XBRL International IPR Policy FAQ

This refers to the XBRL Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy as implemented 1 August 2009

Q: Why does XII have an IPR Policy?

A: One of the primary reasons for the IPR Policy is so that XBRL International can know that anyone, anywhere in the world, can adopt XBRL Specifications and other work products without fear of patent claims. As a result, the policy requires contributors to XBRL work products to commit to make any "Necessary Claims" under patents (i.e., patent claims that an implementer could not avoid infringing) available to implementers for free, and on terms that are otherwise reasonable and non-discriminatory (a/k/a "RAND terms").

Q: What if I'm participating in the Working Group but not making specific contributions to the work products?

A: It is important that all parties who can influence the content of a work product agree to and abide by the IPR Policy. You may have heard of "submarine patents" being asserted against standards. What that means is that someone either has a patent and doesn't speak up, or files a patent application based on what is known about a standard as it is being developed. Only after the standard is approved and widely implemented does the owner of the submarine patent "surface," at which point it charges above-market royalties from implementers, who have no choice but to pay up, because the market has now become "locked in." To avoid that happening, XII along with many other standards organisations, requires *all* Working Group participants to make commitments regarding their patents.

Q: What is the process for agreeing to the IPR Policy?

A: Agreement to the XBRL IPR Policy forms part of the process for signing up for participation in a Working Group, and applies to all Working Group participants individually. The process is as follows:

1) Go to the online [Working Group Enrolment Form]. This form is only available to XBRL members. If you are a member, but cannot access the form please contact make sure you are logged in to the XII website. If you are still not successful, please contact info@xbrl.org
2) Make sure you provide a contact name and e-mail for someone in your company who is authorized to approve and agree to the IPR Policy for your organisation
3) Check the box indicated that you personally agree to the IPR Policy
4) Submit the form. At this time, an e-mail will be sent to the contact you provided indicating your intention to participate in the Working Group and explaining the need for your organisation to agree to the IPR Policy. Once your authorised contact has signed the policy, you will be allowed to participate in WG activities!!

Q: Who should I contact if I have questions about the IPR Policy?

A: Questions should be sent to XBRL International at info@xbrl.org and your inquiry will be routed to the appropriate staff member. More detailed questions may be referred to counsel for guidance.