Adapted from the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) web site

The ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

It is incumbent on all members of the computing profession to:

— Contribute to society and human well-being.
— Avoid harm to others.
— Be honest and trustworthy.
— Be fair and take action not to discriminate.
— Honour property rights including copyrights and patent.
— Give proper credit to intellectual property.
— Respect the privacy of others.
— Honour confidentiality.

And as computing professionals, you are also expected to:

— Strive to achieve the highest quality, effectiveness and dignity in both the process and products of professional work.
— Acquire and maintain professional competence.
— Know and respect existing laws pertaining to professional work.
— Accept and provide appropriate professional review.
— Give comprehensive and thorough evaluations of computer systems and their impacts, including analysis of possible risks.
— Honour contracts, agreements, and assigned responsibilities.
— Improve public understanding of computing and its consequences.
— Access computing and communication resources only when authorised to do so.

This is the abridged version of the ACM Code of Ethics, but with UK spelling amendments. Copyright remains that of the ACM. The complete version can be (and should be) viewed at: http://www.acm.org/constitution/code where each of the points above are explained.
Adapted from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) web site

The IEEE Code of Ethics

In recognition of the importance of our technologies in affecting the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to our profession, its members and the communities we serve, we hereby commit ourselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree:

— to accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;

— to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;

— to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data;

— to reject bribery in all its forms;

— to improve the understanding of technology, its appropriate application, and potential consequences;

— to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;

— to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;

— to treat fairly all persons regardless of such factors as race, religion, gender, disability, age, or national origin;

— to avoid injuring others, their property, reputation, or employment by false or malicious action;

— to assist colleagues and co-workers in their professional development and to support them in following this code of ethics.

The original can be found at:
http://www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/ethics_code.html
Adapted from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) web site

The IET Rules of Conduct

— You will keep your knowledge and skills up-to-date through planned professional development and seek to broaden and deepen that knowledge throughout your working life. You will also encourage people working under your supervision to do the same.

— You will not undertake professional tasks and responsibilities that you do not believe you are competent to discharge.

— You will accept personal responsibility for all work done by you or done by others under your supervision or direction. You will also take all reasonable steps to ensure that people working under your authority are both suitably equipped and competent to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

— If your professional advice is not accepted, you will take all reasonable steps:
  a) to ensure that the person overruling or neglecting that advice is aware of any danger or loss which may ensue; and
  b) in appropriate cases, inform that person’s employers of the potential risks involved.

— You will not either advertise or write articles for publication in any manner that is derogatory to the dignity of your profession. Nor will you authorise any such advertisement or article to be written or published by others.

— You will not recklessly or maliciously injure or attempt to injure, whether directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects or business of any other person.

— You will at all times take all reasonable care to limit any danger of death, injury or ill health to any person that may result from your work and the products of your work.

— You will take all reasonable steps to avoid waste of natural resources, damage to the environment, and damage or destruction of man-made products. Lawful work undertaken by you in connection with equipment intended for the defence of a nation will not infringe this rule.

— If you are called upon to give an opinion in your professional capacity, then to the best of your ability, you will give an opinion that is objective and based upon the best available knowledge and information.

— You will actively promote public awareness and understanding of the impact and benefits of engineering and technology achievements.
IET Rules of Conduct continued...

— You will not make any public statement in your professional capacity without ensuring that:
   a) you are qualified to make such a statement and
   b) any association that you may have with any party who may benefit from the statement are known to the person or persons to whom it is directed.

— You will inform your employer in writing of any conflict or potential conflict that may exist or arise between your personal interests and the interests of your employer.

— You will not without proper authority disclose any confidential information concerning the business of your employer or any past employer.

— You will not, without your employer’s consent, accept any payment or benefit in money or moneys worth from any person other than your employer in connection with professional services rendered to your employer. Nor will you without such consent receive directly or indirectly any such payment or benefit in respect of any article or process used in or for the purpose of the work in respect of which you are employed.

— You will not offer improper inducement to secure work as an independent adviser or consultant, either directly or through an agent. Nor will you improperly pay any person, whether by commission or otherwise, for the introduction of such work.

— If you are acting as an independent adviser or consultant, you will not be the medium of payment made on your employer’s behalf unless so requested by your employer. Nor will you place contracts or orders in connection with work on which you are employed, except with the authority of and on behalf of your employer.

This has been adapted from the original IET Rules of Conduct to which each member agrees. The rules relating to membership have been removed. The original Rules can be found at: http://www.theiet.org/about/governance/rules-conduct/index.cfm

This is a succinct statement of an ethical approach to work and life – read it, it is short.

This takes a broader perspective of personal conduct; it includes human relationships at work (for example bullying) and through FAQs it advises you on how to cope with ethical situations you might meet in business and commerce.

The BCS Code of Conduct is only available to members of the BCS.

IDB/20 February 2014