



Accellera Systems Initiative

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy Version 1.0

Definitions

The following terms, when capitalized, have the following meanings:

“Accellera” shall mean Accellera Systems Initiative.

“AI Tool” shall mean any technology, software or service that uses machine learning (ML), large language models (LLMs), or other artificial intelligence techniques to generate, complete, translate, summarize, or transform content, including text, source code, specifications, models, diagrams, images, or data, in response to an input or prompt.

“AI-Generated Content” shall mean any content, or portion thereof, produced by an AI Tool.

“Contributor” shall mean any person or entity that makes contributions to Accellera standards development Work Products and Supplemental Material.

“Supplemental Material” shall mean any items that are produced and released along with a Work Product but are not part of that Work Product. Such materials are typically released along with a standard to aid in proliferation of that standard. Such material may include a software implementation of the standard, a User Guide, examples that illuminate parts of the standards and so forth.

“Technical Committee” shall mean the committee comprised of all Working Group chairs, under the leadership of the Board-appointed Technical Committee Chair, to oversee all technical activity.

"Work Product" shall mean the compilation of or collective work of all participants that will result in a standards document (e.g., a draft standard, the final approved standard)

“Working Group” shall mean any Working Group, Working Group subcommittee, task force or other team that functions as primarily described in Section 18 of the Accellera Policies and Procedures.

***Note:** Please see the [Accellera Policies and Procedures](#) and the [Accellera IP Rights Policy](#) for additional definitions.*

Accellera AI Policy

Abbreviations and acronyms

This list offers only those acronyms and abbreviations used in this policy document.

AI: Artificial Intelligence

DCO: Developer's Certificate of Origin

IEEE: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

TC: Technical Committee

TCC: Technical Committee Chair

WG: Working Group

References

[Accellera Systems Initiative Intellectual Property Rights Policy](#)

[Accellera Systems Initiative Policies & Procedures](#)

1. Introduction

AI-assisted technologies (“AI tools”) and emerging Generative AI (GenAI) capabilities have a strong and direct impact on the standards development process and the creation of supplemental material such as open-source reference implementations.

This policy is intended to provide transparency and guidance to authors, editors, reviewers, and software engineers involved in the development of Accellera standards and supplemental materials who intend to use AI technologies and tools in these activities.

As the AI landscape is evolving rapidly, it is expected that this policy will be updated regularly to incorporate the latest developments, insights and guidance on how to use modern AI technologies.

We highly appreciate user feedback on the practical implementation of this policy. Feel free to contact the Accellera Technical Committee Chair to share ideas, concerns and suggestions for improvements: tcc@lists.accellera.org

2. General rules and regulations

- a. Accellera follows IEEE / IEEE SA policies as baseline for standards development.
- b. All contributions shall comply with the Intellectual Property Rights and copyright requirements as defined in the Accellera IP Rights Policy.
- c. Accellera follows best practices and guidelines made available by open-source software development communities and foundations (e.g., Apache Foundation, Linux Foundation).
- d. This policy defines additional guidance and instructions for the practical implementation and use of AI technologies and tools.
- e. When introducing AI technologies, the AI tools shall always be applied with human supervision, control and approval. Under all circumstances, author(s) / editor(s) are responsible for their contribution(s) to the various Work Products. Approval and sign-off of any Work Product shall be performed by authorized humans.
- f. Contributors shall not submit confidential, proprietary, or otherwise restricted information into an AI tool. This restriction includes non-public standard drafts, Working Group internal documents, and other non-public technical material.
- g. The Accellera Technical Committee may identify approved, restricted, or prohibited AI technologies for specific activities. Please consult the Technical Committee Chair for the list of authorized AI technologies and tools.

3. Development of Standard Documents

3.1. Legal Requirements

All contributions shall comply with the copyright requirements as defined in the [Accellera IP Rights Policy](#).

3.2. Editing assistance

The use of AI technologies for editing assistance and grammar enhancement is considered common practice in the industry and, as such, outside the intent of this policy. For these use cases, disclosure of applied AI technologies is not required.

3.3. Content generation

The use of AI technologies for content generation of standards documents (e.g., Language Reference Manual, Interface standard definition, etc.) shall follow the guidelines as set below:

3.3.1. Language and API definitions

AI-generated language or API definitions may be used as preliminary discussion material. No AI-generated definition shall be incorporated into an Accellera standard unless it has undergone substantive human review, has been modified as appropriate, is technically supported by authoritative Working Group material, and is approved by the Working Group.

3.3.2. Figures, graphs and artwork:

- a. The use of AI tools is allowed for the creation of informative figures and graphs to illustrate concepts, processes or relationships (e.g., flow charts, decision trees, block diagrams, etc.), if the description to generate these figures or graphs is directly related to the standard itself.
- b. The use of AI tools to generate artwork (i.e., photographs, images) is strongly discouraged, as it is difficult to validate ownership or copyrights.

3.3.3. Code examples and code snippets

- a. The use of AI tools is allowed for the creation of code examples and snippets, as long as these examples are informative (not part of the norm).
- b. It is strongly recommended that code examples and snippets shown in the standard are also made available as supplemental material and follow an Accellera approved open-source license, and therefore follow the guidelines explained in Clause 4.

3.4. Guidance for technical editors and authors of a standard document

The human author/editor is responsible for:

- a. Reviewing all AI-generated code,
- b. Taking reasonable steps within the author's control to ensure compliance with the Accellera copyright policies,
- c. Taking full responsibility for the contribution,
- d. Adding the attribution “Assisted-by” to the contribution.

3.5. Attribution

When AI tools are used during the development of the standard, proper attribution in the document is required to track which elements have been assisted or generated by AI technologies.

The element-specific attributions shall be readable by authors, but invisible in print, by adding an attribution as comment in the source file of the standard. A standard source document may contain multiple element-specific attributions.

The contributor shall identify the AI agent or service used. A model identifier shall be included. Common development tools need not be listed. Any contribution shall include an “Assisted-by” tag with the following format:

Assisted-by: <agent or service name> <model identifier> [<model version, if available>]

Where:

- agent or service name (mandatory) is the name of the AI agent or service used
- model identifier (mandatory) is the specific model used
- model version (optional) is the specific model version used

Example:

Assisted-by: Claude Opus 5.5

For the final standard document, which is published, a list of applied AI technologies shall be listed in the Annex using the “Assisted-by” format as shown above. This annex is informative.

4. Development of Supplemental Material

4.1. Licensing and Legal Requirements

All contributions shall comply with the licensing requirements as defined in the [Accellera IP Rights Policy](#). All code shall comply with the license of the supplemental material library to which the contribution is made.

4.2. Code generation

The use of AI tools is allowed for the generation of code, as long as it has undergone substantive human review and is approved by the Working Group.

4.3. Signed-off-by and Developer Certificate of Origin (DCO)

All contributions shall be signed off by humans using the Accellera Developer Certificate of Origin (DCO). The sign-off procedure is mandatory for all contributors, including individuals from Accellera member companies as well as non-member organizations.

AI agents shall not add the “Signed-off-by” tags; these shall be added explicitly by an authorized human.

The human submitter is responsible for:

- a. Reviewing all AI-generated code
- b. Ensuring compliance with licensing requirements
- c. Adding their own “Signed-off-by” tag to certify the Accellera DCO
- d. Taking full responsibility for the contribution
- e. Adding the attribution “Assisted-by” to the contribution

See the CONTRIBUTING.md file in the library for more details (see Annex A)

Example:

Signed-off-by: Ima Contributor <ima@contributor.example.org>

4.4. Attribution

When AI tools contribute to the code development, proper attribution in the commit message is mandatory to track the evolving role of AI in the development process. Contributions shall include an “Assisted-by” tag in the following format:

Assisted-by: <agent or service name> <model identifier> [<model version, if available>] [specialized tool1] [specialized tool2] [...]

Where:

- agent or service name (mandatory) is the name of the AI agent or service used

Accellera AI Policy

- `model identifier` (mandatory) is the specific model used
- `model version` (optional) is the specific model version used
- `[specialized tool1] [specialized tool2] [...]` (optional) the specialized analysis tools used (e.g., `coccinelle`, `sparse`, `smatch`, `clang-tidy`). Commonly used development tools (`git`, `gcc`, `make`, `editors`) should not be listed here.

Example:

Assisted-by: Claude Opus 5.5 coccinelle sparse

[Annex A: CONTRIBUTING.md](#)

Patch submission

The following **sign-off procedure** is established to ensure that patches submitted for inclusion into this Accellera reference implementation are properly licensed under the Apache License Version 2.0.

The sign-off is a simple line at the end of the explanation for the patch (or commit message), which certifies that you wrote the contribution (in whole or in part) or otherwise have the right to pass it on as an open-source patch:

Accellera Developer's Certificate of Origin

By making a signed-off contribution to this Accellera project, I certify that:

1. The contribution was created in whole or in part by me and I have the right to submit it under the Apache License Version 2.0 (see LICENSE).
2. The contribution was provided directly to me by some other person who certified (1) above, and I am forwarding it without modification.
3. I understand and agree that this Accellera project and the contribution are public and that a record of the contribution (including all personal information I submit with it, including my sign-off) is maintained indefinitely and may be redistributed in accordance with this project or the Apache License Version 2.0.
4. I have reviewed all AI-generated code, if any, and confirm that it complies with the licensing requirements as set forth in the Apache License Version 2.0.

If you can certify the above Accellera Developer's Certificate of Origin, please use `git commit --signoff` to add a line of the form:

Signed-off-by: Ima Contributor <ima@contributor.example.org>

using your real name (no pseudonyms or anonymous contributions).

The sign-off procedure is mandatory for all contributors, including individuals from Accellera member companies as well as non-member organizations.

When submitting a pull-request against the public repository, the contribution may be considered by the Accellera WGs for inclusion. An Accellera member may submit it to the private repository with their own Signed-off-by line appended. It stays under the sole governance of the corresponding WGs to decide whether the proposal will be included in the reference implementation (or future Accellera standards).