

AUSTRALIAN HOMOLOGATION NEWSLETTER

Issue #4

Licensed Carriers

The ACA maintains a register of Licensed Carriers on its Website. Currently there are 45 Licensed Carriers in Australia.

The list can be accessed at:

www.aca.gov.au/licence/carrier/carriers.html

Communications Technical Regulation Advisory Committee (CTRAC)

CTRAC was established to provide advice to the ACA regarding the compliance frameworks for the regulation of communications equipment in Australia. The three areas on which they provide inputs are:

- Telecommunications;
- Radiocommunications; and
- EMC/EMR requirements

The minutes of the CTRAC meetings are now available on the ACA website at:
www.aca.gov.au/standards/ctrac.com

Mr Medding as a member of the committee is able to put forward suggestions and argue the merits of proposed changes. If you have any matters, suggestions or issues which are of concern to you, to industry or consumers let us know so we can raise these during the CTRAC meetings.

Electrical Safety of IT Equipment

For IT equipment not covered by the Telecommunications Act, the safety requirements for the equipment are regulated by the applicable State or Territory Electrical Authority. In Victoria, the Electrical Authority is the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector.

In general the Electrical Authorities are concerned with the safety of domestic electrical equipment, however all electrical equipment offered to the public must meet relevant minimum safety standards. For IT equipment AS/NZS 3260 or equivalent is required.

New AS/ACIF Standards

The Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) currently have a number of Working Committees (WC) reviewing existing ACA Technical Standards and preparing new Standards.

Of particular interest is the impending release of AS/ACIF S006 and AS/ACIF S043 (Public Comment on these drafts closes 4 August 2000).

AS/ACIF S006 outlines the requirements for CE , operating in the voice band, for connection to the non-switched Telecommunications Network.

AS/ACIF S043 (Parts 1,2&3) outlines the requirements for CE connecting to a metallic local loop interface of a Telecommunications Network.

A Press Release was issued which advised that AS/ACIF S043 would be promulgated with immediate effect in the last quarter of 2000.

ACA will be writing to all TS006 equipment Suppliers advising how this change will affect them.

The usual 6-12 month overlap between the outgoing standard and its replacement will be disregarded in this instance. The ACA also propose to disallow any previously compliant equipment from being labelled with the A-Tick unless retested to the new standard as at the date of gazettal of these standards.

RMA consider this unfair and inequitable and are currently in discussion with the ACA to ensure a more fitting solution to the problems specifically relating to xDSL transmission.

Please contact R. Medding & Associates for further information or advice.

Current News

GST

As at 1 July 2000 Australia has adopted a New Tax System which includes a Goods and Services Tax. RMA is registered for the GST and our ABN is 66 339 764 417
RMA services for Australian Clients will now include a 10% tax.

EMR Standard Expanded

As mentioned in our Newsletter #3 (April 2000), a mandatory EMR Standard was introduced in February 1999.

The ACA has increased the scope of the EMR Human Exposure Standard as of 1 June 2000.

The revised standard now applies to all mobile phone handsets and base stations, cordless phone handsets and cradles, and satellite phone handsets in the 800 – 2500 MHz frequency range. This includes GSM 1800 MHz cellular mobile handsets, 915, 928 and 2400 MHz cordless phones and 1600 MHz satellite phone handsets.

A further extension of the standard is planned for later in the year to include low power devices.

Telecommunications Equipment NZ

The Ministry of Commerce is responsible for the administration of EMC and Safety standards for telecommunications equipment in New Zealand.

The responsibility for setting the standards for equipment to be connected to telecommunications networks lies with the network operators themselves: it is not a regulatory function of the Ministry.

One operator, Telecom New Zealand, has established a formal process for setting these standards. Specifically, Telecom NZ operates a "Permit to Connect" approval system for equipment to be connected to its network.

Test results from overseas laboratories that meet New Zealand equipment standards are accepted.

Further information can be obtained from RMA or the Telecom New Zealand Access Standards website:
www.telepermit.co.nz

FAQ – Is a test report to FCC regulations acceptable to show compliance to EMC in Australia?

No. At the current time the ACA does not accept FCC Part 15 reports as proof of EMC compliance for ITE. The ACA will only accept AS/NZS 3548, EN55022 and CISPR22 test reports as a basis for a Declaration of Conformity for EMC.

The ACA are currently reviewing the EMC regulations, including this issue. More information can be obtained from the ACA website. Comments can be sent to Ian McAlister, Manager, Radiocommunications Standards Team, ACA .

R. Medding & Associates

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

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