



THE ACID MEMBERSHIP JOINING CRITERIA

Anti Copying in Design (ACID) is and has always been determined to set the highest standards within its membership and all ACID members are required to agree to the ACID Terms of Membership. If any member is found to be in breach of any of these criteria, their membership will be revoked immediately.

From time to time ACID must review its protocol and criteria for accepting membership. As the organisation has grown, inevitably there are some applications from companies whose focus is not design-led and who do not own their own intellectual property. ACID membership was never intended for importers of "off the shelf" products or companies without an in-house design capability, commissioning arrangements or appropriate manufacturing and sales licences. Such organisations may buy in products from places where intellectual property ownership origins or rights to use cannot be guaranteed or established. There are also circumstances where it is brought to ACID's attention that certain companies are either hiding behind the respectability of the ACID brand or are known to operate without respect for or compliance with the ACID Terms of Membership. There is a clear difference, however, in licensed products which are commissioned and exclusively manufactured and produced abroad, where the intellectual property rights ownership has been clarified and manufacturers who take this route are still welcome to join us.

ACID MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

If you wish to become a Member of ACID, then please read the Membership Criteria below to ensure that you are eligible.

- I. All potential members will be required to agree to the ACID Terms & Conditions of Membership, which can be viewed on the ACID website www.acid.uk.com.
- II. To be eligible for membership all potential members must have a design capability and the majority of their products/designs must be designed either in house or by commissioned designers.
- III. There is also a provision for manufacturers to join ACID who have entered into written agreements with freelance designers in which the intellectual property rights in the manufacturer's product designs are either assigned or licensed to the manufacturer. However, in the case where the intellectual property rights are owned by the designer and not the manufacturer then those products would not be eligible to be sent to the ACID IP Databank by the manufacturer.
- IV. If a company buys a proportion of "off the shelf" products, then it is that company's responsibility to declare this to ACID in their application and to make a signed statement confirming that the intellectual property rights ownership in those products and their right to import and/or sell them in the UK has been clarified and/or the intellectual property rights have been assigned to them.
- V. Any potential new member of ACID must have a current website showing the goods or services they design and sell or have the licence to market. If a potential member does not have a current website where their designs and products can be viewed, they are asked to contact ACID for confirmation of their trading status.

- VI. Any potential member who has been the subject of liquidation and is joining under a new name must also contact ACID to discuss eligibility and next steps.
- VII. Your annual ACID membership fees are determined by your company turnover (gross income for individuals) for your last financial year. Please state this amount on your application and select your membership category accordingly. There will also be a requirement upon membership renewal to declare you are in the right membership category for your turnover.
- VIII. Any applicant that has an ongoing issue with a current ACID member must declare this to the membership office as this will affect the authorisation process that all new memberships take and may preclude you from becoming a member of ACID at the present

PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP

All new members will become provisional members for the first 6 months. A list of all provisional members will be published by industry sector in the ACID newsletter, which is published quarterly.

During the 6 months of provisional membership, if there are any complaints about any provisional member, the complainant will be invited to communicate their complaint by writing on their business letterhead, in the first instance, to the Chief Executive, together with substantiated facts. Hearsay, rumour or unsubstantiated facts will not be considered under any circumstances.

COMPLAINTS

Any complaints about a provisional ACID member should be addressed to the Chief Executive who will refer the matter to the ACID Advisory Council. Their decision is final. Should a failed applicant, individual or organisation, decide to reapply for membership they would have to submit their new application, after a minimum period of one year from their original application. The ACID Advisory Council would then decide whether to reconsider membership.

This set of criteria will be reviewed on an annual basis in order to maintain the integrity of the organisation and its membership.