



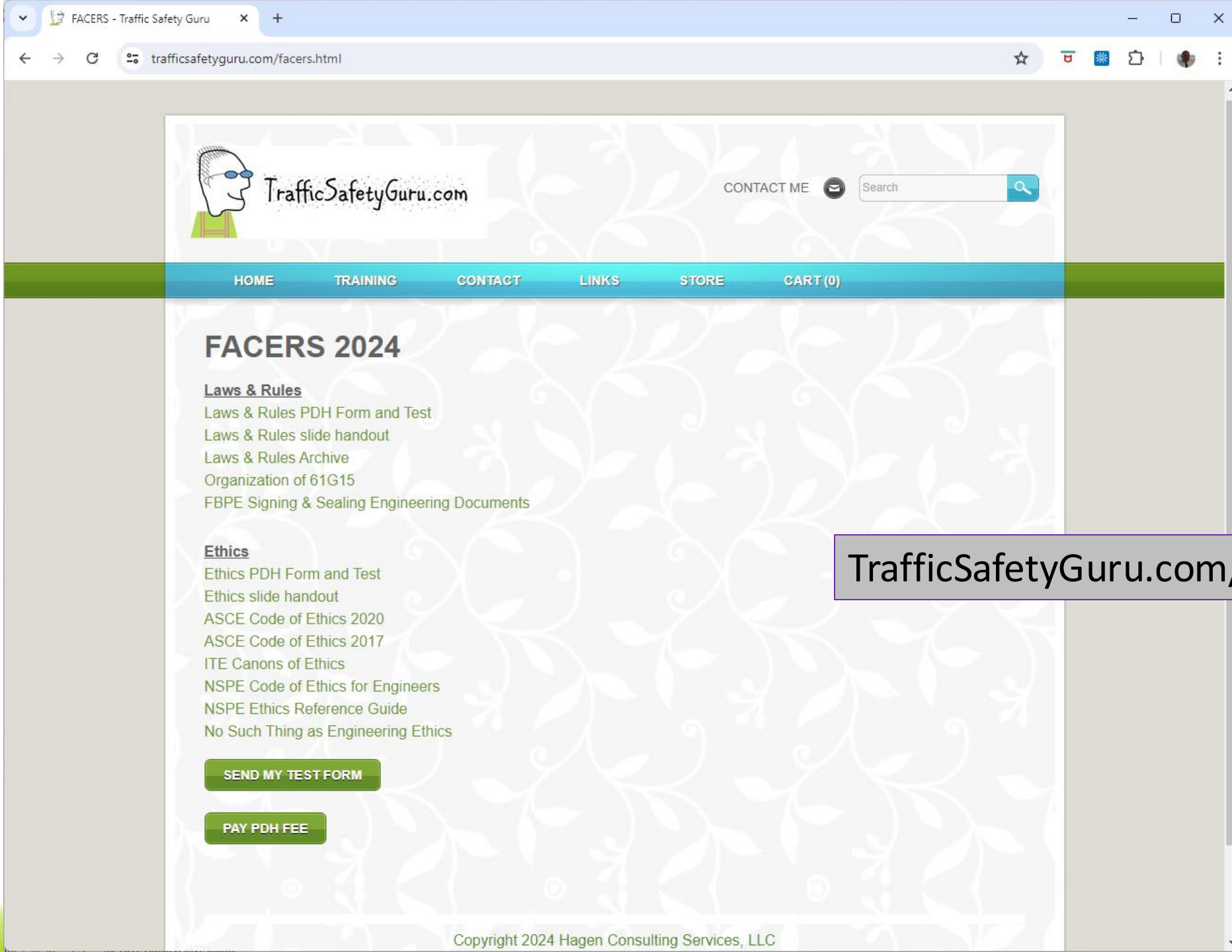
**2024-25
Edition**

for
Engineers

Lawrence T. Hagen, P.E., PTOE, RSP

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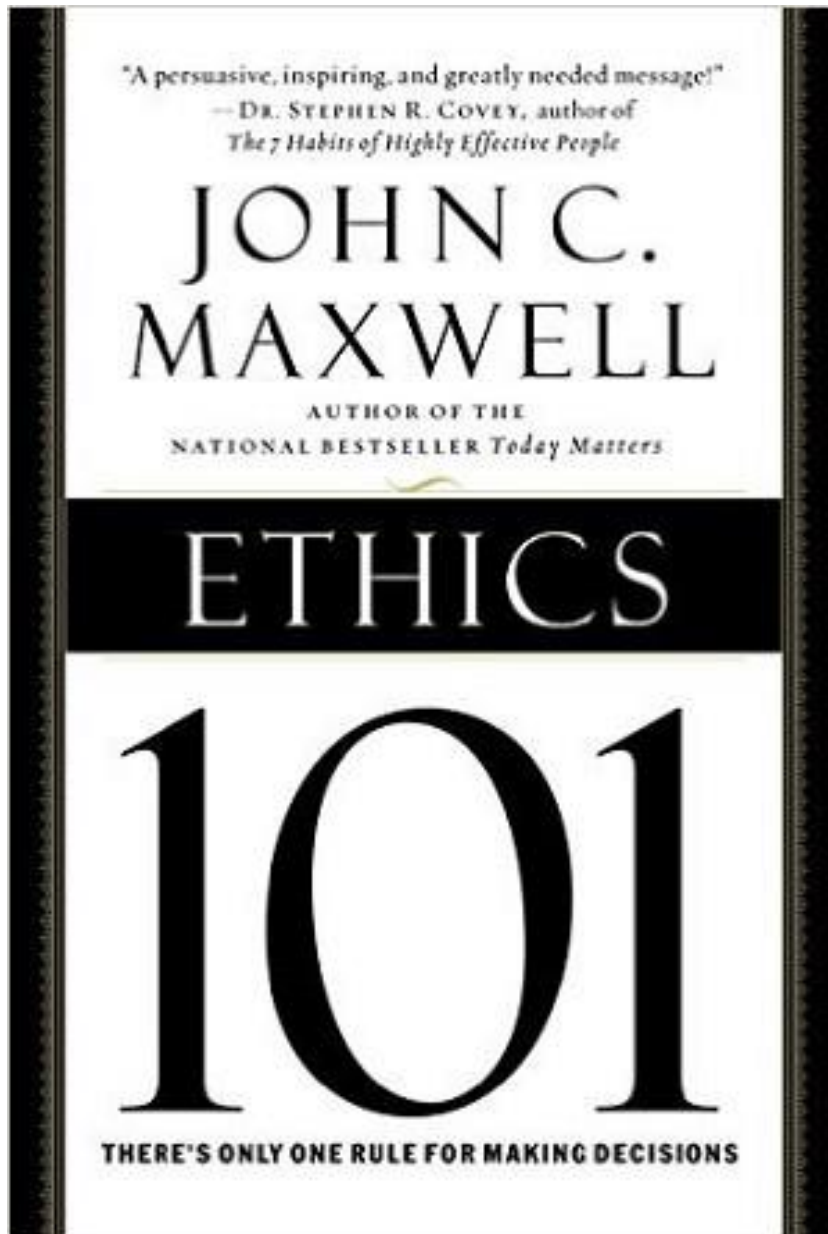
Pastor of a small local church
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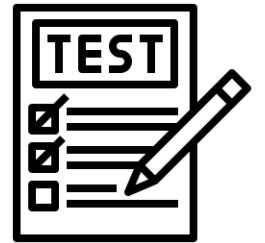
This book is dedicated to you
for your commitment to making ethical
decisions and living an ethical life.
Doing the right thing may not always be easy –
but it is always right.



“There’s no such thing as business ethics—there’s only ethics. People try to use one set of ethics for their professional life, another for their spiritual life and still another at home with their families. That’s where they get into trouble. Ethics is ethics. If you desire to be ethical, you live by one standard across the board.”



There are really only two important points when it comes to ethics. The first is a standard to follow. The second is the will to follow it.



A person of responsibility can trust himself to choose the right thing over the easy thing.



“Ethics is about how we meet the challenge of doing the right thing when that will cost more than we want to pay.”

- The Josephson Institute of Ethics



“There’s harmony and inner peace to be found in following a moral compass that points in the same direction regardless of fashion or trend.”

- Ted Koppel



How do you rate yourself when it comes to ethics?

1. I am always ethical
2. I am mostly ethical
3. I am somewhat ethical
4. I am seldom ethical
5. I am never ethical



Educators, philosophers, theologians, and lawyers have made ethics an overly complex subject. I believe you will be able to use one guideline to govern all your ethical decision making.



The Golden Rule



“If we had only one rule in this company, it would be the Golden Rule. If we’ve got that one right, no other rules are necessary.”

- Jim Blanchard



And as ye would that men
should do to you, do ye also
to them likewise. ~ Luke 6:31



What is “Ethics” anyhow?

- The doctrines of morality or social manners; the science of moral philosophy, which teaches us our duty and the reasons of it.
- A system of moral principles; a system of rules for regulating the actions and manners of people in society.



Ethics vs Morality – What is the difference?



Ethics – from the Greek **ETHOS** –

Philosophical foundation, rules, norms, “what ought to be” – Imperative mood, thus implying an obligation



Morality – from the Greek **MORES** –

Behavioral patterns, customs, values, “what things are” – Indicative mood, thus implying no obligation



Situational Ethics = Moral Relativism



The position that moral decision making is contextual or dependent on a set of circumstances. Situation ethics holds that moral judgments must be made within the context of the entirety of a situation and that all normative features of a situation must be viewed as a whole. The guiding framework for moral decision making is stated variously as that of acting in the most loving way, to maximize harmony and reduce discord, or to enrich human existence.



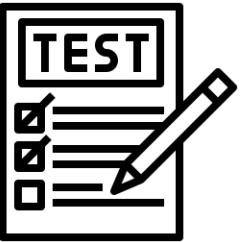
Statistical Morality

The position that moral decision making is based on what the majority of people think. Polls identify what is “normal” statistically based on what the majority of people think or how the majority of people feel about something. The identified “normal” belief or position then becomes the new “norm” of society and thus morality evolves.



The existence of ethics is based on one important presupposition:

There is such a thing as objectively definable “RIGHT” and “WRONG”



Three related principles:

(NOT the Big Three)

- **Truth**
- **Justice**
- **Ethics**



Truth

- “There is no such thing as objective truth”
 - This is nonsensical – there is such a thing as objective truth.
- “That may be your truth, but that is not my truth”
 - Truth is not individual – truth exists on its own
 - You may have your opinion or perspective of the truth, but the truth is what the truth is



Justice

- “Environmental justice”
- “Social justice”



Ethics

- The existence of ethics is based on one important presupposition: There is such a thing as objectively definable “RIGHT” and “WRONG”
- This requires that there is such a thing as objective **truth**
- In order for ethics to be of any use to anyone, there must also be **justice**



Codes of Ethics

- Virtually all engineering societies and associations have Codes of Ethics. These codes are usually stated as general principles that serve as a guide for making ethical decisions
- An engineer cannot be disciplined by the FBPE for being “unethical” or for violating the ethical standards of any particular engineering society. However, many ethical situations are covered in the Board’s “Grounds for Disciplinary Proceedings” as found in 61G15-19 F.A.C.

More on this in my Laws & Rules course!



My BIG THREE



- 1. Protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public**
- 2. Be honest and impartial in all of your dealings (public, employers or clients, other professionals)**
- 3. Protect and enhance the honor and reputation of the engineering profession**



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is
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NSPE Ethics Reference Guide



Engineers' Creed

As a Professional Engineer, I dedicate my professional knowledge and skill to the advancement and betterment of human welfare.

I pledge:

To give the utmost of performance;

To participate in none but honest enterprise;

To live and work according to the laws of man and the highest standards of professional conduct;

To place service before profit, the honor and standing of the profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations.

In humility and with need for Divine Guidance, I make this pledge.

Adopted by the National Society of Professional Engineers, June 1954



NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers

Fundamental Canons

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.
3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
5. Avoid deceptive acts.
6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.



NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers

Professional Obligations

1. Engineers shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
2. Engineers shall at all times strive to serve the public interest.
3. Engineers shall avoid all conduct or practice that deceives the public.
4. Engineers shall not disclose, without consent, confidential information concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client or employer, or public body on which they serve.



NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers

Professional Obligations (cont.)

5. Engineers shall not be influenced in their professional duties by conflicting interests.
6. Engineers shall not attempt to obtain employment or advancement or professional engagements by untruthfully criticizing other engineers, or by other improper or questionable methods.
7. Engineers shall not attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, directly or indirectly, the professional reputation, prospects, practice, or employment of other engineers. Engineers who believe others are guilty of unethical or illegal practice shall present such information to the proper authority for action.



NSPE Code of Ethics for Engineers

Professional Obligations (cont.)

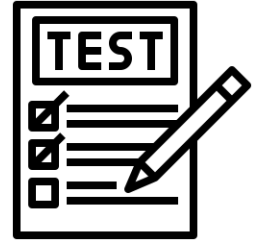
8. Engineers shall accept personal responsibility for their professional activities, provided, however, that engineers may seek indemnification for services arising out of their practice for other than gross negligence, where the engineer's interests cannot otherwise be protected.
9. Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others.



Closing Thoughts



My BIG THREE



- 1. Protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public**
- 2. Be honest and impartial in all of your dealings (public, employers or clients, other professionals)**
- 3. Protect and enhance the honor and reputation of the engineering profession**



Most important thing to remember:

**The ends do NOT
justify the means!**





Remember to keep it simple:

**Just live by
the Golden
Rule!**



Obligation Of An Engineer

I am an Engineer. In my profession I take deep pride. To it, I owe solemn obligations.

Since the Stone Age, human progress has been spurred by the engineering genius. Engineers have made usable nature's vast resources of material and energy for Mankind's benefit.

Engineers have vitalized and turned to practical use the principles of science and the means of technology. Were it not for this heritage of accumulated experience, my efforts would be feeble.

As an Engineer, I pledge to practice integrity and fair dealing, tolerance and respect, and to uphold devotion to the standards and the dignity of my profession, conscious always that my skill carries with it the obligation to serve humanity by making the best use of Earth's precious wealth.

As an Engineer, in humility and with the need for Divine guidance, I shall participate in none but honest enterprises. When needed, my skill and knowledge shall be given without reservation for the public good. In the performance of duty and in fidelity to my profession, I shall give the utmost.



In summary – what is ethics?

**Do the right thing
come what may!**



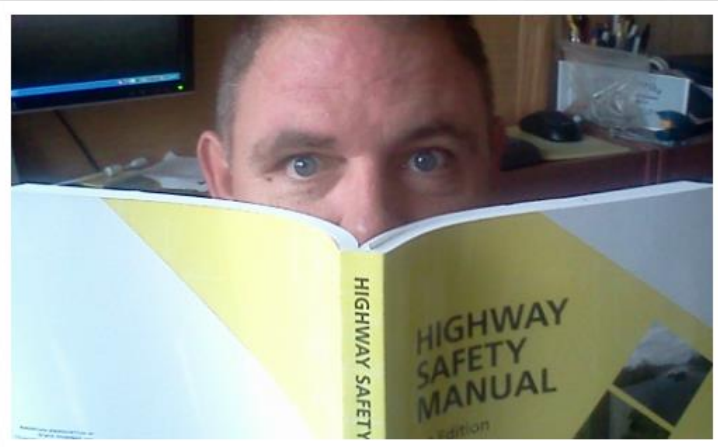
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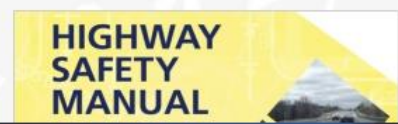
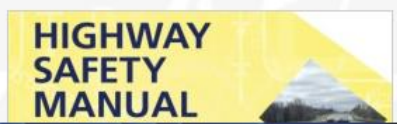
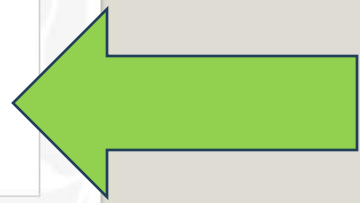
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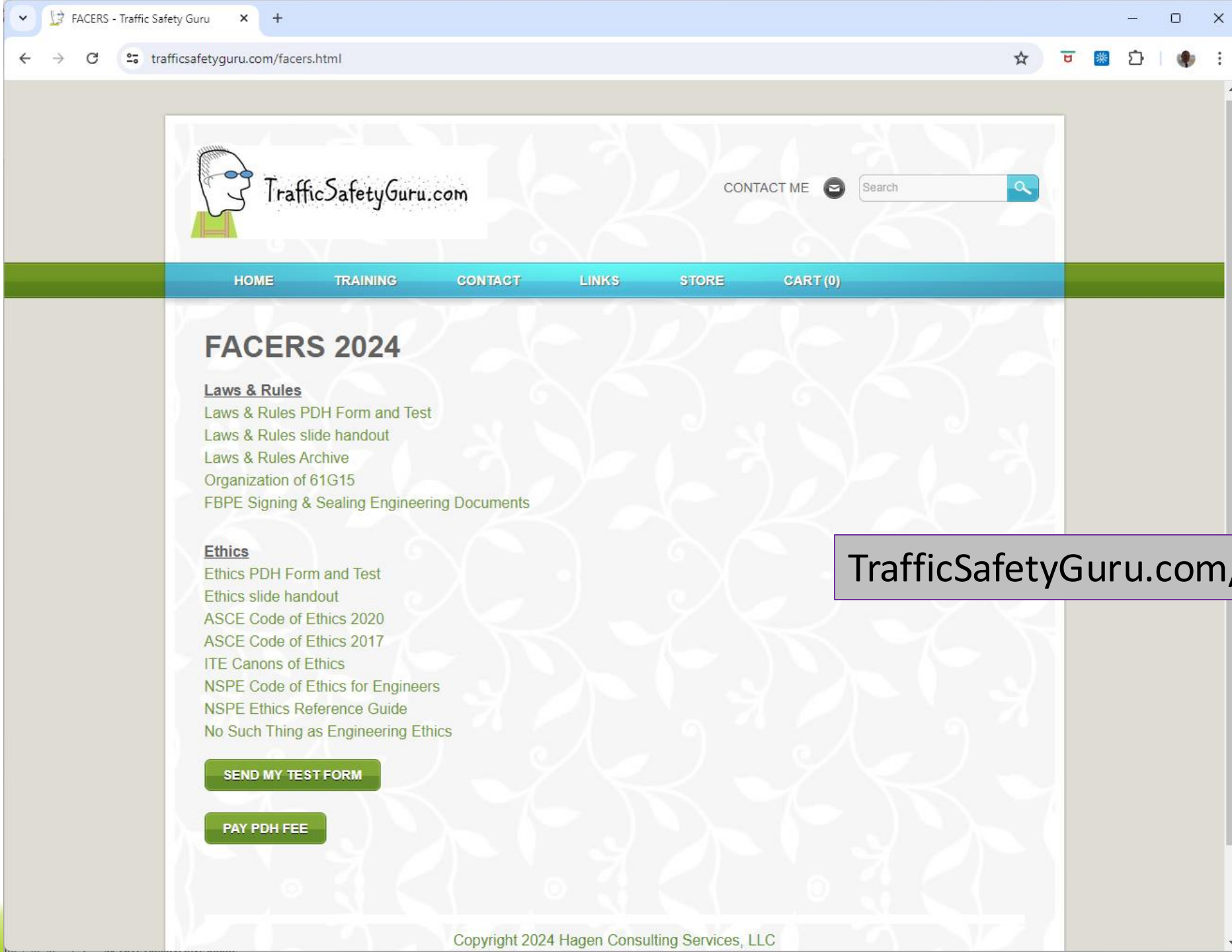
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