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Continuing Education Course #629
Engineering Ethics: Professional Competency

1. The NPSE code of ethics addresses several areas of concern but does not specifically discuss the area of professional competence..
 a. True.
 b. False.
2. Hudson is a licensed engineer and has issued a public report on the status of the town's water conveyance system. This report is based on data gathered by other members of the firm. However, Hudson personally has no first-hand knowledge of this data and no experience in this field. Has he acted ethically in making this public report?
 a. Yes.
 b. No.
3. An engineer must always act as a faithful agent or trustee for his or her employer or client.
 a. True.
 b. False.
4. An engineer has no actual responsibility to the general public.
 a. True.
 b. False.
5. Koda is a professional engineer who specializes in structural design. She has signed and sealed a set of structural drawings done a non-licensed member of her firm without providing any oversight or reviewing the drawings in any way. Has he acted in an unethical manner?
 a. Yes.
 b. No.
6. Sally is a professional engineer who owns a very large engineering firm. Her company has designed the site and building for a large multi-use commercial/residential complex along the inner harbor in Baltimore Maryland. She has staff engineers who have prepared and signed the documents for each element of the site design, the utility layout, and the structural components. She is not a structural engineer herself, but she has had oversight of the entire project throughout its planning and design and she will sign the entire design set. Is this ethical?
 a. Yes.
 b. No.
7. In Scenario #1 in the course, which of the following actions would have been ethical on Neal's part?
 a. Decline the assignment.
 b. Hire a licensed professional engineer familiar with structural design to work with him and have that individual sign and seal the plan.
 c. Both of the above would have been ethical.
 d. Neither of the above would have been ethical.
8. In Scenario #3 in the course, which of the following actions would have been ethical on Hutch's part?

- a. Decline the assignment.
- b. Do some research on seismic design prior to taking on the assignment.
- c. Ask for some guidance from a professional engineer prior to taking on the assignment.
- d. Ask for a larger salary because his responsibilities have increased.

9. The engineer should always ask himself or herself the following question before taking on an assignment if he or she is competent for the task and, if the answer is "No" he or she should decline the assignment.

- a. True.
- b. False.

10. In the final analysis what is the ethical yardstick by which an engineer should measure his or her actions?

- a. What actions will please the client?
- b. What actions will satisfy the employer?
- c. What will determine the highest standard of honesty and integrity?
- d. None of the above.

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