

Australian labelling arrangements revised to include electronic labelling

Suppliers of devices now have the option of using electronic labelling instead of traditional surface labelling, following the ACMA's decision to amend four device and equipment labelling notices made under the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

These four new notices are intended to offer equipment suppliers greater flexibility when labelling devices and customer equipment, and will reduce the financial and administrative burden on suppliers subject to the ACMA's regulatory requirements. In addition, amendments have been made to further align the requirements on suppliers across the four labelling notices.

The amendments to the labelling notices are contained in these four new amendment notices (instruments):

1. Radiocommunications Labelling (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Amendment Notice 2010 (No.1)
2. Radiocommunications Devices (Compliance Labelling) Amendment Notice 2010 (No.1)
3. Radiocommunications (Compliance Labelling – Electromagnetic Radiation) Labelling Amendment Notice 2010 (No.1)
4. Telecommunications Labelling (Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Amendment Notice 2010 (No.1).

The ACMA's four labelling notices impose a number of obligations on suppliers, who must comply with technical standards, maintain records and apply a label (compliance mark) to the surface of the device. The affixing of a compliance label on the surface of a device is a visual indication that the device complies with the requirements of the relevant labelling notice.

The changes introduced by the instruments will:

- > Provide suppliers the option of using electronic labelling as an equally available alternative to the traditional labelling of the surface of the device. Suppliers may choose to use electronic labelling for their device if the device has a built-in display. Suppliers who choose to use electronic labelling are required to explain in the documentation accompanying the device how the electronic label can be displayed. The electronic label must be displayed on the device's built-in display.

The four instruments were registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) on 31 March 2010 and are now in effect.

As part of the ongoing development of the labelling requirements, ACMA staff are developing a framework for a consolidated regulatory compliance mark that covers telecommunications, radiocommunications, EMC, EME and electrical safety. The proposal is to use the RCM as the regulatory compliance mark to illustrate compliance with the requirements of the ACMA's device and equipment regulatory arrangements. ☎

These four new notices are intended to offer equipment suppliers greater flexibility when labelling devices and customer equipment, and will reduce the financial and administrative burden on suppliers subject to the ACMA's regulatory requirements.

- > Align all four labelling notices so that there is no longer a requirement for suppliers of radiocommunications and EME devices to seek permission to label a device's packaging or documentation (alternative labelling). There is however a new requirement in all four labelling notices for suppliers who alternatively label to keep records of why the compliance label was not applied to the surface of the device and where it was subsequently applied. This requirement does not apply to suppliers that label electronically.
- > Update the process of applying to use the compliance mark and supplier code number. These application forms will now be available on the ACMA website rather than in the labelling notices themselves.

More information on the changes to the ACMA's device and equipment regulatory arrangements can be obtained from the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to Licensing & regulation > Equipment compliance & labelling (A-Tick/C-tick)) or by emailing comply.label@acma.gov.au.