



New rules to enable higher rate broadband services

Industry will be able to deliver higher-rate broadband services through local telephone lines known as the unconditioned local loop (ULL), following ACMA's registration of an industry code and technical standard. The new code and standard will allow extended upstream bandwidth for digital subscriber line (DSL) customer equipment to help meet the growing demand for greater access to higher rate broadband at a lower cost.

Under the new code, potential upstream speeds will increase to around 2.5 Mbit/s from the current 1.0 Mbit/s, promoting the long-term interests of consumers and diverse and innovative carriage and content services.

For example, increased upstream bandwidth could allow greater use of web hosting and file servers at business premises and improve video conferencing quality.

The new code, *ACIF C559:2006 Unconditioned Local Loop Service (ULLS) Network Deployment Rules* and the associated standard *AS/ACIF S043.2:2006 – Australian Standard*

Requirements for Customer Equipment for connection to a metallic local loop interface of a Telecommunications Network – Part 2: Broadband were developed by the Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF), a division of Communications Alliance, and replace previously registered instruments and codes. Registration of the code and the standard makes them enforceable by ACMA.

Anne Hurley, CEO of Communications Alliance, said that industry will be seeking to implement the latest technology as soon as practicable, and the industry code and standard ensure that as new technology is rolled out in the carrier network and as new customer equipment is deployed in people's homes, problems affecting network integrity will be kept to a minimum.

The code sets out performance requirements and deployment rules that network operators must follow when they operate systems on the ULL. The standard complements the code by specifying the technical requirements for all customer

equipment used with services supplied under the code.

The deployment of DSL services without any consideration of proximity to other DSL or digital services such as ISDN or SDH either in the same cable sheath or adjacent cable runs would be detrimental to the performance of existing services and the rollout of future broadband services. The mandatory standard for customer equipment connected to DSL services ensures that rogue technology cannot be installed that will impact on the overall integrity of carriers' networks.

The new standard includes new deployment classes for technologies such as ADSL2 with extended upstream bandwidth (ITU-T G.992.3 Annex M) and ADSL2+ with extended upstream bandwidth (ITU-T G.992.5 Annex M). The changes will mean a higher speed service for users of this new technology while ensuring a minimal impact to other services in the carriers' network.

The industry code works in conjunction with AS/ACIF S043.2:2006. The code was

updated in 2004–05 to include access rules for deployment of higher rate broadband services such as ADSL2, ADSL2+ and ESHDSL. These allowed faster internet browsing and access to multimedia applications such as streaming video and video conferencing.

The code was revised again this year to include new deployment classes to allow deployment of higher rate broadband technologies such as ADSL2, with extended upstream bandwidth (ITU-T G.992.3 Annex M) and ADSL2+, with extended upstream bandwidth (ITU-T G.992.5 Annex M).

To give the new standard regulatory effect, ACMA will register an amendment to the *Telecommunications Labelling (Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Notice 2001*, which allows suppliers to label and supply customer equipment that complies with the standard.

The code and standard are on the ACMA website at www.acma.gov.au (go to Industry > Codes > Register of Codes).