

Information note to the Press (Press Release No 109/2019)

For Immediate release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI releases the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019

New Delhi, 30 October 2019 - The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019.

2. During the consultation undertaken to prepare the Audit Manual certain comments and observations reflect some issues in the Schedule III of the Interconnection Regulations 2017. Accordingly, Draft Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 was issued on 27 August, 2019.

3. Comments received on these draft regulations were posted on TRAI's website. Subsequently, an Open House Discussion (OHD) was also held on 26 September 2019 in Delhi. Based on the comments received and analysis of the developments in the market the regulations have been revised. Vide these Regulations the Authority has amended Schedule III of the Interconnection Regulations 2017, mainly on the following:-

- i. Scheduling and Scope of Audit
- ii. Transactional capacity of Conditional Access System (CAS) and Subscriber Management System (SMS) system
- iii. Support for Overt and Covert fingerprinting in Set-Top-Boxes
- iv. Watermarking network logo for all pay channels

4. The scheduling has been so amended that the Distributor of Pay TV broadcasting services will keep a minimum gap of six months between the two annual audits and the maximum time gap is eighteen months. Similarly, the minimum transactional capacity required for CAS and SMS systems has been revised to 5 % instead of earlier 10 %. Since implementation of the new framework, all Distributors are deploying STBs that are compliant with Covert and Overt fingerprinting. The Authority has taken a pragmatic view on this aspects owing to already existing field deployments and revised the extent provisions in schedule III of the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.



5. The amended regulations will help in establishing a fully compliant trust-based Audit regime conducted as per extant regulations by the empanelled Auditors¹.

6. The "Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019" is available on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in.

7. For any clarification/information, Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Advisor (B&CS), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23237922.


(S.K. Gupta)
Secretary, TRAI

¹ The authority has notified a list of empanelled Auditors separately. The list can be accessed on TRAI website at https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Panel_Auditors_23102019_0.pdf