

SMPTE Standards Participation Fee

The Society's Board of Governors authorized to implement a supplemental charge for SMPTE engineering standards committees. Although standards activities are a very important part of the Society's work, only a relatively small proportion (less than 15%) of members participate. These charges will enable continuing improvement of the infrastructure and support for standards activities without impacting the resources available for core services applicable to all members.

Not all members will pay the new charges; all companies who support SMPTE through Sustaining Membership will be permitted a number of complimentary participants (based on their level). In addition, educators and those not earning income as a result of their standards activities will be exempt. Full details below.

The need for more revenue

SMPTE is now spending a considerable sum on new web services for engineering committees, and we need to spend more to provide better visibility and tracking of our documents and the work we have in hand. We also want to improve services and provide, for example, toll-free telephone access to meetings from most countries, not just the USA and Canada.

SMPTE is growing its membership slowly, but has not increased its membership dues for eight years, and the growth in membership is not adequate to cover the increased costs of the standards program. Less than 15% of members take advantage of the standards program, and we need to avoid penalizing members who do not participate.

Many alternative models for collecting additional revenue were considered. The Standards Supplement described below was determined to be the best method of gaining monetary support from the individuals and corporations who derive the most benefit from participating in the standards activities of SMPTE. However, we recognize the need to apply additional charges fairly, and the exemptions listed below are designed to limit penalizing those who are already supporting SMPTE financially through sustaining memberships, or those individuals who may not be receiving compensation for their standards work.

The Standards Supplement

Effective March 1, 2009, a Standards Supplement of \$200/year will be charged to members who wish to monitor or participate in standards activities—all those who are members of the "Standards Community". This is implemented by creating new membership types where the Standards Supplement is added to the regular membership dues so, for example, renewal will be \$335 for "Active Professional with Standards Community" membership (\$135 plus \$200 supplement). Only members in one of these new membership types, or who are exempt, will be able to join (or remain in) the Standards Community.

Exemptions

Not all members will be charged the Standards Supplement. The following exemptions will apply:

- **Diamond Sustaining Member companies:** these companies are our biggest supporters, and all employees of these companies will be exempt from the supplement.
- **Other Sustaining Members:** we appreciate the support of Sustaining Members at all levels, and all Designated Complimentary Members of Sustaining Member companies will be exempt (number varies with membership level).
- **Companies who host meetings:** one of the principal reasons for the low cost of SMPTE standards activities is the generosity of our meeting hosts. We will not charge the standards participation supplement to any employee of a company that hosted at least four days of SMPTE engineering meetings during the previous year.
- **Those not generating income from standards activities:** educators, retirees, anyone able to certify that they do not receive income by virtue of their participation in standards committees will be exempt.
- Any member not exempted above that can show that payment of the standards participation supplement would create hardship may apply to the Director of Engineering for exemption, which may be granted subject to the approval of the Executive Director.