

Jakub Hladik

Ethics Discussion/Essay Assignment

CPRE 394

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## The Code of Ethics

Ethics are a very essential part of everybody's life because they provide "boundaries" to what is acceptable, especially in the professional world. When there is an important decision to be made, ethics are always a concern. Code of ethics help us establish uniform professional norms that companies and individuals shall obey to avoid unfair business or sometimes a disaster.

Making a decision that is ethical is not an easy task. There are many factors that we need to take in account such as fairness towards customers while keeping our business profitable. Another example of a very hard decision is when a supervisor pushes product price low to maximize profit and forcing the engineers to lower the safety standards. I have a personal experience from automotive industry. The government put a regulation in affect that requires double redundancy on all crucial components in a vehicle. However, automotive companies cannot simply double the price of the car so that led to a series of eliminating safety factors of the component that had its redundant counterpart. I believe this approach is not necessarily the best but it is the only way for the company to deal with the government regulations. Even though I would not be responsible for anything if an accident happened, I would feel guilty by not acting when it was the right time but I feel like I would lose my job if I objected my supervisors decision.

During our second meeting, before we fell into conversation about Elon Musk, we discussed the exploding fuel tank of Ford Pinto. Such a problem should be caught early on during testing and it should never happen after the car is launched. We all agreed we would suggest further testing and

delaying the release of the vehicle and reaching to the higher management and informing them. Our last thought was to finally switch to electric vehicles to avoid such hazards and discussed the future of electro-mobiles.

I believe that the most important virtues are honesty, responsibility, and integrity. All of these can relate to our case study very much. Individual engineers shall test their design and should be hold accountable and if somebody forces them to lower the standards of their design, they should inform the management about the issue to avoid any mishaps and accidents. The other virtues did not relate to our case study because they are focused towards a different family of issues.