

NENA NG9-1-1 Industry Collaboration Events Participant Code of Conduct

July 7, 2023

The NG9-1-1 Industry Collaboration Events (ICE) are held to support interoperability testing between vendors. ICE is intended to be a convenient, cost-effective venue to test interoperability on an even playing field with other vendors and competitors. ICE is not a marketing event or tradeshow meant to promote specific vendors or products. No effort will be made to grade or rate the performance of any vendor or product on a pass/fail or any other basis.

All ICE participants will be expected to perform to a mutually agreed upon level of capability to be able to complete the event. Participants will not be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement for this event. Rather, in the collaborative spirit of the event, all participants are being asked to abide by the following Code of Conduct and follow the guidelines in the “information release” addendum. Participants are responsible for protecting their own intellectual property and complying with the NENA Intellectual Policy Rights policy available at www.nena.org/ipr.

In all cases, participants should refrain from criticizing other ICE participants, their products, the ICE process, NENA, NENA’s staff, and ICE committees and members in the context of ICE events.

1. Prior to the event

1.1. Participants may disclose:

- 1.1.1. Their intention to participate.*
- 1.1.2. The NG9-1-1 functional elements they intend to test at the event.*
- 1.1.3. The completion of the pre-event testing of their own functional elements.*

1.2. Participants may not disclose to anyone who has not agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct:

- 1.2.1. The names of other vendors participating.*
- 1.2.2. The functional elements other vendors intend to test at the event.*
- 1.2.3. Any failures related to pre-event testing.*

2. At the event, including any pre-scenario testing:

2.1. Participants are expected and encouraged to:

- 2.1.1. Work collaboratively with other vendors in the attempt to get functional elements to interoperate, where possible.*
- 2.1.2. Identify problems where interoperability is not achieved and suggest solutions that would provide interoperability, including feedback to the appropriate NENA Development Group committee.*
- 2.1.3. Discuss questions about the standards in the spirit of collaboration.*
- 2.1.4. Actively participate in the diagnosis of problems and finding resolutions to unresolved problems.*

2.2. Participants must refrain from:

- 2.2.1. Creating proprietary workarounds to achieve interoperability.*
- 2.2.2. Withholding publicly available information necessary to determine problems or resolving them.*
- 2.2.3. Using information gained at the event to develop, file, or otherwise attempt to secure patents that undermine industry standards.*

3. After the event

3.1. Participants may disclose:

- 3.1.1. Their participation in the event.*
- 3.1.2. The NG9-1-1 functional elements they exercised at the event.*
- 3.1.3. Findings from their testing that identified areas requiring further development.*
- 3.1.4. The completion of the event testing of their own functional elements, without disclosing the identities of other participating parties.*
- 3.1.5. Any information published in the publicly available event summary report.*

3.2. Participants may not disclose to anyone that did not participate:

- 3.2.1. Any aspect of participation by another company (notwithstanding that which will be provided by NENA – see below).*
- 3.2.2. Any event results not published in the publicly available summary report or not reported back to SDOs.*
- 3.2.3. Any details that were used to create the summary report.*

4. *NENA's role*

4.1. Participants agree that:

- 4.1.1. NENA is sanctioning the event but is not responsible for the design or implementation of the event.
- 4.1.2. NENA is responsible for the approval and dissemination of any reporting that results from the event.
- 4.1.3. NENA's responsibility with regard to adherence to this Code of Conduct is limited to the actions defined in Section 5.

4.2. NENA agrees that it will:

4.2.1. Promote the event in various ways including:

- 4.2.1.1. NENA Newsletter announcements.
- 4.2.1.2. Direct email to previous participants.
- 4.2.1.3. On its website.
- 4.2.1.4. In signage at industry events.

4.2.2. NENA's primary role will be:

- 4.2.2.1. Documenting information provided by the participants.
- 4.2.2.2. Compiling information collected at the event.
- 4.2.2.3. Distribution of the summary results.

5. *Adherence to the ICE Code of Conduct*

5.1. Participation at future NG9-1-1 ICE is dependent on participants and their company's adherence to this Code of Conduct.

5.2. The Steering Committee, representing NENA, has the authority to deny participation at future ICE events if they determine a participant or their company did not adhere to this Code of Conduct.

- 5.2.1. The Steering Committee will provide a method in which a company may appeal this action and it will be considered based on the severity of the violation.

Information Release Addendum

Guidelines for any release of public information about ICE results (includes external presentations, press releases etc.):

1. Any press release template about the event that is approved and made available by NENA must be incorporated verbatim into participant's press materials or other public information release. This information will be provided to the attendees at the event.
2. Terms like "success", "succeeded", "pass", "passed", "certified", "compliant", "conformance" may **not** be utilized to describe participation.
3. Using direct comments from participants and company officials is acceptable in describing ICE – the comments should be of a positive nature and should highlight the benefits of the event to the industry and to your company. They may also describe the level of effort your company put into the event if appropriate. Comments should conform to the rules already established in the Code of Conduct regarding participation by other companies etc.
4. It is acceptable to describe your products that were tested and how they interface with NG9-1-1 and specifically how they were involved at the event.
5. If your product or services were used to support an event and were not tested for interoperability, that activity should be stated clearly within the press release.
6. Recognition of entities providing equipment or technical expertise in support of events will be included in the NENA press release template information provided for the event.
7. Entities who choose to host events may publicly disclose their participation. Recognition of entities hosting events will also be included in the NENA press release template information provided for the event.
8. Any reference of testing with other companies (or parties) at the event is prohibited without the consent of these other parties.
9. Companies should avoid issuing press releases prior to an event. If they determine that there is a need to issue a pre-event press release, they may:
 - 9.1. State their desire to participate and what functional elements they intend to test. No other information other than this pertaining to the event can be included in pre-event press releases.
 - 9.2. Parties shall not use:
 - 9.2.1. Information that is event specific in terms of ICE event planning other than the name of the event and a high-level definition of what the event is about (as provided on the NENA web site).
 - 9.2.2. Descriptions of specific scenarios and bilateral test plans involving other parties without the consent of these other parties.

Signature Page

By signing, you agree to abide by and adhere to this Code of Conduct.

Participant Company

Participant Name

Participant Signature

Date