

Qualcomm Licensing Commitment Regarding IEEE 802.11az

November 7, 2022

Today, Qualcomm has submitted a negative Letter of Assurance (“LOA”) to IEEE for an 802.11 Standard. Because IEEE does not permit a patent holder to explain its licensing intentions in an LOA, Qualcomm hereby commits to license the Essential Patent Claims listed in the negative LOA for 802.11az in accordance with the version of the IEEE-SA Standards Board Bylaws that came into effect on May 1, 2007 (“2007 Policy”).

This LOA submission is not an indication of any change to Qualcomm’s longstanding licensing practices with respect to 802.11 standards.

Background

Qualcomm objected to the changes to the IEEE-SA Standards Board Bylaws that became effective on May 15, 2015 (“2015 Policy”) from the outset, including making a public statement in February 2015 that it would not make licensing commitments under the 2015 Policy. Since then, Qualcomm has taken steps to have its Essential Patent Claims for 802.11 standards subject to a general LOA under the 2007 Policy submitted by CSR, plc. in 2009. When the IEEE made available a “Limited LOA” in June 2019 that permitted patent holders to provide licensing commitments under the terms of the 2007 Policy with respect to projects commenced before May 15, 2015, most submitters elected to make commitments under that policy rather than the 2015 Policy. In addition, a growing number of companies have filed negative LOAs under the 2015 Policy with respect to 802.11 standards, with no impact on the progress of those standards within IEEE.

IEEE is unwilling to accept enforceable licensing commitments under the 2007 Policy for standards projects commenced after May 15, 2015. That unwillingness leaves companies like Qualcomm, who are willing to give licensing commitments under the 2007 Policy but not the 2015 Policy, no option other than to submit a negative LOA.

Qualcomm looks forward to continuing its relationship with IEEE and to promoting the widespread deployment of products compliant with IEEE standards.

Sincerely,

Qualcomm Technology Licensing
Qualcomm Incorporated