

Summary of SNIA IP Policy v4.0 Changes

In Q4 2014 the SNIA Board of Directors commissioned a taskforce to investigate the need and desire of SNIA member companies to have clarifications made to the Version 3.0 SNIA IP Policy, last updated and enforced September 2006. Several other prominent technology standards development organizations (SDOs) had recently made clarifications to their IP Policy (for reasonableness, injunctive relief, and patent exchange and transfer) to further reflect current day essential claim case rulings and best practices for IP licensing arrangements within the information communication technology (ICT) industries.

During 2015, this SNIA taskforce solicited feedback from voting member company representatives and their legal counsel, confirming a desire to improve upon the current SNIA IP Policy specifically focused on reasonableness, injunctive relief, and patent exchange and transfer. The SNIA taskforce included SNIA Board members, SNIA Technical Counsel members, Voting member legal counsel, SNIA Legal counsel, and SNIA staff.

In September 2015, the SNIA Board of Directors approved SNIA IP Policy V4.0 that incorporated several clarifications in: i) SNIA definitions for product components and; ii) policies for reasonableness, injunctive relief, and patent exchange and transfer.

- Four (4) sections of the policy where changes were made:
 - **Definitions:** Clarify existing language regarding product components (chiefly 2.4, 2.6).
 - **Reasonableness:** Provide more specific language regarding cross-licensing and general principles for reasonable licensing of Essential Claims (3.4.2, 3.5.2, 3.10)
 - **Patent Transfer:** Provide more specific terms regarding obligations to transfer SNIA obligations when transferring patents (3.5.3).
 - **Injunctions:** Add terms regarding when a RAND-obligated licensor can seek injunctive relief or exclusion (3.9).
- **All Changed sections:** modified sections 2.4, 2.6, 3.4, 3.5, 3.9 and 3.10; added 3.11