



Information & Communication Technologies Authority

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**RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE REVISION OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF
RADIOCOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARD FOR
ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD (EMF) SAFETY**

12 May 2021

1.0 BACKGROUND

The ICTA issued a Deployment of Radiocommunication Infrastructure Technical and Administrative Standard for Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Safety, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Standard’, on 23 March 2011. Under its mandate, the ICTA may revise the Standard as and when required, on the basis of contributions received through public consultation exercises. Licensees have in the past expressed their concerns regarding the authorisation process, which were essentially in relation to:-

- (a) the lengthy process with respect to fast deployment of new installations; and
- (b) the obligation to conduct a public consultation for each new site being set up prior to filing an application with the ICTA.

Changes to the Standard were proposed, with the objective of adopting a more flexible approach regarding authorisations issued in the context of deployment/modification of Radiocommunications Infrastructure by shifting from a regulator-led authorisation process to a regime of self-declaration by Licensees and registration with the ICTA. Licensees, thus empowered, will be required to apply the provisions of this revised Standard with a view to ensuring that public exposure to EMF is minimised.

The ICTA made available for public consultation the Revised Standard and invited comments from stakeholders by 21 December 2021. Upon request, the given deadline was extended to 12 January 2021. The Authority has received comments from Cellplus Mobile Communications Ltd and Mahanagar Telephone (Mauritius) Ltd.

This paper summarises the comments received and gives the views of the Authority accordingly.

2.0 RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

Section 2.3.1: *This revised Standard shall come into effect on 05 April 2021 and shall apply to all new and existing radiocommunications infrastructure.*

Respondent Comments	ICTA Comments	Proposed text, reviewed
Whether the new guidelines shall be applicable to all existing sites or the new upcoming sites only?	The revised Standard shall apply to all new and existing radiocommunications infrastructure. (Section 2.3)	N/A

Section 6.3.9: *The ICTA shall publish on its website a list of registered radiocommunications infrastructure.*

Respondent Comments	ICTA Comments	Proposed text, reviewed
Given ICTA registration via online portal has just started, complete registration of Cellplus' MBS that were already approved and in operation will take quite a long time. This situation may cause additional confusion to the public when accessing ICTA website for list of registered Radiocommunication infrastructure and not finding such MBS site in the list, unless appropriate explanations are provided by ICTA.	Currently the list of registered radiocommunication infrastructure is available only to mobile operators and local authorities. The information may be made available to the public as from October 2021, when the radiocommunications infrastructure have been registered.	6.3.9 The ICTA shall provide local authorities and mobile operators access, via its website, to the list of registered radiocommunications infrastructure. The ICTA may extend this information to the general public.

Section 6.4.6: *For each RF hazard area, a Licensee shall ensure warning signs are detailed in an appropriate manner and affixed in conspicuous locations, as specified in APPENDIX C.*

Respondent Comments	ICTA Comments	Proposed text, reviewed
We would be grateful that Cellplus be provided with at least 3 months for implementation of new site identification signage and signage format as described at C.1 of appendix C.	Request is positively considered and timeframe to implement same by 04 October 2021 for existing sites and at the time of operation for new sites.	6.4.6 For each site, a Licensee shall ensure that relevant signage and warning signs are detailed in an appropriate manner and affixed in conspicuous locations, as specified in APPENDIX C. Added text to Appendix C: The signage shall be implemented before the coming into operation of any new radiocommunications infrastructure.
ON-SITE SIGNAGE - Site Identification (C.1), shouldn't be made mandatory. We request the authority to exclude the same.	The Site Identification serves to ascertain that the radiocommunications infrastructure is duly registered with the ICTA. Section 6.4.6 and Appendix C have been accordingly modified to reflect same.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>SITE ID:</p> <p>Operator's name/logo</p> <p>Installation registered with ICTA</p> </div>

Section 6.5.4: *The Compliance Report shall demonstrate the Licensee's application of the precautionary approach with respect to the following:*

- (a) *site selection including the consultation methodology and a summary of comments received during any consultation undertaken, as well as the Licensee's consideration of same;*
- (b) *infrastructure design including all safety measures which the Licensee will implement;*
- (c) *results of the site EMF assessment in terms of installation compliance by means of calculations, in accordance with all relevant ITU-T Recommendations;*

(d) results of the site EMF level exposure, as determined from on-site measurements performed in accordance with the In-Situ measurement protocol.

Respondent Comments	ICTA Comments	Proposed text, reviewed
We request the authority to exclude In-Situ measurement report as mandatory submission for compliance report.	-	<i>(d) results of the site EMF level exposure, as determined from on-site measurements performed in accordance with the In-Situ measurement protocol, as applicable.</i>

Section 6.5.5: *A copy of the Compliance Report shall be made available to any person, upon written request.*

Respondent Comments	ICTA Comments	Proposed text, reviewed
As copies of Compliance report duly dated, stamped and signed by a responsible officer duly authorised by Cellplus will be made available to the ICTA for Audit purposes, same must not be made available to third parties such as the public or other Authorities. In any case, as per paragraph 7.2.2, it is provided that upon request from the public, the same information will be provided at no charge, as soon as practicable. We would also kindly request that a template for Compliance Report be shared to Mobile Operators for standardisation purposes.	No revision has been brought to this existing provision 6.3.6 of the Standard. Sections 6.1 to 6.4 of the revised Standard provide adequate information to develop the Compliance report.	N/A

Section 6.6.4 (b): *Where it has come to the notice of the ICTA that an installation no more satisfies the requirements specified in this Standard due to unauthorised changes made by the operator, and/or where it has been assessed as being non-compliant, the ICTA shall suspend a registration and give appropriate instructions to Licensee(s) to remedy to the situation, within a determined timeframe.*

Respondent Comments	ICTA Comments	Proposed text, reviewed
We kindly request the ICTA to clarify the phrase with examples, 'no more satisfies the requirement specified in the Standard' due to unauthorised changes by Cellplus, whereby Cellplus MBS registration shall be suspended.	Any undisclosed change to any parameter of an installation registered with the Authority shall be considered as a breach to the requirement specified in the Standard.	N/A