

Changes to cabling provider rules

In December 2005, ACMA approved changes to the rules that regulate customer cabling work and set the standard for the cabling industry.

In summary, the changes:

- establish a practically achievable compliance regime for the termination of cabling in building control services equipment
- tighten the certification requirements for registered cabling supervisors and unregistered cabling supervisors; and
- exempt certain types of minor cabling work from the obligation to be certified.

The changes to the Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2000 follow wide-ranging industry consultation by ACMA and are designed to improve their operation.

The review was undertaken to ensure that the rules

keep pace with changes in the industry, to explore opportunities for extending self-regulation and to examine issues that have been raised by industry since the rules were introduced in October 2000.

The cabling provider rules apply to individuals performing customer cabling in the communications, security, fire and data sectors. Apart from limited exceptions, the rules cover all cabling work connected to a telecommunications network, or intended to be.

All cabling providers are required to perform and supervise cabling work according to the Australian Standard – Installation Requirements for Customer Cabling (Wiring Rules) (AS/ACIF S009:2001). Cabling providers are also required to register with one of five accredited registrars as part of an industry-managed

national cabling registration scheme.

ACMA monitors compliance with the rules by, for example, a contracted audit program and the investigation of individual complaints. ACMA has commissioned Gibson Quai – AAS to conduct the cabling audit program on its behalf in 2005–06.

MORE INFORMATION

The cabling provider rules are available on ACMA's website, www.acma.gov.au. (Go to Consumer > Information Portals > Cabling > Cabling Information Centre and the Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2000 (consolidated) are in the Legal Documents category).

For more information about the cabling provider rules, telephone Peter Sutton, Customer Cabling Section, on 03 9963 6950 or email ccat@acma.gov.au.



NEW HEAD OF LEGAL APPOINTED

Marcus Bezzi has joined ACMA as Head of its newly established Legal Division.

Mr Bezzi joined ACMA from the Sydney office of the Australian Government Solicitor, where he was Team Leader of the Enforcement and Regulation Team, and National Client Service Manager for ACMA and the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. He previously held this responsibility for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Mr Bezzi is a barrister and solicitor and has extensive experience in communications and media law. He led the Australian Government Solicitor team that assisted the Australian Broadcasting Authority's commercial radio inquiry and has assisted in various judicial challenges in relation to decisions of the Australian Broadcasting Authority.

CARRIAGE SERVICE PROVIDER ANNUAL NUMBERING CHARGES

Sunday, 2 April will be the census date for the 2006 annual numbering charges applying to telephone numbers held by carriage service providers.

ACMA administers the collection of the charges under the *Telecommunications (Numbering Charges) Act 1997*, the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and determinations made by ACMA under those Acts.

Each year, the determinations set the census date and the amount of the charge, the types of numbers exempted, when payment is due and late payment penalty provisions. The terms for the 2006 payment date, penalty rate and exemptions remain unchanged from last year.

NUMBERS

The numbers exempted from charges on the census date are detailed on the ACMA website.

Carriage service providers can surrender numbers they no longer require until the surrender embargo begins on 10 March 2006.

CHARGES

The charge for a particular number depends on its length and the type of service provided. There is a standard charge for a 10-digit number, which increases by a factor of 10 for each digit reduction in the number's length.

The standard charge for 2006 will be determined after the census date. The 2005 charge was \$0.94609328. This means that 10-digit numbers such as mobile numbers were

charged at approximately \$0.95 each, nine digit numbers at \$9.50, eight digit numbers at \$95.00, and so on.

The maximum charge on any one number is \$100,000. Some numbers, such as telex numbers, are charged at a discounted rate.

MORE INFORMATION

ACMA will continue to provide all affected providers with information during the process. The new determinations will be posted on ACMA's website when they are made:

www.acma.gov.au. (Go to Phones, Numbering, Annual Numbering Charges).

Email: ACMA's Numbering Team (numbering@acma.gov.au) or telephone: 03 9963 6800.