

ANSI/NFPA PATENT POLICY (Annex A.16)

ADOPTED BY THE NFPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS on November 15, 2008; amended on November 14, 2015; amended on November 13, 2020

NFPA follows the ANSI Patent Policy in its latest version, as it may be revised and amended from time to time. The following version of the ANSI Patent Policy is current and is reproduced from the ANSI Essential Requirements: Due Process Requirements for American National Standards dated January 2020. Contact NFPA Standards Administration or visit www.ansi.org to obtain the latest version of the patent policy.

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.

If an ANSI- Accredited Standards Developer (ASD) receives a notice that a proposed ANS or an approved ANS may require the use of such a patent claim, 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 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.

Approved Standards Council: October 2008, March 2009, August 2015, April 2020

Approved Board of Directors: November 2008

Amended and Approved Board of Directors: November 14, 2015, November 13, 2020