
THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

(Council Rule 13)

Introduction

1. Under the Institution's By-Laws, every member shall at all times:

"so order his/her conduct as to uphold the dignity and reputation of the Institution and shall observe the provisions of the Charter and the By-Laws."

and

"so order his/her conduct as to uphold the dignity and reputation of his/her profession: and to safeguard the public interest in matters of safety and safety and otherwise".

and

"exercise his/her professional skill and judgement to the best of his/her ability and discharge his/her professional responsibility with integrity."

Introduction and Statement of Intent

The Council considers it to be every member's professional and moral duty to understand and accept these obligations and their specific interpretation as defined in the Code of Professional Conduct.

A member should apply the Code diligently and not enter into any contract or arrangement of any nature, whatsoever, with any other person or organisation, the performance of which will or may involve a breach of this Code.

Members are responsible for ensuring that their practice, actions, or behaviour do not damage the reputation of RINA, the Naval Architecture community, or the wider maritime engineering profession. Behaviour that could question the profession's integrity, whether between RINA members or within the wider maritime community, will not be accepted.

Members must notify RINA immediately of relevant criminal convictions, adverse civil judgments, bankruptcy or membership terminations from other professional bodies resulting from disciplinary actions.

Definitions

The RINA Code of Conduct uses two key terms: 'Should' and 'Shall'.

Shall: Indicates where there is a mandatory requirement on the member to follow that clause or expectation.

Should: This term is an expectation on a member to follow that clause or expectation, but it is not mandatory. RINA would expect that members follow the specific clause in the code of conduct but accepts that in some situations and context, they may be unable to.

Code of Professional Conduct

The RINA Code of Professional Conduct is built on three fundamental principles:

1. **Professional Practice:** Professionals holding RINA Membership should uphold high standards of competence, safety, and responsibility in their work.

2. **Integrity and respect:** Integrity and respect are foundational to how we expect our members to conduct themselves in their roles as Engineers, whether through ethical considerations, fair treatment of others regardless of identity, or trustworthiness in professional relationships.
3. **Public Interest:** The standards expected of Engineers are within the public interest. Acting within the scope of public interest underscores the profession's commitment to contributing positively to broader society and safeguarding its well-being.

Professional Practice

1. **Competence to Practice**
 - Members should maintain and develop professional competence by keeping up to date with developments in their field, including familiarity with relevant codes of practice and guidelines.
 - Members should ensure they undertake the required Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as outlined for the Membership Grade and/or Professional Registration. Members should document CPD activities and make them available for review upon request.
 - Members should only undertake work they have sufficient competence, time, and authority to perform.
 - Members shall disclose any limitations in their competence to the appropriate stakeholders and proceed only with their explicit agreement.
2. **Protection of People**
 - Members shall always take reasonable care to prevent dangers such as death, injury, ill-health, or property damage resulting from their work or its consequences.
 - Members **shall** carefully assess potential hazards, mitigation strategies, and countermeasures to minimise public and environmental risks.
 - Members should evaluate their liability for the accuracy and consequences of their work and, where appropriate, maintain professional indemnity insurance.
3. **Protection of the Environment**
 - Members shall take reasonable care to prevent adverse impacts on the working environment and the broader environment due to their work.
4. **Leadership Responsibilities**
 - Every member **shall** exercise proper supervision of all work done under their authority and accept professional responsibility for it.
 - Members shall treat those under their supervision respectfully, fairly, and courteously while fostering professional development through education, training, and experience.

Integrity and Respect

1. **Honesty and Integrity**
 - Members shall act with honesty, impartiality, and respect for the laws and ethical standards applicable to their circumstances.
 - Members **shall** avoid inducements that improperly influence professional assignments.
 - Members shall not receive remuneration from a second source of work already undertaken for their employer or another unless this is agreed upon by the parties concerned.
 - Members should avoid making misleading statements about their competence or work and not harm another's professional reputation maliciously or recklessly.
2. **Respect for each other**
 - All members are expected to be respectful and courteous to other members of RINA, other engineers within our community, and to broader society.
 - Members shall avoid discrimination towards others, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion and protected characteristics within the laws and culture of the country you are operating in.
 - When working with members from different countries, backgrounds and cultures, members should be aware of different cultural perspectives.
 - All participants at RINA events are expected to show respect and courtesy to others, and all

interactions should be professional, both online and in person.

3. Conflicts of Interest Management

- Members should disclose real or perceived conflicts of interest at the earliest possible opportunity to avoid scenarios where their ability to avoid bias in decision-making or judgement may be questioned.
- Members shall not deliberately fail to disclose conflict of interest.

4. Confidentiality

- Members should safeguard physical and cyber security, protecting personal data and business information.
- Members shall not improperly use confidential information for personal or third-party gain.
- Action taken under Whistleblower legislation for the country you are operating in is not within the scope of the Code of Conduct.

Public Interest

1. Upholding the Code of Conduct

- Members have an ethical, professional, and legal duty to raise concerns about material risks, dangers, or wrongdoing that may adversely affect others. In most cases, RINA will defer to company internal procedures to handle such matters, only stepping in if the matter is not resolved satisfactorily.
- Members should adhere to practices that align with the public interest and support transparency where applicable.

Emergency exemption Clause

No individual shall be considered in breach of this Code of Conduct where they have acted in good faith, reasonably, and proportionately in response to an emergency situation requiring immediate action.

Approved by Council February 2026