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Organisation internationale de normalisation
International Organization for Standardization
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Your ref.
Our ref. TMB

**TO THE ISO MEMBER BODIES
TO THE CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES
OF ISO TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND
SUBCOMMITTEES**

Date 2007-03-26

ISO/IEC/ITU patent policy

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you will be aware, at its meeting in March 2006, Council approved a common patent policy between ISO, IEC and ITU and requested that this be supplemented by common implementation guidelines and a common patent statement and licensing declaration form. These latter elements were approved by the Technical Management Board and the equivalent bodies in IEC and ITU in February 2007.

We are accordingly pleased to enclose copies of these documents, which will also be posted on the ISOTCPortal, for immediate implementation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.A. Smith', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael A Smith,
Senior Advisor, Technical Policy
Standards Department

Guidelines for Implementation of the Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC

(1 March 2007)

Part I – Common guidelines.....	2
1 Purpose.....	2
2 Explanation of terms	2
3 Patent disclosure	3
4 Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form.....	4
4.1 The purpose of the Declaration Form.....	4
4.2 Contact information.....	4
5 Conduct of meetings	4
6 Patent Information database.....	5
Part II – Organization-specific provisions	5
Specific provisions for ITU	5
ITU-1 General Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form	5
ITU-2 Notification.....	6
Specific provisions for ISO and IEC	6
ISO/IEC-1 Consultations on draft Deliverables	6
ISO/IEC-2 Notification.....	6
Annex 1 Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC.....	8
Annex 2 Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form for ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation ISO/IEC Deliverable	10
Annex 3 General Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form for ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation	13

Part I – Common guidelines

1 Purpose

ITU, in its Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and its Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), ISO and IEC have had patent policies for many years, the purpose being to provide in simple words practical guidance to the participants in their Technical Bodies in case patent rights matters arise.

Considering that the technical experts are normally not familiar with the complex issue of patent law, the Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC (hereafter referred to as the “Patent Policy”) was drafted in its operative part as a checklist, covering the three different cases which may arise if a Recommendation | Deliverable requires licences for Patents to be practiced or implemented, fully or partly.

The Guidelines for Implementation of the Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC (hereafter referred to as the “Guidelines”) are intended to clarify and facilitate implementation of the Patent Policy, a copy of which can be found in Annex 1 and also on the web site of each Organization.

The Patent Policy encourages the early disclosure and identification of Patents that may relate to Recommendations | Deliverables under development. In doing so, greater efficiency in standards development is possible and potential patent rights problems can be avoided.

The Organizations should not be involved in evaluating patent relevance or essentiality with regards to Recommendations | Deliverables, interfere with licensing negotiations, or engage in settling disputes on Patents; this should be left - as in the past - to the parties concerned.

Organization-specific provisions are contained in Part II of this document. However, it is understood that those Organization-specific provisions shall contradict neither the Patent Policy nor the Guidelines.

2 Explanation of terms

Contribution: Any document submitted for consideration by a Technical Body.

Free of charge: The words “free of charge” do not mean that the Patent Holder is waiving all of its rights with respect to the essential patent. Rather, “free of charge” refers to the issue of monetary compensation; *i.e.*, that the Patent Holder will not seek any monetary compensation as part of the licensing arrangement (whether such compensation is called a royalty, a one-time licensing fee, etc.). However, while the Patent Holder in this situation is committing to not charging any monetary amount, the Patent Holder is still entitled to require that the implementer of the above document sign a license agreement that contains other reasonable terms and conditions such as those relating to governing law, field of use, reciprocity, warranties, etc.

Organizations: ITU, ISO and IEC.

Patents: Patents refer to essential patents or similar rights, utility models and other statutory rights based on inventions, including any applications for any of the foregoing.

Patent Holder: Person or entity that owns, controls and/or has the ability to license Patents.

Reciprocity: As used herein, the word “reciprocity” means that the Patent Holder shall only be required to license any prospective licensee if such prospective licensee will commit to license its essential patent(s) or essential patent claim(s) for implementation of the same above document free of charge or under reasonable terms and conditions.

Recommendations | Deliverables: ITU-T and ITU-R Recommendations are referred to as “Recommendations”, ISO deliverables and IEC deliverables are referred to as “Deliverables”. The various types of Recommendation(s) | Deliverable(s) are referred to as “Document types” in the Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form (hereafter referred to as “Declaration Form”) attached as Annex 2.

Technical Bodies: Study Groups, any subordinate groups and other groups of ITU-T and ITU-R and technical committees, subcommittees and working groups in ISO and IEC.

3 Patent disclosure

As mandated by the Patent Policy in its paragraph 1, any party participating in the work of the Organizations should, from the outset, draw their attention to any known patent or to any known pending patent application, either their own or of other organizations.

In this context, the words “from the outset” imply that such information should be disclosed as early as possible during the development of the Recommendation | Deliverable. This might not be possible when the first draft text appears since at this time, the text might be still too vague or subject to subsequent major modifications. Moreover, that information should be provided in good faith and on a best effort basis, but there is no requirement for patent searches.

In addition to the above, any party not participating in Technical Bodies may draw the attention of the Organizations to any known Patent, either their own and/or of any third-party.

When disclosing their own Patents, Patent Holders have to use the Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form (referred to as the “Declaration Form”) as stated in Section 4 of these Guidelines.

Any communication drawing the attention to any third-party Patent should be addressed to the concerned Organization(s) in writing. The potential Patent Holder will then be requested by the relevant Organization(s) to submit a Declaration Form.

The Patent Policy and these Guidelines also apply to any Patent disclosed or drawn to the attention of the Organizations subsequent to the approval of a Recommendation | Deliverable.

Whether the identification of the Patent took place before or after the approval of the Recommendation | Deliverable, if the Patent Holder is unwilling to license under paragraph 2.1 or 2.2 of the Patent Policy, the Organizations will promptly advise the Technical Bodies responsible for the affected Recommendation | Deliverable so that appropriate action can be taken. Such action will include, but may not be limited to, a review of the Recommendation | Deliverable or its draft in order to remove the potential conflict or to further examine and clarify the technical considerations causing the conflict.

4 Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form

4.1 The purpose of the Declaration Form

To provide clear information in the Patent Information databases of each Organization, Patent Holders have to use the Declaration Form, which is available on the web site of each Organization (the Declaration Form is included in Annex 2 for information purposes). They must be sent to the Organizations for the attention, for ITU, of the Directors of the TSB or the BR or, for ISO/IEC, of the CEOs. The purpose of the Declaration Form is to ensure a standardized submission to the respective Organizations of the declarations being made by Patent Holders and, most importantly, to require in the case of ITU, and to strongly desire in the case of ISO and IEC, supporting information and an explanation if a Patent Holder declares his/her unwillingness to license under option 1 or 2 of the Declaration Form (i.e., declares option 3 of the Declaration Form).

The Declaration Form gives Patent Holders the means of making a licensing declaration relative to rights in Patents required for implementation of a specific Recommendation | Deliverable. Specifically, by submitting this Declaration Form the submitting party declares its willingness/unwillingness to license, according to the Patent Policy, Patents held by it and whose licence would be required to practice or implement part(s) or all of a specific Recommendation | Deliverable.

The statement contained in the Declaration Form remains in force as long as it has not been replaced, e.g., in case of obvious errors.

Multiple Declaration Forms are appropriate if the Patent Holder has identified several Patents and classifies them in different options of the Declaration Form and/or if the Patent Holder classifies different claims of a complex patent in different options of the Declaration Form.

4.2 Contact information

In completing Declaration Forms, attention should be given to supplying contact information that will remain valid over time. Where possible, the “Name and Department” and e-mail address should be generic. Also it is preferable, where possible, that parties, particularly multinational organizations, indicate the same contact point on all Declaration Forms submitted.

With a view to maintaining up-to-date information in the Patent Information database of each Organization, it is requested that the Organizations be informed of any change or corrections to the Declaration Form submitted in the past, especially with regard to the contact person.

5 Conduct of meetings

Early disclosure of Patents contributes to the efficiency of the process by which Recommendations | Deliverables are established. Therefore, each Technical Body, in the course of the development of a proposed Recommendation | Deliverable, will request the disclosure of any known Patents essential to the proposed Recommendation | Deliverable.

Chairmen of Technical Bodies will, if appropriate, ask, at an appropriate time in each meeting, whether anyone has knowledge of Patents, the use of which may be required to practice or implement the Recommendation | Deliverable being considered. The fact that the question was asked shall be recorded in the meeting report, along with any affirmative responses.

As long as the Organization concerned has received no indication of a Patent Holder selecting paragraph 2.3 of the Patent Policy, the Recommendation | Deliverable may be approved using the appropriate and respective rules of the Organization concerned. It is expected that discussions in Technical Bodies will include consideration of including patented material in a Recommendation | Deliverable, however the Technical Bodies may not take position regarding the essentiality, scope, validity or specific licensing terms of any claimed Patents.

6 Patent Information database

In order to facilitate both the standards-making process and the application of Recommendations | Deliverables, each Organization makes available to the public a Patent Information database composed of information that was communicated to the Organizations by the means of Declaration Forms. The Patent Information database may contain information on specific Patents, or may contain no such information but rather a statement about compliance with the Patent Policy for a particular Recommendation | Deliverable.

The Patent Information databases are not certified to be either accurate or complete, but only reflect the information that has been communicated to the Organizations. As such, the Patent Information databases may be viewed as simply raising a flag to alert users that they may wish to contact the entities who have communicated Declaration Forms to the Organizations in order to determine if patent licenses must be obtained for use or implementation of a particular Recommendation | Deliverable.

Part II – Organization-specific provisions

Specific provisions for ITU

ITU-1 General Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form

Anyone may submit a General Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form which is available on the web sites of ITU-T and ITU-R (the form in Annex 3 is included for information purposes). The purpose of this form is to give Patent Holders the voluntary option of making a general licensing declaration relative to material protected by Patents contained in any of their Contributions. Specifically, by submitting its form, the submitting party declares its willingness to license all Patents owned by it in case part(s) or all of any proposals contained in its Contributions submitted to the Organization are included in Recommendation(s) and the included part(s) contain items that have been patented or for which patent applications have been filed and whose licence would be required to practice or implement Recommendation(s).

The General Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration Form is not a replacement for the “individual” (see clause 4 of Part I) Declaration Form, which is made per Recommendation, but is expected to improve responsiveness and early disclosure of the Patent Holder’s compliance with the Patent Policy.

The General Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration remains in force as long as it has not been replaced. It can be overruled by the “individual” (per Recommendation) Declaration Form from the same Patent Holder for any particular Recommendation (expectation is that this will rarely occur).

The ITU Patent Information database also contains a record of General Patent Statement and Licensing Declarations.

ITU-2 Notification

Text shall be added to the cover sheets of all new and revised ITU-T and ITU-R Recommendations, where appropriate, urging users to consult the ITU Patent Information database. The wording is:

“ITU draws attention to the possibility that the practice or implementation of this Recommendation may involve the use of a claimed Intellectual Property Right. ITU takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of claimed Intellectual Property Rights, whether asserted by ITU members or others outside of the Recommendation development process.

As of the date of approval of this Recommendation, ITU [had/had not] received notice of intellectual property, protected by patents, which may be required to implement this Recommendation. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information and are therefore strongly urged to consult the ITU Patent Information database.”

Specific provisions for ISO and IEC

ISO/IEC-1 Consultations on draft Deliverables

All drafts submitted for comment shall include on the cover page the following text:

“Recipients of this draft are invited to submit, with their comments, notification of any relevant patent rights of which they are aware and to provide supporting documentation.”

ISO/IEC-2 Notification

A published document for which no patent rights are identified during the preparation thereof, shall contain the following notice in the foreword:

“Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO [and/or] IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.”

A published document for which patent rights have been identified during the preparation thereof, shall include the following notice in the introduction:

“The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) [and/or] International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) draws attention to the fact that it is claimed that compliance with this document may involve the use of a patent concerning (...subject matter...) given in (...subclause...).

ISO [and/or] IEC take[s] no position concerning the evidence, validity and scope of this patent right.

The holder of this patent right has assured the ISO [and/or] IEC that he/she is willing to negotiate licences under reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions with applicants throughout the world. In this respect, the statement of the holder of this patent right is registered with ISO [and/or] IEC. Information may be obtained from:

name of holder of patent right ...

address ...

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights other than those identified above. ISO [and/or] IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.”

ANNEX 1

COMMON PATENT POLICY FOR ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC

The following is a "code of practice" regarding patents covering, in varying degrees, the subject matters of ITU-T Recommendations, ITU-R Recommendations, ISO deliverables and IEC deliverables (for the purpose of this document, ITU-T and ITU-R Recommendations are referred to as "Recommendations", ISO deliverables and IEC deliverables are referred to as "Deliverables"). The rules of the "code of practice" are simple and straightforward. Recommendations | Deliverables are drawn up by technical and not patent experts; thus, they may not necessarily be very familiar with the complex international legal situation of intellectual property rights such as patents, etc.

Recommendations | Deliverables are non-binding; their objective is to ensure compatibility of technologies and systems on a worldwide basis. To meet this objective, which is in the common interests of all those participating, it must be ensured that Recommendations | Deliverables, their applications, use, etc. are accessible to everybody.

It follows, therefore, that a patent embodied fully or partly in a Recommendation | Deliverable must be accessible to everybody without undue constraints. To meet this requirement in general is the sole objective of the code of practice. The detailed arrangements arising from patents (licensing, royalties, etc.) are left to the parties concerned, as these arrangements might differ from case to case.

This code of practice may be summarized as follows:

1 The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau (BR) and the offices of the CEOs of ISO and IEC are not in a position to give authoritative or comprehensive information about evidence, validity or scope of patents or similar rights, but it is desirable that the fullest available information should be disclosed. Therefore, any party participating in the work of ITU, ISO or IEC should, from the outset, draw the attention of the Director of ITU-TSB, the Director of ITU-BR, or the offices of the CEOs of ISO or IEC, respectively, to any known patent or to any known pending patent application, either their own or of other organizations, although ITU, ISO or IEC are unable to verify the validity of any such information.

2 If a Recommendation | Deliverable is developed and such information as referred to in paragraph 1 has been disclosed, three different situations may arise:

2.1 The patent holder is willing to negotiate licences free of charge with other parties on a non-discriminatory basis on reasonable terms and conditions. Such negotiations are left to the parties concerned and are performed outside ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC.

2.2 The patent holder is willing to negotiate licences with other parties on a non-discriminatory basis on reasonable terms and conditions. Such negotiations are left to the parties concerned and are performed outside ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC.

2.3 The patent holder is not willing to comply with the provisions of either paragraph 2.1 or paragraph 2.2; in such case, the Recommendation | Deliverable shall not include provisions depending on the patent.

3 Whatever case applies (2.1, 2.2 or 2.3), the patent holder has to provide a written statement to be filed at ITU-TSB, ITU-BR or the offices of the CEOs of ISO or IEC, respectively, using the appropriate "Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration" Form. This statement must not include additional provisions, conditions, or any other exclusion clauses in excess of what is provided for each case in the corresponding boxes of the form.

ANNEX 2

PATENT STATEMENT AND LICENSING DECLARATION FORM FOR ITU-T/ITU-R RECOMMENDATION | ISO/IEC DELIVERABLE



Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration for ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation | ISO/IEC Deliverable

This declaration does not represent an actual grant of a license

Please return to the relevant organization(s) as instructed below per document type:

Director Telecommunication Standardization Bureau International Telecommunication Union Place des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Fax: +41 22 730 5853 Email: tsbdir@itu.int

Director Radiocommunication Bureau International Telecommunication Union Place des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Fax: +41 22 730 5785 Email: brmail@itu.int

Secretary-General International Organization for Standardization 1 chemin de la Voie-Creuse CH-1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland Fax: +41 22 733 3430 Email: patent.statements@iso.org

General Secretary International Electrotechnical Commission 3 rue de Varembe CH-1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland Fax: +41 22 919 0300 Email: inmail@iec.ch

Patent Holder:

Legal Name _____

Contact for license application:

Name & Department _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

URL (optional) _____

Document type:

ITU-T Rec. (*) ITU-R Rec. (*) ISO Deliverable (*) IEC Deliverable (*)

(please return the form to the relevant Organization)

Common text or twin text (ITU-T Rec. | ISO/IEC Deliverable (*)) (for common text or twin text, please return the form to each of the three Organizations: ITU-T, ISO, IEC)

ISO/IEC Deliverable (*) (for ISO/IEC Deliverables, please return the form to both ISO and IEC)

(*)Number _____

(*)Title _____

Licensing declaration:

The Patent Holder believes that it holds granted and/or pending applications for patents, the use of which would be required to implement the above document and hereby declares, in accordance with the Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC, that (check one box only):

1. The Patent Holder is prepared to grant a free of charge license to an unrestricted number of applicants on a worldwide, non-discriminatory basis and under other reasonable terms and conditions to make, use, and sell implementations of the above document.
 Negotiations are left to the parties concerned and are performed outside the ITU-T, ITU-R, ISO or IEC.
Also mark here ___ if the Patent Holder's willingness to license is conditioned on reciprocity for the above document.
Also mark here ___ if the Patent Holder reserves the right to license on reasonable terms and conditions (but not free of charge) to applicants who are only willing to license their patent claims, whose use would be required to implement the above document, on reasonable terms and conditions (but not free of charge).

2. The Patent Holder is prepared to grant a license to an unrestricted number of applicants on a worldwide, non-discriminatory basis and on reasonable terms and conditions to make, use and sell implementations of the above document.
 Negotiations are left to the parties concerned and are performed outside the ITU-T, ITU-R, ISO, or IEC.
Also mark here ___ if the Patent Holder's willingness to license is conditioned on reciprocity for the above document.

3. The Patent Holder is unwilling to grant licenses in accordance with provisions of either 1 or 2 above.
 In this case, the following information must be provided to ITU, and is strongly desired by ISO and IEC, as part of this declaration:

- granted patent number or patent application number (if pending);
- an indication of which portions of the above document are affected;
- a description of the patent claims covering the above document.

Free of charge: The words "free of charge" do not mean that the Patent Holder is waiving all of its rights with respect to the essential patent. Rather, "free of charge" refers to the issue of monetary compensation; *i.e.*, that the Patent Holder will not seek any monetary compensation as part of the licensing arrangement (whether such compensation is called a royalty, a one-time licensing fee, etc.). However, while the Patent Holder in this situation is committing to not charging any monetary amount, the Patent Holder is still entitled to require that the implementer of the above document sign a license agreement that contains other reasonable terms and conditions such as those relating to governing law, field of use, reciprocity, warranties, etc.

Reciprocity: As used herein, the word "reciprocity" means that the Patent Holder shall only be required to license any prospective licensee if such prospective licensee will commit to license its essential patent(s) or essential patent claim(s) for implementation of the same above document free of charge or under reasonable terms and conditions.

Signature:
 Patent Holder _____
 Name of authorized person _____
 Title of authorized person _____
 Signature _____
 Place, Date _____

Patent Information (desired but not required for options 1 and 2; required in ITU for option 3 (NOTE))				
No.	Status [granted/ pending]	Country	Granted Patent Number or Application Number (if pending)	Title
1				
2				
3				

NOTE: For option 3, the additional minimum information that shall also be provided is listed in the option 3 box above.

ANNEX 3

GENERAL PATENT STATEMENT AND LICENSING DECLARATION FORM FOR ITU-T/ITU-R RECOMMENDATION



General Patent Statement and Licensing Declaration

for ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation

This declaration does not represent an actual grant of a license

Please return to the relevant bureau:

Director
Telecommunication Standardization Bureau
International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 20,
Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 730 5853
Email: tsbdir@itu.int

Director
Radiocommunication Bureau
International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 20,
Switzerland
Fax: +41 22 730 5785
Email: brmail@itu.int

Patent Holder:

Legal Name _____

Contact for license application:

Name & Department _____

Address _____

Tel. _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

URL (optional) _____

Licensing declaration:

In case part(s) or all of any proposals contained in Contributions submitted by the Patent Holder above are included in ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation(s) and the included part(s) contain items that have been patented or for which patent applications have been filed and whose use would be required to implement ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation(s), the above Patent Holder hereby declares, in accordance with the Common Patent Policy for ITU-T/ITU-R/ISO/IEC (check one box only):

1. The Patent Holder is prepared to grant a free of charge license to an unrestricted number of applicants on a worldwide, non-discriminatory basis and under other reasonable terms and conditions to make, use, and sell implementations of the relevant ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation.

Negotiations are left to the parties concerned and are performed outside the ITU-T/ITU-R.

Also mark here ___ if the Patent Holder's willingness to license is conditioned on reciprocity for the above ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation.

Also mark here ___ if the Patent Holder reserves the right to license on reasonable terms and conditions (but not free of charge) to applicants who are only willing to license their patent claims, whose use would be required to implement the above ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation, on reasonable terms and conditions (but not free of charge).

2. The Patent Holder is prepared to grant a license to an unrestricted number of applicants on a worldwide, non-discriminatory basis and on reasonable terms and conditions to make, use and sell implementations of the relevant ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation.

Negotiations are left to the parties concerned and are performed outside the ITU-T/ITU-R.

Also mark here ___ if the Patent Holder's willingness to license is conditioned on reciprocity for the above ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation.

Free of charge: The words "free of charge" do not mean that the Patent Holder is waiving all of its rights with respect to the essential patent. Rather, "free of charge" refers to the issue of monetary compensation; *i.e.*, that the Patent Holder will not seek any monetary compensation as part of the licensing arrangement (whether such compensation is called a royalty, a one-time licensing fee, etc.). However, while the Patent Holder in this situation is committing to not charging any monetary amount, the Patent Holder is still entitled to require that the implementer of the ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation sign a license agreement that contains other reasonable terms and conditions such as those relating to governing law, field of use, reciprocity, warranties, etc.

Reciprocity: As used herein, the word "reciprocity" means that the Patent Holder shall only be required to license any prospective licensee if such prospective licensee will commit to license its essential patent(s) or essential patent claim(s) for implementation of the same ITU-T/ITU-R Recommendation free of charge or under reasonable terms and conditions.

Signature:

Patent Holder _____
Name of authorized person _____
Title of authorized person _____
Signature _____
Place, Date _____