

P R E A M B L E

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

An organization of the size and geographical scope of this Society must, of necessity, formalize its laws of operation to some degree. The very size of the organization has necessitated some degree of complexity in the written "laws", manuals and procedures which the newcomer to office in the Society as well as some of the experienced members may find perplexing. However, in order to facilitate the understanding and reference use of this document, a deliberate effort has been made in this Manual to integrate references to other pertinent documents. The contents and the index have been arranged in a manner to bring together related Constitutional and By-Laws information.

The basic "law" of the Society is contained in the Charter, the Constitution and By-Laws. In the interest of simplicity, these laws have been constructed, where feasible, to be complementary and to provide minimum redundancy. Constitutional Articles are preceded by the letter "C" and By-Laws are preceded by the letter "B".

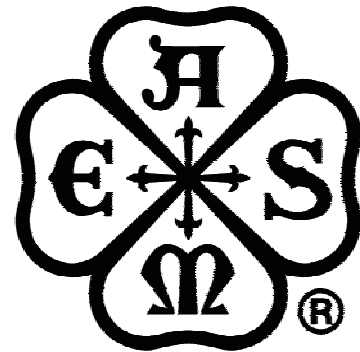
More detailed matter is contained in the Society Policies adopted by the Board of Governors. The complete text of a particular Society Policy is available from the office of the Executive Director.

Still further detail concerning personnel, organizational structure, Committee operation, and the like is contained in the ASME Annuals and Manuals, available upon request from ASME headquarters.



SEAL

When the Society was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York it became necessary to create a seal to be affixed to official documents. The design shows the lever of Archimedes which was capable of lifting the world should an adequate fulcrum be found.



EMBLEM

The Emblem of the Society shows the design of a conventionalized four-leaf clover with an initial of the Society name on each leaf. It is the mark of the Society used for the badge of membership, on stationery, etc., and as a proprietary symbol to indicate conformity with its standards or recommended practices.