

HONG KONG TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT EVALUATION AND CERTIFICATION (HKTEC) SCHEME

What is the Hong Kong Telecommunications Equipment Evaluation and Certification (HKTEC) Scheme?

In Hong Kong, the technical specifications for Telecommunications Equipment (TE) and Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) equipment emitting radio frequency energy intentionally are prescribed by the Communications Authority (CA)¹ normally in the form of HKCA specifications² in consultation with the industry. A TE or ISM equipment which has been evaluated to be in compliance with the relevant technical specifications may be granted a certificate by a Local Certification Body accredited under section 32E of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) (TO) or a Foreign Certification Body recognised pursuant to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment (hereafter collectively referred to as “Certification Body (CB)”)³.

2. HKTEC is a scheme for the evaluation and certification of TE and ISM equipment. TE includes radiocommunications equipment and wireline Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) for connection to the public telecommunications networks (PTN) in Hong Kong.

3. The HKTEC Scheme consists of the following components -

- (a) classification of certification requirement;

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 CA, and all duties and powers of the Office of the Telecommunications Authority 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 are 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.

³ Under section 32E(g) of the TO, the CA may accredit other organisations or institutions for the purpose of carrying out the responsibilities under sections 32E(a) and (c) of the TO, i.e. testing and issuing certificates respectively. The accreditation is on a non-exclusive basis.

Foreign certification body shall follow the procedures, criteria and requirements as stated in the “Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment (APEC TEL MRA)” for the issuance of certificate to a manufacturer, supplier or dealer.

- (b) Certification Bodies (CBs);
- (c) Recognised Testing Agencies (RTAs);
- (d) granting of certificate; and
- (e) labelling arrangement.

What is the certification requirement for TE and ISM equipment?

4. Certification requirement of TE and ISM equipment consists of two parts, namely “Voluntary Certification Scheme” (VCS) and “Compulsory Certification Scheme” (CCS).

Voluntary Certification Scheme

5. Certification of TE and ISM equipment under VCS is on a voluntary basis. Such equipment can be marketed or used in Hong Kong even though it has not been certified to demonstrate its compliance with the relevant technical specifications. Manufacturers, suppliers and dealers should ensure that their TE and ISM equipment comply with the relevant technical specifications even if they do not apply for certification. It should be noted that fixed network operators may refuse connection of any CPE to their networks if such equipment does not comply with the prescribed specifications. A person who uses or markets radiocommunications equipment or ISM equipment not complying with the relevant HKCA specifications is in breach of the TO and may be liable to prosecution.

Compulsory Certification Scheme

6. Certification of TE and ISM equipment under CCS is compulsory. Such equipment must be certified to comply with any of the following before it can be used or marketed in Hong Kong -

- (a) the relevant HKCA specifications; or
- (b) technical standard stipulated or approved by the CA if the relevant HKCA specification is not yet available (hereafter referred as “Type Acceptance Criteria” (TAC)); or
- (c) specification equivalent to (a) or (b) above (hereafter referred to as “Equivalent”).

Certification Requirements

7. For TE and ISM equipment under VCS or CCS, sample of the TE or ISM equipment can be provided to a CB for evaluation. The CB may, within its capacity, perform the necessary tests on the sample against the relevant HKCA specifications, or TAC, or Equivalent, or arrange for such tests to be performed. Alternatively, the CB

may examine test report and other relevant documents and information produced by a RTA as described in paragraph 11 to 13 below. In addition, the CB may examine test reports and other relevant documents and information provided by a testing agency, provided that the CB has evidence that the testing agency is competent to perform the relevant test in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025, such as documented evaluation performed by qualified personnel according to appropriate procedures.

Ancillary Systems and Supplementary Services

8. All ancillary systems, such as voice mail server, uninterruptible power supply (UPS), charger, digital phone, feature phone, alarm, etc. to be connected to the CPE are not required to be tested and certified separately from that CPE.

9. PTN operators are free to provide supplementary telecommunications services beyond the HKCA specifications and may provide evaluation services for TE in accordance with the technical specifications of these services. A CB will not take up the certification of the TE against the technical requirements of supplementary telecommunications services.

Classification of TE and ISM Equipment and Certification Procedure

10. Manufacturers, suppliers or dealers may apply to a CB for certification of TE and ISM equipment. The list of CBs, their contact information and scope of service are available from [OFCA's website](#)⁴. General information on the application procedures as well as the classification of TE and ISM equipment under VCS and CCS can be found in the following information notes -

- (a) [OFCA I 401 "How to Apply for Type-approval or Type-acceptance of Radio Equipment"](#)
- (b) [OFCA I 412 "How to Apply for Certification of Wireline Customer Premises Equipment to be connected to the Public Telecommunications Networks in Hong Kong"](#)
- (c) [OFCA I 416 "How to Apply for Certification of Private Payphone to be connected to the Public Fixed Telecommunications Network in Hong Kong"](#)

Details about the application procedures are available from the CBs.

Who are the Recognised Testing Agencies?

11. The following RTAs are recognised to perform evaluation of TE and ISM equipment against the relevant HKCA specifications or TAC or Equivalent, under

⁴ https://www.ofca.gov.hk/en/industry_focus/standards/tel_standards/telecom/list_of_certification_bodies/index.html

VCS and CCS -

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

12. 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 for reference of manufacturers, suppliers and dealers. A list of RTAs registered with the CA is available at [OFCA's website](#)⁵.

13. More details about RTAs can be found in the Information Note [OFCA I 411 "Recognised Testing Agency \(RTA\) for Evaluation of Telecommunications Equipment"](#).

What are the conditions for granting of certificate?

14. Certification of TE and ISM equipment (including the assignment of certificate numbers) will be granted by a CB which may perform or arrange to perform the necessary tests on the equipment, or examine the test report and other relevant documents and information produced by a RTA or a competent testing agency as specified in paragraph 7 above. The granting of a certificate to TE and ISM equipment shall be subject to the following conditions -

- (a) the certificate may be withdrawn if the equipment marketed is found not meeting the technical specification prescribed by the CA or any of the conditions on the certificate is breached;

⁵ https://www.ofca.gov.hk/filemanager/ofca/common/Industry/telecom/standard/rtalist_en.pdf

- (b) the certificate holder shall perform remedial actions or recall the certified equipment marketed in Hong Kong as may be required by the CB or the CA if they are found not meeting the prescribed technical or safety requirements;
- (c) prior approval from the CB is required for any alteration in model number/brand name or other particulars for the equipment;
- (d) no electrical or mechanical change shall be made to the equipment without prior approval from the CB;
- (e) the CA retains all authority under the law to interpret, implement and enforce the relevant technical regulations governing telecommunications equipment, as well as industrial, scientific and medical equipment emitting radio frequency energy intentionally, which is for use or sale in Hong Kong;
- (f) the certificate holder allows OFCA to publish the relevant technical information on its website;
- (g) the certificate may be withdrawn and all the marketed equipment may be recalled if the equipment is a customer premises equipment and generates connection problems in the PTN.

15. When a certificate is granted to a TE or ISM equipment, the equipment can be used in Hong Kong no matter who supplies the equipment. In addition, the relevant information of the certified equipment together with the certification number assigned by a CB to the equipment will be posted under the List of Certified Equipment in [OFCA's website](#)⁶ for public inspection.

Is there any labelling arrangement?

16. Under the HKTEC Scheme, labelling of certified equipment is voluntary unless otherwise required by the CA for the specific types of equipment. Details of the labelling requirements of TE and ISM equipment can be found in the Information Notes OFCA I 401 and OFCA I 412 mentioned in paragraph 10 above. For equipment subject to the compulsory labelling requirement, manufacturers, suppliers or dealers are required to affix a label prescribed by the CA to the certified TE or ISM equipment, or to the packing materials. For equipment subject to the voluntary labelling requirement, manufacturers, suppliers and dealers are encouraged to use labels prescribed by the CA as well in order to provide consumer guidance. More details about the labelling arrangement can be found in [HKCA 3211 "Standardisation Guide for Labelling of Telecommunications Equipment"](#).

⁶ <https://app1.ofca.gov.hk/apps/cte/content/listEquip.asp?lang=E>

17. A TE or ISM equipment with a label as described in HKCA 3211 affixed indicates that it has been certified to be in compliance with the relevant technical specifications. Alternatively, consumers may inspect the list of certified equipment available from [OFCA's website](#)⁶. With information on the type of a TE or ISM equipment together with its brand name and model number, consumers may check against the list whether that equipment has been certified.

How to obtain additional information?

18. 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

Office of the Communications Authority
August 2024