

## **2022 ANSI/NFPA Patent Policy & Commercial Terms and Conditions**

*Note: NFPA follows the ANSI Patent Policy and Commercial Terms and Conditions in the latest version, as it may be revised and amended from time to time. The following version of the ANSI Patent Policy and Commercial Terms and Conditions is current and is reproduced from the ANSI Essential Requirements: Due Process Requirements for American National Standards dated January 2022. Contact NFPA Standards Administration or visit [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org) to obtain the latest version of the patent policy.*

### 3.0 Normative American National Standards Policies

Every ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer (ASD) shall comply with the normative policies contained in this section. The ASD may choose to: 1) include the text that follows, as appropriate, in its accredited procedures along with any additional information as required; or 2) submit to ANSI a written statement of full compliance with these policies in addition to policy statements that satisfy the requirements set-forth in this section.

#### 3.1 ANSI patent policy - Inclusion of Patents in American National Standards

There is no objection in principle to drafting an American National Standard (ANS) in terms that include the use of an essential patent claim (one whose use would be required for compliance with that standard) if it is considered that technical reasons justify this approach.

Participants in the ASD/ANSI standards development process are encouraged to bring patents with claims believed to be essential to the attention of the ANSI-Accredited Standards Developer (ASD).

If an ASD receives a notice that a proposed, revised or approved ANS may require the use of such a patent claim that is not already covered by an existing assurance, the procedures in this clause shall be followed.

##### 3.1.1 Statement from patent holder

The ASD shall receive from the patent holder or a party authorized to make assurances on its behalf, in written or electronic form, either:

a) assurance in the form of a general disclaimer to the effect that such party does not hold and does not currently intend holding any essential patent claim(s); or

b) assurance that a license to such essential patent claim(s) will be made available to applicants desiring to utilize the license for the purpose of implementing the standard either:

i) under reasonable terms and conditions that are demonstrably free of any unfair discrimination;  
or

ii) without compensation and under reasonable terms and conditions that are demonstrably free of any unfair discrimination.

Such assurance shall indicate that the patent holder (or third party authorized to make assurances on its behalf) will include in any documents transferring ownership of patents subject to the assurance, provisions sufficient to ensure that the commitments in the assurance are binding on the transferee, and that the transferee will similarly include appropriate provisions in the event of future transfers with the goal of binding each successor-in-interest.

The assurance shall also indicate that it is intended to be binding on successors-in-interest regardless of whether such provisions are included in the relevant transfer documents.

### 3.1.2 Record of statement

A record of the patent holder's statement shall be retained in the files of the ASD and shall be made publicly available (at the ASD's election, either on the ASD's website or ANSI's Letter of Assurance (LOA) repository).

### 3.1.3 Notice

When the ASD receives from a patent holder the assurance set forth in 3.1.1.b above, the standard shall include a note substantially as follows:

NOTE – The user's attention is called to the possibility that compliance with this standard may require use of an invention covered by patent rights.

By publication of this standard, no position is taken with respect to the validity of any such claim(s) or of any patent rights in connection therewith. If a patent holder has filed a statement of willingness to grant a license under these rights on reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms and conditions to applicants desiring to obtain such a license, then details may be obtained from the standards developer.

### 3.1.4 Responsibility for identifying patents

Neither the ASD nor ANSI is responsible for identifying patents for which a license may be required by an American National Standard or for conducting inquiries into the legal validity or scope of those patents that are brought to their attention.

### 3.2 Commercial terms and conditions

Except as otherwise permitted by these *Essential Requirements*, ANS shall not include terms or conditions that are primarily contractual or commercial in nature, as opposed to technical, engineering or scientific in nature. Thus, for example, an ANS shall not include contractual requirements (3.2.1); endorse or require the use of proprietary products or services (3.2.2); or endorse or require the use of particular conformity-assessment bodies, testing facilities or training organizations (3.2.3).

#### 3.2.1 Contractual Requirements

Except as provided below, ANS shall not include contractual requirements such as those relating to particular products or services, guarantees, warranties, reworks, indemnities, buybacks, price-related terms and other conditions of sale or use.

#### 3.2.2 Endorsements of Proprietary Products or Services

ANS shall not endorse or require the purchase or use of proprietary products or service providers as a condition of implementing the standard. Proprietary in this context means products or services that are the property of an owner and cannot be obtained or recreated without the consent of the owner. For example, an ANS may not endorse or require the purchase or use of brand-name tools or components, licenses, manufacturer lists, service provider lists or copyrighted materials.<sup>1</sup> However, for informational purposes, where known sources exist for products or services necessary to comply with the ANS, it is permissible, but not obligatory, to identify the sources (which may include a source's name and address) in a footnote, an appendix, or reference to a website. The referenced products or services

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<sup>1</sup> The term "copyrighted materials" is not intended to include: (a) manufacturers' instruction/safety manuals; or (b) third-party standards, when such documents are incorporated by reference into the text of an ANS for non-commercial technical, or safety-related purposes, as long as such references do not otherwise violate other provisions of the Commercial Terms and Conditions Policy (*e.g.*, they cannot also include warranties, guarantees and like commercial clauses).

shall be reasonably available from the referenced sources, the words "or the equivalent" shall be added to the reference, and the reference shall also expressly state that identification of products or services is not an endorsement of those products or services or their suppliers.