

NISO Policy on Non-Member Participation in Standards Development

Approved by NISO Board of Directors on 9/20/2016

Revised by NISO Board of Directors on 4/16/2025

NISO strives to create and maintain the most technically advanced, effective standards and best practices in the information distribution community. To achieve this goal, NISO seeks worldwide experts from a range of industries to engage in the work of developing these outputs. Realizing that there are experts both inside and outside of the NISO membership community, NISO welcomes engagement in this important work from NISO members and non-members alike. Per NISO Procedures, working groups and standing committees must have a minimum of three Member experts. To recognize the value that NISO members bring to the entire process of standards development, NISO members who nominate experts to working groups will receive preferential treatment on the assignment of working group participation slots.

Non-members of NISO may participate in NISO standards development and contribute to projects as working group experts. However, these experts have no official vote on any decisions taken by the membership. Non-member organizations may only contribute to a single NISO working group at a time and may only nominate one person to serve on that working group.

Nomination to a working group does not guarantee participation on the group. Experts nominated to serve on a NISO group are reviewed by the NISO Topic Committees, NISO Architecture Committee, and/or NISO Board of Directors, based on several interconnected criteria depending on the nature of the group. Among the attributes that the leadership of NISO consider are technical expertise, organizational type, represented community, diversity of perspectives, engagement in NISO's activities, and NISO membership status.

NISO member organizations which are themselves comprised of member organizations may nominate experts from their constituency, provided that these nominations are active members of that organization. These experts shall be bound to the will of the nominating organization and represent its perspectives.

Member organizations that withdraw from NISO membership, either through active decision or whose membership is cancelled for non-payment, are ineligible for working group participation through this policy for the period of 18 months from the time of their removal as a NISO member. They may return to full participation during such a period by returning to fully paid membership status.

The Executive Director may, at his/her discretion, and with the agreement of the NISO oversight body (Topic Committee, Architecture Committee or Board of Directors), make a derogation of this policy in very limited circumstances.

This policy is effective upon approval and active members of working groups and standing committees may be subject to dismissal from those groups if they fall outside the parameters described in this policy.