



**SNS COLLEGE OF
TECHNOLOGY**
An Autonomous Institution
Coimbatore - 35



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

19GET201 Professional Ethics and Human Values

A Balanced Outlook on Law

A BALANCED OUTLOOK ON LAW

- The 'balanced outlook on law' in engineering practice stresses the necessity of laws and regulations and also their limitations in directing and controlling the engineering practice.
- Laws are necessary because, people are not fully responsible by themselves and because of the competitive nature of the free enterprise, which does not encourage moral initiatives. Laws are needed to provide a minimum level of compliance.
- The following codes are typical examples of how they were enforced in the past:
 - Code for Builders by Hammurabi
 - Hammurabi the king of Babylon in 1758 framed the following code for the builders:

A BALANCED OUTLOOK ON 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 has fallen down and 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 for slave to the householder. If it destroys property, he shall replace anything it has destroyed; and because he has not made the house sound which he has built and it has fallen down, 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 in sound condition at his own cost” This code was expected to put in self-regulation seriously in those years

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- Steam Boat Code in USA
- Whenever there is crisis we claim that there ought to be law to control this. Whenever there is a fire accident in a factory or fire cracker's store house or boat capsizes we make this claim, and soon forget. Laws are meant to be interpreted for minimal compliance. On the other hand, laws when amended or updated continuously would be counterproductive. Laws will always lag behind the technological development. The regulatory or inspection agencies such as Environmental authority of India can play a major role by framing rules and enforcing compliance.
- In the early 19th century, a law was passed in USA to provide for inspection of the safety of boilers and engines in ships. It was amended many times and now the standards formulated by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers are followed.

CASE STUDY: THE CHALLENGER

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Other presentations

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