HOW TO APPLY FOR CERTIFICATION OF WIRELINE CUSTOMER PREMISES EQUIPMENT TO BE CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS IN HONG KONG

What is certification of wireline customer premises equipment (CPE)?

Certification of wireline CPE is an evaluation procedure to ensure that the CPE meets the technical requirements prescribed by the Communications Authority (CA)[1] for connection to the public fixed telecommunications networks (FTN). The technical requirements for wireline CPE to be used in Hong Kong are prescribed by the CA in the form of HKCA specifications[2]. Certfication may be granted to wireline CPE which has been evaluated against and meets the relevant HKCA specification.

2. There have been Local Certification Bodies and Foreign Certification Bodies (hereafter collectively referred to as "Certification Bodies (CBs)") accredited or recognized to provide services for certification of wireline CPE. For further details about the equipment certification arrangement in Hong Kong, please refer to the Information Note OFCA I 421 "Hong Kong Telecommunications Equipment Evaluation and Certification (HKTEC) Scheme".

What are the purposes of the HKCA specifications for wireline CPE?

3. The purposes of the HKCA specifications are to ensure that the wireline CPE is electrically safe, will not generate interference to other equipment, will not generate harm to the FTN and is functionally compatible with the FTN.

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[1] Pursuant to the Communications Authority Ordinance (Cap. 616), with effect from 1 April 2012, all duties and powers of the Telecommunications Authority (TA) are conferred on the Communications Authority (CA), and all duties and powers of the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) are conferred on the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA), the executive arm of the CA.

[2] Before the establishment of the CA on 1 April 2012, the specifications prescribed by the TA were named as HKTA specifications. From 1 April 2012 onward, revised versions of existing HKTA specifications and new specifications prescribed by the CA will be named as HKCA specifications. For the avoidance of doubt, unless the specific issue number of the HKTA specification is explicitly specified, reference in any document to HKTA specification shall be construed as including reference to the corresponding HKCA specification as may be revised from time to time. In addition, reference in any document to HKCA specification shall be construed as referring to the corresponding HKTA specification if the HKCA specification under reference is not yet present.

How many Fixed Telecommunications Network Services (FTNS) operators in Hong Kong?

4. In Hong Kong, there are a number of FTNS operators offering different varieties of public telecommunications services. Information concerning the services or the network characteristics is available direct from the operators. Please refer to the CA's website http://www.coms-auth.hk/en/licensing/telecommunications/carrier/index.html for the name list of licensed FTNS operator.

What is the certification requirement for wireline CPE?

5. Under the HKTEC Scheme, wireline CPE is classified under either the "Voluntary Certification Scheme" (VCS) or the "Compulsory Certification Scheme" (CCS). For wireline CPE under the VCS, it can be connected to the FTN without obtaining certification. However, manufacturers, suppliers or dealers may apply for certification of their wireline CPE on a voluntary basis. For wireline CPE under the CCS, they must be certified by a CB. Classification of wireline CPE under the VCS and CCS can be found in the Schedule. The classification will be updated from time to time when required.

Which testing/certification agencies are recognized to conduct evaluation of wireline CPE?

6. Testing/certification agencies meeting prescribed requirements for carrying out the evaluation against the HKCA specifications will be recognized. Manufacturers, suppliers or dealers may appoint the Recognized Testing/Certification Agencies (RTAs) to conduct evaluation of their wireline CPE. More details about RTAs can be found in the Information Note OFCA I 411 "Recognized Testing/Certification Agency (RTA) for Evaluation of Telecommunications Equipment". In addition, testing agencies which have been assessed by the CB as competent to perform the relevant test in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025, such as documented evaluation performed by qualified personnel according to appropriate procedures, may also be acceptable.

How a certificate is granted to a wireline CPE?

7. Certification of wireline CPE will be conducted by the CB. The CB may, within its capacity, perform the necessary tests on a sample wireline CPE against the relevant HKCA specifications, or arrange for such tests to be performed. Alternatively, the CB may examine the test report and other relevant documents and information produced by a RTA or a competent testing agency as specified in para. 6 above.

8. For certification of wireline CPE that is a cordless equipment, the applicant should apply for certification of the radio part of the cordless equipment simultaneously. Application for certification of cordless equipment without the corresponding radio part seeking certification will not be considered. For information on certification of the radio part, please refer to the Information Note OFCA I 401 "How to Apply for Type-Approval or Type-Acceptance of Radio Equipment".

What is the procedure of applying for certification?

9. Normally, manufacturers, suppliers or dealers of wireline CPE are the persons that will apply for certification. Please approach a CB for the detailed procedures. The list of CBs, their contact information and scope of services are available from OFCA's website at:
http://www.ofca.gov.hk/en/industry_focus/telecommunications/standards/telecom/list_of_certification_bodies/index.html

How to find out whether a model of wireline CPE has been certified?

10. For certified wireline CPE, manufacturers, suppliers or dealers can affix on a voluntary basis a label prescribed by the CA to the wireline CPE or to the packing materials. Although labelling is voluntary, manufacturers, suppliers and dealers are encouraged to use labels prescribed by the CA for consumer guidance. More details about the labelling arrangement can be found in the Standardisation Guide HKCA 3211 "Standardisation Guide for Labelling of Telecommunications Equipment".

11. In addition, the list of all certified wireline CPE can be found from OFCA's website at http://app1.ofca.gov.hk/apps/cte/content/listEquip.asp?lang=E. With information on the type of wireline CPE together with its brand name and model number, users may check against the list whether that wireline CPE has been certified.

Can a certified wireline CPE be modified?

12. Modification to a certified wireline CPE requires prior approval from the certificate issuer, i.e. CB or the CA. Manufacturer, supplier or dealers should submit supporting documents to show that the wireline CPE to be modified continues to comply with the relevant HKCA specification.

How to obtain HKCA specifications and information notes?

13. HKCA specifications and information notes can be obtained through one of the following methods -

(a) OFCA's Internet Home Page. The Home Page address is http://www.ofca.gov.hk;

(b) Hard copies are available upon written request to -

Office of the Communications Authority,
29/F, Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai,
Hong Kong.
(Attn : Senior Telecommunications Engineer (Standards))

How to obtain additional information?

14. Additional information may be obtained from -

Office of the Communications Authority,
29/F, Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai,
Hong Kong.
(Attn : Senior Telecommunications Engineer (Standards))

Tel No. : +852 2961 6388
Fax No. : +852 2838 5004
Email : standards@ofca.gov.hk

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Schedule : Classification of Wireline Customer Premises Equipment (CPE)

Type of Wireline CPE	Relevant HKCA Specification	Classification
Single-line equipment including: • analogue telephone • fax machine • dial-up modem • Telex machine • ISDN terminal equipment using BRA • data line equipment • ADSL equipment • X.25 equipment • etc.	HKCA 2005 HKCA 2011 HKCA 2012 HKCA 2014 HKCA 2016 HKCA 2019 HKCA 2021 HKCA 2022 HKCA 2023 HKCA 2026 HKCA 2028 HKCA 2029 HKCA 2030 HKCA 2031 HKCA 2032 HKCA 2033 HKCA 2040 HKCA 2041	VCS
Multi-line equipment including: • dual-line telephone • PABX • Keyline system • Call distribution system • IVRS • Voice mail system • ISDN terminal equipment using BRA • Cable modem • etc.	HKCA 2011 HKCA 2012 HKCA 2014 HKCA 2019 HKCA 2021 HKCA 2022 HKCA 2023 HKCA 2026 HKCA 2034 HKCA 2036	VCS
Optical Leased Circuit Equipment • SDH • SONET	HKCA 2038 HKCA 2039	VCS
Payphone *(see Note 1)*	HKCA 2020 HKCA 2024	CCS
Equipment using trunks interface including: • PABX • IVRS • Call distribution system • ISDN Primary Rate Access • etc.	HKCA 2013 HKCA 2015 HKCA 2017 HKCA 2018 HKCA 2027	VCS

Note 1 Regarding payphone certification, please refer to the Information Note OFCA I 416 "How to Apply for Certification of Private Payphone to be Connected to the Public Telecommunications Network in Hong Kong".