

A Balanced Outlook on Law

A Balanced Outlook on Law emphasizes the necessity of law and regulation and their limitations in governing engineering practice. In order to live, work and play together in harmony as a society, there must be a balance between individual needs and desires against collective needs and desires.

Only ethical conduct can provide such balance. So, the codes must be enforced with the help of laws. One of the examples is as follows:

Babylon's Building Code: (1758 B.C.)

This code was made by Hammurabi, king of Babylon. He formed a code for builders of his time and all the builders were forced to follow the code by law.

"If a builder has built a house for a man and has not made his work sound and the house which he has built was fallen down and so caused the death of the householder, that builder shall be put to death. If it causes the death of the householder's son, they shall put that builder's son to death. If it causes the death of the householder's slave, he shall give slave to the householder. If it destroys property he shall replace anything it has destroyed, he shall rebuild the house which has fallen down from his own property. If a builder has built a house for a man and does not make his work perfect and the wall bulges, that builder shall put that wall into sound condition at his own cost".