



EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

New and emerging technologies should be developed in a way that protects the public health, safety, and welfare. The National Society of Professional Engineers encourages legislatures to involve professional engineers at every step in the creation of emerging technologies, from development to testing to deployment. For example, the expertise of a professional engineer should be used when programming an autonomous vehicle to make decisions about where and how to drive.

Key Points

- Professional engineers have an ethical obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, which is critical in ensuring emerging technologies are developed in a way that prioritizes public safety.
- NSPE has compiled regulatory recommendations for the development of emerging technologies in their Emerging Technology Policy Guide.
- NSPE has written a [policy guide](#) for how to approach the development, testing, and deployment of autonomous vehicles as part of its work on emerging technologies.
- Submitted multiple public comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation on the need to have professional engineers involved in the development of emerging technologies. Specific topics have included:
 - Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) exemptions for autonomous vehicles
 - Technical standards and tools for artificial intelligence

Action Items

- Promote the involvement of a PE when developing and deploying new technologies.
- Advocate for the ethical development, testing, and deployment of emerging technologies.
- Urge legislators to regulate emerging technologies on the state and federal levels such that the health, safety, and welfare of the public are being protected.