

# Principles for the Use of ASTM Intellectual Property by Other Standards Organizations

## Introduction

The Board of Directors (“the Board”) of ASTM International (“the Society”), in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Charter and Bylaws of the Society, is charged with fulfilling the mission and objectives of the Society. Towards this end, the Board is required to preserve, protect, and enhance the mission and assets of the Society, including its intellectual property. The purpose of this document is to set forth certain broad guiding principles for the use of ASTM Intellectual Property (IP) by other standards organizations.

The Board recognizes that the use and protection of ASTM International’s Intellectual Property (e.g. Standards, Draft Standards, Adjuncts, Technical Papers, Research Reports, Manuals, Software, Training Course Materials, and Logos - collectively referred to as “ASTM IP”) - the end result of the volunteer efforts of the Society’s members - is vital to the ability of ASTM International to maintain its fiscal stability, to fulfill the Society’s mission to develop the highest quality and most market relevant technical information and to be the foremost developer and provider of voluntary consensus standards in the global marketplace. (See [ASTM IP Policy](#))

The Board also recognizes that ASTM International develops its international standards through an open and direct process that continues to meet the principles established by the World Trade Organization Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade in document “G/TBT/ 1/REV. 8. Section IX” for international standards developers. These principles include: Transparency, Openness, Impartiality and Consensus, Effectiveness and Relevance, Coherence, and Development Dimension. The Board recognizes that, because of the Society’s compliant processes and procedures as well as the technical quality of its standards, other standards development organizations have expressed a desire or need to utilize ASTM International’s intellectual property.

The Board recognizes the time and effort the Society’s volunteer members devote to the development of ASTM International’s standards. A goal of the Board is to prevent unnecessary duplication that creates marketplace confusion, dilutes the efforts and the time of the volunteer participants, delays the timely development and production of standards, or arbitrarily limits the ability of individuals, companies and regulators to select and use standards based on their suitability to meet safety, regulatory, and other technical considerations appropriate to their needs.

## **Principles**

### **Principle 1:**

A primary goal of ASTM International staff and members is and should be the global use of ASTM standards as ASTM developed and labeled standards.

### **Principle 2:**

Any use of ASTM IP by other standards organizations must not jeopardize the mission, vitality or continued viability, economic or otherwise, of ASTM International.

### **Principle 3:**

The Board does not support the use of ASTM IP to create duplicative or derivative standards by another organization. The Board recognizes that there are policies that exist which may act as barriers so that other organizations cannot use ASTM IP labeled as ASTM standards. The Board does not condone such policies.

## **Possible Cooperation**

The Board and the Society do not want to exclude appropriate opportunity for cooperation with other standards organizations by programmatically prohibiting the use of ASTM IP in the development of global solutions to issues of standardization. The Board has developed [Guidelines for Cooperation with Other Standards Organizations](#).

The Board authorizes the President of the Society to negotiate mutually-beneficial cooperative agreements involving the use of ASTM IP as appropriate. In making the decision whether to permit the use of ASTM IP, the President shall be guided by the above Principles and will determine what conditions may be required to allow for cooperation.

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