COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter

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Global Compliance News

Kenya Re-introduces - Certification for Low Power Radio Devices

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA, formerly CCK) has recently informed ICM that its equipment certification requirements are now being applied to all low-power radio devices. Previously, certain low-power radio devices were exempt from equipment certification. This updated requirement means that products operating in the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands may now require type approval, authorization, or technical compliance review prior to market entry in Kenya. Affected products may include Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, ZigBee, IoT devices, RF remote controls, wireless peripherals, sensors, and certain RFID equipment. Accepted Technical Standards

- ETSI standards
- IEC safety standards
- FCC test reports (as supporting evidence)
- CE RED compliance documentation
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The Communications Authority evaluates equipment based on:

- RF spectrum compliance
- Frequency allocation compliance
- Transmit power limits
- EMC compatibility
- Human safety requirements

Before importing or marketing wireless equipment in Kenya, manufacturers should confirm the applicable regulatory and certification requirements.

India
BIS 62368 Regulation Update

The Indian product safety authority, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), published a timeline for integrating the product safety standard IS/IEC 62368 into the regulatory framework covering more than 38 major electronic and ICT product categories. The new standard, IS/IEC 62368-1:2023, replaces two legacy safety frameworks:

- IS 13252 (Part 1):2010 – Information Technology Equipment
- IS 616:2017 – Audio, Video, and Similar Electronic Apparatus

BIS has announced the following withdrawal dates for the legacy standards:

- General ICT & AV Products: 1 November 2028
- Extended Reality (XR) Products: 1 May 2026

These deadlines provide manufacturers currently compliant with legacy standards sufficient time to transition their products to the BIS 62368 framework. Manufacturers must follow specific procedures depending on their certification status:

A. Existing Licensees (Standard Revision)

Manufacturers holding valid BIS R-Numbers are required to apply for a standard revision rather than submit a new registration. Key requirements include:

- Lead Model Testing: Submission of complete test reports from a BIS-recognised laboratory for all “lead models,” as defined by series grouping guidelines
- Series Model Undertaking: A formal declaration confirming that updated safety requirements have been implemented across all models in the series
- Co-dependency Management: Updated test reports where hardware changes impact compliance with other mandatory Indian standards (e.g., language support requirements for mobile devices or digital receiver standards for televisions)

B. New Applicants

BIS currently permits applications under legacy standards (IS 13252 or IS 616) until the respective withdrawal deadlines, provided applicants submit a declaration confirming future migration. However, industry guidance strongly recommends applying directly under IS/IEC 62368-1:2023 to avoid the cost, complexity, and operational burden associated with mid-cycle migration.

Indonesia
SAR Requirements - Mobile Devices

Indonesia has introduced new Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) limits under an updated regulatory framework designed to promote the safer use of mobile devices. Ministerial Decree Number 197 of 2026, establishes mandatory SAR requirements for cellular telephones and tablet computers, It replaces the previous 2024 decree Consequently, manufacturers and certification holders are now required to ensure their products comply with the revised exposure limits and testing procedures.

The decree applies to telecommunication devices used within 20 cm of the body and operating with radiated transmit power exceeding 20 mW. It requires compliance with internationally recognized exposure guidelines, including ICNIRP 1998 and ICNIRP 2020, covering exposure to the head, torso, and limbs.

In addition, SAR testing must be conducted in accordance with established international standards such as IEC/IEEE 62209-1528, EN 50360/50566, and relevant KDB procedures, thereby ensuring alignment with global compliance practices. Applicants seeking certification are required to submit a SAR test report as part of the approval process. However, the regulation also provides a transitional arrangement. Until July 31, 2027, applicants may submit a declaration letter indicating the expected completion date of the SAR report if domestic laboratories are unable to issue the final report in time.

Cambodia
Proposed Regulation Changes

The Cambodian regulator CRC has just released a public consultation document covering a new equipment certification framework for communications equipment. This proposal brings significant updates to certification, labelling, and compliance processes. Proposed Changes

The draft regulation establishes a mandatory equipment certification scheme that ensures all communications equipment complies with national technical standards and safety requirements. Specifically, authorities classify devices into three categories based on risk:

- Type A (Low Risk): PCs, printers, short-range devices, power supplies
- Type B (Medium Risk): Routers, switches, satellite equipment
- Type C (High Risk): Mobile phones, base stations, IoT infrastructure

The certification agency will evaluate multi-function devices based on the highest applicable risk level. As a result, some products may face stricter approval requirements than expected. Key planned changes are:
Local Representation Is Mandatory: foreign manufacturers must appoint a local Qualified Agent in Cambodia. This agent manages certification and ensures compliance with national requirements.

Compliance Labelling Becomes Essential: It is proposed that all approved products must display a TRC compliance label (QA-YYYY-XXXX) before entering the market. Without this label, companies cannot distribute products in Cambodia.

Alignment with International Standards: the framework requires alignment with international standards such as ITU, IEC, ISO, and ETSI. Consequently, companies must verify that their existing certifications meet these requirements.

Defined Certification Lifecycle: Type Approval certificates remain valid for 5 years. However, companies must apply for renewal 30 days before expiration to maintain market access

Sri Lanka
Letters of Exemption

The Sri Lankan regulator TRCSL has published an important regulatory update regarding Type Approval Exemption Letters issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL).
As per the latest clarification received from the assistant director – Spectrum Management, TRCSL has informed that, until further notification, the issuance of Type Approval Exemption Letters is currently on hold.
TRCSL further clarified that:

• Exemption categories are already published under the RTTE Gazette.
• Exempted devices do not mandatorily require an exemption letter for importation purposes.
• Exemption letters are considered supporting documents and not mandatory regulatory approvals.
• Exemption category related devices may still be referred to the relevant TRCSL section via ECS or official email to obtain necessary “No Objection”(import/customs clearance letters) confirmations where applicable.

Further, TRCSL has presently advised applicants to refrain from submitting new exemption letter requests until further notice.

For already submitted/pending exemption letter requests, TRCSL informed that such requests are currently on hold and have not been cancelled at this stage. If there is any future policy decision or cancellation, TRCSL stated that an official communication will be issued accordingly.

Spotlight on Compliance

This month, our compliance spotlight turns to **Bahrain**. Below is an overview of the general regulatory requirements.

Regulator - The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)

Applicable Regulations - TRA "Type Approval Regulation"

Bahrain generally accepts international test reports and compliance documentation, including:

- ETSI standards
- IEC safety standards
- EMC test reports
- RF test reports
- CE RED documentation
- FCC reports (supporting evidence)

The certificate is valid for 3 years and the applicant can be based anywhere in the world.

All devices using radio frequency bands, including wireless communication equipment, telecommunication terminal devices, satellite communication equipment, Wi-Fi devices, Bluetooth devices, cellular network devices, and other RF products, all require this certification

Spotlight on Compliance
Africa

For this month's Spotlight on Compliance, we turn our attention to the African region highlighting our knowledge and experience in managing equipment certifications across the region.

One of the first considerations when approaching certification in these markets is determining whether approval can be obtained through a documentation review process, or whether local in-country testing is mandatory.

Additional factors to consider include the appointment of local representatives, translation requirements, and the provision of test samples.

In the table below, we aim to demystify the certification processes across a selection of key African markets.

Country	Paperwork or Samples?	Local Representative?	Translation of documentation?	Timescales
Algeria	Samples Required	Yes	Yes	8-10 weeks
Botswana	Paperwork only	No	No	7 weeks
Cote d'Ivoire	Paperwork only	Yes	No	7 weeks
Dem Rep Congo	Paperwork only	Yes	No	8 weeks
Ethiopia	Paperwork only	No	No	8 weeks
Ghana	Paperwork only	Yes	No	8-10 weeks
Malawi	Paperwork only	Yes	No	6 weeks
Nigeria	Paperwork only	No	No	8-10 weeks
Senegal	Paperwork only	Yes	No	6-8 weeks
Tunisia	Samples Required	Yes	No	6-8 weeks