

Editorial

RECENTLY, two incidents requiring my attention occurred regarding articles submitted to the IEEE MICROWAVE AND GUIDED WAVE LETTERS. The first incident is a near-miss. One of the authors of an accepted article called my office and requested to pull this article from being printed on the grounds that the employer from whom the permission of submission had been granted subsequently reversed the decision. I called the IEEE and asked if the article can be removed from the issue already prepared. It turned out that the article was at the printer, but fortunately could be removed from inclusion in the issue without any additional cost. If it were one day later, a substantial cost would have been incurred. It has been the practice that such a cost would have been borne by the authors or their employer, but not by the IEEE or MTT-S. Note that at the time of submission of the article, the authors certified by way of the author check list and the IEEE Copyright form that all required clearance procedures were followed.

The other incident is in regard to a letter published in the November 1992 issue of this LETTERS. One of the authors of this article is now employed by an organization different from the one for whom the work contained in the article was carried out. The previous employer had read this article and claimed that proprietary information was contained so that if the author had asked permission to publish it, such permission would not have been granted. In response to my inquiry, the author stated otherwise.

At the time of submission, the authors signed the Author Check List in which all the check list items, including the clearance, was checked. In addition, the IEEE Copyright form was signed. Hence, this article was processed in accordance with the procedure established by and conforming to the IEEE practice. In order for this system to work, the Editor and the IEEE have to rely on the integrity of the author. The IEEE editors cannot possibly explore the integrity of the author. Further, on the back side of the IEEE Copyright form, IEEE Policy 6.17, Clearance of Papers, is explained. This states, "The IEEE must of necessity assume that material presented at its meetings or submitted to its publications is properly available for general dissemination to the audiences these activities are organized to serve. It is the responsibility of the authors, not the IEEE, to determine whether disclosure of their material requires the prior consent of other parties and, if so, to obtain it."

In addition, on the inside front cover of this LETTERS, the bottom paragraph states, "Responsibility for the contents rests upon the authors and not upon the IEEE, the Society, or its members."

It is the desire of the Editor that these types of incidents never be repeated.

Tatsuo Itoh
Editor-in-Chief