



Online Ethics Center  
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

# IEEE Cases 1999 - Making Good Wafers Look Bad

## Author(s)

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## 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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**Resource Type**

Case Study / Scenario

**Parent Collection**

IEEE Engineering Ethics Cases

**Topics**

Employer/Employee Relationships

Product Liability

**Discipline(s)**

Engineering

Electrical Engineering