

To

The Broadcasters
[As per list attached]

Subject: Direction under section 13 of the TRAI Act, 1997 regarding compliance of amended procedure for filing of details of interconnect agreements.

WHEREAS in exercise of the powers vested in it under section 36 read with clauses (iv), (vii) and (viii) of sub-section (1) (b) of Section 11 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Act'), the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (hereinafter referred to as the "Authority") notified The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Regulation 2004 (15 of 2004), [hereinafter referred to as the 'Regulation'] in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-III, Section 4, as No.197, on 31st December, 2004;

2. WHEREAS the manner in which the information relating to the interconnect agreements, to be furnished to the Authority was laid down in Clauses 5 and 6 of the Regulation dated 31.12.2004, whereby, the broadcasters were required to file details of interconnect agreements entered into with the service providers in part A containing standard forms of contract/agreement/MOU, etc., and in Part B containing specified details of individual agreements, both in print and electronic form, with quarterly updation at the expiry of one month from the end of each quarter;

3. WHEREAS a proposal for amendment to the above regulation was received from a broadcaster expressing difficulties in filing in print form of part B at the end of every quarter and requesting for amendment of the relevant provisions of the Regulation;

4. WHEREAS the Authority after considering the request for amendment in consultation with major broadcasters, decided to amend the existing clauses 5 and 6 of the Regulation dated 31.12.2004 so as to enable the Authority to specify a particular procedure in regard to the manner of filing of data or information; to the form or formats of filing; to the number of copies to be filed; and, to such other procedural issues connected to the filing of details of interconnect agreements through a simplified process instead of the need to amend the regulation every time whenever a change in procedure is necessitated;

5. WHEREAS the Authority notified the Register of Interconnect Agreement (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (Second Amendment) Regulation, 2005 (12 of 2005), giving effect to the above mentioned decision of the Authority. The said Regulation was notified in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-III, Section 4, as No.155, on 2nd December 2005;

6. NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 13 of the TRAI Act, 1997 for the discharge of functions under section 11(1) (b) of TRAI Act, 1997 read with The Register of Interconnect Agreement (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (Second Amendment) Regulation, 2005 (12 of 2005), the Authority specifies the following procedure for filing the details of interconnection agreements due for the quarter ending 31st December, 2005 and onwards: -

- i) The Broadcasters shall furnish by 30th April every year part A and part B containing details of interconnect agreements as updated up to 31st March of that year in print form with every page duly authenticated by an authorised representative.
 - ii) A copy of the data furnished in print form indicated in (i) above will also be filed in electronic form through a non-writable CD duly signed by an authorised representative, giving part A in Microsoft Word format and part B in Microsoft Excel format.
 - iii) The data as furnished above would be updated and filed every quarter (i.e.) for the quarter ending June 30th by July 31st; for the quarter ending September 30th, by October 31st; and for the quarter ending 31st December, by 31st January. This subsequent quarterly filing shall be only in electronic form through a CD duly signed by an authorised representative and no print copy would be required.
7. Accordingly, all broadcasters are directed to comply with the procedure prescribed in Para 6 above.
8. This issues with the approval of the Authority.

(Rakesh Kacker)
Advisor (B&CS)
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LIST REFERRED TO IN THE LETTER NO. 6-20/2005-B&CS, DATED 21ST DECEMBER 2005

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