



IRSE Code of Professional Conduct

1. About this Code

The IRSE promotes and encourages ethical and safe behaviour in the practice of railway signalling, telecommunications, train control and traffic management engineering.

This Code of Professional Conduct provides rules, information and guidance for members on ethical and safe behaviour. By being a member of the IRSE, you agree to abide by the current version of the Code.

This Code adds to the general statements made in the IRSE's Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Bye-Laws and is based on the Statement of Ethical Principles created jointly for all engineering professionals by the UK Engineering Council and the UK Royal Academy of Engineering (revised 2017).

Throughout this Code of Professional Conduct, words implying the singular number should be understood to include the plural number, and vice versa.

The following rules for the professional conduct expected of IRSE members were approved by the IRSE Council on 13 June 2018.

These rules are written in general terms, expressing broad ethical principles. They indicate how you are required to conduct yourself in frequently encountered situations.

The IRSE recognises that there may sometimes be conflicts between your personal interests, local laws, and your duty to others. If there is any conflict between your personal interests and fair and honest dealing with the community, your duty to the community shall prevail.

If there is any conflict between this Code of Professional Conduct and local laws, you should comply with this Code to the maximum extent possible without breaching the local laws.

If you fail to observe these rules, you may become subject to disciplinary action under the provisions of the Institution's Articles 17 and 18.

IRSE reserves the right, at its discretion, to publish the details of established breaches of this Code of Professional Conduct. If you are considered to have potentially breached this Code and are registered with the UK Engineering Council, the Institution may inform the Engineering Council of the potential breach. If it is subsequently established that there has been no breach of this Code then, at your request and using any manner of publication that the Institution sees fit, the Institution may publish this conclusion.

Under these rules:

- Any reference to 'member' shall mean any class of member listed in the Institution's Article 3;
- Any reference to 'employer' also includes 'client'.

2. Rules of Professional Conduct

You shall at all times:

- Act with honesty and integrity;
- Have respect for life, law, the environment and public good;
- Work with accuracy and rigour;
- Abide by and promote high standards in leadership and communication.

2.1. General

You shall:

- 2.1.1. Comply with the requirements of the IRSE's Memorandum, Articles of Association and Bye-Laws insofar as they apply to you.
- 2.1.2. Accept personal responsibility for all work done by you, or under your supervision or direction, under the authority delegated to you.
- 2.1.3. Assess your liability for the consequences of your work and, if appropriate, hold appropriate professional indemnity insurance.
- 2.1.4. Notify the IRSE if you have:
 - a) Received a criminal conviction, or an adverse civil court judgement, related to any aspect of the IRSE's Code of Professional Conduct (whether in UK or overseas).
 - b) Had membership of another professional body terminated as the result of a disciplinary procedure.
 - c) Been declared bankrupt or disqualified as a Company Director or Charity Trustee.
- 2.1.5. Support a colleague or any other person to whom you have a duty of care who in good faith raises any concern, either within the workplace or externally, about a danger, risk, malpractice or wrongdoing which affects others.
- 2.1.6. Notify the IRSE of any significant violation of the IRSE's Code of Professional Conduct by another member.

2.2. Honesty and Integrity

- 2.2.1. You shall uphold the highest standards of professional conduct including openness, fairness, honesty and integrity.
- 2.2.2. You shall:
 - a) Act in a reliable and trustworthy manner.
 - b) Be aware of the ways in which your work and behaviour might affect others.
 - c) Respect the privacy, rights, professional reputations and business of the Institution and of other members, employees, parties and individuals.
 - d) Respect the confidentiality of other members, employees, parties and individuals; including your current and previous employers.
 - e) Declare conflicts of interest to your employer.
 - f) Avoid deception and take steps to prevent or report corrupt practices or professional misconduct.
 - g) Reject bribery and improper influence.
 - h) Not imply that you are acting on behalf of, or with the authority of, the Institution, unless you are conducting Institution business in an approved capacity or role.
 - i) Not knowingly mislead or allow others to be misled in your capacity as a railway signal, telecommunications, train control or traffic management engineer.
 - j) Be objective and truthful in any statement you make in your professional capacity, including identifying your qualifications as a railway signal, telecommunications, train control or traffic management engineer.

- k) Use the appropriate post-nominal for your current classification of membership (HonFIRSE, FIRSE, MIRSE, ComplIRSE or AMIRSE) only if you have fully paid any IRSE membership subscriptions that are due.

2.3. Respect for life, law, the environment and public good

2.3.1. You shall uphold applicable laws and regulations and give due weight to facts, published standards and guidance and the wider public interest.

2.3.2. You shall:

- a) Ensure that your work is lawful and necessary.
- b) Ensure so far as possible that the safety requirements of your work, the work of your associates and the work of those in your charge are correctly assessed and applied.
- c) Identify, evaluate, quantify, mitigate and manage risks, both direct and indirect, associated with your work.
- d) Respect and maintain the physical and cyber security of systems and data on which you work, or to which you have access.
- e) Respect and protect personal information and intellectual property.
- f) Protect, and where possible improve, the quality of built and natural environments.
- g) Maximise the benefit of your work to the public, and minimise both actual and potential adverse effects for the present and succeeding generations.
- h) Take due account of the limited availability of natural resources.
- i) Uphold the reputation and standing of the profession and Institution.
- j) Inform the IRSE, or the appropriate government agency, if you are aware of, or suspect there is risk that, IRSE is being exploited for terrorist or other illicit purposes through the use of assets, premises, employees, members, volunteers or other resources, or through association with individuals or organisations who are engaged in illicit activities.
- k) If you are also a member of another institution or professional body, honour the obligations of membership of that body unless these are incompatible with membership of the IRSE.
- l) If you are also a member of a trade union, honour the obligations of membership of that trade union unless these are incompatible with membership of the IRSE. You may take part in industrial action provided your actions are in accordance with the constitution of your trade union and the laws of the country in which you are working.

2.4. Accuracy and rigour

2.4.1. You shall acquire and use wisely the understanding, knowledge and skills needed to perform your role.

2.4.2. You shall:

- a) Act with care, exercising your professional skills and judgement to the best of your ability, and discharging your professional responsibilities with integrity and fairness.
- b) Undertake tasks and responsibilities as a railway signal, telecommunications, train control or traffic management engineer in those areas in which you are competent or are under competent supervision, working within the limits of your authority.
- c) Take all reasonable steps to ensure that persons working under your authority are competent to carry out tasks assigned to them.
- d) Maintain and develop your professional competence, knowledge and skills by attention to existing and new developments in science and engineering relevant to your field of

professional activity, through planned continuous professional development throughout your working life.

- e) When presenting or reviewing theories, evidence and interpretations, do so honestly, accurately, objectively and without bias, whilst respecting reasoned alternative views.

2.5. Leadership and communication

2.5.1. You have a duty to abide by and promote high standards of leadership and communication.

2.5.2. You shall:

- a) Promote equality, diversity and inclusion, and exemplify professional behaviour generally.
- b) Help others understand the benefits of railway signalling, telecommunications, train control and traffic management engineering.
- c) Encourage and assist others to develop their railway signal, telecommunications, train control and traffic management engineering competence, knowledge and skills.
- d) Challenge instructions, statements or policies that cause you professional concern, and listen to the concerns of others.
- e) Take all reasonable steps to ensure that people or organisations overruling or not accepting your professional advice are made aware of any danger which may result, including, as appropriate, raising concerns within the workplace or externally about a danger, risk, malpractice or wrongdoing which affects others.

You are advised to register such concerns with the Institution. The Institution, at its discretion, may pursue the matter on your behalf.

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