ITU Training on Conformance and
Interoperability Testing for African Region
23-27 November 2014,
Tunis,(Tunisia)

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Conformity Assessment of ICT products
Sierra Leone Experience

Elijah Koroma
Chief Technology Officer.
Ministry of Information & Communications
GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

OUTLINE

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INTRODUCTION 1/2

The Telecommunications Act 2006 as amended in 2009 mandates the formation of the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) whose function is;

➤ To protect telecommunications operators and consumers from unfair conduct of telecommunication operations with regard to the quality of telecommunications services

➤ To ensure universal availability of efficient, reliable and cost effective telecommunications services throughout Sierra Leone

INTRODUCTION 2/2

➤ To manage, allocate, licence and regulate the use of the radio frequency spectrum and the geostationary satellite orbits in Sierra Leone

➤ To establish the protection of data on computer files and their transmission and to safeguard the secrecy of telecommunications and the protection of personal data in collaboration with the telecommunications network operators

➤ To designate and ensure the maintenance of standards of telecommunications equipment, including internationally approved standards

TYPE APPROVAL MANDATE

Under the Telecommunications Act 2006, the National Telecommunication Commission (NATCOM) has the statutory mandate to prescribe, develop and implement a Type Approval Regulation for telecommunications equipment which may be used for providing a telecommunications service or for operating or connecting to a telecommunications network to ensure interoperability and conformity to technical standards

OBJECTIVES OF TYPE APPROVAL 1/3

➢ To ensure no person who provides a telecommunications service or supplies telecommunications equipment shall use or supply, as the case may be, any telecommunications equipment which does not comply with technical standards

➢ To establish technical standards applicable to telecommunications equipment, including customer premises equipment, so as to ensure against damage to telecommunications network or services or to public health, safety or the environment.

OBJECTIVES OF TYPE APPROVAL 2/3

➢ To ensure that the operating frequency of all radio communication equipment is in conformance with the frequency spectrum allocation plan in Sierra Leone so that no harmful interference is caused to essential services

➢ To determine technical standards for telecommunication network and the connection of customer equipment to telecommunication networks

OBJECTIVES OF TYPE APPROVAL 3/3

➢ To protect network operators and the general public from sub-standard terminal equipment which do not meet public telecommunications network standards

➢ To facilitate the interoperability within and across networks for systems and devices communicate, exchange data, and use the information that has been exchanged

APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT 1/2

➢ The regulator (NATCOM) ensures that operators and end users not use any equipment for connection to any electronic communications network without prior approval of the type of equipment

➢ The regulator determine the types of equipment that do not require approval, where the equipment has been approved for use by any other recognised international competent body upon submission to the regulator proof of such prior approval

APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT 2/2

➢ The regulator at the request of any licensed operator, equipment manufacturer or equipment supplier, conduct type approval tests and issue type approval certificates in respect of electronic communications equipment intended for use in Sierra Leone.

➢ The regulator make provision to type approve any telecommunications equipment by reference to a type of approval used in another country

CHALLENGES IN TYPE APPROVAL PROCESS 1/2

Sierra Leone is not a communication equipment and information technology equipment manufacturer we are just users, so predetermined standards and criteria for telecommunication equipment are not available. The challenges faced with in type approval process are;

➤ Problems in correct interpretation of existing standards due to lack of technology or professional experts with experience in the subject

➤ Lack of adequate resources, professional and experienced personnel in defining technical specifications and test procedures

CHALLENGES IN TYPE APPROVAL PROCESS 2/2

➤ Lack of dynamic and active mechanisms and processes for customization of standards to develop national standard

➤ Lack of uniform standards and regulations in different countries and inaccessibility to laboratory test records of other countries

➤ Lack of regulatory support cooperation between the manufacturers and importers together with the institution performing the test and provide documentation of laboratory tests to the regulator

RECOMMENDATION

➢ Harmonizing the type approval processes and procedures of different countries in the Africa Region

➢ Make accessible laboratory test records of other countries in the Africa Region

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Thanks for your attention!!!

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