

Code of Conduct and Ethics (2025)

Regulation 4B

Introduction and context

The Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) is the UK-based and internationally recognised qualifying body and learned society for chemical, biochemical and process engineers.

Chemical engineers who are members of the IChemE, at any grade, use their skills and knowledge to develop engineering solutions that benefit society, strengthen the profession, and continually look to create increasingly sustainable outcomes from their work.

In their working relationships with other professionals and the public, wherever they are working, they will be expected to carry out their professional roles in ways that reflect the core ethical values established by the IChemE – serving the profession and society ahead of individual interests and building trust in the work of chemical engineers.

These values are set out in this Code of Ethical Practice, reflecting a detailed set of [By-laws](#) that set out the Governance of the Institution. It also draws upon and develops the principles set out in the [Engineering Council \(EC\) and Royal Academy of Engineering \(RAEng\) Statement of Ethical Principles](#).

The IChemE Code will be updated from time to time, and additional guidance will be produced to clarify and illustrate how the Code works in practice.

All IChemE members are expected, as part of their professional competence, to keep up to date with any changes to the Code and to become familiar with the guidance. Renewal of Membership is conditional on meeting this expectation.

The Code cannot be entirely comprehensive, and new challenges to the way it operates are to be expected. This Code represents a dynamic set of exacting principles guiding regular practice by IChemE members. The principles set out in the Code establish high standards, and IChemE members should at least meet these and regularly go beyond what the Code requires.

The Code is intended to represent the most positive and highest current set of expectations that the Institution can have of its members. These expectations are founded on a need for professional Chemical Engineers to carry out their work with attention to ethical considerations and the desire to increasingly work towards sustainable chemical engineering actions and outcomes.

Members of the Institution have a national and an international profile, and this Code applies wherever in the world you work. IChemE members, regardless of where they are working, should ensure that the accepted professional and ethical standards for chemical engineers are followed, where they are equivalent to the IChemE Code.

The following sections set out the IChemE core ethical practice principles, with examples of what these mean practically.

1. **Enhancing sustainability**
2. **Prioritising safety**
3. **Continually developing skills**
4. **Acting professionally and using your professional voice**

1. Enhancing sustainability

Members of the IChemE, wherever they are working in the world, must carry out their professional roles in ways that minimise the impact of chemical engineering on the environment and contribute to the environment's safeguarding and improvement.

To do this, they should, for example:

- Proactively assess and manage risk – including to people, the environment, property and systems – working to minimise harm and helping others to do so, particularly to the natural world.
- Act in a manner which prioritises safety and sustainability, working actively to minimise environmental impact and protect, and wherever possible improve, the quality of the natural environment.
- Foster responsible and respectful relationships that help engage with public concerns about professional activities. Advocate for the involvement of all stakeholders and the community in decisions and processes that may impact them and the environment.
- Carry out their work based on adequate knowledge, giving due weight to facts, published standards, and guidance relevant to the profession and the wider public interest. [2]

2. Prioritising safety

Members of the IChemE, wherever they are working in the world, must carry out their professional roles in ways that place the highest priority on safe working.

To do this, they should, for example:

- Carry out their work based on adequate knowledge, giving due weight to facts, published standards, and guidance relevant to the profession and the wider public interest. [1]
- Be conscious of how their work and behaviour could affect others, respecting the privacy, rights, and reputations of other parties and individuals and taking all reasonable steps not to injure or attempt to injure, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, or business of any third party.
- Use appropriate emerging technologies (for example, artificial intelligence (AI)) in a transparent and ethical way, showing how it has been used, for what purposes, and what quality and safety checks have been deployed. [4]
- Conduct themselves professionally and personally in ways that exemplify and promote behaviours that support public confidence and trust in their professional responsibilities. [4]
- Be conscious and mindful of their own and others' professional and ethical liability, ensuring appropriate measures are in place, including professional indemnity insurance where required. [4]
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that people working under their authority are competent, appropriately authorised and insured, and suitably equipped to carry out the tasks assigned to them and must accept responsibility for work carried out under their supervision. [4]

3. Continually developing skills

Members of the IChemE, wherever they are working in the world, must carry out their professional roles having taken the opportunity to review and update their skills and knowledge and supporting others to do so.

To do this, they should, for example:

- Ensure that their skills and knowledge are maintained, refreshed, developed, and documented so that they can actively support the reputation of Chemical Engineering as a profession and IChemE.
- Support and promote a positive culture of ongoing professional development of other chemical engineers.
- Engage positively with the Institution to improve professional standards through participation in their development and deployment.
- Support and promote a positive culture of ongoing professional development of colleagues.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that people working under their authority are competent, appropriately authorised and insured, and suitably equipped to carry out the tasks assigned to them and must accept responsibility for work carried out under their supervision. [2. 4]

4. Acting professionally and using your professional voice

Members of the IChemE, wherever they are working in the world, must carry out their professional roles in accordance, at least, with this Code and be prepared to use their professional voice to challenge and support ethical practice constructively.

To do this, they should, for example:

- Speak up in an appropriate and professional manner to challenge actions, statements, or policies that cause them professional concern.
- Act with due skill, care, and diligence, with proper regard for professional standards, and in accordance with local and national legal requirements, within the limits of their areas of competence, seeking support as required and matching expectations of accountability.
- Communicate publicly about the profession and the Institution in a responsible way (across all appropriate media) that is factual and evidence-led, and that maintains the integrity, openness, and accountability of the profession and the Institution.
- Assess and avoid possible, real, or perceived conflicts of interest, and advise affected parties when such conflicts arise, acting transparently, honestly, and with integrity.
- Members must observe the proper duties of confidentiality owed to appropriate parties, respecting and securing and protecting personal information and intellectual property in accordance with local legal requirements, and only releasing data to third parties if required by law. This also includes access to and use of data necessary to fulfil any Trustee or volunteer roles at the Institution.
- Demonstrate and promote inclusive ways of working, ensuring that equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are seen as central to the profession and at least in line with applicable local and national legal requirements.
- Manage their finances effectively and comply with any local or national tax and financial requirements.
- Avoid entering working relationships where they may be prevented from speaking out about professional matters that concern and conflict with the Code.

Managing potential breaches of the Code

Where there is some question about the behaviour or conduct of a Member (any category) that suggests they may not have met the expectations of the Code, then this will be investigated.

In these circumstances, the Institution's [Disciplinary Regulations](#) will be applied.

The Board of Trustees of IChemE will appoint a suitably delegated panel to investigate any cases where an individual's conduct has not complied with aspects of the Code (and any associated guidance) and the By-laws of the Institution that were current at the time of any alleged breach of the Code."

The delegated panel may consider any direct breaches to the Code (and any associated guidance) and the By-laws of the Institution that was current at the time of any alleged breach of the Code, including any behaviour (professional and personal) that is injurious to their profession and the Institution and render the individual unfit to be a Member (at any grade) of the Institution.