

Connect outstanding code registered

ACMA has registered a new industry code that will result in reduced delays for customers moving into new premises where the previous customer has failed to request disconnection of their service.

The new operational industry code was developed by the Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) and registration makes it enforceable by ACMA.

It can be frustrating for a customer who moves into a new

home or business and cannot immediately have a telephone service connected because the previous service is still active and the existing line is not available for reconnection. Referred to by the industry as 'connect outstanding', these situations affect a relatively small number of customers but can cause significant inconvenience.

Connect Outstanding – Industry Code ACIF C617:2005 contains clear rules and

procedures for telecommunications companies to follow in such circumstances. The code reduces the timeframe allowed for service providers to contact the previous occupant, requiring the previous customer's service to be cancelled and a new service connected within eight business days. It also clarifies the obligations of the different parties involved in reconnection of a connect outstanding service.

It is the twenty-sixth telecommunications industry code to be registered on the list of registered codes. All codes previously registered by the Australian Communications Authority remain registered under ACMA.

The code is available through the ACMA website (www.acma.gov.au) and go to Industry, >Codes, >Register of Codes).

LIPD licence variation allows short-range broadband communications

ACMA has varied the Low Interference Potential Devices (LIPD) Class Licence to authorise users to operate equipment in the 60 GHz spectrum band.

The variation supports the use of short-range wireless broadband equipment with very high data rates—up to 1 Giga-bit per second or more. Similar equipment is already being used in the United States, Canada and Japan under the 'unlicensed' operation arrangements that apply in those countries.

The change is one of several variations ACMA has made to the LIPD class licence to reflect changes in technology and industry requirements. Medical implant communications systems (MICS) and medical implant telemetry systems (MITS) devices are now also authorised under the LIPD class licence.

A MICS device is a two-way short-range transceiver that provides for monitoring and control of a medical implant in a patient. A MITS device is a one-way transmitter for conveying information from an implanted device to an external monitoring receiver. The use, marketing and supply of these types of devices require approval by the Commonwealth's Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Other changes to the LIPD class licence include an

expanded frequency range for low-power transmitters in the 2.5 GHz band and updated provisions for radio local area networks operating in the 5250–5350 MHz band.

The revocation of the Spread Spectrum Devices Class Licence removes duplication for certain spread spectrum devices with the LIPD class licence and possible confusion that may result. Operation of these devices is now authorised under the LIPD class licence, where previously operation could have

been authorised under either licence.

The Radiocommunications (Low Interference Potential Devices) Class Licence Variation 2005 (No. 1) and Radiocommunications (Spread Spectrum Devices) Class Licence (Revocation) 2005 instruments are available from the ComLaw website (www.comlaw.gov.au). For more information about the licence changes, contact ACMA on telephone 1300 850 115.

WHAT ARE RADIOCOMMUNICATION CLASS LICENCES?

Radiocommunications class licences are umbrella licences designed to provide 'public parks' or 'spectrum commons' for the use of various devices that have a low interference potential. Common examples of devices operated under class licences are garage door openers, remote car door locks and intruder alarms, wireless microphones, automatic tollway systems and tag security systems, as well as radio local area networks. Provided users are operating transmitters that comply with the conditions of the relevant class licence, individual licences are not required and no fees are payable.