

# Australian EMC regulatory arrangements revised

Suppliers of electrical and electronic devices will adhere to new regulatory arrangements developed by the ACMA to help manage the risk of electromagnetic interference. The new instrument amends the obligations imposed on suppliers in order to ensure an appropriate balance between the public policy objectives of regulation and minimising the administrative and financial burden on industry.

The ACMA is responsible for administering the electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) regulatory arrangements for electrical and electronic equipment supplied to the Australian market. The EMC regulatory arrangements in Australia comprise the Radiocommunications Labelling (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Notice 2008 (the EMC Labelling Notice) and the Radiocommunications (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Standard 2008 (the EMC Standard). The new instrument developed by the ACMA is titled Radiocommunications Labelling (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Amendment Notice 2009 (No.1) (the Amendment Notice).

The EMC Labelling Notice and EMC Standard operate together to specify mandatory requirements for suppliers of devices capable of incidental emissions. This includes compliance with applicable technical standards and record keeping requirements.

The Amendment Notice amends the EMC Labelling Notice and is intended to offer equipment suppliers greater flexibility and a reduction in financial and administrative burdens while continuing to manage the risk of electromagnetic interference to radiocommunications services.

The changes introduced by the Amendment Notice will:

- > Narrow the scope of the EMC Labelling Notice to exclude devices that have a power consumption of up to 1mW. This means that such devices are exempt from having to meet the requirements of both the EMC Labelling Notice and the EMC Standard.
- > Change the approach to defining low risk, medium risk and high risk devices. The effect of the change is to better align the administrative burden (that is, labelling and record keeping requirements) on equipment suppliers commensurate with the risk of interference presented by the device.
- > Define a medium risk device as a device that contains certain minimum components and will specifically exclude battery powered devices. Devices that meet the definition of a battery powered device will now be classified as a low risk device.
- > Exempt suppliers of low risk devices from the requirement to label or maintain a supplier's declaration of conformity (DoC).

- > Remove the exemption for radiocommunications transmitters. The removal of the exemption clarifies that composite devices (despite having an optional radiocommunications transmitter) must still comply with the EMC requirements. The radiocommunications transmitter element of the device is not required to comply with EMC requirements.
- > Reinstate a provision that allows a local supplier of low and medium risk devices the ability to hold an overseas manufacturer's declaration of conformity.
- > Provide recognition of another industry code of practice for EMC developed jointly by the Construction and Mining Equipment Industry Group (CMEIG) and the Tractor and Machinery Association (TMA).

The Amendment Notice was registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) on 16 November 2009 and is now in effect. ☞

For more information on the changes to the EMC regulatory arrangements please visit the ACMA website at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to Licensing & regulation > Equipment compliance & labelling (A-Tick/C-Tick) > Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) compliance & labelling) or email [comply.label@acma.gov.au](mailto:comply.label@acma.gov.au).