IMS Global Conformance Certification Process, Trademark Usage and Communications Policy

This document explains the IMS Global Conformance Certification Process and branding guidelines for use of the IMS conformance certification logo and trademarks.

IMS Global's brand strength is conveyed through the design and use of its logos and trademarks. IMS Global Contributing, Affiliate, and Alliance Members ('IMS members') benefit from associating with the IMS Global brand. These guidelines describe how to display the logo in a consistent manner that strengthens brand recognition and identity for IMS Global and its members.

IMS Conformance Certification Policy and Process

IMS Global provides a series of tests to check both digital resources and software for conformance. These tests are based upon the requirements indicated in a specification. The Test Systems are periodically updated to add features, further enhance the current test framework, and correct any mistakes. Conformance tests are located in the TestSuites/Validator Box on the individual standard page found under the Developers Menu item on the IMS website.

Conformance Certification Suite Updates

IMS will send notification and/or post changes when any IMS conformance test is updated. The notification will include what test system has been changed or updated, the nature and extent of the change and the expectations of the conformance certified organizations impacted by the change.

Conformance Certification Yearly Re-Testing

All IMS Conformance Certifications will be active for a period of one year from certification testing. As both products and the certification suite evolves, good practice would dictate that organizations re-test their product yearly to ensure that they are accurately meeting the requirements set forth in the specification.

Notification will be sent to members one month prior to their one year conformance certification expiration with a request to retest their product. Conformance certifications that are not retested will be considered inactive and will be designated as such on the IMS Conformance Certification Directory (www.imscert.org) Exceptions to this policy will be considered if there have been no modifications to the product since achieving conformance certification.

Conformance Certification Re-Testing Due to Errors/Omissions

While the tests are designed to be comprehensive, an occasion may arise that an error or omission in the test will be discovered.. If an error or omission is found in an IMS conformance test, the following items will be taken under consideration on whether or not organizations must retest their systems/files to maintain their conformance designation:

1. The Evolution and Certification Committee responsible for managing conformance on the specification will review the error and categorize the severity of the problem.
2. If the severity of the problem will not significantly hinder interoperability, notification will be sent to all conformant organizations, indicating the problem and suggesting they retest their systems/files. A retest will not be mandatory. The test system will be updated, fixing the problem and notification will be posted in the test details.
3. If the severity of the problem will significantly hinder interoperability, the Evolution and Certification Committee may deem it necessary for all systems/files to be retested. Notification will be sent to all conformant organizations with a timeframe to retest their systems/files. A retest will be mandatory to maintain a conformance certification designation.
4. A testing date will be added to the IMS conformance certification registry so that consumers will be aware of the time and test system version under which the conformance was issued.

IMS Conformance Certification Logo Usage

The IMS Global conformance logo (shown right) identifies software and digital resources that have achieved official IMS Global Conformance Certification. A unique certification registration number is also issued by IMS for each unique certification to a specific version of a specification by a specific version of a product.

Conformance Certification is achieved through proper testing and authorization processes developed for specific versions and/or profiles of the IMS Global specifications described above.

IMS Global Members who have achieved conformance certification are encouraged to display the logo and their registration number on their website and in printed materials.

After IMS has granted your product conformance certification and issued a registration number, you may use the IMS Conformance Certification logo for a period of one year if your membership in IMS remains in force.

IMS Global provides the conformance certification logo for use by IMS members who have achieved conformance to display on their websites. The logo should link to the Conformance Certification Directory using the following HTML code:<img src="https://www.imsglobal.org/sites/default/files/IMSconformancelogoREG.png" alt="IMS Global Certified" border="0">

The Conformance Certification Directory identifies current implementation and conformance status for IMS Global specifications. The IMS Global Conformance Certification Directory is the only official source for institutions, districts, states, and edtech suppliers to reliably verify IMS Global Conformance Certification of a supplier's product or digital resource.

The certification logo is a registered trademark of IMS Global Learning Consortium that designates that a supplier has achieved certification and has maintained their IMS membership in good standing (and therefore are keeping current with the latest developments. Permission to use the logo or any IMS trademarks expires automatically with membership expiration.

Obtaining Logos

The IMS Conformance Certification logo in higher resolution or different formats are available. Please send requests to conformance@imsglobal.org

Use of IMS Global Trademarks

A list of current IMS Global trademarks indicating proper usage is available here: https://www.imsglobal.org/trademarks. IMS members achieving conformance certification may use the IMS trademark relevant to your certification in association with your organization and product.

 Any other use of IMS trademarks, names of specifications or IMS copyrighted materials in connection with an implementation, product or service including any press release or public communication requires prior written approval from IMS.

Please note that use of the any IMS trademarked terms are reserved for members of IMS Global who are committed to the IMS community for ongoing support for achieving "plug and play" integration. Therefore, if your membership terminates you will be required to remove any references to any IMS trademarks in association with your product(s) or web site.

Press Release Approval

To request approval to issue a press release about your IMS conformance certification or other connection with IMS Global, please contact communications@imsglobal.org