

TIA FAQ

<http://www.tiaonline.org/about/faqs.cfm#faq6>

6. Why aren't all TIA and EIA standards free? [^top](#)

The standards development process costs a great deal of money. This fact is not new, but a good portion of standards users fail to understand the many steps required to provide them with the standards that they so eagerly desire. There are significant expenses other than the cost of printing and distributing hardcopy documents.

Much like the United Way or any other volunteer organization, standards developers spend time and resources on coordinating the efforts of volunteers in the development process. From the moment a standards project is initiated through its arrival on a user's desk (or computer screen), funds are spent on testing, materials, meetings, distribution of draft documents, balloting and adoption of the initial project as a standard. Every five years, a standard must be revised, reaffirmed or withdrawn to address current technology. All these activities require a full-time staff employed by the Standards Development Organization (SDO). While some organizations can operate with a small support staff, SDOs such as TIA require dozens of people dedicated to supporting the efforts of their respective volunteers.

Once a standard is developed, there are additional costs for publishing, printing and public relations. Users frequently require assistance in finding the standards appropriate for their needs, requiring a staff of information specialists to provide support. Considerable resources are spent on promoting the acceptance of standards in the marketplace. SDOs regularly invest in the education of federal, state and local officials to demonstrate the merit and integrity of standards and the development process. Since users rely on market acceptance of standards to operate commercially, this is an important function provided by SDOs.

The distribution and access systems may be the most significant costs of standards. Catalogs are created and maintained so users know what is available. Distribution outlets are staffed to provide fulfillment by hard copy or other format. In the case of electronic dissemination, the costs of printing and distribution are less, but there are weighty costs for electronic document publishing, electronic file maintenance, facilities and equipment for providing online or other methods of access, and customer support for electronic applications.

7. Can I download any free standards? [^top](#)

Yes. TIA, with the permission of certain of its engineering committees, does make some standards available for free download.

Specifically, you can download TR-41 [Voice over IP \(VoIP\) standards](#).

You can also [download cdma2000®](#) (FDD MC-CDMA or G3G CDMA MC) standards. The TIA/EIA/IS-2000 standard provides cdma2000 Multi-Carrier 1X and 3X air interface specification. Available for download are the six volumes in the TIA/EIA/IS-2000; two additional specifications supporting the OHG Harmonization framework UWC-136 Standards (TIA/EIA-136-xxx).

You may also download the AHAG (TIA TR-45 Ad Hoc Authentication Group) [commercial encryption source code](#) and related information.

Other free standards may be available through the engineering committees, however, they are likely to be "in process" and you must contact the appropriate committee for specifics. TIA does NOT make publicly available a list of committee contacts. You may e-mail standards@tiacomm.org for more information on reaching committee engineers.