

	SURFACE VEHICLE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE	SAE J2314 FEB2011
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Ethics for Accident Investigation and Reconstruction		

RATIONALE

The technical report covers technology, products, or processes which are mature and not likely to change in the foreseeable future.

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1. **Scope**—The purpose of this SAE Recommended Practice is to promote the highest professional and personal conduct of practitioners in the fields of accident investigation and reconstruction.

It encourages the continuous application of high ethical principles to one's own endeavors. It also encourages the application of these same principles to others associated with accident investigation and reconstruction.

2. **References**

- 2.1 **Related Publications**—The following publications are provided for information purposes only and are not a required part of this document.

- 2.1.1 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING SOCIETIES PUBLICATION—Available from the American Association of Engineering Societies, 1111 Nineteenth Street, N. W., Suite 608, Washington, DC 20036-3690.

Canons of Professional Conduct, December 13, 1984

- 2.1.2 AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FORENSIC SCIENCES PUBLICATION—Available from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, 218 East Cashe La Poudre, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0669.

Code of Ethics and Conduct, February 21, 1986

- 2.1.3 ASME PUBLICATION—Available from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Code of Ethics of Engineers, March 1976

- 2.1.4 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS PUBLICATION—Available from the American Society of Safety Engineer, 1800 East Oakton Street, Des Plaines, IL 60018-2187.

Code of Ethics, June 1984

- 2.1.5 CANADIAN COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS PUBLICATION—Available from the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, 116 Albert, Suite 401, Ottawa, ON K1P5G3.

Code of Ethics, May 1991

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2.1.6 ESD THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY PUBLICATION—Available from ESD The Engineering Society, 26100 American Drive, Suite 500, Southfield, MI 48034.

Canons of Ethics of Engineers, October 5, 1977

2.1.7 THE INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS, AUSTRALIA PUBLICATION—Available from the Institute of Engineers, Australia, 100 National Circuit, Barton Act 2600, Australia.

Code of Ethics, July 1988

2.1.8 NATIONAL FORENSIC CENTER PUBLICATION—Available from the National Forensic Center, 17 Temple Terrace, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

Code of Professional and Ethical Conduct, 1992

2.1.9 NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS PUBLICATION—Available from the National Society of Professional Engineers, 1420 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2794.

Code of Ethics, 1990

2.1.10 TAU BETA PI PUBLICATION—Available from Tau Beta Pi, P.O. Box 8840, University Station, Knoxville, TN 37996-4800.

Code of Ethics of Engineers, 1977

3. Competence—Practitioners shall offer to perform services only in the aspects of an incident where their training and experience qualifies them to understand adequately the technical elements supporting the opinions offered.

Practitioners shall endeavor to complete a thorough and comprehensive investigation and analysis.

4. Truthfulness/Openness—Practitioners shall accurately and completely represent their education, training, experience, membership grade, and status in professional or technical organizations.

Practitioners shall express opinions based solely on: (a) the facts related to the incident, (b) generally accepted technical principles, and (c) their professional experience and judgement.

Practitioners shall not falsify, conceal, nor destroy evidence.

Practitioners shall arrive at unbiased opinions irrespective of who their client is in the matter.

5. Conflict of Interest/Privileged Information—Practitioners shall act in professional matters for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees, avoiding conflicts of interest.

Practitioners shall not accept assignments based upon contingent fee payments.

Practitioners shall preserve or recommend preservation of physical evidence in accordance and compliance with established professional or technical standards and applicable law.