

RADIO SPECTRUM AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Proposed Revisions to HKCA Specifications
related to the Withdrawal of Licensing Exemptions
for Personal Handy Phone System (PHS) Radiocommunications Apparatus**

Purpose

This paper proposes revisions to HKCA specifications as a result of the withdrawal of licensing exemptions for Personal Handy Phone System (PHS) radiocommunications apparatus.

Background

2. PHS is a short and medium-range mobile radiocommunications technology operating in the 1895 – 1906.1 MHz band. In Hong Kong, PHS was introduced in 1997 for private use only, predominantly for home cordless telephone. HKCA 1027¹ specifies the technical and evaluation requirements of PHS apparatus for private use. Under the Telecommunications (Telecommunications Apparatus) (Exemption from Licensing) Order (the Exemption Order), persons using PHS apparatus that comply with HKCA 1027 are exempted from licensing.

3. Having considered that the deployment of PHS in Hong Kong was not successful and the potential alternative use of spectrum allocated for PHS, the then Telecommunications Authority issued a Statement in March 2012 concluding that the frequency allocation for PHS in the 1895-1906.1 MHz band should be withdrawn. With a view to withdrawing the licensing exemptions for PHS apparatus and vacating the valuable spectrum for other applications, the

¹ HKCA 1027 Issue 2 - Performance Specification for Personal Handy Phone System (PHS) Radiocommunications Apparatus

Telecommunications (Telecommunications Apparatus) (Exemption from Licensing) (Amendment) Order 2012² (the Amendment Order) was enacted and commenced on 10 May 2013³. Under the Amendment Order, from 10 May 2013 onwards, the import or sales of PHS radio apparatus in the local market is prohibited. For current users, they may continue to use their PHS apparatus until 9 May 2016.

Revisions to HKCA Specifications

4. Given that the frequency band 1895 - 1906.1 MHz will not be allocated for PHS with effect from 10 May 2016, HKCA 1027 will no longer be required and will be cancelled thereafter. A copy of current HKCA 1027 (HKCA 1027 Issue 2) is attached in Annex 1.

5. On a related HKCA specification, HKCA 1035⁴ sets out the technical and evaluation requirements for radio apparatus exempted from licensing. Currently, clause 2.2 of HKCA 1035 specifies the corresponding HKCA specifications applicable to radio apparatus operating in some of the frequency bands under Schedule 2 of the Exemption Order. Effective from 10 May 2016, HKCA 1035 shall be revised to reflect the withdrawal of the 1895 – 1906.1 MHz band for PHS. A copy of the revised HKCA 1035 (Issue 7 of HKCA 1035) is attached in Annex 2.

Certification Requirement

6. Radiocommunications apparatus covered by the Exemption Order is classified under Voluntary Certification Scheme of the Hong Kong Telecommunications Equipment Evaluation and Certification Scheme. Certification of such apparatus is voluntary, but manufacturers, suppliers and dealers must ensure that their apparatus complies with HKCA 1035 even if they

² Telecommunications (Telecommunications Apparatus) (Exemption from Licensing) (Amendment) Order 2012 published in Gazette : <http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20121651/es220121651190.pdf>

³ Press Releases - Withdrawal of Licensing Exemptions for PHS Radiocommunications Apparatus http://www.ofca.gov.hk/en/media_focus/press_releases/index_id_374.html

⁴ HKCA 1035 Issue 6 - Performance Specification for Radio Equipment Exempted from Licensing

do not apply for certification.

WTO Notification

7. As the proposed Issue 7 of HKCA 1035 is based on open standards, notification to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is not necessary.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that Issue 7 of HKCA 1035 as given in Annex 2 be submitted to the Communications Authority for adoption.

Advice Sought

9. Members are invited to give their comments on the recommendation above.

Office of the Communications Authority
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