

Tests for Evaluation Actions

Compiled
by the National Institute for Engineering
Ethics



1. Harms Test

Do the benefits outweigh the
harms, short and long term?



2. Reversibility Test

Would I think this was a good
choice if I traded places?



3. Colleague Test

What would my professional
colleagues say?



4. Legality Test

Would my choice violate a law or
policy of my employer?



5. Publicity Test

How would my choice look on the
front page of tomorrow's
newspaper?



6. Common Practice Test

What if everyone behaved this way?

7. Wise Relative Test

What would my wise Aunt Tilly or Uncle Joe do and would I want them to know what I am doing?

8. The Hiding Test

Do I want people to know what I am doing?

9. The Self-Respect Test

How will I feel about myself after making this choice?

10. Other Tests - ???

These tests promote decisions based upon how we would feel about what we do, or if someone would know or if we would get caught. However ideally the best decision is to take the right action because it is the right action to take – rather than the fear of consequences.