



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 Telecommunications Authority (TA) normally in the form of HKTA specifications in consultation with the industry. The technical specifications are mainly set for the purposes of electrical safety, prevention of interference, network compatibility and network interoperability. TE or ISM equipment which has been evaluated to be in compliance with the relevant technical specification may be granted a certificate by a Local Certification Body accredited by the TA or a Foreign Certification Body recognized by the TA (hereafter collectively referred to as “Certification Body (CB)”)¹.

2. HKTEC is a scheme for the evaluation and certification of TE and ISM equipment. TE includes radiocommunications equipment for use in Hong Kong 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;
- (b) Certification Bodies (CBs);
- (c) Recognized Testing/Certification Agencies (RTAs);
- (d) granting of certificate; and
- (e) labelling arrangement.

¹ Under section 32E(g) of the Telecommunications Ordinance, the TA may accredit other organizations or institutions for the purpose of carrying out the responsibilities under 32E(a) and (c) of the Telecommunications Ordinance, 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)” at OFTA website at http://www.ofta.gov.hk/en/tec/apectel_mra.html for the issuance of certificate to a manufacturer, supplier or dealer.

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 (VCS)

5. Certification of TE and ISM equipment under the VCS is voluntary. 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 specification. 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 PTN 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 HKTA specifications is in breach of the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) and is liable to prosecution.

Compulsory Certification Scheme (CCS)

6. Certification of TE and ISM equipment under the 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 HKTA specification; or
- (b) technical standard stipulated or approved by the TA if the relevant HKTA specification is not yet available (hereafter referred as “Type Acceptance Criteria”); or
- (c) specification equivalent to (a) or (b) above (hereafter referred to as “Equivalent”).

Certification Requirements

7. For TE and ISM equipment under the 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 HKTA specification or Type Acceptance Criteria, 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 Recognized Testing/Certification Agency (RTA) as described in para. 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 HKTA 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 lists of Certification Bodies (CBs), their contact information and scope of service are available from OFTA's website at <http://www.ofta.gov.hk/en/tec/lcb.html> and <http://www.ofta.gov.hk/en/tec/fcb.html>. 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 issued by the TA -

[OFTA I 401 "How to Apply for Type-approval or Type-acceptance of Radio Equipment"](#)

[OFTA I 412 "How to Apply for Certification of Customer Premises Equipment to be connected to the Public Telecommunications Networks in Hong Kong"](#)

[OFTA 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 Recognized Testing/Certification Agencies (RTAs)?

11. The TA recognizes the following as RTAs to perform evaluation of TE and ISM equipment against the relevant HKTA specifications or Type Acceptance Criteria, or Equivalent, under the VCS and CCS -

- (a) testing agencies accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 with a scope of accreditation covering the relevant HKTA specifications or Type Acceptance Criteria, 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 relevant HKTA specifications or Type Acceptance Criteria;
- (c) Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of the United States, or Telecommunication Certification Bodies (TCBs) designated by the FCC to perform conformity assessment against standards equivalent to the relevant HKTA specifications or Type Acceptance Criteria; and
- (d) CB Testing Laboratories (CBTLs) recognized 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 relevant HKTA specifications or Type Acceptance Criteria.

12. A RTA may apply for registration with the TA. If the TA considers that the application is acceptable, the name and contact information of the RTA together with its scope of service will be published in OFTA's website for reference of the manufacturers, suppliers and dealers. A list of RTAs registered with the TA is available at <http://www.ofta.gov.hk/en/tec/rtalist.pdf>.

13. More details about RTAs can be found in the Information Note [OFTA I 411 "Recognized/Certification Testing Agency for Evaluation of Telecommunications Equipment"](#) issued by the TA.

What are the conditions for granting of certificate?

14. Certification of the 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 para. 7 above. The granting of a certificate to the 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 TA or any of the conditions on the certificate is breached;
- (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 TA 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 TA 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 OFTA 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 OFTA's website at <http://app1.ofta.gov.hk/apps/cte/content/listEquip.asp?lang=E> for public inspection.

Is there any labelling arrangement?

16. Under the HKTEC Scheme, manufacturers, suppliers or dealers may affix on a voluntary basis a label prescribed by the TA to a certified TE or ISM equipment to help the general public identify the compliance of the equipment with the relevant technical specifications. Labelling applies to TE and ISM equipment classified under the VCS or CCS. If the manufacturers, suppliers or dealers choose to affix labels prescribed by the TA to their equipment, they should observe the requirements specified in the Standardisation Guide [HKTA 3211 "Standardisation Guide for Labelling of Telecommunications Equipment"](#) issued by the TA.

17. Although labelling is voluntary, manufacturers, suppliers and dealers are encouraged to affix labels prescribed by the TA to their certified equipment for consumer guidance. A TE or ISM equipment with a label as described in HKTA 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 OFTA's website at <http://app1.ofta.gov.hk/apps/cte/content/listEquip.asp?lang=E>. 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 -

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

Tel : +852 2961 6388

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