

# IEEE Guide for Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments (WAVE) Architecture

IEEE Vehicular Technology Society

Sponsored by the

Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee

Currently in preview, click buy full version

# IEEE Guide for Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments (WAVE) Architecture

Sponsor

**Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee  
of the  
IEEE Vehicular Technology Society**

Approved 11 December 2013

**IEEE-SA Standards Board**

**Abstract:** The wireless access in vehicular environments (WAVE) architecture and services necessary for WAVE devices to communicate in a mobile vehicular environment are described in this guide. It is meant to be used in conjunction with the family of IEEE 1609 standards as of its publication date. These include IEEE Std 1609.2™, IEEE Standard Security Services for Applications and Management Messages, IEEE Std 1609.3 Networking Services, IEEE Std 1609.4 Multi-Channel Operation, IEEE Std 1609.11 Over-the-Air Electronic Payment Data Exchange Protocol for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), IEEE Std 1609.12 Identifier Allocations, and IEEE Std 802.11 in operation outside the context of a basic service set.

**Keywords:** dedicated short range communications, DSRC, IEEE 1609.0™, OBU, onboard unit, Provider Service Identifier (PSID), roadside unit (RSU), WAVE, WAVE service advertisement, WAVE Short Message, WAVE Short Message Protocol, wireless access in vehicular environments, WSA, WSM, WSMP

---

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.  
3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5997, USA

Copyright © 2014 by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.  
All rights reserved. Published 5 March 2014. Printed in the United States of America.

IEEE is a registered trademark in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, owned by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated.

PDF: ISBN 978-0-7381-8756-3 STD98459  
Print: ISBN 978-0-7381-8757-0 STDPD98459

*IEEE prohibits discrimination, harassment, and bullying.*

For more information, visit <http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/whatis/policies/p9-26.html>.

*No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, in an electronic retrieval system or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.*

## Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning IEEE Standards Documents

IEEE documents are made available for use subject to important notices and legal disclaimers. These notices and disclaimers, or a reference to this page, appear in all standards and may be found under the heading “Important Notice” or “Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning IEEE Standards Documents.”

### Notice and Disclaimer of Liability Concerning the Use of IEEE Standards Documents

IEEE Standards documents (standards, recommended practices, and guides), both full-use and trial-use, are developed within IEEE Societies and the Standards Coordinating Committees of the IEEE Standards Association (“IEEE-SA”) Standards Board. IEEE (“the Institute”) develops its standards through a consensus development process, approved by the American National Standards Institute (“ANSI”), which brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve the final product. Volunteers are not necessarily members of the Institute and participate without compensation from IEEE. While IEEE administers the process and establishes rules to promote fairness in the consensus development process, IEEE does not independently evaluate, test, or verify the accuracy of any of the information or the soundness of any judgments contained in its standards.

IEEE does not warrant or represent the accuracy or content of the material contained in its standards, and expressly disclaims all warranties (express, implied and statutory) included in this or any other document relating to the standard, including, but not limited to, the warranties of: merchantability; fitness for a particular purpose; non-infringement; and quality, accuracy, effectiveness, currency, or completeness of material. In addition, IEEE disclaims any and all conditions relating to: results; and workmanlike effort. IEEE standards documents are supplied “AS IS” and “WITH ALL FAULTS.”

Use of an IEEE standard is wholly voluntary. The existence of an IEEE standard does not imply that there are no other ways to produce, test, measure, purchase, market, or provide other goods and services related to the scope of the IEEE standard. Furthermore, the viewpoint expressed at the time a standard is approved and issued is subject to change brought about through developments in the state of the art and comments received from users of the standard.

In publishing and making its standards available, IEEE is not suggesting or rendering professional or other services for, or on behalf of, any person or entity nor is IEEE undertaking to perform any duty owed by any other person or entity to another. Any person utilizing any IEEE Standards document, should rely upon his or her own independent judgment in the exercise of reasonable care in any given circumstances or, as appropriate, seek the advice of a competent professional in determining the appropriateness of a given IEEE standard.

IN NO EVENT SHALL IEEE BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE PUBLICATION, USE OF, OR RELIANCE UPON ANY STANDARD, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH DAMAGE WAS FORESEEABLE.

### Translations

The IEEE consensus development process involves the review of documents in English only. In the event that an IEEE standard is translated, only the English version published by IEEE should be considered the approved IEEE standard.

## Official statements

A statement, written or oral, that is not processed in accordance with the IEEE-SA Standards Board Operations Manual shall not be considered or inferred to be the official position of IEEE or any of its committees and shall not be considered to be, or be relied upon as, a formal position of IEEE. At lectures, symposia, seminars, or educational courses, an individual presenting information on IEEE standards shall make it clear that his or her views should be considered the personal views of that individual rather than the formal position of IEEE.

## Comments on standards

Comments for revision of IEEE Standards documents are welcome from any interested party, regardless of membership affiliation with IEEE. However, IEEE does not provide consulting information or advice pertaining to IEEE Standards documents. Suggestions for changes in documents should be in the form of a proposed change of text, together with appropriate supporting comments. Since IEEE standards represent a consensus of concerned interests, it is important that any responses to comments and questions also receive the concurrence of a balance of interests. For this reason, IEEE and the members of its societies and Standards Coordinating Committees are not able to provide an instant response to comments or questions except in those cases where the matter has previously been addressed. For the same reason, IEEE does not respond to interpretation requests. Any person who would like to participate in revisions to an IEEE standard is welcome to join the relevant IEEE working group.

Comments on standards should be submitted to the following address:

Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board  
445 Hoes Lane  
Piscataway, NJ 08854 USA

## Laws and regulations

Users of IEEE Standards documents should consult all applicable laws and regulations. Compliance with the provisions of any IEEE Standards document does not imply compliance to any applicable regulatory requirements. Implementers of the standards are responsible for observing or referring to the applicable regulatory requirements. IEEE does not, with publication of its standards, intend to urge action that is not in compliance with applicable laws, and these documents may not be construed as doing so.

## Copyrights

IEEE draft and approved standards are copyrighted by IEEE under U. S. and international copyright laws. They are made available by IEEE and are adopted for a wide variety of both public and private uses. These include both use, by reference, in laws and regulations, and use in private self-regulation, standardization, and the promotion of engineering practices and methods. By making these documents available for use and adoption by public authorities and private users, IEEE does not waive any rights in copyright to the documents.

## Photocopies

Subject to payment of the appropriate fee, IEEE will grant users a limited, non-exclusive license to photocopy portions of any individual standard for company or organizational internal use or individual, non-commercial use only. To arrange for payment of licensing fees, please contact Copyright Clearance Center, Customer Service, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 USA; +1 978 750 8400. Permission to photocopy portions of any individual standard for educational classroom use can also be obtained through the Copyright Clearance Center.

## Updating of IEEE Standards documents

Users of IEEE Standards documents should be aware that these documents may be superseded at any time by the issuance of new editions or may be amended from time to time through the issuance of amendments, corrigenda, or errata. An official IEEE document at any point in time consists of the current edition of the document together with any amendments, corrigenda, or errata then in effect.

Every IEEE standard is subjected to review at least every ten years. When a document is more than ten years old and has not undergone a revision process, it is reasonable to conclude that its contents, although still of some value, do not wholly reflect the present state of the art. Users are cautioned to check to determine that they have the latest edition of any IEEE standard.

In order to determine whether a given document is the current edition and whether it has been amended through the issuance of amendments, corrigenda, or errata, visit the [IEEE-SA Website](http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/standards.jsp) at <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/standards.jsp> or contact IEEE at the address listed previously. For more information about the IEEE-SA or IEEE's standards development process, visit the [IEEE-SA Website](http://standards.ieee.org) at <http://standards.ieee.org>.

## Errata

Errata, if any, for all IEEE standards can be accessed on the IEEE-SA Website at the following URL: <http://standards.ieee.org/findstds/errata/index.html>. Users are encouraged to check this URL for errata periodically.

## Patents

Attention is called to the possibility that implementation of this standard may require use of subject matter covered by patent rights. By publication of this standard, no position is taken by the IEEE with respect to the existence or validity of any patent rights in connection therewith. If a patent holder or patent applicant has filed a statement of assurance via an Accepted Letter of Assurance, then the statement is listed on the IEEE-SA Website at <http://standards.ieee.org/about/sasb/patcom/patents.html>. Letters of Assurance may indicate whether the Submitter is willing or unwilling to grant licenses under patent rights without compensation or under reasonable rates, with reasonable terms and conditions that are demonstrably free of any unfair discrimination to applicants desiring to obtain such licenses.

Essential Patent Claims may exist for which a Letter of Assurance has not been received. The IEEE is not responsible for identifying Essential Patent Claims for which a license may be required, for conducting inquiries into the legal validity or scope of Patents Claims, or determining whether any licensing terms or conditions provided in connection with submission of a Letter of Assurance, if any, or in any licensing agreements are reasonable or non-discriminatory. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, is entirely their own responsibility. Further information may be obtained from the IEEE Standards Association.

## Participants

At the time this guide was completed, the Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments (WAVE) Working Group had the following membership:

**Thomas M. Kurihara**, *Chair*

**John Moring**, *Vice Chair*

**William Whyte**, *Vice Chair*

Scott Andrews  
Lee Armstrong  
Jerome Chiu  
Hans-Joachim Fischer  
Wayne Fisher  
Ramez Gerges  
Ali Ghandour  
Refi-Tugrul Güner  
Gloria Gwynne  
Ron Hochnadel

Carl Kain  
Doug Kavner  
David Kelley  
John Kenney  
Jerry Landt  
Mike Lin  
Julius Madey  
Alastair Malarky  
Justin McNew  
Gary Pruitt

Robert Rausch  
Randy Roebuck  
Richard Roy  
Steve Sill  
François Simon  
Ramesh Siripurapu  
Jason Tran  
Huei-Ru Tseng  
George Vlantis

The following members of the individual balloting committee voted on this guide. Balloters may have voted for approval, disapproval, or abstention.

Lee Armstrong  
Harry Bims  
Bill Brown  
William Byrd  
Scott Cadzow  
Keith Chow  
Michael Coop  
Patrick Diamond  
Susan Dickey  
Sourav Dutta  
Richard Edgar  
Marc Emmelmann  
Andre Fournier  
Avraham Freedman  
H. Glickenstein  
Randall Groves  
Tugrul Guener  
Gloria Gwynne  
Ron Hochnadel

Werner Hoelzl  
Chung-Hsien Hsu  
Noriyuki Ikeuchi  
Piotr Karocki  
John Kenney  
Stuart Kerry  
Stanley Klein  
Thomas M. Kurihara  
Paul Lam  
Jeremy Smith  
Hsiang-Lin Li  
William Lumpkins  
Julius Madey  
Alastair Malarky  
Justin McNew  
John Moring  
Ronald Murias  
Michael Newman  
Satoshi Obara

Satoshi Oyama  
Markus Riederer  
Robert Robinson  
Jeff Rockower  
Richard Roy  
Randall Safier  
Bartien Sayogo  
Gil Shultz  
Thomas Starai  
Eugene Stoudenmire  
Walter Struppler  
Jasja Tijink  
John Vergis  
George Vlantis  
Stephen Webb  
Hung-Yu Wei  
William Whyte  
Oren Yuen  
Daidi Zhong

When the IEEE-SA Standards Board approved this guide on 11 December 2013 it had the following membership:

**John Kulick, Chair**  
**David J. Law, Vice Chair**  
**Richard H. Hulett, Past Chair**  
**Konstantinos Karachalios, Secretary**

Masayuki Ariyoshi  
Peter Balma  
Farooq Bari  
Ted Burse  
Stephen Dukes  
Jean-Philippe Faure  
Alexander Gelman

Mark Halpin  
Gary Hoffman  
Paul Houzé  
Jim Hughes  
Michael Janezic  
Joseph L. Koepfinger\*  
Oleg Logvinov  
Ron Petersen

Gary Robinson  
Jon Walter Rosdahl  
Adrian Stephens  
Peter Sutherland  
Yatin Trivedi  
Phil Winston  
Yu Yuan

\*Member Emeritus

Also included are the following nonvoting IEEE-SA Standards Board liaisons:

Richard DeBlasio, *DOE Representative*  
Michael Janezic, *NIST Representative*

Catherine Berger  
*Senior Program Manager, IEEE-SA Content Publishing*

Michael Kipness  
*Program Manager, IEEE-SA Technical Community*

## Contents

1. Overview .....	1
1.1 Scope .....	2
1.2 Aspects of a WAVE system .....	2
2. Normative references.....	3
3. Definitions, abbreviation, and acronyms .....	3
3.1 Definitions .....	3
3.2 Abbreviations and acronyms .....	3
4. Relevant standards.....	7
4.1 Overview of Intelligent Transportation Systems and the National ITS architecture .....	7
4.2 ASTM and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) .....	8
4.3 IEEE standards .....	8
4.4 SAE DSRC standards .....	12
4.5 Related standards and organizations.....	13
5. WAVE system overview .....	15
5.1 General .....	15
5.2 System components and connectivity.....	15
5.3 Protocols .....	16
5.4 Interfaces .....	18
5.5 The 5.9 GHz spectrum allocation .....	19
5.6 Channel types .....	20
5.7 Communication services.....	21
5.8 WAVE Service Advertisement.....	25
5.9 Addresses and identifiers.....	28
5.10 Priorities .....	30
5.11 Channel coordination and time synchronization.....	30
5.12 Other features .....	32
5.13 Security considerations.....	34
Annex A (informative) Example system configuration.....	53
Annex B (informative) Certification .....	54
B.1 Scope.....	54
B.2 Process .....	55
Annex C (informative) Representative use cases .....	56
C.1 Vehicle communication for collision avoidance.....	56
C.2 Electronic toll collection.....	57
Annex D (informative) International ITS documents.....	63
Annex E (informative) Mapping PSID values to a contiguous set of integers .....	64
Annex F (informative) Deployment history .....	65
Annex G (informative) Bibliography .....	67

# IEEE Guide for Wireless Access in Vehicular Environments (WAVE) Architecture

***IMPORTANT NOTICE: IEEE Standards documents are not intended to ensure safety, health, or environmental protection, or ensure against interference with or from other devices or networks. Implementers of IEEE Standards documents are responsible for determining and complying with all appropriate safety, security, environmental, health, and interference protection practices and all applicable laws and regulations.***

***This IEEE document is made available for use subject to important notices and legal disclaimers. These notices and disclaimers appear in all publications containing this document and may be found under the heading “Important Notice” or “Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning IEEE Documents.” They can also be obtained on request from IEEE or viewed at <http://standards.ieee.org/IPR/disclaimers.html>.***

## 1. Overview

A wireless access in vehicular environments (WAVE) system is a radio communication system intended to provide seamless, interoperable services to transportation. These services include those recognized by the U. S. National Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) architecture and many others contemplated by the automotive and transportation infrastructure industries around the world, such as communications between vehicles and infrastructure, and communications among vehicles. This guide provides an overview of the system, its components, and its operation. It is intended to provide a context within which to better understand the content of the related IEEE WAVE standards documents, which include IEEE Std 1609.2™-2013, IEEE Std 1609.3™-2010, IEEE Std 1609.4™-2010, IEEE P1609.6™ [B19],<sup>1, 2</sup> IEEE Std 1609.11™-2010, and IEEE Std 1609.12™, as well as IEEE Std 802.11™-2012 [stations communicating outside the context of a Basic Service Set (BSS), or OCB].<sup>3</sup>

The term dedicated short range communications (DSRC) is sometimes used in the U. S. to refer to radio spectrum or technologies associated with WAVE. For example, U. S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) documents [B6] allocate spectrum to “mobile service for use by DSRC systems operating in the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) radio service,” and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) has specified messages in SAE J2735 “for use by applications intended to utilize the 5.9 GHz dedicated short range communications for wireless access in vehicular environments.” Outside the

<sup>1</sup> The numbers in brackets correspond to those of the bibliography in Annex G.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers preceded by P are IEEE authorized standards projects that were not approved by the IEEE-SA Standards Board at the time this publication went to press.

<sup>3</sup> Information on references can be found in Clause 2.