



PEER-REVIEW POLICY

To uphold the quality and veracity of individual articles and journals, all manuscripts submitted to any SAE International journal are first checked by SAE staff for plagiarism and an editor-in-chief or associate editor for fit with the journal. Manuscripts that have been found suitable for the subject matter of a journal and that pass a plagiarism check are then subjected to a double-blind peer-review process, whereby an associate editor arranges for a minimum of three independent subject expert reviewers that determine the scientific integrity and topical relevance for the journal. The associate editor evaluates the reviews for determination of accepting or rejecting a manuscript or recommending for revision. Once the associate editor recommends a manuscript for approval, the editor-in-chief has responsibility to accept or reject, with the editor-in-chief's decision being final.

Participants in our peer-review process (editors or reviewers) must disclose suspected conflicts of interest between themselves and assigned manuscripts. SAE defines a conflict of interest as, "a set of conditions in which professional judgement concerning a primary interest (such as validity of research) can be influenced by secondary interest (such as financial gain)." Editors and associate editors cannot be involved in handling manuscripts that have been written by themselves, by family, or colleagues, or that might otherwise constitute a conflict of interest. Any such manuscripts would be subject to the journal's normal procedures, with evaluation and peer review handled by a disinterested editor. Reviewers who suspect a conflict of interest must similarly disclose this to the editor or SAE staff and recuse themselves from the assignment. Our conflict of interest policy and procedures are defined in detail [here](#).

Promoting dynamic "hot" topics in the field, special issues offer comprehensive overviews of a wide range of promising and innovative research areas in mobility engineering. All special issue proposals are initially evaluated by an editor-in-chief and associate editors of the applicable journal, and guest editors are carefully vetted by SAE staff and journal editors. Each special issue is administered by a panel of guest editors (in consultation with regular journal associate editors and/or editors-in-chief) and is comprised of rigorously peer-reviewed articles from top researchers across industry, academia, and government. Manuscripts submitted for special issue consideration are further evaluated by SAE staff for plagiarism and by an associate editor with relevant expertise for topical relevance and scientific integrity. If the manuscript is found suitable on those grounds, it is then handled by the guest editor in the same manner as regular manuscript submissions—subject to a double-blind peer-review process, with a minimum of three independent subject expert reviewers. Upon recommendation by the guest editor after reviews and manuscript revision, the editor-in-chief evaluates the manuscript, reviews, and recommendation. Approval must be given by the editor-in-chief for publication in the special issue, with the editor-in-chief's decision being final.