

Information note to the Press (Press Release No.101/2017)

For Immediate release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI releases Recommendations on 'Ease of Doing Telecom Business'

New Delhi, 30th November, 2017- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued its Recommendations on 'Ease of Doing Telecom Business'.

2. Promoting "Ease of doing business" is essential for unhindered growth of the telecom sector and is amongst the priorities of the Government. A number of steps have already been taken for ease of doing telecom business by the Government, generally on the recommendations of TRAI. With the change in the policies over a period of time or with the technological development, there could be some processes, which may have become redundant or may be executed in an efficient and transparent way.

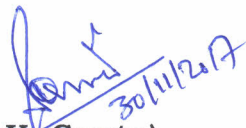
3. In this background, TRAI, *suo motu*, issued a paper on 14th March 2017 requesting the stakeholders to review the existing processes and identify the bottlenecks, obstacles or hindrances that are making it difficult to do telecom business in India and thus, require regulatory intervention. Based on the inputs received from various stakeholders and internal analysis, draft recommendations were framed and uploaded on TRAI website on 19th September 2017, seeking comments of the stakeholders. Based on the comments received from the stakeholders and further analysis, TRAI has finalized its recommendations. Some of the key recommendations are:

- a) The entire process of SACFA clearance as well as grant of all licences/approvals, that are issued by WPC, should be made paper-less and executed end-to-end through online portal.
- b) There should be a defined time-line not exceeding 30 days within which an Import Licence should be granted and the same may be declared in the portal as well as in the Citizen's Charter.
- c) DoT should spell out a definite timeline, not exceeding 30 days post NCLT approval, for providing written approval to transfer/merger of licences by the Licensor and it should be made a part of the M&A Guidelines.



- d) If the merger results in excess spectrum holding beyond permissible spectrum cap, the transferee company/resultant entity should be given an option to either surrender or trade its spectrum holding, within the stipulated period of one year.
- e) Spectrum trading should be permitted in all the access spectrum bands which have been put to auction. The permissible block size for trading in a band should be same as specified in the NIA for the latest auction held.
- f) The TSPs should be charged for roll-out obligations test fee only for the DHQs/ BHQs/ SDCAs which are actually tested by TERM Cells.
- g) Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) for a particular phase of roll-out obligations should be released after successful certification by TERM Cell. If TERM Cell fails to submit its report within 12 months after the date of offer, PBG should not be held back on account of pendency of testing. Further, DoT should review the process adopted by CCA for the refund of bank guarantee and should ensure that CCA do not take more than 30 days for the release of bank guarantee.
- h) DoT should devise a suitable matrix, linking the penalty to the severity of the incident and recurrence of the violation for imposition of financial penalties.

4. For any clarification/information, Shri S. T. Abbas, Advisor (Networks, Spectrum and Licensing) may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23210481 or e-mail advmn@traf.gov.in.


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