

SES Code of Ethics

PREAMBLE

Standards Engineering and the development of standards is an important part of the engineering profession. Those engaged in Standards Engineering recognize that their work has direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Consequently, it is imperative that standards engineers and others engaged in the practice of standardization, certification, and accreditation conduct their activities in an ethical manner that merits the confidence of their employers, colleagues, employees, and clients, as well as the general public. Members of the Standards Engineering Society are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with this Code, all applicable laws, and to support others who do the same.

SECTION I: FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

Standards Engineers shall:

- 1) Maintain high standards of diligence, state of the art and productivity;
- 2) Accept responsibility for their actions and undertake standards development activities to the degree that qualifications allow;
- 3) Be realistic in collecting information or estimating standards values from available data and experiences;
- 4) Maintain professional skills at the level of the state of the art standards and recognize the importance of developing standards for new technology;
- 5) Advance the integrity and prestige of the standards engineering profession by practicing in a dignified manner;
- 6) Treat fairly all colleagues and co-workers, regardless of their international or political status, technical background, or their position as competitors;
- 7) Seek, accept, and offer honest comments on standards and proposed standards and properly credit authors and contributors;
- 8) Cooperate in advancing the development of the profession by exchanging information with SES members and all others engaged in standards engineering activities;
- 9) Endeavor to provide opportunities for the professional development and advancement of students and personnel under their supervision;
- 10) Support and participate in the activities and programs of the Standards Engineering Society and other organizations engaged in the development and/or use of standard;

SECTION II: STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES

SES members should engage in standardization activities that seek to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- 1) enhance the safety and welfare of the public;
- 2) facilitate engineering improvements resulting in greater reliability and interchangeability of equipment;
- 3) improve the efficiency of design, development, production, and use of materials and equipment;

- 4) minimize the variety of items, processes, and practices associated with the development and production of materials and equipment;
- 5) conserve time, materials and resources;
- 6) improve understanding between buyers and sellers; and
- 7) reduce the need for government regulation through increased reliance on voluntary standards.

SES members should **not** be involved in standardization activities that involve:

- 1) rigid requirements which would impede innovation,
- 2) restrictive criteria that only the products of a dominant manufacturer or group of manufacturers could meet or
- 3) agreements that have a potential for restraining trade or otherwise reducing competition.

SECTION III: STANDARDS PROCEDURES

SES members should actively encourage standardization groups to develop standards subject to the following provisions:

- 1) provide advance notice of meetings and proposed standards actions to all interested parties;
- 2) provide the opportunity for all interested parties to attend meetings and comment on proposed standards and on proposed standards actions;
- 3) use performance criteria in lieu of design, material, or construction specifications, whenever feasible;
- 4) consider the use of relevant and acceptable existing national and international standards;
- 5) provide test methods which allow for the measurement of conformance;
- 6) respond to objections and appeals in a timely manner;
- 7) maintain records of standards development proceedings including the minutes of meetings, results of balloting, and the handling of objections and appeals; and
- 8) establish decisions on the basis of substantial agreement of all parties at interest (consensus) after attempting to resolve all substantive negative comments.

SECTION IV: STANDARDIZATION CAUTIONS

SES members who participate in standardization activities should refrain from initiating or becoming involved in discussions pertaining to:

- 1) the establishment of industry-wide prices, terms or conditions of sale or marketing policies;
- 2) allocation of customers, markets, or production quotas;
- 3) proprietary designs or production methods; or
- 4) imposition of sanctions on competitor suppliers or customers.

SES members who participate in standardization activities where such subjects are mentioned should take immediate action to terminate any discussion concerning these subjects. If such discussion is not terminated the SES members should announce their concern and immediately leave the meeting.

SES members should have the proper regard for the safety, health, and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties. If an engineering judgment is overruled by a non-technical authority, the member should clearly point out the consequences. An SES member should notify the proper authority of any observed condition which provides the potential for endangering public safety or health.

Approved by the SES Board of Directors

September 25, 1983

Revised May 11, 1988

Revised February 25, 2010