



Explanations regarding Open Logistics Foundation IP & Participation Framework

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The Foundation's thematic focus lies on non-market-differentiating commodity functions, ensuring that collaborative efforts do not interfere with competitive advantages or proprietary business models of individual companies. As such, participation in the Open Logistics Foundation (OLF) is entirely voluntary and without any obligation. At no point are participating companies required to contribute their own intellectual property (IP). In cases where IP is contributed, this occurs solely on a case-by-case basis and only at the explicit discretion of the contributing company and its employees. Any such contribution must be individually pre-reviewed and expressly approved by the company itself. There is no blanket or automatic license granted for shared IP. Instead, each instance of IP sharing requires a separate and deliberate release.

1. IP Contributions During Events and Meetings

IP contributions made by individuals in the context of meetings, events, or other participatory formats within the OLF are likewise subject to voluntary and deliberate disclosure. There is no general or automatic release of IP granted through participation. All contributions by participants are voluntary. This means that participants retain full control over the content of their contributions and statements, and any disclosure of protected information must be made consciously and, where necessary, in consultation with the relevant organisation. All meetings and events are conducted in strict compliance with the antitrust regulations established by the OLF, which are clearly communicated and must be observed by all participants at all times. Events are always announced in advance, including relevant agendas and topics, allowing participants and their organizations sufficient time to review and, if necessary, approve any intended contributions.

2. IP in Open Source Software Development

The development of joint open source software within the OLF is based entirely on voluntary contributions. Member companies retain full control over the content and scope of their contributions and are under no obligation to share proprietary code, information about internal system/infrastructure, or intellectual property. Any contribution to open



source projects is made consciously and with the explicit consent of the contributing organization based on the Contributor License Agreement (CLA) of the OLF. All information about the Open Logistics Foundation License Version and the CLA are publicly available on the OLFs website¹.

3. Use and Nature of Open Source Components

The OLF focuses on the creation of open source components—not end-to-end software solutions nor complete software packages. These components are designed to be modular and integrable, allowing companies to incorporate them into their own infrastructure and systems. This ensures that internal review and approval processes remain fully intact and that companies maintain complete control over how and where these components are used.

Open source software is a fundamental and widely accepted part of modern software development. Today, 96% of all applications include at least one open source component, and 78% of businesses actively incorporate open source software into their operations. Additionally, over 90% of developers rely on open source components for building proprietary applications, and open source code accounts for more than 80% of the software used in modern systems. These figures underscore the maturity, reliability, and strategic importance of open source in enterprise environments. Its transparent development practices and broad peer review help ensure that increased adoption does not inherently translate into greater security risks.^{2, 3, 4}

¹ <https://openlogisticsfoundation.org/licenses/>

² Hoffmann, Manuel and Nagle, Frank and Zhou, Yanuo, The Value of Open Source Software (January 1, 2024). Harvard Business School Strategy Unit Working Paper No. 24-038, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4693148> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4693148>

³ Open Source Software Statistics: Insights and Trends [2025]: <https://jobera.com/open-source-software-statistics/>

⁴ The State of Commercial Open Source 2025: <https://www.linuxfoundation.org/research/2025-state-of-commercial-open-source>