

## **RECOGNISED TESTING AGENCY (RTA) FOR EVALUATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**

### ***What are Recognised Testing Agencies (RTAs)?***

In Hong Kong, the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA)<sup>1</sup> operates a **Hong Kong Telecommunications Equipment Evaluation and Certification (HKTEC) Scheme** for the evaluation and certification of telecommunications equipment (TE) and Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) equipment emitting radio frequency energy intentionally. Under the scheme, Certification Bodies (CBs) are accredited or recognised to carry out evaluation and certification of the TE and ISM equipment against the technical specifications<sup>2</sup> prescribed by the Communications Authority (CA). Details of the HKTEC Scheme can be found in the Information Note [OFCA I 421 “Hong Kong Telecommunications Equipment Evaluation and Certification \(HKTEC\) Scheme”](#).

2. Recognised Testing Agencies (RTAs) are agencies competent to perform evaluation of the TE and ISM equipment against the technical specifications prescribed by the CA. A Certification Body (CB) will examine the test report and other relevant documents and information produced by the Recognised Testing Agency (RTA) and issue certificates to the equipment if the CB considers that such information is acceptable.

### ***Who are Recognised Testing Agencies (RTAs)?***

3. The following are recognised as RTAs to perform evaluation of TE and ISM equipment against the technical specifications prescribed by the CA -

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

- (a) testing agencies accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 with a scope of accreditation covering the prescribed technical specifications or equivalent;
- (b) Notified Bodies (NBs) designated by a Member State of the European Union (EU) to perform conformity assessment against standards equivalent to the prescribed technical specifications;
- (c) Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of the United States of America, or Telecommunication Certification Bodies (TCBs) designated by the FCC to perform conformity assessment against standards equivalent to the prescribed technical specifications; and
- (d) CB Testing Laboratories (CBTLs) recognised in the CB Scheme of the IEC System for Conformity Testing and Certification of Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE) to perform conformity assessment against standards equivalent to the prescribed technical specifications.

#### ***What are registered RTAs?***

4. A RTA may apply for registration with the CA. If the CA considers that the application is acceptable, the name and contact information of the RTA together with its scope of service will be published in OFCA's website. RTAs successfully registered with the CA are registered RTAs. A list of registered RTAs is available at [https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/rtalist\\_en.pdf](https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/rtalist_en.pdf) for information and reference of the public and equipment manufacturers, suppliers and dealers. It should be noted that it is not mandatory for a RTA to register with the CA.

#### ***How to become a registered RTA?***

5. Testing agencies meeting the requirements as given in para. 3 above may apply for registration with the CA. Registration is free of charge. Interested RTAs should complete the application form available at [https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/rtaapply\\_en.docx](https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/rtaapply_en.docx) and return it together with the necessary supporting information to the following address -

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

***What are the obligations of a registered RTA?***

6. A registered RTA shall inform the CA in writing immediately of any changes to -

- (a) its RTA status as given in para. 3 above, including but not limited to any extension, reduction, modification, termination, suspension of its scope of services; and
- (b) its contact information, including but not limited to changes of organizational name, registered address, contact personnel, telephone, facsimile, email.

7. A registered RTA is required to reaffirm its status with the CA when its accreditation granted by the foreign accreditation body is due to expire or to be re-assessed. Within one month before the expiration / re-assessment of the accreditation, a registered RTA shall update the CA on its RTA status and contact information, and provide other information as requested by the CA. In addition, the CA may, at such other times as it deems necessary, request the registered RTA to provide it with the necessary information for consideration on whether to reaffirm the registered RTA's status. If the CA is satisfied that the registered RTA continues to meet the requirements given in para. 3 above, it shall reaffirm the status of the registered RTA and, where necessary, update the relevant information in OFCA's website.

8. A registered RTA may have its status withdrawn by the CA and its name and other information removed from the list of registered RTAs from OFCA's website if -

- (a) it is found not meeting the requirements of RTA given in para. 3 above;
- (b) it fails to fulfil any of the obligations as specified in para. 6 and 7 above; or
- (c) it fails to reply to a request for information provided to it using its latest contact information known to the CA within a period of time specified in the request.

***How to obtain the information of registered RTAs?***

9. You may visit OFCA's website at [https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/rtalist\\_en.pdf](https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/rtalist_en.pdf)

***How to obtain additional information?***

10. 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 : +852 2961 6388  
Fax : +852 2838 5004  
E-mail : [standards@ofca.gov.hk](mailto:standards@ofca.gov.hk)

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