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**CLASSIFICATION OF STANDARDS RELATED TO
PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**



FOREWORD

1. This Standardisation Guide describes the classification of HKCA specifications issued by the Communications Authority (CA) and other standards used by network operators related to public telecommunications services. This Standardisation Guide shall be observed by operators of the public telecommunications networks (PTNs) in Hong Kong.
2. Pursuant to Section 32D of the Telecommunication Ordinance (Cap. 106), the CA may prescribe standards and specifications of telecommunications networks, systems, installations, customer equipment and services. Standards and specifications issued by the CA are in the form of HKCA specifications. For public telecommunications services, the general principles and scope of standardisation can be referred to the Standardisation Guide HKCA 3203 "General Principles and Scope of Standardisation for Public Telecommunication Services". In case that the need to set standard by the CA for the concerned service is not justified in accordance with HKCA 3203, the operators may use other standards which should in general be widely accepted, open and non-proprietary.
3. The classification of standards related to public telecommunications services is intended to define the responsibility of the operators in their provision of telecommunications services for the purpose of ensuring interconnectivity of terminal equipment and networks with the PTNs and interoperability of the telecommunications services over the PTNs. The contents of this Guide shall not be taken as basis for violation of any terms and conditions of any licence issued by the CA or limiting the CA to exercise any power under the Telecommunication Ordinance.
4. In order to give the operators, equipment suppliers as well as customers the widest choice of technologies, HKCA specifications are classified as mandatory only when considered necessary by the CA. The criteria for the classification are given in this Standardisation Guide.
5. The CA may amend any part of this document as and when it deems necessary.
6. In case of doubt about the interpretation of this document, the decision of the CA shall be final.
7. The HKCA series documents are issued by the CA. The documents can be obtained through one of the following methods:-
 - download direct through the OFCA's Internet Home Page. The Home Page address is <http://www.ofca.gov.hk>;
 - hard copies will be available upon request to:-

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

8. If further information is required, please contact :

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

Fax: +852 2838 5004
Email: standards@ofca.gov.hk

AMENDMENT TABLE

Item	Issue No.	Paragraph	Descriptions
1.	Issue 2	Title	Re-title document from "Classification of Wireline HKTA 2XXX Series Specifications" to "Classification of Standards Related to Public Telecommunications Services"
2.	Issue 2	Foreword	Include editorial changes.
3.	Issue 2	Body	Re-write Clause 2 and add new Clauses 3 and 4
4.	Issue 2	Schedules A-C	Re-number old Schedule A as new Schedule B for HKTA 2XXX Series Specifications. Add new Schedule A for HKTA 10XX Series Specifications and new Schedule C for Operator-specific Technical Standard.
5	Issue 3	All	Consequential amendments of the document as a result of the establishment of the CA and OFCA.

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SCHEDULE A Classification of HKCA 10XX Series Specifications

SCHEDULE B Classification of HKCA 2XXX Series Specifications

SCHEDULE C Minimum Information to be submitted by Operators of Public Telecommunications Networks (PTNs) for consideration as Operator-specific Technical Standard (OTS)

1. INTRODUCTION

This Standardisation Guide describes the classification of standards issued by the Communications Authority (CA) and other standards used by the operators for provision of public telecommunications services.

2. CLASSIFICATION OF STANDARDS

2.1 CATEGORIES OF STANDARDS

According to the criteria in clauses 2.2, standards related to public telecommunications services are classified into three categories, namely :-

- a) **Technical Standard I (TS I)** – the standard is issued by the CA in the form of HKCA specification and it defines mandatory requirements to be met by the operators if the telecommunications network, system, installation customer equipment or service as set out in the concerned specification is to be provided;
- b) **Technical Standard II (TS II)** – the standard is issued by the CA in the form of HKCA specification and it defines requirements which constitute one option of implementation by the operators if the telecommunications network, system, installation, customer equipment or service as set out in the concerned specification is to be provided; but the operators can use other open and non-proprietary standards which are accepted by the CA; and
- c) **Operator-specific Technical Standard (OTS)** – the standard is notified by the operators to the CA and it defines specific requirements implemented by individual operator at their discretion if the telecommunications network, system, installation, customer equipment or service as set out in the concerned specification is to be provided. An OTS is *not* a standard issued by the CA.

2.2 CRITERIA FOR CLASSIFICATION

2.2.1 TS I

- a) the standard covers the provision of basic telecommunications services;
- b) the standard is related to interworking among the operators;
- c) there is a need to ensure interoperability of services from a customer's point of view
- d) there is already open, well-defined and world-wide accepted standard in existence;
- e) there are public concerns in terms of safety, interference to other users, efficient use of telecommunications resources as well as proper operation of the telecommunications equipment to be governed by a mandatory standard;

- f) the standard is for meeting regulatory requirements (e.g. metering and billing accuracy, numbering) mandated by the CA;
- g) there may be massive subscription of the concerned service of which a mandatory standard will allow easy adaptability of the customer equipment in respect of change of network operator or service provider.

2.2.2 TS II

- a) the standard is for certain enhanced service applications (e.g. Analogue Display Services Interface);
- b) there may be massive subscription of the concerned service;
- c) the standard is based on open and non-proprietary standard;
- d) there is no world-wide accepted standard available or where it is premature to set the common standard due to the rapid technology change

2.2.3 OTS

- a) the standard is for certain special service applications;
- b) the concerned applications will affect a small number of telecommunications users;
- c) there is no open standard in existence;
- d) there is no immediate need for setting a common standard in Hong Kong

2.3 CLASSIFICATION OF HKCA SPECIFICATIONS

2.3.1 HKCA specifications in relation to public telecommunications services and classified as TS I or TS II are given in the following Schedules to this Guide:-

Schedule A: HKCA 10XX Series Specifications for Radio Equipment and Services

Schedule B: HKCA 2XXX Series Specifications for Wireline Equipment and Services

2.3.2 The Schedules will be subject to revision on a regular basis to scope with the continuous development of HKCA specifications.

3. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF STANDARDS

3.1 The operators shall notify the CA of their status of implementation for HKCA specifications classified as TS I and TS II as given in Schedules A and B.

3.2 In the provision of public telecommunications services, if an individual operator uses a standard which is not covered by an HKCA specification and which falls within the scope of standardisation described in HKCA 3203 "General Principles and Scope of Standardisation

for Public Telecommunications Services", the operator shall upon request submit information to the CA about the standard implementation. The submission should contain the minimum information as listed in Schedule C to this Guide. If the CA considers that there is no need of issuing HKCA specification for the concerned equipment or services, the standard will be classified as OTS and will be kept in an inventory maintained by OFCA. If the CA considers that individual OTS should be published for public information, prior consultation will be made with the SSAC or its working groups.

- 3.3 For HKCA specifications classified as TS I, the operators shall have prior approval by the CA before changing the status of implementation from "support" to "not support" in their networks.
- 3.4 For HKCA specifications classified as TS II, the operators shall give prior notification to the TA not less than 12 months in advance before changing the status of implementation from "support" to "not support" in their networks.
- 3.5 For standards classified as OTS, the operators shall give prior notification to the CA not less than 6 months in advance before changing the status of implementation from "support" to "not support" in their networks.

4. REFERENCE

- [1] HKCA 3201 "General Procedure for Setting Telecommunications Standards and Related Policies" issued by the Communications Authority"
- [2] HKCA 3203 "General Principles and Scope of Standardisation for Public Telecommunications Services" issued by the Communications Authority"

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