

Editorial

Addition of New Material After Peer Review

THIS message addresses a serious concern of author misconduct that must be addressed at the editorial level. The problem is not new, but the frequency of occurrences in the last few months has brought the matter to the forefront of our attention. We are talking about the many instances of authors adding new material to their papers after the peer-review process has been completed. To provide the background about the problem, when the paper under review has been recommended for publication by an Associate Editor, the peer-review process has been completed. In the decision letter, the authors are requested to submit a final version that will be sent to the IEEE for typesetting. The final version of the paper is checked carefully at the editorial office as a matter of quality control. Unfortunately, we are finding that some authors are adding new material in the “final” versions that they submit. This practice is unacceptable; it undermines the purpose and the function of the peer-review process that is the basis of ensuring the technical correctness of scientific publication.

The IEEE JOURNAL OF OCEANIC ENGINEERING considers the practice of adding new material to a paper following completion of the peer reviews as a serious breach of ethics in scientific publishing. As such, it is an issue of author misconduct that will not be tolerated. The IEEE has a clear policy statement about this practice that is provided in Section 8.2.1 of the Publications, Service and Products Board Operations Manual that can be found at <https://origin.www.ieee.org/documents/opsmanual.pdf>

“Once an article has gone through the review process and a decision for final acceptance has been rendered, the corresponding author provides the final version of the article and supporting materials for publication. Any substantial and unauthorized changes made to the accepted article during this final stage of the publication process must be communicated in writing to the Editor, who then will decide if a rereview is necessary. This includes the addition or removal of any citations. Failure of such notification may be considered as author misconduct, and at the discretion of the Editor may be reported as such to the IEEE Vice President—Publication Services and Products.”

Our practice at the JOURNAL is consistent with the IEEE policy. If authors feel it is necessary to add new material after the paper has been recommended for publication by an Associate Editor, the authors should indicate this intention in a cover letter that describes the new material and explains the reason for including it in the paper. Authors should provide such a letter when the final version is submitted. The decision of whether to accept the additional material or initiate a new review rests with the Editor-in-Chief.

MANDAR CHITRE, *Editor-in-Chief*

N. ROSS CHAPMAN, *Editor Emeritus*