

# **Regulation on the Requirement to Register Details of Prepaid Mobile Telecommunications Services Subscribers**

A Regulation issued by the  
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

Regulation 2 of 2008

**Purpose:** To mandate registration of details of prepaid mobile telecommunications services subscribers before the activation of such a service.



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# Regulation on the Requirement to Register Details of Prepaid Mobile Telecommunications Services Subscribers

## **Preamble**

- 1.1. This Regulation is issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority ("TRA") of the Kingdom of Bahrain pursuant to the provisions of the Telecommunications Law (the "Law") promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 48 for the year 2002.
- 1.2. Pursuant to section 78 of the Telecommunications Law, every licensed operator shall undertake to provide, at its own expense, all technical resources including telecommunications equipment, systems and programs relating to the telecommunications network that it is licensed to operate and which allow security organs to have access to the network for fulfilling the requirements of national security in accordance with the Regulations and Decisions issued by the Authority. Pursuant to section 3(c)(1) of the Law, the Authority has the power to issue Regulations for all matters covered by the Law, including section 78 of the Law.
- 1.3. This Regulation will introduce a requirement for Mobile Telecommunications Licensees and holders of other types of Licenses that provide for Prepaid Mobile services in the Kingdom of Bahrain to register verifiable subscriber data before activating Prepaid Mobile SIM Cards.
- 1.4. Implementation of the objective in 1.3 above should be in keeping with international best practice, with the view of supporting the interests of public safety and discouraging attempts to exploit telecommunications networks for illicit purposes.
- 1.5. This Regulation will be reviewed by TRA after implementation, which may, at its discretion, replace this Regulation after consulting as per the Telecommunications Law.

## **2. Definitions**

Any word, phrase or expression used in this Regulation shall, unless the context requires otherwise or it is expressly defined herein, have the same meaning as in the Telecommunications Law of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

"Affected Licensees" means all Mobile Telecommunications Licensees and holders of other types of Licenses that provide prepaid mobile telecommunications services in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

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“Clean Subscriber Database” means database containing verified subscriber registration information, with a minimum rate of 99% subscribers registered.

“Full Name” means the full name of the subscriber shown on its Identification Credentials.

“Identification Credentials” only include:

- a Central Population Registration number or a Smart Card number as issued by the Central Informatics Organization; or
- a Commercial Registration Number issued by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; or
- a passport issued by a competent authority in a foreign jurisdiction; or
- an identification card issued by a competent authority in a foreign jurisdiction; or
- a driver's license issued by a competent authority in a foreign jurisdiction.

“SIM Card” means a Subscriber Identity Module smart card containing the telephone number of a subscriber, encoded network identification details, the personal identification number and other user data such as the phone book.

### **3. Scope**

3.1. This Regulation applies to all Affected Licensees.

### **4. Registration of Subscriber Details**

4.1. All Affected Licensees are hereby required to register a minimum set of details for subscribers of prepaid mobile telecommunications services.

4.2. The minimum subscriber details to register for prepaid mobile telecommunications services are the Full Name and Identification Credentials. Where a subscriber is a foreign business the minimum subscriber details must be the Full Name and Identification Credentials of the natural person using the prepaid mobile telecommunications services.

4.3. Affected Licensees may register additional subscriber details at their own discretion in addition to the minimum details listed in section 4.2 of this Regulation.

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- 4.4. Where, after obtaining TRA approval for electronic verification referred to in section 6.1.3, an Affected Licensee allows subscribers a means for self-registration, whereby subscribers provide their Full Name and Identification Credentials electronically, Affected Licensees must verify the authenticity of subscriber details by interfacing with the appropriate Government authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain that has the capability to verify the supplied subscriber information.
- 4.5. Notwithstanding section 4.4, Affected Licensees may additionally collect the minimum subscriber details required by section 4.2 through manual procedures (i.e. physical/visual verification of identification), in a similar manner to section 4.6.
- 4.6. For subscribers that cannot be verified electronically, Affected Licensees must acquire and verify at one of their authorized points of sale a physical copy of the official document holding the subscriber's Identification Credentials.

### **5. Service Activation**

- 5.1. Affected Licensees that activate any new prepaid mobile telecommunications service to any subscriber without first verifying the submitted subscriber details, are hereby deemed in material breach of this Regulation and Section 78 of the Telecommunications Law, and therefore subject to regulatory action pursuant to of Section 35 of the Law

### **6. Implementation**

- 6.1. The Regulation is implemented as follows:
  - 6.1.1. Affected Licensees shall by 31 August 2008 prepare and have approved by TRA all necessary processes, procedures, plans to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Regulation, including creating a Clean Subscriber Database and training of their respective distributors and resellers.
  - 6.1.2. The processes, procedures and plans referred to in section 6.1.1 must be realistic, efficient and effective to achieve a Clean Subscriber Database by 31 December 2008.
  - 6.1.3. Any manual verification of subscriber details must be implemented and maintained until such a time that TRA approves any proposed means of electronic verification.
  - 6.1.4. As of 1 September 2008 Affected Licensees shall ensure that no prepaid mobile telecommunications service is activated before a

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given subscriber's details are verified and registered by the Affected Licensee as required by this Regulation.

- 6.1.5. During the period commencing 1 September 2008 and ending on 31 December 2008, Affected Licensees must update their records of prepaid mobile telecommunications services subscribers to achieve a Clean Subscriber Database.
- 6.2. The SIM Cards of any prepaid mobile telecommunications services subscribers whose minimum subscriber details as specified in section 4.2 are not registered per section 4.1 by 1 January 2009 shall be suspended until the subscriber details are updated or until such a time as the prepaid mobile telecommunications services account in question expires, whichever comes first.
- 6.3. Affected Licensees are required to produce a report to be published to TRA in electronic format, and if requested by TRA in paper format, by 31 January 2009 that demonstrates the following, in a tabulated format:
  - 6.3.1. **Registrations:** New subscribers registered from 1 September 2008 to 31 December 2008 inclusive;
  - 6.3.2. **Updates:** Subscriber data that, as at end of day of 31 December 2008, is missing the minimum registration information required in section 4.2; and
  - 6.3.3. **Deactivations:** Number of SIM Cards suspended in accordance with section 6.2.

### 7. Enforcement and Penalties

- 7.1. This Regulation is issued pursuant to Section 3(c)(1) of the Telecommunications Law, which grants TRA the right to issue Regulations in respect of Licensed Operators meeting their obligations under Section 78 of the Law.
- 7.2. Affected Licensees that fail to comply with this Regulation will be considered in material breach of section 78 of the Telecommunications Law and therefore will be subject to action under section 35 of the Law.

### 8. Privacy Policy

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- 8.1 Affected Licensees shall use all reasonable endeavors to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of information obtained in the process of implementing this Regulation. Disclosure of any subscriber information shall only be permitted in accordance with the Laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain, including to any security organ in accordance with section 78 of the Telecommunications Law.
- 8.2 All subscribers' information shall be kept by Affected Licensees in records for as long as the SIM Card is active. For inactive SIM Cards, records must not be deleted without prior TRA approval.

Issued by

**Alan Horne**  
General Director

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Date: Thursday 28 Rajab 1429 A.H. (31 July 2008)