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THE ELECTRONIC AND POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS ACT

(CAP.306)

**REGULATIONS**

*(Made under Sections 165)*

THE ELECTRONIC AND POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS (CENTRAL EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION REGISTERS) REGULATIONS, 2011

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PART I  
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

- Citation                    1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electronic and Postal Communications (Central Equipment Identification Register) Regulations, 2011.
- Application                2. These Regulations shall apply to network service licensees who offer mobile services.
- Interpretation            3. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:-
- Cap.306                    “Act” means the Electronic and Postal Communications Act;  
                                  “administration services” means the services related to the process of whitelisting, greylisting and blacklisting of IMEI or ESN between network service licensees and CEIR;
- Cap.172                    “Authority” means the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority established under the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act;  
                                  “blacklist” means all IMEI or ESN is reported as lost, stolen or destroyed;

“blacklisting” means to render a mobile telephone inactive by any mobile cellular operator, and to deliberately disable any access which any person in control of the said mobile telephone may have, to any of the network services licensees;

“Call Data Records” “in its abbreviation CDR” means subscribers records with detailed call history for a specific period;

“Central Equipment Identification Register” “in its abbreviation CEIR” means a shared electronic database of all Equipment Identification Registers of all network service licensees, which holds unique pairs of phone numbers and IMEIs or ESNs in form of three lists, namely white list, black list and grey list;

“colour lists” means white, grey and black lists;

“data” means the information to be shared between the CEIR and the network service licensees on IMEI information of stolen or lost equipment;

“equipment” means mobile telephone as identified uniquely by its IMEI or ESNs;

“Equipment Identification Register” “in its abbreviation EIR” means an electronic database which holds unique pairs of phone numbers and IMEIs or ESNs in form of three lists white list, black list and grey list as available within the infrastructure of the network service licensee;

“Electronic Serial Number” “in its abbreviation ESN” means a unique code or number used by electronic communications network to identify an individual electronic communications equipment;

“electronic communication” means radio communication or, as appropriate, the communication of information in the form of the electronic speech or other sound, data, text or images, by means of guided and unguided

- electromagnetic energy;
- “electronic communications network” means any network that enables or facilitates the provision of an electronic communications service;
- “electronic communication facility” means any facility used or intended to be used for electronic communication;
- “electronic communication number” means the number, sign or other mark which a network service licensee in its delivery of electronic communication services uses for identification of electronic communication facilities in order to connect between the place of transmission and the place of reception, or for identification of the type of content of transmission the electronic communication facility is to deliver;
- “grey list” means IMEI or ESN entries that are temporary blocked or temporary allowed;
- “IMEI or ESN flushing” means re-programming of the mobile device with aim to give a new identity other than its original;
- “information” means lost IMEI or ESN of mobile telephone and CDR;
- “International Mobile Equipment Identification “in its abbreviation IMEI” means a unique code used to identify an individual mobile telephone in Global Systems for Mobile communications networks;
- “national numbering plan” means a scheme of identification prescribed by the Authority for ensuring that electronic communications services are correctly and efficiently directed to their intended points of reception;
- “network service” means a service for the carrying of information in the form of speech or other sound, data, text or images by means of guided or unguided electromagnetic energy but does not include services provided solely on the customer side of the network

- boundary;
- “Network Service Licensee” means a holder of a network service licence;
- “Report Book” “in its abbreviation RB” means the report as applied to the procedures of the Tanzania Police Force which include the reference number for reported lost, found or damaged telephone;;
- “subscriber” means a person who receives a network service under an agreement with or pursuant to terms and conditions established by a network service licensee;
- “white list” means any unique pairs of subscriber number and IMEI numbers as captured by a licensee of electronic communication service where IME or ESN is not in the black list;
- “whitelisting” means to activate a new or re-activate a once stolen or lost mobile telephone for accessing network services of the network services licensees after the said mobile telephone has been recovered.

**PART II**  
**THE EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION REGISTERS**

Powers of the Authority

4. The Authority shall maintain and control the Central Equipment Identification Register (CEIR) by-
- (a) ensuring that it is kept up-to-date all the time;
  - (b) ensuring that it is in-line with the national electronic communication numbering register; and
  - (c) ensuring that all IMEI or ESNs entries are maintained.

Establishment of EIRs and network licensee obligations

5.-(1) Each network service licensee shall set-up an internal Equipment Identification Register (EIR) at their own cost by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

(2) Any network service licensees shall at all the times submit their EIR colour lists to the CEIR.

Means of connection to the CEIR

6. A Network service licensee shall connect their EIRs to the CEIR using the appropriate, secured protocol and facilities.

Access to CEIR

7.-(1) The CEIR operator shall have full access to its operations;

(2) Network licensee shall have access to CEIR for data read only.

**PART III  
EQUIPMENT BLACKLISTING PROCEDURES AND  
ASSOCIATED CHARGES**

Formation of Damaged, Lost and Found Desk

8. There shall be established a dedicated Damaged, Lost and Found Desk at designated police stations to determined by the Authority.

Reporting Procedures for Lost Mobile Equipment

9.-(1) A subscriber who has lost or his mobile telephone by reason of being stolen, shall be required to report to the police station for issuance of RB and notify the relevant network service licensee for blocking the SIM card from any further use.

(2) The subscriber shall then report the stolen or lost phone to the network service licensee where he will be furnished with Blacklisting Reference Number (BRN).

(3) Once reported, the respective network service licensee shall blacklist the reported stolen or lost equipment through own EIR and automatically share the updated list to the CEIR;

(4) CEIR shall then automatically broadcast the IMEI or ESN in question to all other EIRs for blacklisting.

Status of  
Blacklisted  
Equipment

10. Any blacklisted equipment shall remain unusable to any network service licensee that uses CEIR unless reported otherwise by police.

Reporting  
Procedures  
for Lost and  
Found  
Equipment

11.-(1) If a lost mobile phone is recovered it shall be reported to police;  
(2) The police shall immediately issue an RB or other written proof to the person reporting the found equipment.  
(3) Once under Lost and Found Desk, police shall report the same to the CEIR operator for white listing.  
(4) The CEIR operator shall automatically broadcast the IMEI or ESN of the lost and found mobile equipment to all network service licensees (connected to the CEIR) for white listing.

Reporting  
Procedures  
for Damaged  
Mobile  
Equipment

12.-(1) Any subscriber whose mobile telephone has been damaged beyond repair shall report the same to Damaged, Lost and Found Desk as operated by police for disposal procedures.  
(2) The disposal procedures shall be done according to the directives of the agency responsible for environmental management.

Charges on  
Lost and/or  
found  
equipment

13.-(1) A network service licensee shall not charge its subscribers on reporting stolen, damaged or lost mobile telephone.  
(2) A police shall not impose any charge to any subscriber or person reporting stolen, lost, damaged or recovered mobile telephone nor to the owner on collecting recovered mobile telephone.



**PART IV  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Non-discrimination treatment

14.-(1) The network service licensee whose subscriber reports for any stolen, lost or damaged telephone equipment shall block such an equipment from accessing its network on a non-discriminatory treatment and shall communicate the same to CEIR.

(2) Other network service licensees shall ensure non-discriminatory treatment on blacklisting mobile telephones as relayed through CEIR.

(3) It is the responsibility of each operator to ensure that the reason for blacklisting of handset is valid and in accordance with the laid down procedures.

(4) Once reported for blacklisting the network service licensee shall effect blocking of the reported mobile telephone within twenty four hours.

Compliance and Penalty

15. Any network service licensee who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations commits an offence and shall be liable to a fine not less than five million Tanzania shillings or imprisonment term of not less than twelve months or to both.

Dar es Salaam  
29 November, 2011

**MAKAME M. MBARAWA**  
*Minister for Communications,  
Science and Technology*