

**AUSTRALIAN
HOMOLOGATION
NEWSLETTER**
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Broadband over Power Line (BPL)

The ACA has developed Regulatory Guidelines for testing BPL Technology (Broadband over Power Line also known as PLT – Power Line Telecommunications or PLC – Power Line Communications).

The ACA will issue a discussion paper in April 2005. This will cover both access and in-house BPL technologies.

Australia intends to move forward as are Government Regulators in the European Union, the USA and other countries are preparing regulatory frameworks.

Access BPL uses the electricity service provider distribution network as a means of broadband delivery to and from premises, either as an ancillary to the service provider's management of their metering and electricity supply distribution network, or to provide short distance communications.

In-house BPL enables communications within a home or office to be carried by the in-house wiring of a privately-owned building to carry broadband data.

R. Medding & Associates

is a firm of Consulting Engineers, whose specialities include providing homologation advice to and maintaining Compliance Folders for Manufacturers and Importers of electrical, electronic, radio and telecommunications equipment sold in Australia and New Zealand.

All information published in this newsletter was correct at the date of publication.

VoIP Regulation

At the present time, VoIP is not covered by specific Regulation. The general requirements for Voice Telephony such as emergency calls capability and digital equipment connections to the Network are applicable. Currently, discussions are taking place on a technical and user level to go forward to the development of specific Standards for VoIP.

ACA has conducted a series of workshops and released a discussion paper "Regulatory Issues Associated with Provision of Voice Services using Internet Protocol in Australia".

These considered:-

- Examining how current regulatory arrangements affect VoIP services
- What changes might be necessary to accommodate a new era in voice and data networking, collection of information on new VoIP equipment
- New VoIP service arrangements

Important issues to be addressed include:-

- Regulatory arrangements covering the 000 emergency call service
- Ability to port to other operators
- Numbering of VoIP services

ACIF, the Australian Communications Industry Forum, has established three (3) Working Groups to address issues.

In our view, we can expect regulatory requirements in approximately twelve months' time.

New Zealand has implemented specific requirements for VoIP services to connect to Telecom New Zealand's Network. These have been in place for about two years.

If you have or are contemplating selling VoIP equipment or services in Australia, contact us for further information.

New Edition of TLN

ACA Regulation of Telecommunications Equipment is effected through the Telecommunications Labelling (Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Notice 2001. The current version, Amendment 1 2004, was issued and came into force in December 2004.

The new version of the TLN has:-

- mandated some new Standards
- made a specific requirement for Agent appointment to be in writing
- implemented adoption of two new Standards –
 - (a) AS/ACIF002S-2002 Amd. 2004 No. 2 - Analogue into Working and Non-Interference Requirements for Customer Equipment for connection to the Telecommunications Network
 - (b) AS/ACIFS004 Voice Frequency Performance Requirements for Customer Equipment
- highlighted amendments to Industry Standards, namely:
 - AS/ACIFS002:2001 Amd. 1
 - (a) AS/ACIFS002-2001 Amd. 2
 - (b) AS/ACIFS004-2004 to replace AS/ACIFS004:2001
 - (c) ACATS 034 1997 Amd. 1:2001
- clarified the rules relating to compliance levels (requirement for Compliance Level 3 Test Reports to be prepared by an RTA).
- spell out the requirements for a new Declaration of Conformity to be made where an item is modified.
- Compliance Folders are required to contain a copy of:
 - (a) the Test Report to the Standard chosen to be applicable to the product.
 - (b) any Carrier permission applicable

New Equipment Standard for Headsets

Australia is one of the first countries to adopt the lower Sound Pressure Levels set out in the International Guidelines and make them part of its Regulatory arrangements. The new Sound Pressure Limits have been published in the AS/A S004:2004 Voice Frequency Performance Requirements for Customer Equipment. This Standard is now applicable from December 2004.

Under the revised Standard, the Sound Pressure Levels for Headsets is reduced from a maximum of 120 dba to 118 dba. ACA considers that this will protect the hearing of users more effectively.