Legal Issues in Engineering

Legal issues in engineering are a growing concern in business and industry as a whole, and every engineer should keep these issues in mind at all times. The purpose of this presentation is to provide the students with a basic understanding of the importance of legal matters in engineering design and manufacturing. By having a firm understanding of the legal issues in engineering, students can use this knowledge to be proactive in engineering, instead of being reactive.

The presentation discusses two major areas of legal concern in engineering:

- Product liability
- Intellectual property

There are three theories for product liability: strict liability, negligence, and breach of warranty. In addition, three types of defects are addressed: Manufacturing, Design, and Failure to Warn. The module then discusses practices that engineers should apply to avoid product liability litigation such as product warning, quality control, safety committees, and design reviews.

This presentation briefly discusses trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets. Patents are discussed more thoroughly. It lists the requirements that must be fulfilled by the potential object of the patent and outlines the basic patent process.