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1. Introduction:

The labeling guideline document is issued with respect to the Executive Regulations (Chapter 6, articles 26 and 27) and according to Telecom Act issued by the Royal Decree No. 30/2002.

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) aims to eliminate the phenomena of flooding the market with unauthorized types of telecom equipment and to improve the consumer protection. A step forward in this way is taken by the Authority, when introducing the labeling scheme, which will help the consumers to make informed buying decision as it will be easy to identify approved equipment and none approved ones. Another objective behind the labeling is to facilitate TRA inspectors work to easily distinguish none approved equipment in the market if they are not having the label. It is important to mention that the Omani label is not a tool to release telecom equipment held with Customs. However it is a tool to check the equipment inside the local market.

Furthermore the label is an indication that the equipment is approved in Oman regardless of the fact that the equipment manufacturer is exporting it to the Sultanate or to any other country. Placing the Omani label is not restricted by TRA to the equipment exported to our country only, and our requirements do not mean that the Omani label is the only label allowed to be placed on the equipment exported to Oman. For example other labels like CE mark and FCC mark can be placed beside the Omani label if those labels also are applicable to the equipment type.

2. General Rules of Labeling Scheme:

The following are general rules that govern the labeling scheme and the dealer is bound to follow:

1. Dealers registered with TRA are responsible to ensure labeling of all the imported and distributed telecom equipment.
2. The Label has to be in line with the design shown below in section 6 of this document.
3. The label is required to be placed on the equipment and any of user information document (e.g. User Guide).
4. It is preferable also to place the label on the packing as it is visible to the consumer. If there is no adequate size on the equipment for placing the label, it is mandatory to place the label on the pack.
5. The label has to be printed on the positions mentioned in points 3 and 4 above and it is not allowed to use affixed (adhesive) labels.

6. The dealer applying for type approval has to obtain the type approval certificate before beginning to place the label on the described positions above.

7. The importer will need to apply to TRA for release of the imported telecom equipment.

8. If a dealer wants to import telecom equipment that was approved by TRA for another dealer without obtaining separate type approval certificate, he shall obtain a written permission from the other dealer. In addition he has to ensure that equipment are labeled with labels having exactly the same details of the other dealer label.

9. If a dealer wants to buy equipment from local market and resell them locally, he must ensure that the equipment are labeled properly and he must hold a proof identifying the entity from which he purchased the equipment.

3. Implementation of labeling:
Dealers can have a grace period of maximum 6 months after issuing the labeling scheme to begin applying these guidelines for new imported equipment.

4. Current Approved Telecom Equipment:
All telecom equipment approved before the effective date of the labeling guidelines are considered exempted from labeling till 30/06/2011 as maximum dead line. After expiry of exemption period, the importer dealer is responsible to label all the equipment that have not been sold yet. It is allowed to use affixed labels on the equipment that fall under the exemption period. As the type approval number has to be in line with the current scheme of numbering, importers are obliged to apply to TRA to re-issue the type approval certificates of the equipment they import if the certificates were issued before conversion of type approval from the incumbent operator and the Ministry of Communications and Transport to the TRA in 2003.

5. Scope of labeling:
The Labeling is applicable on the telecommunications equipment approved by TRA under equipment approval scheme. The labeling is not mandatory on the following cases:
1- Equipment that are used for automotive applications and that are already fitted on the imported automobiles.
2- Modules and Interface cards that have been already fitted in their housings before they are imported to the Sultanate.
3- All access and core network equipment imported for installation in the public licensed telecom networks.

6. Design of the Label:
The label design that has to be followed is shown below. It is required to make an obvious print of the label; else TRA may consider it a violation as the equipment is not labeled. The following specifications have to be followed for the label:

1- Generally, the label has to be with white background and black writing.
2- Label size has to be of 10 mm height in 18 mm width as minimum dimensions.
3- The title (OMAN-TRA) has to be of minimum height 2 mm.
4- The type approval number and dealer number has to be of minimum height 1.5 mm.
5- Mask of type approval number is "X/NNNN/YY", where X refers to equipment class: T: for Terminal, G: for mobile handset, R: for radio. NNNN refers to type approval number. YY refers to the issue year of approval. Note that the actual mask of type approval number to appear in the certificates is "TRA/TA-X/NNNN/YY".
6- Mask of Dealer number is "Dyynnnn", where D refers to Dealer. yy refers to year of registration. nnnn refers to dealer specific number given by TRA.
If the restrictions above are difficult to be deployed, TRA can be flexible in the following points only:

1- It is possible to use black background and white writing or any light color background with black writing.
2- Outer frame is not necessary to be printed, unless the background color where the label is placed is same as the background color of the label.
3- If the labeling is not practical on both equipment and its packing, it must be placed on the user guide or operating manual. However, the dealer has to prove to TRA such case at the time of type approval application.