



هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

A public consultation document issued by the
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the
Kingdom of Bahrain

12 Feb 2015

CSD/0215/008

**REPEALING AND PROMULGATING THE REGULATION AND CONDUCTING A PUBLIC
CONSULTATION**

A public consultation document issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the Requirement to Register Prepaid Telecommunications Services Subscriber Details: (the "**Prepaid Telecommunications Services Registration Regulation**").

The address for responses to this document is:

The General Director
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
PO Box 10353
Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain

Alternatively, e-mail responses may be sent to CSD@tra.org.bh

The deadline for responses is 26 February 2015.

Purpose: to seek stakeholders' views on a proposed new Regulation on the Requirement to Register Prepaid Telecommunications Services Subscriber Details (the "**Prepaid Telecommunications Services Registration Regulation**").

1 INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A RESPONSE

1.1 The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (the “**Authority**”) invites comments on this consultation document from all interested parties. Comments should be submitted no later than 4p.m. of Thursday the 26th February 2015.

1.2 Responses should be sent to the Authority preferably by email (either Word or PDF format) or by fax or post to the attention of:

The General Director
CSD@tra.org.bh
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
PO Box 10353
Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain

1.3 Responses should include:

- the name of the responding entity;
- the name of the principal contact person;
- full contact details (physical address, telephone number, fax number and email address);
- in the case of responses from individual consumers, name and contact details; and
- a brief statement explaining the interest of the responding entity.

1.4 The Authority seeks comments from stakeholders in the telecommunications industry, the business community and the general public on the proposed new Prepaid Telecommunications Services Registration Regulation (the “**New Regulation**”), attached at Annex 1. All comments should be supported as much as possible by detailed explanation, including, where relevant, references to the specific provisions of the Telecommunications Law¹ or Licences that the respondent is relying upon.

1.5 Further, the Authority invites respondents to provide comments in response to each of the questions listed for reference at Annex 2.

¹ The Telecommunications Law of the Kingdom of Bahrain, promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002

- 1.6 In the interests of transparency, the Authority intends to make all submissions received available to the public, subject to the confidentiality of the information received. The Authority will evaluate a request for confidentiality in line with the relevant legal provisions² and the Authority's published guidance on the treatment of confidential and non-confidential information³.
- 1.7 Respondents are required to mark clearly any information included in their submission that is considered confidential. Where such confidential information is included, respondents are required to provide both a confidential and a non-confidential version of their submission (in soft copies and not scanned copies). If part or all of the submission is marked confidential, reasons should be provided. The Authority may publish or refrain from publishing any document or submission at its sole discretion.

2 STATUS OF THIS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

- 2.1 This consultation document is issued pursuant to the Consultation Process Regulation issued by the Authority on 10 August 2003⁴.
- 2.2 The information contained in this document is intended to provide background on a new prepaid telecommunications services registration process that is currently being considered by the Authority. Interested parties should not take any actions in reliance on the information or proposals contained in this document. Any views set out in this document should be considered as indicative and will be subject to further consideration following the receipt of comments from interested parties.
- 2.3 This consultation document does not represent a decision of the Authority. The issues discussed in this document remain open to consideration and should not be construed as indicating that the Authority has formed any final opinion or decision on the registration of prepaid telecommunications services.
- 2.4 Once the Authority has received and considered responses to this consultation document, the Authority will decide whether to proceed to finalise the Prepaid Telecommunications Services Registration Regulation for publication in the Official Gazette. If appropriate, the Authority will prepare and publish a consultation report which summarises and responds to the comments received.

² Including Article 23 of the Telecommunications Law

³ http://www.tra.org.bh/media/document/Confidentiality_Guidelines_Final.pdf

⁴ [http://www.tra.org.bh/media/document/Consultation_Process_ERU_RN_001_v1.0\[1\].PDF.pdf](http://www.tra.org.bh/media/document/Consultation_Process_ERU_RN_001_v1.0[1].PDF.pdf)

3 PROPOSED MEASURE

- 3.1 Under Article 3(c)(1) of the Telecommunications Law, the Authority has the power to issue regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of the Telecommunications Law.
- 3.2 The Authority now proposes to repeal the Regulation on the Requirement to Register Details of Prepaid Mobile Telecommunications Services Subscribers (Regulation 2 of 2008, as amended) (the “Existing Regulation”) and to issue the New Regulation.
- 3.3 The New Regulation will be issued pursuant to Article 3(c)(1) and Article 78 of the Telecommunications Law.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The following table summarises the background to the Existing Regulation and the New Regulation.

Summary of developments in relation to the requirement to register details of prepaid mobile telecommunications services subscribers	
Date	Measure
July 2008	<p>Following a consultation process, the Authority issued the Existing Regulation⁵ on 31 July 2008. This requires Affected Licensees⁶ to register “verifiable subscriber data” before activating prepaid mobile SIM Cards.</p> <p>Affected Licensees were given until 31 December 2008 to achieve a “Clean Subscriber Database⁷” (i.e. to register verifiable data of subscribers within a database) in accordance with the Existing Regulation.</p>

⁵ <http://www.tra.org.bh/media/document/LAU312-20080731-PrePaidSimCardRegistrationRegulation-English.pdf>

⁶ Pursuant to the Existing Regulation, “Affected Licensees” means all Mobile Telecommunications Licensees and holders of other types of Licences that provide prepaid mobile telecommunications services in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

⁷ Pursuant to the Existing Regulation, “Clean Subscriber Database” means [a] database containing verified subscriber registration information, with a minimum rate of 99% subscribers registered.

December 2008	The timeframe allowed for updating subscriber details under the Existing Regulation was extended on 24 December 2008 ⁸ due to the large number of incorrect registrations.
August 2010	Following complaints of non-compliance caused by loopholes ⁹ in the Existing Regulation, the Authority instructed Affected Licensees to undergo another cleansing exercise to ensure that their databases accurately reflected the details of the actual prepaid subscriber to the telecommunications service. Affected Licensees were also required to provide the Authority with a monthly update on the number of SIM Cards registered under their Commercial Registration numbers together with their top 100 subscribers.
July 2011	The Authority took direct enforcement action against an Affected Licensee for selling pre-activated SIM Cards, in breach of the Existing Regulation.
May 2012	In May 2012, the Authority issued a public consultation on the Requirement to Register Prepaid Telecommunications Services Subscriber Details (" Prepaid Telecommunications Services Registration Regulation ") which proposed certain changes to the Existing Regulation. However the Authority decided not to take forward the proposed amendments at that stage.

5 PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF A NEW REGULATION AND CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

5.1 The Authority notes that there are still a large number of prepaid SIM Cards registered to individual Commercial Registration ("**CR**") and Central Population Registration ("**CPR**") numbers where it is unclear who is using the relevant service. The Authority also notes that the registration processes of some Affected Licensees may be lax and easily allow for incorrect registrations.

⁸ <http://216.25.41.106/EN/pdf/LAU312-20081224-DecisionNo5of2008amendingRegulation2of2008-English.pdf>

⁹ For example, the Authority received complaints from Affected Licensees that individuals and businesses were often able to purchase prepaid telecommunications services without any form of registration. Further, the Authority found that certain authorised (and non-authorised) resellers had large numbers of prepaid SIM Cards registered to their own Commercial Registration number, without any details of the Natural Person using the account in question. In addition, the Directorate of Public Prosecution and the Ministry of the Interior reported that their investigations involving the identification of suspects through the use of mobile numbers were hindered due to the lack of accurate subscriber registration information.

- 5.2 In particular, concerns have been expressed to the Authority which suggest that, in some instances, the registration and verification of subscriber information is not being efficiently conducted by Resellers (i.e. a distributor, reseller or seller authorised in writing by the Affected Licensee to sell or distribute SIM Cards on behalf of the Affected Licensee), or effectively enforced by Affected Licensees.
- 5.3 The New Regulation is intended to address these concerns and introduces several significant changes to the Existing Regulation as set out below. In particular the New Regulation insists that greater information is gained from not only individuals but also from Commercial and Government Entities than was required under the Existing Regulation. In relation to Commercial and/or Government Entities the New Regulation imposes a requirement that a senior individual from these respective entities takes responsibility for the dissemination of SIM Cards within their organisations by providing his/her personal Identification Credentials when Registering or any Prepaid Telecommunications Service. As there are many significant changes, it is proposed that the Existing Regulation is repealed in its entirety and replaced with the New Regulation.
- 5.4 The following text outlines some of the major changes. However, the New Regulation should be reviewed in its entirety by stakeholders. The Authority welcomes responses on any aspect of the New Regulation.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1 ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

1.1 Article 1 provides a list of definitions used within the New Regulation. A number of new definitions have been included within the New Regulation. The most notable are outlined below:

1.1.1 The definition of “Affected Licensee” now extends beyond providers of mobile services to include any Licensee¹⁰ that provides Prepaid Telecommunications Services. For the purposes of construing the remainder of this Consultation Document and responding to the questions herein, “Affected Licensee” shall have the definition given to it in the New Regulation and shall comprise any Licensee that provides a prepaid telecommunications service;

1.1.2 “Outlet” has been defined so as to ensure that Affected Licensees are aware of the points of sale through which they may provide Subscribers and/or End Users with a Prepaid Telecommunications Service under the New Regulation;

1.1.3 “Prepaid Telecommunications Service” has been defined in Article 1 of the New Regulation as “*a Telecommunications service provided by an Affected Licensee to a Subscriber by means of a SIM Card on a prepaid billing basis*”. The Existing Regulation only applies to mobile telecommunications services. The reason for this change is that Prepaid Telecommunications Services that are delivered over fixed or other non-mobile networks are increasingly available; and

1.1.4 “Registration”, “Verification” and “Activation” are defined so as to ensure that Affected Licensees (and their Authorised Parties) are aware of exactly what is expected in respect of each process.

1.2 ***Question:*** *Do you consider the definitions of Article 1 of the New Regulation sufficient? If not, please give reasons and state which terms you think should be added or omitted.*

¹⁰ Licensee is defined in the Telecommunications Law as a person holding a Licence granted pursuant to the provisions of the Law.

2 **ARTICLE 2: SCOPE**

2.1 The New Regulation applies to all Affected Licensees. The New Regulation makes clear that Affected Licensees shall be responsible for conducting all Registration, Verification and Activation processes and that under the New Regulation, Affected Licensees may only offer Prepaid Telecommunications Service via their Outlets or any approved Reseller if future technological improvements make the mechanisms set out in Article 12.4 of the New Regulation applicable.

2.2 **Question:** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 2 of the New Regulation? If not, please provide reasoning as to what you do not agree with and why.*

3 **ARTICLE 3: REGISTRATION OF SUBSCRIBERS WHO ARE NATURAL PERSONS**

3.1 Article 3 outlines the process that must be followed in respect of the Registration of subscribers that are natural persons.

3.2 Articles 3.1 and 3.2 set out the Natural Person Identification Credentials that must be procured by the Affected Licensee in order to commence the Registration process where the natural person is a GCC National or non GCC National respectively.

3.3 Article 3.3 outlines the information that the Affected Licensee must capture and record in the Subscriber Database. A number of details are required to be captured to ensure, as far as is possible, that the Authority (and National Security Agencies) are able to ascertain which Prepaid Telecommunications Service is being used by which user, should the need to do so arise.

3.4 Article 3.4.1 of the New Regulation provides that an Affected Licensee may register a maximum number of ten (10) Prepaid Telecommunications Services per natural person being a GCC National.

3.5 Article 3.4.2 of the New Regulation provides that an Affected Licensee may register a maximum number of two (2) Prepaid Telecommunications Services per natural person who is not a GCC National.

3.6 These limits have been introduced so as to mitigate the possibility of individuals circumventing the New Regulation's objectives by mass-registering Prepaid Telecommunications Services for resale or other purposes. In addition, it is hoped that this Article will assist security and judicial organs in determining the identity of suspects in criminal investigations.

3.7 **Questions:**

3.7.1 *Do you consider that any of the Natural Person Identification Credentials should be omitted from Articles 3.1, 3.2 and/or 3.3? If so, why?*

3.7.2 *Do you consider that any other form of document should be included within the scope of Articles 3.1, 3.2 and/or 3.3? If so, which documents would you wish to include and why?*

3.7.3 *Do you agree with the limit on the number of Prepaid Telecommunications Services? If not, please state why.*

4 **ARTICLE 4: VERIFICATION OF SUBSCRIBERS WHO ARE NATURAL PERSONS**

4.1 Article 4 outlines the process that must be followed in respect of the verification of subscribers that are natural persons. As with the Existing Regulation, it provides for manual (visual) confirmation of the Identification Credentials at the point of sale.

4.2 **Question:** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 4? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

5 **ARTICLE 5: REGISTRATION OF SUBSCRIBERS THAT ARE COMMERCIAL ENTITIES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES**

5.1 Article 5 outlines the process that must be followed in respect of the Registration of Subscribers that are Commercial Entities or Government Entities.

5.2 The New Regulation includes a specific distinction between Commercial Entities and Government Entities and sets out more stringent Registration and Verification requirements than those under the Existing Regulation. The more stringent procedures have been introduced so as to mitigate the possibility of individuals circumventing the New Regulation's objectives by mass-registering Prepaid Telecommunications Services for resale or other purposes.

5.3 Article 5.1.1 outlines the process that must be followed in respect of the Registration of Subscribers that are Commercial Entities. In particular, it amends the Existing Regulation by providing a requirement on Affected Licensees to obtain not only the Commercial Entity's Commercial Registration number, but additional corporate documentation and the Natural Person Identification Credentials of the Director assuming responsibility for and on behalf of the Commercial Entity for the purposes of the New Regulation.

- 5.4 Article 5.1.2. outlines the process that must be followed in respect of the Registration of Subscribers that are Government Entities. In particular, it extends the Existing Regulation by providing a requirement on Affected Licensees to obtain a declaration signed by the Minister or the head of the relevant Government Entity, and stamped by the Ministry's or Government Entity's official seal authorising the Public Officer to represent the Government Entity for the purpose of Registration and Verification. In addition the Affected Licensee must obtain the Natural Person Identification Credentials of the Public Officer who will assume responsibility for and on behalf of the Government Entity for the purposes of the New Regulation.
- 5.5 Article 5.2. sets out the information that must be recorded by the Affected Licensee in the Subscriber Database for Commercial Entities (Article 5.2.1.) and Government Entities (Article 5.2.2) respectively.
- 5.6 Article 5.3.1 of the New Regulation provides for limits on the number of Prepaid Telecommunications Services that can be registered to one and the same Commercial Entity by the same Affected Licensee to fifty (50). Article 5.3.2 of the New Regulation provides for limits on the number of Prepaid Telecommunications Services that can be registered to one and the same Government Entity by the same Affected Licensee, to one hundred (100). These limits have been introduced so as to mitigate the possibility of Commercial and Government Entities circumventing the New Regulation's objectives by mass-registering Prepaid Telecommunications Services for resale or other purposes. In addition, it is hoped that this Article will assist security and judicial organs in determining the identity of suspects of criminal investigations.
- 5.7 Article 5.4 reserves the right of the Authority to amend the process, procedures and requirements of Registration from time to time. This is to ensure flexibility in the future with regards to amending the Registration process for the benefits of Subscribers and/or to reflect input from national security organs.
- 5.8 **Question:** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 5? In particular:*
- 5.8.1 *Do you agree with the requirement for Affected Licensees to secure the proposed details of the Commercial or Government Entities? If not, please give your reasons.*
- 5.8.2 *Do you agree with the limits on the number of Prepaid Telecommunications Services that can be registered to one and the same Commercial Entity and/or Government Entity? If not, please give your reasons.*

6 **ARTICLE 6: VERIFICATION OF SUBSCRIBERS THAT ARE COMMERCIAL OR GOVERNMENT ENTITIES**

6.1 Article 6 outlines the process that must be followed in respect of the Verification of Subscribers that are Commercial or Government Entities. In particular, it provides for visual confirmation of the identification credentials at the point of sale.

6.2 ***Question:*** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 6? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

7 **ARTICLE 7: ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF REGISTRATION AND VERIFICATION**

7.1 Whilst, at present, electronic confirmation (for example, cross referencing Natural Person Identification Credentials against available Government records or the use of fingerprint recognition) is not available to Affected Licensees, under Article 7 of the New Regulation, the Authority reserves the right to mandate such a method in future, should one become available.

7.2 ***Question:*** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 7? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

8 **ARTICLE 8: ACTIVATION**

8.1 As with the Existing Regulation, Article 8 provides that Affected Licensees should not Activate a Prepaid Telecommunications Service until after Registration and Verification have been carried out. Accordingly, there is no scope for the sale of pre-activated Prepaid Telecommunications Services to end-users.

8.2 ***Question:*** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 8? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

9 **ARTICLE 9 : REGISTRATION RENEWAL**

9.1 Article 9 requires Affected Licensees to complete a Registration Renewal procedure of all existing Subscribers within a set time period, which the Authority has determined is reasonable for the Affected Licensee to complete the required process. The purpose of Article 9 is to ensure that the Subscriber Database is updated to include historic sales of Prepaid Telecommunications Services and to Suspend and (if necessary) Deactivate the Prepaid Telecommunications Services of those natural persons and/or Commercial and Government Entities that cannot be Verified.

- 9.2 Articles 9.1 – 9.2 outlines the requirement on Affected Licensees to renew the Registration for existing Subscribers who are natural persons, Government Entities or Commercial Entities. This is to ensure that both new and existing Prepaid Telecommunications Services are standardised to comply to the requirements of the New Regulation.
- 9.3 Article 9.3 requires that where the Affected Licensee cannot successfully complete the Registration Renewal Process within the time periods set out in Article 9.1 and 9.2 the Affected Licensee shall suspend the respective Prepaid Telecommunications Service until such time as the Registration Renewal Process has been completed.
- 9.4 Article 9.4 requires that if the Affected Licensee cannot successfully complete the Registration Renewal Process within 9 months of the date of the New Regulation, that the Affected Licensee shall deactivate its Prepaid Telecommunications Service. This is to ensure that only a Prepaid Telecommunication Service registered and recorded in accordance with the New Regulation is available to end users.
- 9.5 Article 9.5 allows the Authority to amend the Registration Renewal Process from time to time.
- 9.6 **Question:** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 9? In particular:*
- 9.6.1 *Do you agree with the time limits within which the Affected Licensees are required to secure the proposed details of the natural person, Commercial and/or Government Entities? If not, please give your reasons.*
- 9.6.2 *Do you agree with the time limits relating to the deactivation of a Prepaid Telecommunication Service if the Registration Renewal Process is not successfully completed?*
- 10 **ARTICLE 10: REVALIDATION OF NATURAL PERSON, GOVERNMENT ENTITY AND COMMERCIAL ENTITY SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION**
- 10.1 Article 10 introduces a requirement on Affected Licensees to revalidate the Subscriber Information that is held within the Subscriber Database on an annual basis. This is to ensure that the Subscriber Database is kept accurate with up to date information and that Prepaid Telecommunications Services do not remain Activated unnecessarily (for example, in respect of lost/stolen SIM Cards).
- 10.2 **Question:** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 10? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

11 **ARTICLE 11: THE SUBSCRIBER DATABASE**

- 11.1 Article 11 introduces a requirement on Affected Licensees to retain Subscriber Information for the period during which the Prepaid Telecommunications Service is provided to the Subscriber and for one year after termination of the service. Affected Licensees must maintain and regularly update the Subscriber Database and allow the Authority access to it as and when required. The Authority may audit the Subscriber Database at any time to ensure its accuracy.
- 11.2 Article 11 is intended to incentivise Affected Licensees to keep up to date records of Subscriber Information, such that the Authority and relevant National Security Agencies are able to access accurate information should the need arise.
- 11.3 Article 11.4 sets out the specific details recorded on the Subscriber Database which the Affected Licensee is required to submit to the Authority on a monthly basis.
- 11.4 ***Question:*** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 11? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

12 **ARTICLE 12: RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF PREPAID TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

- 12.1 Article 12.1 introduces the new requirement that no Prepaid Telecommunications Service shall be sold, offered for sale or subscription save through Outlets (as defined under the New Regulation). This is intended to enable the Affected Licensees and the Authority to more closely monitor and regulate the sale of Prepaid SIM Cards and their disbursement (although please see Article 12.4 below).
- 12.2 Article 12.2 introduces the requirement that the Affected Licensee shall recover or destroy any SIM Cards that are in the possession of a Reseller.
- 12.3 Article 12.3 requires that the Affected Licensee shall provide the Authority with a detailed record of the SIM Cards that have been recovered or destroyed.
- 12.4 Article 12.4 allows the Authority to, by virtue of a decision, approve a Reseller that has satisfied the requirements that may be determined by the Authority from time to time, for the purposes of selling or offering for sale Prepaid Telecommunications Services. This measure is to allow some flexibility to the Authority to allow the appointment of Resellers should technological improvements mean that the Authority believes that Subscriber Identification can be recorded by Resellers in a manner commensurate with the overall objectives of this Regulation.

12.5 **Question:** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 12? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

13 **ARTICLE 13: CONFIDENTIALITY OF SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION**

13.1 Article 13 is intended to ensure that all subscriber information is kept confidential and disclosed only in accordance with the Laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

13.2 **Question:** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 13? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

14 **ARTICLE 14: ENFORCEMENT, SUSPENSION AND DEACTIVATION**

14.1 Article 14 sets out the way in which the Authority shall ensure compliance with the terms of the New Regulation.

14.2 Under Article 14.2 when requested to do so by a senior official of a law enforcement agency of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Authority may issue an emergency order requiring an Affected Licensee to comply with the terms of the New Regulation.

14.3 Under Article 14.6 where the Authority finds that an Affected Licensee has incorrectly Registered, Verified or Activated a Prepaid Telecommunications Service (in breach of the New Regulation), it may impose a fine and/or other sanction, for every incorrect Registration, Verification, Activation or other error.

14.4 This is to incentivise Affected Licensees to comply with the New Regulation and to maintain accurate and up to date subscriber information.

14.5 **Question:** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 14? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

15 **ARTICLE 15: ENTRY INTO FORCE**

15.1 Article 15 confirms the date on which the New Regulation shall come into force.

15.2 **Question:** *Do you agree with the provisions of Article 15? If not, please give reasons as to why.*

ANNEX 1

The Prepaid Telecommunications Services Registration Regulation

1 DEFINITIONS

1.1 Unless the context otherwise requires, any word, phrase or expression used in this Regulation shall have the meaning given to it in the Telecommunications Law¹, and the following terms and expressions shall have the following meanings:

Term	Definition
Affected Licensee:	A Licensee that provides Prepaid Telecommunications Services.
Activation:	The process by which a Prepaid Telecommunications Service is enabled. The term "Activated" shall be construed accordingly.
Commercial Entity:	Any entity which has been issued with a Commercial Registration Number and which has submitted a Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
Commercial Registration Number:	The unique number on a Commercial Entity's Commercial Registration, as issued by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce pursuant to the Commercial Register Law (Legislative Decree Number 1 of 1961 as amended).
Commercial Entity Identification Credentials:	Those documents listed in Article 5.1.1.
Commercial Entity Subscriber Information:	The information recorded in the Subscriber Database in relation to a Subscriber that is a Commercial Entity, more particularly described at Article 5.2.1.
Deactivate:	Means the process by which a Prepaid Telecommunications Service is disabled such that the Subscriber cannot access any Prepaid Telecommunications Services. The term "deactivation" shall be construed accordingly.
Director:	A natural person who is identified as a director of a Commercial Entity pursuant to its Memorandum and Articles of Association.
GCC National:	A natural person who holds a valid passport or valid identity card issued by a country which is a member of the Gulf Co-operation Council.
Government Entity:	Includes a ministry, a Governmental organisation or authority.
Government Entity	Those documents listed in Clause 5.1.2.

¹ The Telecommunications Law of the Kingdom of Bahrain, promulgated by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002

Identification Credentials:	
Government Entity Subscriber Information:	The information recorded in the Subscriber Database in relation to a Subscriber that is a Government Entity, more particularly described at Article 5.2.2.
ICCID	Integrated Circuit Card Identity
IMSI Number:	The International Mobile Subscription Identity number.
Identification Credentials:	The Natural Person Identification Credentials, the Commercial Entity Identification Credentials and the Government Entity Identification Credentials.
MSISDN:	The Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network Number.
Minor:	A natural person who is under eighteen years of age.
Natural Person Identification Credentials:	The Documents set out in Clause 3.1 and 3.2 of this Regulation.
Natural Person Subscriber Information:	The information recorded in the Subscriber Database in relation to a Subscriber that is a natural person, more particularly described at Article 3.3.
Outlets:	The retail stores, shops, point of sale or outlets, whether of a temporary or permanent nature that are owned, leased or rented directly by the Affected Licensees and which are directly connected and utilise the internal electronic systems of the Affected Licensee for the purposes of conducting Registration, Verification and the Registration Renewal Process.
Prepaid Telecommunications Service:	A Telecommunications service provided by an Affected Licensee to a Subscriber by means of a SIM Card on a prepaid billing basis including (but not limited to) making outgoing calls; receiving incoming calls; sending or receiving SMS and MMS messages.
Public Officer:	A high ranking Government official, not below the level of manager who is appointed by the Government Entity as the natural person authorised to represent the same for the purposes of this Regulation.
Registration:	The process by which the Subscriber Information is recorded within the Subscriber Database. The term "Register" shall be construed accordingly.
Registration Renewal Process:	The process set out in Article 9 below for the purposes of confirming the Identification Credentials of Subscribers.
Reseller	Any distributor, reseller or seller of Prepaid Telecommunications Services other than the Outlets.
SIM Card:	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.

SMS:	The short messaging service provided by an Affected Licensee used to transmit and receive short text messages to and from short messaging service enabled devices.
Subscriber:	The natural person, Commercial Entity or Government Entity that purchases or has an existing Prepaid Telecommunications Service.
Subscriber Database:	The database containing the Subscriber Information, maintained by the Affected Licensee and made accessible to its Authorised Parties, more particularly described in Article 11.
Subscriber Information:	The Natural Person Subscriber Information and/or the Commercial Entity Subscriber Information and/or the Government Entity Subscriber Information.
Suspension:	The process by which a Prepaid Telecommunications Service is temporarily disabled, except to allow access to emergency service numbers, as defined in the National Numbering Plan. For the avoidance of doubt during the period of suspension no calls, SMS messages or MMS messages may be received. The term "Suspend" shall be construed accordingly.
Telecommunications Law:	Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
Verification:	The process for confirming that the Identification Credentials accurately identify the Subscriber, more particularly described in Article 4 for natural persons and Article 6 for Corporate Entities.

2 SCOPE

- 2.1 Unless otherwise stated, the provisions of this Regulation apply to all Affected Licensees.
- 2.2 All Affected Licensees are required to ensure that, in relation to every Prepaid Telecommunications Service, Registration, Verification and Activation is carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation.
- 2.3 No Affected Licensee shall provide a Prepaid Telecommunications Service to a Subscriber who is not Registered, Verified and Activated in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation or who is, at the date of Registration, a Minor.

3 REGISTRATION OF SUBSCRIBERS WHO ARE NATURAL PERSONS

- 3.1 Affected Licensees shall procure that every natural person who is a GCC National must submit either of the following Natural Person Identification Credentials for the purposes of commencing Registration: (i) a valid passport or (ii) a valid national identity card issued by any country which is a member of the Gulf Co-operation Council.
- 3.2 Affected Licensees shall procure that every natural person who is not a GCC National, must submit the following Natural Person Identification Credentials for the purposes of commencing

the Registration Process: (i) a valid passport together with any one of the following (ii) a letter of employment/employment contract, (iii) a driver's licence; (iv) a credit or debit card showing the name and signature of the holder; (v) a bank statement issued by a bank operating in the Kingdom of Bahrain; (vi) a utility bill; (vii) a valid national identity card.

3.3 Upon receipt of the Natural Person Identification Credentials, the following information must, as a minimum, be recorded by the Affected Licensee in the Subscriber Database:

- (i) the full name of the Subscriber as shown in the passport (or, in the case of a GCC National, a national identity card) including the gender;
- (ii) a scanned copy of the passport (or, in the case of a GCC National, the national identity card);
- (iii) the unique identification number of the passport (or, in the case of a GCC National, the national identity card);
- (iv) solely in relation to a natural person who is not a GCC National, the type of identification document submitted other than the passport together with a scanned copy of that document;
- (v) the issuance date of the passport (or, in the case of a GCC National, the identity card);
- (vi) the expiry date of the passport (or, in the case of a GCC National, the national identity card). The expiry date is deemed to be the expiry date of the natural person's visa or residence permit or the expiry date of the passport whichever comes sooner;
- (vii) the ICCID number attributed to the SIM Card;
- (viii) the nationality of the Subscriber;
- (ix) the IMSI number attributable to the SIM Card;
- (x) the MSISDN number attributable to the SIM Card; and
- (xi) the full name and job title of the person conducting Registration and Verification.

3.4 Each Affected Licensee shall at all times ensure that:

- 3.4.1 no GCC National is Registered for more than ten (10) pre-paid SIM Cards with the Affected Licensee (or any other cap which may be introduced by the Authority from time to time); and
- 3.4.2 no natural person (other than a GCC National) is Registered for more than two (2) pre-paid SIM Cards with the Affected Licensee (or any other cap which may be introduced by the Authority from time to time).

3.7 The Authority reserves the right to amend the process, procedures and requirements of Registration from time to time.

4 VERIFICATION OF SUBSCRIBERS WHO ARE NATURAL PERSONS

4.1 In relation to every Subscriber who is a natural person, the identity of the Subscriber must be confirmed by the Affected Licensee manually at the point of sale in the presence of the Subscriber at least through:

4.1.1 visual confirmation of the Subscriber against all photographic identification on each of the Natural Person Identification Credentials that contains such information;

4.1.2 verifying, to the fullest extent possible, the Natural Person Identification Credentials;

4.1.3 to the fullest extent possible, visual confirmation to ensure the correctness of the Natural Person Identification Credentials in relation to their authenticity and accuracy; and

4.1.4 verification that the Natural Person Identification Credentials are not expired.

4.2 If the Affected Licensee cannot verify the Natural Person Identification Credentials submitted by the Subscriber for Registration in accordance with the steps described in Article 4.1, then Verification is deemed to have failed.

4.3 The Authority reserves the right to amend the process, procedures and requirements of Verification from time to time.

5 REGISTRATION OF SUBSCRIBERS THAT ARE COMMERCIAL ENTITIES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

5.1 In relation to every Subscriber that is:

5.1.1 a Commercial Entity, the following documents must be obtained by the Affected Licensee at the point of sale for the purposes of commencing Registration:

(i) A valid Commercial Registration certificate that has been issued to the Commercial Entity by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce;

(ii) A notarised copy of the Commercial Entity's Memorandum or Articles of Association;

(iii) A board of directors' resolution signed by all the directors authorising the Director to represent the Commercial Entity for the purpose of this Regulation;

- (iv) A declaration form signed by the Director confirming his acceptance to assume responsibility for and on behalf of the Commercial Entity for the purposes of this Regulation; and
- (v) The Natural Person Identification Credentials of the Director.

5.1.2 a Government Entity, the following documents must be obtained by the Affected Licensee at the point of sale for the purposes of commencing the Registration Process:

- (i) A declaration signed by the Minister or the head of the Government organisation, and stamped by the Ministry's or Government organisation's official seal authorising the Public Officer to represent the Government Entity for the purposes of this Regulation. This declaration must include, as a minimum, the legal name of the Government Entity, the mailing address of the Government Entity, the issuance date of the declaration and the name of the person acting on behalf of the Government Entity;
- (iv) A declaration form signed by the Public Officer confirming his acceptance to assume responsibility for and on behalf of the Government Entity for the purposes of this Regulation; and
- (v) The Natural Person Identification Credentials of the Public Officer.

5.2 Once the Commercial Entity Identification Credentials and/or the Government Entity Identification Credentials have been obtained, the following information must, as a minimum, be recorded by the Affected Licensee in the Subscriber Database:

5.2.1 In relation to Commercial Entities:

- (i) the full name and Commercial Registration Number of the Corporate Entity;
- (ii) the expiry date of the Commercial Registration Number;
- (iii) a scanned copy of all the documents listed in the immediately preceding sub-Article 5.1.1;
- (iv) a scanned copy of the passport of the Director (or, where the Director is a GCC National, the national identity card);
- (v) the unique identification number of the passport of the Director (or, where the Director is a GCC National, the national identity card);

- (vi) solely in relation to a Director who is not a GCC National, the type of identification document submitted other than the passport together with a scanned copy of that document;
- (vii) the issuance date of the passport of the Director (or, where the Director is a GCC National, the national identity card);
- (viii) the expiry date of the passport of the Director (or, where the Director is a GCC National, the national identity card). The expiry date is deemed to be the expiry date of the natural person's visa or residence permit or the expiry date of the passport whichever comes sooner;
- (ix) the ICCID number attributed to the SIM Card;
- (x) the IMSI number attributable to the SIM Card;
- (xi) the MSISDN attributable to the SIM Card;
- (xii) the nationality of the Director; and
- (xiii) the full name and job title of the Person conducting Registration and Verification.

5.2.2 In relation to Government Entities:

- (i) the full name of the Government Entity;
- (ii) a scanned copy of all the documents listed in Article 5.1.2;
- (iii) a scanned copy of the passport of the Public Officer (or, where the Public Officer is a GCC National, the national identity card);
- (iv) the unique identification number of the of the passport of the Public Officer (or, where the Public Officer is a GCC National, the national identity card);
- (v) solely in relation to a Public Officer who is not a GCC National, the type of identification document submitted other than the passport together with a scanned copy of that document;
- (vi) the issuance date of the passport of the Public Officer (or, where the Public Officer is a GCC National, the national identity card);
- (vii) the expiry date of the passport of the Public Officer (or, where the Public Officer is a GCC National, the national identity card). The expiry date is deemed to be the expiry date of the natural person's visa or residence permit or the expiry date of the passport whichever comes sooner;

- (viii) the ICCID number attributed to the SIM Card;
- (ix) the IMSI number attributable to the SIM Card;
- (x) the MSISDN attributable to the SIM Card;
- (xi) the nationality of the Public Officer; and
- (xii) the full name and job title of the Person conducting Registration and Verification.

5.3 Each Affected Licensee shall at all times ensure that:

5.3.1 no Commercial Entity is Registered for more than fifty (50) pre-paid SIM Cards with the Affected Licensee (or any other cap which may be introduced by the Authority from time to time). Provided that where a Commercial Entity requires more than the maximum number of pre-paid SIM Cards stipulated above, the Affected Licensee may duly notify the Authority in writing and the Authority may, at its sole discretion, vary the maximum number of pre-paid SIM Cards allowed for that specific Commercial Entity; and

5.3.2 no Government Entity is Registered for more than one hundred (100) pre-paid SIM Cards with the Affected Licensee (or any other cap which may be introduced by the Authority from time to time). Provided that where a Government Entity requires more than the maximum number of pre-paid SIM Cards stipulated above, the Affected Licensee may duly notify the Authority in writing and the Authority may, at its sole discretion, vary the maximum number of pre-paid SIM Cards allowed for that specific Government Entity.

5.4 The Authority reserves the right to amend the process, procedures and requirements of Registration from time to time.

6 VERIFICATION OF SUBSCRIBERS THAT ARE COMMERCIAL OR GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

6.1 In relation to every Subscriber that is a Commercial Entity or a Government Entity, the identity of the Director (in the case of a Commercial Entity) or the identity of the Public Officer (in the case of a Government Entity) must, as a minimum, be confirmed manually at the point of sale through:

6.1.1 visual confirmation of the Director or Public Officer against all photographic identification on each of the Natural Person Identification Credentials that contains such information;

- 6.1.2 verifying, to the fullest extent possible, the Natural Person Identification Credentials of the Director or Public Officer against the information contained in the Commercial Entity Identification Credentials or the Government Entity Identification Credentials;
 - 6.1.3 to the fullest extent possible, visual confirmation to ensure the correctness of the Commercial Entity Identification Credentials or the Government Entity Identification Credentials in relation to their authenticity and accuracy; and
 - 6.1.4 verification that the Commercial Entity Identification Credentials or the Government Entity Identification Credentials are not expired.
- 6.2 If the Affected Licensee cannot verify the Commercial Entity Identification Credentials or the Government Entity Identification Credentials submitted by the Subscriber for Registration in accordance with the steps described in Article 5, then the Verification is deemed to have failed.
- 6.3 The Authority reserves the right to amend the process, procedures and requirements of Verification from time to time.

7 ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF REGISTRATION AND VERIFICATION

- 7.1 Where an alternative method of confirming the identity of Subscribers by electronic or other means becomes available, the Authority may, in future, prescribe such a method for Affected Licensees to implement either instead of, or in conjunction with, the manual processes described in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 above.

8 ACTIVATION

- 8.1 An Affected Licensee shall ensure that, in relation to every Prepaid Telecommunications Service, Activation shall not occur until after Registration and Verification have been carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation. Upon successful completion of Registration and Verification the Affected Licensee shall:
 - 8.1.1 In the case of an individual Subscriber, promptly send an SMS to the prospective Subscriber requesting him to submit the last four digits of the unique identification number of the Identification Credentials used for the purpose of Registration. Where the prospective Subscriber Registers to Subscribe to a data-only Pre-Paid Telecommunications Service, an email shall be sent to the prospective Subscriber directing him to the Affected Licensee's portal to submit the last four digits of the unique identification number of the Identification Credentials used for the purpose of Registration. Activation shall only occur when the prospective Subscriber has successfully provided the requested last four digits of the unique identification number of the Identification Credentials used for the purpose of Registration; and

8.1.2 In the case of a Commercial Entity or Government Entity, promptly send an SMS to the Director or Public Officer requesting him to submit the last four digits of the unique identification number of the Identification Credentials used for the purpose of Registration. Where the Director or Public Officer Registers to Subscribe to a data-only Pre-Paid Telecommunications Service, an email shall be sent to the Director or Public Officer directing him to the Affected Licensee's portal to submit the last four digits of the unique identification number of the Identification Credentials used for the purpose of Registration. Activation shall only occur when the Director or Public Officer has successfully provided the requested last four digits of the unique identification number of the Identification Credentials used for the purpose of Registration. Where the Director or Public Officer Registers for multiple Prepaid Telecommunications Services simultaneously, Activation completed in respect of one Prepaid Telecommunication Service shall be deemed as having rendered all the other Prepaid Telecommunications Services simultaneously Activated.

8.2 Where a Subscriber has initiated the Number Portability process, the Recipient Operator (as defined in the Number Portability Regulation) shall not provide the Prepaid Telecommunications Service until such time as the Subscriber has successfully completed Registration, Verification and Activation.

8.3 Where there is a change in the Subscriber, the Affected Licensee shall, to the fullest extent possible, ensure that the new Subscriber has completed Registration, Verification and Activation.

9 REGISTRATION RENEWAL

9.1 Affected Licensees shall, within six (6) months from date of entry into force of this Regulation, ensure that in respect of all Subscribers who, on the date of entry into force of this Regulation are existing Subscribers, Registration and Verification are duly carried out and the Subscriber Information is duly recorded in the Subscriber Database to complete the successful Registration Renewal Process.

9.2 Where an Affected Licensee fails to successfully complete the Registration Renewal Process in respect of any Subscriber, the Affected Licensee shall Suspend the Prepaid Telecommunications Service until such time as the Registration Renewal Process has been completed. The Affected Licensee shall record the Suspension on its Subscriber Database.

9.3 If within nine (9) months from date of entry into force of this Regulation, the Affected Licensee fails to successfully complete the Registration Renewal Process, the Affected Licensee shall promptly Deactivate the relevant Prepaid Telecommunications Service and record the Deactivation on its Subscriber Database.

9.4 Each Affected Licensee must confirm that the Identification Credentials presented for the purposes of the Registration Renewal Process correspond to those recorded in the Subscriber Database.

9.5 The Authority shall have the right to amend the Registration Renewal Process from time to time.

10 REVALIDATION OF NATURAL PERSON, GOVERNMENT ENTITY AND COMMERCIAL ENTITY SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION

10.1 Affected Licensees shall, on a yearly basis, starting from eighteen months from the date of coming into effect of this Regulation, send an SMS to each Subscriber who is a natural person and an SMS and a letter to each Director and to each Public Officer, requiring that Subscriber, Director or Public Officer to provide within thirty days by SMS or by notice in writing the unique identification number of the Identification Credentials used for the purpose of Registration, to avoid the Deactivation of their Prepaid Telecommunications Service.

10.2 Each Affected Licensee must confirm that the unique identification number provided by the Subscriber, Director or Public Officer corresponds to the number recorded for them in the Subscriber Database.

10.3 Subject to Article 10.6, where the Subscriber, Director or Public Officer (a) fails to respond or (b) fails to provide a unique identification number which corresponds to that recorded for them in the Subscriber Database, within one month of the Affected Licensee's initial SMS, the Affected Licensee shall Suspend the Prepaid Telecommunications Service until such time as the correct details are provided. The Affected Licensee shall record the Suspension on its Subscriber Database.

10.4 If, within three months of the Affected Licensee's initial SMS, the unique identification number of the Identification Credentials used for the purpose of Registration has not been submitted by the Subscriber and confirmed by the Affected Licensee, the Affected Licensee shall promptly Deactivate the Prepaid Telecommunications Service and record the Deactivation on its Subscriber Database.

10.5 Without prejudice to the foregoing, Affected Licensees shall:

10.5.1 in relation to natural persons, not later than one month before the expiry date of the passport, visa or residence permit (or, in the case of a GCC National, the national identity card) whichever comes soonest, notify the Subscriber of his requirement to submit the renewed passport, visa or residence permit (or, in the case of a GCC National, the national identity card) for the purposes of updating the Natural Person Subscriber Information,

- 10.5.2 in relation to Commercial Entities, not later than one month before the expiry date of the Commercial Registration, notify the Commercial Entity of its requirement to submit the renewed Commercial Registration for the purposes of updating the Commercial Entity Subscriber Information;
- 10.5.3 if the relevant documents referred to in either Article 10.5.1 or 10.5.2 are not submitted before their expiry date, suspend the Prepaid Telecommunications Service until such time as the relevant documents are provided; and
- 10.5.4 if the relevant documents referred to in either Article 10.5.1 or 10.5.2 are not submitted within three (3) months of being requested, Deactivate the Prepaid Telecommunications Service and record the Deactivation on its Subscriber Database.

11 THE SUBSCRIBER DATABASE

- 11.1 All Affected Licensees shall ensure that the Verified Subscriber Information recorded pursuant to Articles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9 is retained within the Subscriber Database throughout the period during which the Prepaid Telecommunications Service is provided to the Subscriber and for one year after termination of the service.
- 11.2 Each Affected Licensee must maintain its Subscriber Database and regularly update it whenever there is a change to the Subscriber Information, or whenever there is a change to the status of the Subscriber, including but not limited to Activation, Suspension, Deactivation, transfer of the Prepaid Telecommunications Service to a third party Subscriber, replacement of the Director or the Public Officer. In particular, Affected Licensees shall update the Identification Credentials for all Subscribers upon request at any time following the completion of Registration or of the Registration Renewal Process.
- 11.3 Each Affected Licensee must provide the Authority with access to the Subscriber Database upon request, in any format that may be requested by the Authority. The Authority reserves the right to audit from time to time the Subscriber Database to verify its accuracy.
- 11.4 Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, Affected Licensees are required to submit, on a monthly basis, the following data to the Authority:
 - 11.4.1 Full list of all Subscribers;
 - 11.4.2 Details as to whether the natural person, Director or Public Officer recorded in the Subscriber Database is a GCC National or non-GCC National;
 - 11.4.3 Classification as to whether each Subscriber is a natural person, Commercial Entity or Government Entity;

- 11.4.4 Classification of all Subscribers indicating which Subscribers are active, inactive, dormant or ceased;
- 11.4.5 In respect of each SIM Card, the date of sale, date of Activation and the date of each top-up; and
- 11.4.6 Any other information that may be required from time to time by the Authority.

12 RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF PREPAID TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

- 12.1 Absent the Authority's specific approval in writing, no prepaid SIM Card shall, three months following the date of entry into force of this Regulation be sold, offered for sale or subscription except through the Outlets.
- 12.2 Affected Licensees shall ensure that within three (3) months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation, all prepaid SIM Cards that are in the possession of any Reseller of the Affected Licensees are recovered by the Affected Licensee or destroyed.
- 12.3 Affected Licensees shall, within four (4) months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation, provide a detailed record of all prepaid SIM Cards that have been recovered or destroyed including the date of destruction or recovery, the number allocated to the prepaid SIM Card, the name of the Reseller and a copy of a signed declaration from the Reseller confirming that all prepaid SIM cards in his possession have been either destroyed or recovered by the Affected Licensee.
- 12.4 Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 12.1 above, in the event that an alternative method of confirming the identity of Subscribers by electronic means is prescribed by the Authority, the Authority may, by virtue of a decision, approve a Reseller that has satisfied the requirements that may be determined by the Authority from time to time, for the purposes of selling or offering for sale prepaid SIM Cards.

13 CONFIDENTIALITY OF SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION

- 13.1 Affected Licensees shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of the Subscriber Information obtained in the process of implementing this Regulation. Disclosure of Subscriber Information shall only be permitted in accordance with the Laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain, including to any security organ in accordance with Article 78 of the Telecommunications Law.

14 ENFORCEMENT, SUSPENSION AND DEACTIVATION

- 14.1 This Regulation is issued pursuant to Article 3(c)(1) and Article 78 of the Telecommunications Law, which grants the Authority the right to issue Regulations with respect to Licensees meeting their obligations under the Telecommunications Law.

- 14.2 Without Prejudice to the Authority's powers to ensure compliance with this Regulation pursuant to the powers conferred on it by the Telecommunications Law, Affected Licensees shall comply immediately with any emergency order issued by the Authority to take remedial action to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Regulation, including but not limited to an order to Suspend or Deactivate any Subscriber(s) for any reason whatsoever provided that the Authority shall use such powers in a non-discretionary manner and such emergency order shall be based on the written signed request of a high ranking officer, not below the rank of a director, of a law enforcement agency of the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- 14.3 Affected Licensees shall Deactivate the Prepaid Telecommunications Service of a Subscriber if the Affected Licensee has reasonable grounds to suspect that the Identification Credentials submitted by the Subscriber are false.
- 14.4 Affected Licensees shall ensure that any prepaid SIM Card that is reported as lost or stolen shall be promptly Suspended. If, upon the expiry of 30 days the Subscriber has not confirmed that the prepaid SIM Card has been recovered, then the Affected Licensee shall Deactivate the Prepaid Telecommunications Service attributable to that SIM Card.
- 14.5 Upon the Deactivation of a Prepaid Telecommunications Service the Affected Licensee is entitled to reuse the number associated with that Subscriber's Deactivated Prepaid Telecommunications Service without further notice.
- 14.6 Without prejudice to the foregoing, if it is determined by the Authority that Registration, Verification or Activation has not been carried out in accordance with this Regulation or is otherwise incorrect, or that the Subscriber Database is incorrect or that any data provided by an Affected Licensee pursuant to the provisions of this Regulation is incorrect or has been manipulated, the Authority may deem the Affected Licensee to be in breach of this Regulation and issue an Article 35 Order including the imposition of an appropriate fine.

15 **ENTRY INTO FORCE**

- 15.1 This Regulation will enter into force on the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

ANNEX 2

The Prepaid Telecommunications Services Registration Regulation List of questions contained in the Consultation Document

1 ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 Do you consider the definitions of Article 1 of the New Regulation sufficient? If not, please give reasons and state which terms you think should be added or omitted.

2 ARTICLE 2: SCOPE

- 2.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 2 of the New Regulation? If not, please provide reasoning as to what you do not agree with and why.

3 ARTICLE 3: REGISTRATION OF SUBSCRIBERS WHO ARE NATURAL PERSONS

- 3.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 3? In particular:

- 3.1.1 Do you consider that any of the Natural Person Identification Credentials should be omitted from Articles 3.1, 3.2 and/or 3.3? If so, why?
- 3.1.2 Do you consider that any other form of document should be included within the scope of Articles 3.1, 3.2 and/or 3.3? If so, which documents would you wish to include and why?
- 3.1.3 Do you agree with the limit on the number of Prepaid Telecommunications Services? If not, please state why.

4 ARTICLE 4: VERIFICATION OF SUBSCRIBERS WHO ARE NATURAL PERSONS

- 4.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 4? If not, please give reasons as to why.

5 ARTICLE 5: REGISTRATION OF SUBSCRIBERS THAT ARE COMMERCIAL ENTITIES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

- 5.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 5? In particular:

- 5.1.1 Do you agree with the requirement for Affected Licensees to secure the proposed details of the Commercial or Government Entities? If not, please give your reasons.

5.1.2 Do you agree with the limits on the number of Prepaid Telecommunications Services that can be registered to one and the same Commercial Entity and/or Government Entity? If not, please give your reasons.

6 **ARTICLE 6: VERIFICATION OF SUBSCRIBERS THAT ARE COMMERCIAL OR GOVERNMENT ENTITIES**

6.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 6? If not, please give reasons as to why.

7 **ARTICLE 7: ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF VERIFICATION**

7.1 **Question:** Do you agree with the provisions of Article 7? If not, please give reasons as to why.

8 **ARTICLE 8: ACTIVATION**

8.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 8? If not, please give reasons as to why.

9 **ARTICLE 9: REGISTRATION RENEWAL**

9.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 9? In particular:

9.1.1 Do you agree with the time limits within which the Affected Licensees are required to secure the proposed details of the natural person, Commercial and/or Government Entities? If not, please give your reasons.

9.1.2 Do you agree with the time limits relating to the deactivation of a Prepaid Telecommunication Service if the Registration Renewal Process is not successfully completed?

10 **ARTICLE 10: REVALIDATION OF NATURAL PERSON, GOVERNMENT ENTITY AND COMMERCIAL ENTITY SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION**

10.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 10? If not, please give reasons as to why.

11 **ARTICLE 11: THE SUBSCRIBER DATABASE**

11.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 13? If not, please give reasons as to why.

12 **ARTICLE 12: RESTRICTIONS ON THE SALE OF PREPAID TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

12.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 12? If not, please give reasons as to why.

13 **ARTICLE 13: CONFIDENTIALITY OF SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION**

13.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 13? If not, please give reasons as to why.

14 **ARTICLE 14: ENFORCEMENT, SUSPENSION AND DEACTIVATION**

14.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 14? If not, please give reasons as to why.

15 **ARTICLE 15: ENTRY INTO FORCE**

15.1 Do you agree with the provisions of Article 15? If not, please give reasons as to why.

16 **GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

16.1 What other issues do you think should be included in, or excluded from, the New Regulation? Please support your comments with detailed reasoning.