



Online Ethics Center
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

IEEE Cases 1999 - Making Good Wafers Look Bad

Author(s)

Stephen H. Unger

Year

1999

Description

A fictionalized case about an engineer fired for refusing to fudge quality data in order to save money.

Body

Don Fisher, an electrical engineer, worked for Dicers, a company that purchased wafers for microprocessor chips from another company and then diced, packaged, and sold them. Don was assigned the task of testing these wafers. After a while, he was instructed by his manager to alter the testing process in such a manner that the quality of the purchased wafers was made to seem lower than it really was, which had the effect of the lowering the price paid. Don objected to this practice and refused to go along. Eventually, he was discharged.

Notes

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Rights

Use of Materials on the OEC

Resource Type

Case Study / Scenario

Topics

Employer/Employee Relationships

Product Liability

Discipline(s)

Engineering

Electrical Engineering