

AUSTRALIAN HOMOLOGATION NEWSLETTER

Issue #5

CTRAC Meetings

The ACA are now publishing the minutes of the CTRAC meetings on their Website. Minutes of all the meetings except for the most recent meeting of 25 October 2000 can be accessed at:

<http://www.aca.gov.au/standards/ctrac.htm>

AS/NZS 3548 Class A & Class B Definitions

The Australian EMC Framework requirements that telecommunications equipment meet AS/NZS 3548 Class A or Class B according to its primary use.

The decision as to an equipment's primary use is left to the manufacturer. The basis of the decision is outlined in Clause 4.1. "Note: The domestic environment is an environment where the use of broadcast radio and television receivers may be expected within a distance of 10m of the apparatus concerned."

If the equipment is tested to Class A limits the following warning label may be used, but is not mandatory:

WARNING: This is a Class A product. In a domestic environment this product may cause radio interference in which case the user may be required to take adequate measures.

CB Scheme and Australian Requirements

Australia is not a member of the CB Scheme and CB test reports do not replace the requirement to meet TS001 or AS/NZS 3260. CB certificates are accepted by some State Electrical Authorities for certain types of domestic IT equipment, but only after a thorough examination of the report and a sample of the equipment.

If a CB report is produced by laboratory who is also an RTA for TS001 and AS/NZS3260, then that laboratory can choose to issue a statement of compliance to TS001 after the appropriate examination and testing based on previous test results. In reality they will issue a separate test report to AS/NZS 3260 and a CB report based on the same test data.

Agency Agreements

In a recent paper presented at a CTRAC meeting by an ACA officer, the importance of the Appointment of Agent Agreements were discussed.

The paper stated:

" During a compliance investigation an ACA officer will, in the first instance, search for the supplier identified on the product. Where the person identified by the compliance label proves not to be the Importer the focus of the investigation will turn toward the source of the product. The person identified as the actual Importer then becomes responsible for the compliance of the product, irrespective that the product is labelled, and should hold either compliance documentation or an Agency agreement with the person whose label appears on the product."

In Section 21A of the current TLN it specifies that, where an Agent of the Manufacturer or Importer is appointed a copy of the agent's agreement must be retained.

A-Tick Campaign

The ACA has embarked on an A-Tick promotional campaign. This campaign will involve various levels of advertising to increase the public's awareness of the mark and its applications.

A recent survey found that only 14% of respondents recognised the A-Tick mark and of them only 19% knew what it meant.

Current News

ACA Audit

R. Medding & Associates were recently chosen at random for a Compliance Folder Audit by the ACA. All Compliance Folders which were audited were found compliant and ACA issued Certificates of Satisfactory Audit

FAQ – Who is responsible for compliance issues for IT, Telecommunications and Radiocommunications equipment in Australia?

In Australia the parties responsible for compliance with the regulations are called the Supplier. A Supplier is:

- An Australian manufacturer who make products for the Australian market; or
- An importer of products intended for sale in Australia; or
- The authorised agent of an Australian manufacturer or importer.

Grandfathering of AUSTEL Permits TS001-1997 Requirement

Equipment which held an AUSTEL Permit are allowed to continue to be sold using the AUSTEL Permit label due to clauses in the TLN which authorise the grandfathering of these Permits under certain conditions.

These conditions are outlined in the TLN and the Permitted Items Standard ACA TS102. A copy of both these documents can be downloaded from the ACA website www.aca.gov.au.

One of the major conditions of TS102 is that the equipment may only be imported on or after 1 July 2001 if it complies with ACA TS001-1997. Any equipment which was tested to TS001-1996 or earlier, is required to be retested to show Compliance with the current standard before 1 July 2001.

We advise any suppliers of equipment which are using an AUSTEL Permit label to review the status of their safety test reports and ensure that they comply with ACA TS001-1997 before 1 July 2001.

Draft Telecommunications Labelling Notice (TLN)

At the CTRAC meeting on 25 October a draft TLN was tabled. This initial draft is not yet available to the public.

The draft TLN contains a number of structural and procedural changes and will replace the “consolidated version” currently available.

The new TLN is expected to be released first quarter 2001.

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.