project starts.
13. ZXT Mechanical Consultants offer to perform plumbing design for a public library project at reduced rates. Their design is faulty.
14. CQM Mechanical Constructors make a report that knowingly contains false statements.

CASE STUDIES (continued)

15. An engineer for RQI Mechanical Contractors accepts chemical design work for which he has no experience. RQI Mechanical Contractors has no chemical engineers.
16. The city engineer has a professional engineering stamp which shows his registration number and says PE. The city engineer only studied general mechanical engineering in the university. His practical experience only involved mechanical engineering. The city engineer refuses to contract any structural, electrical, or chemical engineering work.
17. BBQ Mechanical Engineering designs a public building central air Conditioning system which fails. Independent investigation shows BBQ Mechanical Engineering made a poor analysis of the insulation used.
18. AQQ Mechanical Group pays a secretary at the office of the local Association of construction contractors to prepare bids for the association construction projects for which AQQ Mechanical Group wishes to do.
19. QXQ Mechanical Consultants tells their city council that they have the best structural design engineers. QXQ Mechanical Consultants has no structural engineers.
20. QXQ Mechanical Consultants receive a structural design project from their City council. They perform the project. The design has structural defects.