



PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPLEMENTATION OF TYPE APPROVAL REGULATIONS

The Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) hereby notifies the public that it intends to start implementing the Communications (Electronic Equipment) (Type Approval) Regulations 2023. These Regulations, on recommendation from MACRA, were promulgated by the Honourable Minister of Information and Digitalization on the 26th of January 2023 under section 200 of the Communications Act (Cap 68:01 of the Laws of Malawi). The recommendation was made following extensive stakeholder consultations done by MACRA when developing the Regulations.

MACRA's general mandate under the Communications Act is to regulate and monitor the provision of communication services in Malawi. The Act requires MACRA to establish a type approval regime for terminal equipment and other electronic equipment.

Type approval is a procedure where MACRA certifies the acceptability of an electronic equipment or product based on conformity of the equipment or the product to minimum regulatory technical and safety requirements before the equipment or the product is used. Through the type approval process, MACRA ensures that electronic equipment meets applicable standards, to ensure interoperability of communication networks and equipment and to protect public health.

The Communications (Electronic Equipment) (Type Approval) Regulations will complement the Act and provide for processes for type approval of electronic equipment by MACRA. These Regulations are designed to achieve several key objectives, including:

- (a) Establishment of a comprehensive type approval framework;
 - (b) Protection of the integrity of public communication networks;
 - (c) Safeguarding the interests of consumers and suppliers of electronic communication services;
 - (d) Avoidance of harmful interference with other communication systems;
- and

- (e) Specification of the fee structure associated with equipment type approval.

In line with the forthcoming implementation of these Regulations, MACRA wishes to bring to attention some of the requirements that have been introduced:

- i. Importers, distributors, and suppliers of electronic equipment will be required to obtain a Dealership Registration Certificate from MACRA to engage in the trade of such equipment.
- ii. Type-approved equipment must be clearly labelled as such, indicating compliance with MACRA's Regulations.
- iii. MACRA will be conducting rigorous market surveillance on type-approved equipment to ensure continued compliance with regulatory standards.

MACRA emphasizes its commitment to fostering a robust regulatory environment that ensures the quality, safety, and interoperability of electronic equipment within Malawi's communication networks. All stakeholders are urged to familiarize themselves with the Communications (Electronic Equipment) (Type Approval) Regulations and comply with the stipulated requirements to facilitate a smooth transition to the new regulatory framework.

For further information and inquiries contact: dg@macra.mw

Signed this day of 10th April 2024



Daud Suleman
DIRECTOR GENERAL