

hroughout its history, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has maintained as its primary goal the enhancement of global competitiveness of U.S. business and the American quality of life by facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems and promoting their integrity. The Institute provides a forum for hundreds of ANSI-accredited standards developers that work cooperatively to develop American National Standards (ANS).

ANSI is a member of the International Accreditation Forum, the official U.S. member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and, via the U.S. National Committee, of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

Comprised of businesses, professional societies and trade associations, standards developers, government agencies, and consumer and labor organizations, the ANSI Federation represents the diverse interests of more than 120,000 entities and 3.2 million professionals worldwide.

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he ANSI Intellectual Property Rights Policy Committee (IPRPC) addresses a wide array of intellectual property issues impacting standards development and implementation—from antitrust and unfair competition to patents and copyright, trademarks and related matters. As a result of its efforts, stakeholders are better able to protect their contributions to the standards community.

Among its critical activities, the IPRPC:

- establishes policies addressing the incorporation of essential patents or other proprietary IP in national, regional or international standards
- develops positions on the global trade aspects of intellectual property matters relating to partners such as the People's Republic of China and the European Union
- offers strategic recommendations that help ANSI and its members address the IP issues that arise during standards-setting and implementation
- monitors and reports on the intellectual propertyrelated activities underway in organizations
 such as the U.S. Departments of Commerce and
 Justice, Federal Trade Commission, World
 Trade Organization, International Electrotechnical Commission, International Organization
 for Standardization, International Telecommunications Union and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute

Recommendations developed by the IPRPC's two standing committees help to establish the Institute's views on a variety of topics such as the incorporation of intellectual property in standards, and copyright protection for standards:

Patent Group

The Patent Group is responsible for developing the "nuts and bolts" of ANSI's procedures relating to embedded intellectual property rights. It leads the drafting and maintenance of the Institute's patent policy (incorporated in the ANSI Essential Requirements) and formulates the guidelines that help explain and illustrate the important and often complex policy considerations relating to these documents.

Copyright Group

The Copyright Group reviews issues relating to the assertation and exploitation of copyright in standards and the recognition of copyright protection for standards by courts, legislation, regulatory bodies and industry.

ANSI members are invited to join in shaping the broadbased policies and positions that influence intellectual property matters in the domestic, regional and global standardization arenas. Representatives selected for participation on the IPRPC are appointed for renewable three-year terms; there is no defined term of office for the standing committees.