Impact Licensing Agreement Quality Label

Promoting quality standards in impact licensing agreements

Full access to the complete toolkit is provided to members of our Clearing House community. Join our Community of Practitioners to learn more: https://impactlicensing.eu/cop-registration-form

IMPACT LICENSING INITIATIVE
impactlicensing.eu

Table of contents

1 General structure of the Q-label 3

2 Scoring methodology for Impact Licensing Agreements 4

Co-funded by the European Union

UK Research and Innovation

1 General structure of the Q-label

The Impact Licensing Quality Label is a **standardization and certification instrument** to ensure the consistency, credibility, and transparency of impact licensing agreements across the European Union. Its purpose is to provide a recognized framework that defines the essential content, performance criteria, and verification mechanisms for agreements that link technology deployment to measurable societal outcomes.

The Impact Licensing Q-Label is a **graded quality certification** that guarantees licensing agreements align with sustainable impact licensing principles and maximizes the societal valorisation potential of technology. The Q-label itself applies to a licensing agreement and provides it with a score. The scoring reflects the extent to which the license aligns with the proposed aspects that must be met to create sustainable impact. The higher the score, the greater the alignment with the label's framework. A company or organization can thus have multiple impact licenses in its portfolio, each with a different score.

The Q-label consists of various aspects that can be incorporated into a licensing agreement to achieve sustainable impact. Licenses are assessed based on the extent to which they have incorporated these aspects into their licensing agreement.

Its issuance promotes **quality standards** for impact licensing agreements, ensuring responsible and ethical technology transfer that drives positive societal change, with the aim to improve the accessibility of technologies to societies outside of the traditional and commercial implementation of the technology. It is employed as **a benchmark** for evaluating licensing agreements, guiding investors, innovators, and policymakers in adopting ethical and sustainable practices. Its **relevance** stems from the promotion of standardisation of impact licensing agreements across technologies and geographies and provides an objective way to assess sustainable impact through licensing.

The quality label is structured into four major categories consisting of k**ey components, claims, criteria and clauses**. The different categories that make up the comprehensive framework of the quality label distinguish themselves from the traditional licensing agreements in that they are focused on achieving societal impact, which can be assessed in a concrete and objective manner.

Figure 1 presents a schematic representation of how the quality label is structured. Key components are the most encompassing terms and are further detailed by more specific claims, criteria and clauses that can be assessed.

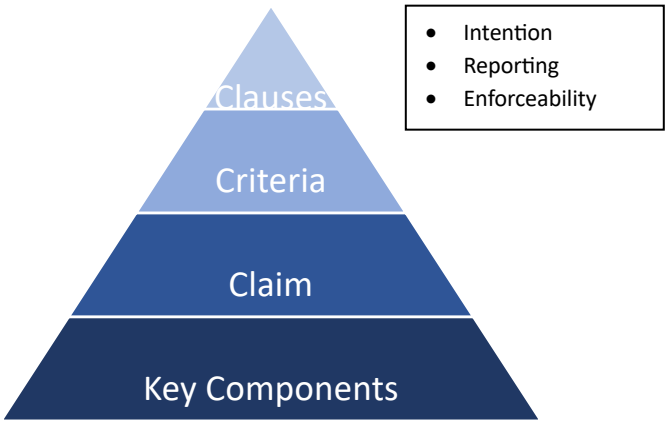

Figure 1: Structure Quality Label

2 Scoring methodology for Impact Licensing Agreements

Licenses subject to the quality label receive a score. This score reflects the extent to which sustainable impact is generated, based on whether the key components, claims, criteria and clauses have been adhered to. The quality label score is determined by assigning different relative weights to each segment. An overall score is obtained between zero and one, this score can further be categorised into gold, silver and bronze. A higher score indicates that an impact licensing agreement incorporates many aspects of the quality framework, thereby contributing to a greater societal valorisation of the technology. The obtained score increases the credibility of the technology holder and can be reported back to different stakeholders and minimises the risk of greenwashing. In the context of this manual and impact licensing agreements, technology refers to intellectual assets such as products, services and databases that are owned by an individual or entity. It is important to state that these Individual Properties include trade secrets and informal intellectual assets such as know-how. The technology that is already applied to a more commercial market is adapted and applied in a different context.

For more information: support@impactlicensing.org