

**Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 30/ 2009)**

**For Immediate release**

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

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**Annual filing of Interconnection Agreements with TRAI by Broadcasters, DTH, HITS,  
IPTV service providers**

**New Delhi, 18th March, 2009-** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued the Register of Interconnect Agreement (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (Fourth Amendment) Regulation, 2009. The amendments mainly focus on annual filing instead of quarterly filing by the service providers with the Authority. The provisions for filing by newly emerging service providers such as HITS operators and IPTV service providers have also been made in these regulations.

2. Earlier, TRAI had issued regulations on December 31, 2004 for filing and registration of interconnect agreements entered into by broadcasters with service providers of different platforms.

3. The present amendment in the regulation has made provisions for annual filing by the service providers by 31st July every year. The details of interconnect agreements are presently filed quarterly with TRAI by the broadcasters and DTH operators. However, the Authority noted that the Industry practice is largely to sign Interconnection Agreements on annual basis, mainly for a calendar year or for the financial year. To harmonise the regulation with the industry practice and based on the analysis of the comments received from the stakeholders during the consultation process, the Authority has decided for provisions for annual filing instead of quarterly filing with the Authority by these service providers.

4. For better monitoring, newly emerging service providers such as HITS operators, and IPTV service providers are also required to file interconnect agreements with the Broadcasters annually with the Authority.
5. The Authority has also decided that all the interconnection agreements should be in written form by the broadcasters. It is the responsibility of the broadcasters and MSOs to hand over such written agreements after execution to the distributor of TV channels. A provision for submitting a certificate in this regard has also been incorporated in the present regulation.
6. Based on the inputs during consultation process and considering large volume of data being filed by various service providers, the Authority has decided that the interconnection filings may be kept for a period of three years from the date of their filing or till the expiry of the validity period of the agreement, whichever is later and accordingly the regulations have been suitably amended for this purpose.
7. The full text of the Amendment Regulation is being placed on TRAI's website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in)

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