



**MOBILE JAMMERS FORBIDDEN WITHOUT PRIOR TRA APPROVAL
--New regulation sets out terms for use of mobile Jammers in
Bahrain--**

MANAMA – 8th November 2004 – Following many responses on the Jammers consultation document, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) today announced the publication of its regulation on use of Mobile Phones Jammers in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Mobile phone Jammers are devices that block the signals of the mobile phones, resulting in the inability to make or receive phone calls or send messages. These Jammers are usually placed in cinemas, conference halls and hospitals among other places to prevent mobile users from using their phones mainly because of the disturbance it causes in such places.

The regulation, issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, aims to ensure that mobile phones users in the Kingdom are able to use mobile phones in all areas of the country where coverage is provided, without the imposed blockage from any third parties.

According to the Regulation the TRA can approve the use of Mobile Phones Jammers for exceptional cases and on case by case basis, where the use of Jammers is deemed necessary and subject to the necessary safeguards in relation to interference to other areas. Any entity wishing to use Jammers must acquire prior approval from the TRA, by submitting an application form which is available through the TRA's website www.tra.org.bh . The TRA will then consider each application in conjunction with the Directorate of Wireless Licensing & Frequency Management at the Ministry of Transportation.

In addition, the regulation gives a grace period of one month from the publication of regulation(8th November 2004) for removal of any Jammers currently in use in Bahrain. After the one month grace period is over, any entity using Jammers without the formal approval of the TRA would be in breach of the law.

As with all other TRA regulations, this one is the result of a series of consultations. Based on the comments received the TRA amended it where appropriate to ensure that it met best practices and was fair and workable.

Commenting on the announcement, General Director of the TRA, Mr.A. Andreas Avgousti said, "We have initiated the first consultation on the use of Jammers in Bahrain in March of this year, following concerns from the public about the use of such devices in certain places. After going through the usual consultation process and collecting comments, the TRA has issued this regulation which reflects the views of the public and the industry. We believe that the misuse of mobile phones in public places should not be used as justification for putting up Jammers. Instead we should be more considerate to others when using mobile phones " Mr. Avgousti also announced : " The TRA will soon be launching a nationwide campaign on the use of Mobile Phones, reminding all of us to think of the others when using our phones in public places. This will be the first public awareness campaign that the TRA undertakes since its establishment. We have specifically chosen to address this issue, because of its impact on all of us."

About the TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. The 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 the TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh