



**Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)
Issues Draft Regulation for Mobile Phone Jammers
and Calls on Interested Parties to Comment on it**

Manama 30 August 2004: The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of the Kingdom of Bahrain has issued a Draft Regulation for Mobile Phone Jammers and has called on all interested parties to comment on it by writing to the TRA by no later than 14th September 2004. This is the last opportunity to comment on the wording of the proposed regulation before the issue of the Final Regulation.

TRA issued a consultation document in March 2004 and received feedback from 18 parties that had an interest in this issue. As a result of the comments received, the TRA reconsidered its proposals and, where appropriate, reflected views by making changes to the Draft Regulation.

As a result, the TRA is minded to prohibit the use of mobile phone Jammers with certain very strict exemptions that will be approved on a case by case basis. The proposal is that such exemptions would be for certain areas, specific times and subject to necessary safeguards in relation to interference to other areas. In these cases interested parties will have to submit an application to the TRA to obtain a prior approval.

The TRA is also ensuring through the regulation that each application will be examined in conjunction with the Ministry of Transportation, in its capacity as the official custodian of the radio frequencies in the Kingdom of Bahrain, so as to ensure that any exceptional cases that may be approved will not have an impact on proper usage of frequencies in other areas.

Under the proposed regulation usage of mobile phone Jammers which is not with the prior approval of the TRA will be strictly forbidden.

Commenting on this, Mr. Andreas Avgousti, TRA's General Director, said: "The widespread usage of mobile phones has caused, on certain cases, their misuse or their use in places that is not appropriate. However, this is generally a matter of getting people to think of others when making use of their mobiles and to consider when they should not. The proposed regulation ensures that communications are not interrupted by individuals or companies without controls and in breach of the telecommunications law. The TRA is proposing under the regulation very strict criteria where it may allow the usage of Jammers. These will be used for very limited cases where it is clearly appropriate to prevent the usage of mobile phones". He added: "The TRA would like to thank everyone who responded to it on this matter so far and hopes that with the input it receives on each stage of the consultations it will be in a position to make better decisions that benefit the consumer and the Kingdom as a whole".

For more information, kindly visit TRA's website on the following address: www.tra.org.bh

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

- The TRA will be happy to provide hard copies of the consultation document, for those who do not have access to the internet. The TRA can be contacted on telephone number 17 540 120.