

THE ENGINEER'S GLOSSARY OF STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. "IT IS IN THE PROCESS" SO WRAPPED UP IN RED TAPE THAT THE SITUATION IS ALMOST HOPELESS.
2. "WE WILL LOOK INTO IT" BY THE TIME THE WHEEL MAKES A FULL TURN, WE ASSUME YOU WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT.
3. "PROJECT" ANY ASSIGNMENT THAT CAN'T BE COMPLETED BY ONE PHONE CALL.
4. "EXPEDITE" TO CONFOUND CONFUSION WITH COMMOTION.
5. "CHANNELS" THE GUY WHO HAS THE DESK BETWEEN TWO EXPEDITORS.
6. "CONSULTANT" ANY ORDINARY GUY MORE THAN FIFTY MILES FROM HOME.
7. "TO ACTIVATE" TO MAKE CARBONS AND ADD MORE NAMES TO THE MEMO.
8. "TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM" HIRE MORE PEOPLE AND EXPAND THE OFFICE.
9. "UNDER CONSIDERATION" NEVER HEARD OF IT.
10. "UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION" WE ARE LOOKING IN THE FILES FOR IT.
11. "A MEETING" A MASS MULING BY MASTER-MINDS.
12. "A CONFERENCE" A PLACE WHERE CONVERSATION IS SUBSTITUTED FOR THE DREARINESS OF LABOR AND THE LONLINESS OF THOUGHT.
13. "TO NEGOTIATE" TO SEEK A MEETING OF MINDS WITHOUT A KNOCKING OF HEADS.
14. "RE-ORIENTATION" GETTING USED TO WORKING AGAIN.
15. "RELIABLE SOURCE" THE GUY YOU JUST MET.
16. "INFORMED SOURCE" THE GUY WHO TOLD THE GUY YOU JUST MET.
17. "UNIMPEACHBLE SOURCE" THE GUY WHO STARTED THE RUMOR ORIGINALLY.
18. "A CLARIFICATION" TO FILL IN THE BACKGROUND WITH SO MANY DETAILS THAT THE FOREGROUND GOES UNDERGROUND.
19. "WE ARE TAKING A SURVEY" WE NEED MORE TIME TO THINK OF AN ANSWER.
20. "NOTE AND INITIAL" LET'S SPREAD THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ONE.
21. "SEE ME OR LET'S DISCUSS" COME DOWN TO MY OFFICE, I'M LONESOME.
22. "LET'S GET TOGETHER ON THIS" I'M ASSUMING YOU'RE AS CONFUSED AS I AM.
23. "GIVE US THE BENEFIT OF YOUR PRESENT THINKING" WE'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO DO.
24. "WILL ADVISE YOU IN DUE COURSE" IF WE FIGURE IT OUT, WE'LL LET YOU KNOW.
25. "TO GIVE SOMEONE THE PICTURE" A LONG, CONFUSED AND INACCURATE STATEMENT TO A NEWCOMER.
26. "POINT UP THE ISSUE" TO EXPAND ONE PAGE TO FIFTEEN PAGES.

27. "WE ARE AWARE OF IT" WE HAD HOPED THE FOOL WHO HAD STARTED IT WOULD HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT BY THIS TIME.
28. "CONFIDENTIAL" SPY BAIT AND BESIDES, THE STAMP LOOKS IMPORTANT.
29. "WITH MODIFICATIONS" WILL BE SHIPPED TO YOU IN KIT FORM - PUT IT TOGETHER YOURSELF (IF YOU CAN). GLUE OPTIONAL.
30. "INTERPRETATION" YOUR WARPED OPINION PITTED AGAINST YOUR ADVERSARY'S GOOD SENSE.
31. "STATISTICIAN" ONE WHO DRAWS A MATHEMATICALLY PRECISE LINE FROM AN UNWARRANTED ASSUMPTION TO A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.
32. "EXPERT" A PERSON WHO AVOIDS ALL SMALL ERRORS AS HE SWEEPS TOWARD THE GRAND FALLACY. (OBVIOUSLY CONFUSED).
33. "RESEARCH WORK" LOOKING FOR THE JERK WHO MOVED THE FILES.
34. "WE'VE GOT A HANDLE ON THE SITUATION" WE KNOW THE STUPID THING IS MAKING ERRORS; NOW WE JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHY.