



*News Release*

## **TRA Consults on Telecommunications Equipment Approval Regime**

Manama – Kingdom of Bahrain, Thursday 5 March 2009

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) today issued a public consultation document on the draft regulation for a new approval regime for telecommunications equipment.

The proposed regulation defines the roles and responsibilities of TRA and any person or entity wishing to import telecommunications equipment into Bahrain. The draft regulation proposes the adaptation of international standards as basis for TRA technical specifications, requirements and approval process.

TRA's General Director Mr. Alan Horne said: "TRA is continuously reviewing its processes seeking ways it can be more effective in the services it is offering to telecommunications users, Licensees and equipment suppliers. This new Regulation will make it easier and quicker for suppliers to introduce new telecommunication equipment into Bahrain for the benefit of consumers."

The draft regulation also proposes a national regime which aims to ensure that telecommunications equipment is safe to use and does not harm public telecommunications networks or cause harmful radio interference.

One of the key new initiatives introduced by the Regulation is the ability for suppliers to introduce to Bahrain certain types of equipment, such as standard mobile phones, without prior approval by TRA. However such equipment must display the CE mark. The CE mark demonstrates that the equipment has been assessed against and complies with European Essential requirements relevant to the equipment.

Mr. Phil Harris, TRA's Manager of Licensing and Operations stated: "The proposed approval process is transparent, nondiscriminatory and is based on international best practices. It will facilitate competition in the supply of a wide range of telecommunications equipment, which should benefit consumers by increasing choice and lowering prices".

In addition to the regulation, TRA will be issuing guidelines, which explain the practical implementation of the regulation and provide information to assist the applicant in preparing and submitting applications for approval to TRA.

The draft regulation regarding the approval of telecommunications equipment can be viewed on TRA's website [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh). Interested parties are encouraged to review the document and submit their comments to TRA by 4:00 pm on 18 April 2009.

### **About TRA**

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. TRA is an independent body and its duties and powers include, among other things, protecting the interests of subscribers and users and promoting effective and fair competition among existing and new licensed operators. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at [www.tra.org.bh](http://www.tra.org.bh)



**From left Mohammed Mahmood Director of Technical Market Operations, Alan Horne TRA's General Director and Phil Harris Manager of Licensing and Operations**

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