

The IEEE Standards Association Corporate Program: Corporate Standards Development

IEEE corporate standards, like other standards developed at the IEEE, follow a set path from concept to completion, which adheres to the principles of due process, openness, consensus, balance and right of appeal. These principles allow for equity and fair play so no one interest category dominates the process and any organization with a desire to participate in a proposed standard can do so.

The first step on this path is to contact the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Corporate Standards Office, which will help find an IEEE Standards Sponsor for the project and discuss funding from the companies involved in the development of the standard. The Sponsor is a technical group at the IEEE that oversees the technical aspect of projects as they move through their development cycle. Each IEEE Sponsor is supported by an IEEE-SA staff liaison.

All IEEE standards projects begin with a Project Authorization Request (PAR), which summarizes a proposed standard's scope and purpose and includes other relevant information. The Sponsor and IEEE-SA staff liaison provide help in completing this form. If an IEEE sponsor cannot be found, the IEEE-SA Corporate Advisory Group (CAG), which oversees the IEEE-SA Corporate Program, can sponsor a standard.

PARs are reviewed by the New Standards Committee (NesCom) and approved by the IEEE-SA Standards Board. PARs go to NesCom directly for projects supported by Sponsors other than the CAG. PARs for CAG-sponsored projects are first directed to potential IEEE Sponsors,

offering them the opportunity to sponsor the project. If no sponsor comes forward within 40 days, the CAG will vote on its willingness to sponsor the project, and will send the PAR to NesCom based on a positive outcome of its vote.

How Working Groups Operate

After PAR approval, the companies and other organizations interested in drafting the standard form a working group. Model rules for starting and operating working groups are available at <http://standards.ieee.org/corforum/>.

The Working Group issues a "Call for Participation" to invite IEEE-SA corporate members to be part of a standards project, notifies the Sponsor when a draft is ready to be balloted, and sees that all issues raised during balloting are resolved.

Once work on a standard starts, the working group meets regularly. Each voting member assigns a designated representative (DR) to the group and one or more alternates (DRA).

The working group makes decisions on draft standards and other matters through ballots. The group also votes on such matters as revisions to working group procedures or PAR scope, forming a subgroup, approving group officers and setting fees.

The IEEE Corporate Standards Office supports the working group as it develops standards. It will, for instance, mentor the working group to help it stay on track, and make support services available. The working group accesses these services depending on the operating funds it has available from its members and from other sources.

For more information about the rules governing the corporate standards development process, visit the IEEE-SA Corporate Forum: <http://standards.ieee.org/corforum/>.

To learn more about the IEEE standards process, visit IEEE Standards Development Online at standards.ieee.org/resources/development/index.html.

To join other companies engaged in corporate standards development at the IEEE, contact:

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Guiding Principles for IEEE-SA Standards

All IEEE-SA standards are created by a process that adheres to five principles:

- ▶ Due process requires highly visible procedures for standards creation. Model procedures exist for the Sponsors and working groups that formulate standards.
- ▶ Openness ensures all interested parties have an opportunity to participate in the standards development process.
- ▶ Consensus requires that most of those in a group constituted to ballot a standard approve of it.
- ▶ Balance says that balloting groups must include interested parties but avoid an overwhelming influence by any one party.
- ▶ Right of appeal allows anyone to appeal an action at any point, before or after a standard is approved.

These principles give IEEE-SA standards a high level of validity and are a primary reason they generally enjoy widespread industry acceptance.

Key Terms

- ▶ The IEEE-SA Corporate Advisory Group (CAG), a committee of the IEEE-SA Board of Governors, facilitates the IEEE corporate standards process. It works with Sponsors and promotes participation and membership in the corporate program.
- ▶ The IEEE-SA Standards Board is the governing body for IEEE standards development. The Standards Board approves projects as they begin and gives final approval to all draft standards, ensuring that the rules and guiding principles were followed.
- ▶ Project Authorization Requests (PARs) provide the details needed to begin a standards project.
- ▶ The New Standards Committee (NesCom), a committee of the IEEE-SA Standards Board, reviews PARs for proposed standards and makes recommendations to the Board regarding their approval.
- ▶ The Standards Review Committee (RevCom), a committee of the IEEE-SA Standards Board, makes recommendations on the approval or disapproval of standards submitted to the IEEE-SA Standards Board.
- ▶ Corporate working groups contain companies and other profit and non-profit members who are committed to developing one or more standards.
- ▶ IEEE Standards Sponsors guide IEEE standards as they are developed. Sponsors can be IEEE Technical Societies, Standards Coordinating Committees, which work with standards that cross the interests of two or more Societies, or the IEEE-SA Corporate Advisory Group.