



Workshop for Caribbean countries to promote the development and implementation of Conformity Assessment programmes

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INTRODUCTION BACKGROUND

- Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) was established on May 4, 2000 by Treaty signed by five (5) Eastern Caribbean governments namely
 - Dominica,
 - Grenada,
 - St Kitts and Nevis,
 - Saint Lucia,
 - St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

ECTEL is headquartered in Saint Lucia and advises the governments and the local regulatory authorities, the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions (NTRC) on telecommunications matters.



LEGISLATIVE STRUCTURE ESTABLISHING THE TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

- There are three main pieces of legislation that establishes the Type Approval Regime for the ECTEL Contracting States:
 1. The ECTEL Treaty;
 2. The Telecommunications Act of the Contracting States;
 3. Telecommunications (Terminal Equipment and Public Network) Regulations, 2002.



ECTEL TREATY

- Article 5(n)
recommend the technical standards and procedures for the approval of equipment, including radio equipment for use in the operation of telecommunications in each Contracting State;
- Article 5 (o)
co-ordinate activities with relevant international organisations, States or other bodies or persons for the promotion and implementation of this Treaty;



TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT [ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES- NO. 1 OF 2001]

Relevant sections of the Act that deals with Type
Approval Certification

- Section 10 (c)

...be responsible for technical regulation and the setting of technical standards of telecommunications and ensure compatibility with international standards .

- Section 10 (h)

...receive and review applications for class licences and advise the Minister accordingly.

- Section 10(q)

...report to and advise the Minister on the legal, technical, financial, economic aspects of telecommunications and the social impact of telecommunications;



TERMINAL EQUIPMENT AND PUBLIC NETWORK REGULATIONS [ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES-NO. 13 OF 2002]

- The NTRC in each ECTEL Member State is mandated with the power to issue type approval certificates for telecommunications equipment and radio communications devices.

- Regulations 3.1

No person shall install, sell for use or use any item of equipment...., unless the Commission grants a certificate of type approval in respect of that type of equipment.

- The ECTEL Member States have a provision in their legislation for mutual recognition of type approval certificates issued by each other.

Regulations 10

The Commission may recognize type approvals granted by other Contracting States, and will consult and liaise with ECTEL, in respect of such matters where necessary.

Regulations 12.1

The Commission shall recognize the type approvals that are specified in the Schedule [FCC Parts 15 & 68; IC, ETSI].



TERMINAL EQUIPMENT AND PUBLIC NETWORK REGULATIONS CONT'D

- Importation of Equipment

Regulations 15. 1

A person shall ensure that the importation of radio equipment, customer premises equipment or other terminal equipment, does not damage or endanger the telecommunications network and shall comply with the procedures relating to the approval of equipment



TERMINAL EQUIPMENT AND PUBLIC NETWORK REGULATIONS

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EQUIPMENT DETAILS

- The applicant for Type Approval certification is required to complete the prescribed application form and pay an application fee.
- Following details are captured on the form:
 - The name of manufacturer or authorized agent;
 - The model and make of the device;
 - Technical details including transmit power, operating frequency range, etc.
 - Technical document and certificates from other jurisdictions are required.
- The NTRCs maintain a register of Type Approval certificates issued and the register must be published.



EQUIPMENT DETAILS- SAMPLE OF TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FORM

2 PART II – Technical Details

2.1 Select the following options as appropriate:

- Type Approval has been granted by another ECTEL Member States
Countries: _____
- Type Approval has been granted by recognized international standards agencies
Agencies: _____
- New Type Approval requested: equipment has not undergone any Type Approval process

2.2 Radio Communications Equipment Information

Equipment: _____
 Type: _____ Class: _____
 Brand Name: _____ Model: _____
 Manufacturer Name: _____
 Address of Manufacturer: _____

 Frequency Band (MHz) - Transmit: _____ Receive: _____
 Output (Watts): _____ ITU Emission Designator: _____

2.3 Details of the purpose for which equipment is intended to be used



CHALLENGES

- Legislative Framework for Type Approval was mainly developed to liberalise telecommunications sector and there was not much emphasis was placed on certification of telecommunications devices.
- Legislative framework is outdated.
- The ECTEL States generally accept certification from FCC, IC, etc. Generally they do not test equipment although they have the provision to do so.
- Review of Type Approval applications requires considerable resources-technical, administrative, record keeping, etc.
- Initially ECTEL was considering establishing a laboratory for equipment testing, however due to the prohibitive costs and other challenges had to review this.



PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

- Telecom. Equipment being imported into/being used in ECTEL States must receive Type Approval certification from the NTRC.
- Customs and Excise Department detains all telecom. equipment entering the Member States until persons can provide documentation indicating that they are authorised by the NTRC to operate the equipment.



FUTURE PLANS

- The legislative framework is under review and make it relevant to regulate the Telecommunications and ICT sector.
- Good opportunity to work with work with international and regional partners to incorporate C&I Assessment schemes into the new Legislative framework.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
KIND ATTENTION

END

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