

## **TIFF Background & Policy for Third Party TIFF Enhancements**

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide background and philosophy underlying the TIFF file format and to describe the procedure by which third parties may submit requests for changes to the public portion of the TIFF specification.

Background: TIFF is the “Tagged Image File Format” developed by the Aldus corporation in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s. TIFF was acquired by Adobe in 1992. TIFF is defined by an Adobe copyrighted public specification. Its primary purpose is to encapsulate images. The most common example of these types of images are photographic images.

Philosophy: TIFF is one of Adobe Systems Incorporated proprietary file formats. TIFF is a longstanding key feature of many of our applications and its primary use is in the wrapping of photographic type image data. The ability of Adobe and our customers to use TIFF in an unencumbered manner is an essential element to it remaining a key feature of our applications. Adobe seeks to maintain TIFF as an image file format unencumbered by royalty fees or other restrictions. Therefore, Adobe’s acceptance of any proposed enhancement to TIFF capabilities will primarily be driven by (i) the needs of Adobe applications, and (ii) the licensing requirements of the proposed enhancement technology.

Third Party Use: TIFF has a long history of use in third party applications. Sometimes this use is through the simple use of TIFF as it is published by Adobe. However, Adobe supports the longstanding policy initiated by Aldus whereby third parties may add some form of private information through private tags. Keeping TIFF unencumbered is a critical part of maintaining the utility of TIFF for Third Party use.

Third Party Enhancements to Adobe’s Specification: Adobe welcomes third party proposed enhancements to the TIFF specification. However, since TIFF is a key feature of many of Adobe’s applications, Adobe’s ability to use, modify, and promote TIFF is essential. Any enhancements to TIFF that are proposed by third parties must be consistent with this. Therefore, third party enhancements must by necessity be available for unencumbered use by our applications, other third party users and our customers. The legal requirements regarding this policy are articulated in the “Candidate TIFF Technology Submission Agreement” that must accompany any enhancement request.

Enhancement Process: Those wishing to submit candidate enhancements for the public portion of the TIFF specification must submit them in writing with an accompanying “Candidate TIFF Technology Submission Agreement”. Further details are contained in that document. Submissions should be sent to:

TIFF Coordinator  
c/o VP Engineering Technology  
Adobe Systems Incorporated  
345 Park Ave.  
San Jose, CA 90110