

# BLUETOOTH QUALIFICATION GUIDE

Solutions for today's complex markets

## BLUETOOTH DECLARATION PROCESS AND LAUNCH STUDIO



### Introduction

There is a general misconception that if a manufacturer uses a pre-qualified Bluetooth design in their own product they do not need to follow the mandatory Bluetooth SIG Declaration process.

Indeed the only case where no Declaration is required is where a Retailer is selling a product as originally branded by a Bluetooth SIG member and are not representing the product as their own i.e they are not re-branding.

The 2nd misconception is that if a manufacturer does not want to use the Bluetooth Logo or market as a Bluetooth enabled product they do not have to go through the declaration process. The use of the Bluetooth logo is optional, but using Bluetooth IP means a declaration must be completed.

There are two licenses that apply to the use of Bluetooth IP and Logo:

- Bluetooth Patent & Copyright License Agreement
- Bluetooth Trademark License Agreement

### The Declaration Process

The listing process was updated in February, 2014. The SIG introduced a new Declaration ID fee which had to be purchased prior to completing the Declaration process. The new process was split into two channels, for new designs or changed designs, and for products incorporating an existing qualified design.

For both channels the manufacturer must have signed the license agreements, and purchased a Declaration ID fee before completing the declaration process.

For new designs and changed designs the declaration process follows a more complex route, whereas referencing a Qualified Design goes straight to the declaration process.

The process breaks up into three main sections:

#### 1. Project Creation and Testing

A project is created in Launch Studio online tool, configuring it with the design declared features (ICS) and then generating a test plan (declaration).

Once the tests have been defined, the member can see which test cases are applicable and what evidence is required to demonstrate compliance. Typically the physical layer tests in RF/RF-PHY and the lower stack layers are tested at a BQTF (Bluetooth Qualification Test Facility).

Upper protocol layer and profile tests can be performed by the member, many are covered by the Profile Tuning Suite (PTS), some may require product vs product tests or a member defined setup.

# Bluetooth Declaration Process

Once testing is complete the test declaration and test evidence is uploaded to the SIG website via Launch Studio.

## 2. Declaration Steps

The Member must have purchased a Declaration ID prior to completing the declaration steps. The Declaration ID is purchased through the SIG website, the fee varies depending on the membership status of the listing member. There is an Innovation Incentive Program for eligible companies, which offers reduced listing fees for 2 designs.

The declaration wizard is used to start the formal declaration process, selecting the project design to qualify, referencing any combined QDID(s) and adding all End Products featuring the declared design.

The member is then required to print and sign an SDoC and/or DoC depending on the type of declaration necessary.

## 3. Listing Maintenance

Once the declaration is completed the member is able to manage the listing. Product details, addition or removal of End Products and update of listing person may be done.

## Compliance Folder

The member must maintain a Compliance Folder for the Bluetooth Design up to one year after the product ceases to be offered for sale or distribution. The following documents should be included in the folder:

- Product Description and Overview Schematics
- User Manual and/or User Guide
- Functional Block Diagram and technical description
- Reference Integration Note for Components or Profile Subsystems

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- IXIT (Implementation Extra Information for Testing)
- Test Plan\Declaration (from Launch Studio)
- Test Reports (PTS, BQTF reports etc)

and in addition for hardware designs:

- PCB Layouts
- Component Layouts
- Bill of Materials including part numbers

Documents should be maintained during the life of the compliance folder. If changes are made to the design that affect the Bluetooth functionality then a re-assessment of the design will be necessary and a new design listing may be required.

## Bluetooth Qualification Consultant (BQC)

A BQC has been recognised by the Bluetooth SIG as a qualification expert. Every BQC has to pass an annual exam set by the Bluetooth SIG in order to maintain their BQC status.

Examples of services that a Bluetooth Qualification Consultant might provide are:

- Design Reviews (to determine qualification process to follow)
- Launch Studio project setup and test declaration generation
- Checking products against qualification requirements (including testing requirements)
- Reviewing product test reports
- Assisting members with completing the qualification process, including product listings