

PROFESSIONALISM FOR THE ENGINEER

To an engineer, professionalism involves more than skill. Although knowledge and skill may exist without professionalism, professionalism can develop only where competence creates a proper atmosphere. Competence alone is impersonal. Professionalism, in contrast, is an individual state of mind, a way of thinking, a way of working and living, a way of adding something valuable on top of competence. Professionalism is the use of skill and knowledge

- with honesty and integrity,
- with one's best effort, knowing that frequently neither client nor employer can evaluate that effort,
- with avoidance of all possible conflicts of interest,
- with the consciousness that the profession of engineering is often judged by the performance of a single individual.

Professionalism for an engineer begins with good moral character, because he occupies a position of trust where he personally must set the standards. He must make difficult decisions which may differ from those his company or his client desires.

Professionalism for an engineer means

- striving to improve his work until it becomes a model for those in his field, as a minimum using the most up-to-date techniques and procedures,
- proper credit for work done and ideas developed by subordinates,
- loyalty to his employer or client, always with concern for the public safety, in construction, product design, plant operation, and all other phases of engineering,
- leadership of less experienced colleagues and subordinates toward personal and professional development and an enthusiasm for the profession,
- activity in technical societies in order to keep current in his field, and encouragement of those working under him to improve their technical competence the same way,
- participation also in professional societies, thereby demonstrating his interest in the profession and encouraging his co-workers to recognize the technical and the professional as of equal ranking importance,
- registration, not simply because it may be a legal requirement, but more particularly as a demonstration to his co-workers and the public that this is one important hallmark of a professional, a willingness to go beyond the minimum to help and encourage others to realize their full potential.
- An overriding sensitivity to man's interaction with the environment and ecological system so that all engineering efforts will benefit not only in the way of life but quality of life for this generation and generations to come.