



Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Equity in development

TYPE APPROVAL APPLICATIONS IN THE GAMBIA

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PREAMBLE

The Gambia Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) is the regulatory Authority established under the PURA Act 2001.

In accordance with Part IX of the Information and Communications Act 2009, PURA is mandated to monitor and control radio interference from radio transmitters and other electronic products as well as checking compatibility of all Telecommunications / Radio communications equipment. It is therefore important for manufacturers, importers and vendors to familiarize themselves with the PURA's Type Approval application process.

OBJECTIVES OF THE GUIDELINES

The objective of these Guidelines is to ensure that Type Approval applicants are well informed of the Type Approval process in The Gambia. These Guidelines shall ensure that any Type Approved equipment:

- ❖ is electrically safe for users, subscribers or the employees of the telecommunications system operators;
- ❖ is electromagnetically compatible with other equipment to which it is or will be connected or used;




- ❖ is fitted with a device which will protect the telecommunication system of which it is a part or to which it is connected against electrical, electromagnetic or other similar damage;
- ❖ makes efficient use of the radio spectrum where applicable; and
- ❖ is capable of interworking with other telecommunication equipment for the purposes of establishing, modifying, charging for, holding or clearing real and virtual connections.



RADIO COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

The Radio communications equipment that shall be Type Approved includes but not limited to the following:

- ❑ customer site terminals that connect to public switched networks;
 - ❑ low power devices;
 - ❑ short range devices;
 - ❑ WLAN - WiFi, Bluetooth;
 - ❑ telemetry and command modules.
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STANDARDS

Type Approval for Radio Communication equipment in The Gambia is conducted by recognition of Type Approval test reports which are prepared according to the following international standards:

- FCC: Federal Communications Commission;
 - ANSI: American National Standards Institute;
 - ETSI: European Telecommunications Standardization Institute;
 - ITU: International Telecommunications Union;
 - IEC: International Electrotechnical Commission;
 - ISO: International Standard Organization.
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EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

The Authority will review application and documents to ensure compliance with the following relevant requirements:

- ❖ exact number of required documents depends on equipment type and PURA may request for additional documents from the applicant as and when necessary;
- ❖ samples of equipment will be requested if the Authority deems it necessary and the cost of transportation and custom clearance shall be borne by the applicant ;
- ❖ processing time for Type Approval applications is typically 2 - 4 weeks after receiving all necessary documentation;

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS (1)

- ❖ the Authority shall evaluate the application based on international standards as specified in Section 6.1 of these Guidelines;
- ❖ when a Type Approval application is granted, it will be valid for a period of 2 years;
- ❖ in the event that the Type Approved product/s have been found to compromise on quality of service, safety, security, interferences, after sales services and any other significant issues (deemed appropriate by the Authority), the Type Approval certificate may be withdrawn or cancelled;
- ❖ the withdrawal or cancellation of a Type Approval may not affect the right to use the equipment already in use, unless it is found to cause harmful interference to licensed services or the Authority determines otherwise.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING TYPE APPROVAL

If the applicant meets the relevant requirements, the Authority will issue a certificate that permits distributors and service providers to use, operate and sell the equipment in The Gambia. The applicant shall also commit to conform to the following terms and conditions:

- ❖ accept responsibility for any harm, injury or loss attributed to the possession or use of the equipment;
- ❖ accept responsibility to discontinue importation and sale, and replace all the equipment already on the market, in case of defects in the equipment resulting in unacceptable performance/interference;
- ❖ inform the Authority of any desired modifications to the authorized equipment before importing to obtain the Authority's approval.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR GRANTING TYPE APPROVAL (1)

- ❖ Type Approval shall in no case be construed as a guarantee by the Authority for the proper functioning, performance or quality of the equipment. Suppliers shall ensure that the approved equipment inter works properly with other public telecommunication networks and conforms to international standards.
- ❖ The Authority shall not be liable for any interference caused to any other equipment, injury, loss of life and/or damages to property whatsoever as the direct/indirect result of the use of any approved equipment. The approval granted by the Authority does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

After completion of evaluation by the Authority, the applicant will be informed of the outcome of his / her application. The Authority will issue a type approval certificate to the applicant for a specific model of equipment, when the Authority is satisfied that the applicant and equipment have complied with the stipulated requirements.

The Type approval Certificate is valid for two (2) years from the date of issue by the Authority. The terms and conditions of the certification are as follows:

TYPE APPROVAL CERTIFICATE

- ❖ the certificate is valid under the condition that the equipment being granted approval is identical to the one tested;
- ❖ any changes to the name or model of the type approved equipment will require a new type approval process. This involves a fresh application with revised supporting documents. If the technical specifications have not been amended, reference can be made to the original type approval. However , the applicant must submit a letter of declaration stating that the technical specifications for the old named/model equipment is the same as the new name/model equipment;
- ❖ the Certificate may be revoked if holders use it beyond the approved scope or if determined to have been obtained illegally.

TYPE APPROVAL CHALLENGES

- Steps and strategy to type approve the many sub-standard equipment that are already flooded in the market
- Labelling procedures and processes as per best practice



THANK YOU!!!

