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NEW RULES FOR CUSTOMER PREMISES CABLING



NEW RULES

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NEW RULES PROPOSED FOR CUSTOMER PREMISES CABLING: CA

Proposed new rules for telecommunications customer premises cabling products and wiring have been released for public consultation by the Communications Alliance.

CA says proposed revisions include safeguards for the distribution of hazardous voltages over communications cabling – “an important step, given the growing trend toward communications cables also being used to carry electrical power”.



New provisions also cater to what it says is the explosive growth of connected devices in Australian homes and businesses – "Smart Homes" exploiting the "Internet of Things".

The revised draft standards are AS/CS S008 Requirements for Customer Cabling Products and AS/CA

S009 Installation Requirements for Customer Cabling (Wiring Rules).

The standards have been the backbone of the cabling industry in Australia for several decades and the standards aim to set out the minimum requirements to ensure:

- The safety and integrity of a cabling installation in customer premises and of the telecommunications network to which it is connected; and
- That cabling products used in Australia are fit for purpose.

The Standards are enforced by the Australian Communications and Media Authority .

CA says the nation's 70,000 registered cablers treat The Standards as their cabling "Bible".

In 2017, Communications Alliance invited representatives from the industry and the ACMA to review the standard and to verify whether it continues to fulfil its purpose under the regulatory compliance arrangements.

Communications Alliance chief executive John Stanton said the review process was extensive and benefitted from expert input from more than 20 stakeholder organisations and individuals across the communications and broader industry.

“The cabling sector touches the lives of every Australian and it is important that Standards remain ‘fit for purpose’, particularly as new technologies and connected solutions change the face of cabling and networks,” he said.

The Working Committee responsible for the revision was chaired by Murray Teale from VTI Services and has drawn upon the most currently available cabling industry information to review and update the two standards.

CA notes that one of the fundamental aims of the standards is to prevent the exposure of telecommunications service provider employees, cabling providers, customers or other persons to hazardous voltages.

The Draft Standards propose new and revised requirements in a number of key areas, including:

- A new three-stage classification system or "hazards-based standard engineering" approach against potentially increasing risks from rising energy levels in cables, and safeguards between hazardous energy sources and body parts;
- New voltage and amperage limits on electrical circuits that can be carried over generic customer cabling;
- New requirements for communications cables that are also intended to be used to carry electrical power – for example to remotely powered devices such as wireless access points, surveillance cameras, smart lighting, digital signage, building management controllers and sensors;
- New requirements to assist cablers to select cabling products that are fit for purpose for a particular installations;
- Additional rules for optical fibre systems to guard against laser hazards that can be associated with optical fibre systems;
- Incorporation of elements of the National Construction Code relating to cable flammability and ‘fire-stopping’ to help inhibit the propagation of fire; and
- New rules for pit and access hole products, with the aim of improving public safety through a reduction in the number of trip hazards.

The draft Standards are available from the [public comment area](#) of the [Communications Alliance website](#), with comments on the draft to be submitted by a closing date of 24 May.

Peter Dinham

TELSTRA WINS RIGHTS TO BELONG TRADEMARK AFTER COURT CASE

Australia's biggest telco Telstra has prevailed in a Federal Court trademark case against an energy firm known as Belong Energy which was founded late in 2018.

Telstra set up a low-cost Internet service provider under the name Belong in 2013, offering two ADSL+ plans at the time.

It now offers both NBN and mobile plans, geared towards users whose demands are moderate.



The court told Belong Energy, which is based in the Melbourne suburb of Footscray, to cancel belongenergy, its registered business name, [according to](#) the Domainer website.

The company will also have to transfer the domain names belong.energy and belongenergy.com.au to Telstra.

There are a number of other domains which contain the word "belong" like

belong.net.au which is owned by Credit Union Australia, and belong.org.au which is owned by Acacia Ridge Community Support.

The two companies — Telstra's Belong and Belong Energy — offer products that could not be confused with each other and in the past such bids to take over a trading name have been rebuffed.

For example, Microsoft [filed an objection](#) with the Registrar of Trade Marks on 22 September 1995, protesting against the use of the word Microsoft by a company that made pillows.

This was rejected in 1997 and Purax Feather Holdings was allowed to hold the trademark for its range of goods.

CommsWire contacted Belong Energy this morning to find out what name it intended to adopt for its business and website.

The company is yet to respond.

Peter Dinham



John de Ridder

Telecommunications Economist

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OMBUDSMAN TO SET UP SMALL BUSINESS COMPLAINTS TEAM

The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) is no April fool – it's setting up a specialist team to handle small business complaints, effective 1 April 2019.

The [TIO](#) has become an essential tool for consumers and small businesses to reach satisfactory outcomes in disputes with recalcitrant telcos, ISPs and RSPs.

Ombudsman Judi Jones has recognised the growing number of complaints from small businesses as well as the impact that disputes can have on these businesses.



So on 1 April 2019, the TIO will form a small business team to handle complaints from this sector of the economy.

"Small businesses are relying more than ever before on phone and Internet services to be accessible, be informed, and to do business.

"It is critical they are able to rely on the phone and

Internet services they sign up for, and to have access to a free, independent, and effective complaint resolution service when their complaint is unresolved," said Jones.

Assistant ombudsman of dispute resolution Jillian Brewer said, "Resolving small business complaints can involve complex phone, internet and equipment setups, and an understanding of how these issues impact business loss.

"The Small Business Team will deliver a dispute resolution service that is responsive to the high impact phone and Internet problems can have on the day to day operations of small businesses."

Complaints to the TIO from small businesses increased by 8.7% in 2017/18.

The TIO considers small businesses to be those with up to 20 full-time employees and \$3 million annual turnover, though these limits can be varied according to the nature of the business, its structure, and whether the issue in dispute is typical of a small business.

The major issues contributing to the increase were no action or delayed action by service providers to resolve phone or Internet problems, and disputed charges for services or equipment.

Stephen Withers

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ERICSSON WINS 5G COMMERCIAL DEAL WITH SOUTH KOREAN TELCO

South Korean telco KT — formerly known as Korea Telecom — has awarded Swedish telecommunications equipment maker Ericsson a 5G commercial contract to enable the nationwide launch of commercial 5G services in South Korea starting early in April 2019.

South Korean operators have joined forces to target early April 2019 as the go-live date for what Ericsson says will be the world's first nationwide provision of 5G commercial services in time to support commercially available 5G smartphones. KT's planned nationwide 5G network plays a central role.

Under this initial commercial contract — the first since Ericsson was selected as a 5G supplier to KT in November 2018 — Ericsson is providing 3GPP standards-based 5G New Radio hardware and software from Ericsson's complete 5G platform to cover KT's 3.5 GHz Non-Standalone (NSA) network.

According to a statement from Ericsson issued on Thursday, South Korean consumers are known as early adopters of technology such as advances in mobility, gaming, streaming, infotainment, and interactive functionality.

The company said KT subscribers, with 5G smartphones, were set to be among the first globally to benefit from the enhanced mobile broadband enabled by 5G through ultra-low latency user experiences.

In addition to immersive media, KT's 5G commercialisation use case plans covers smart factories, safety, drones and connected vehicles.

Ericsson says its 5G network can also enable KT to open up Internet of Things and Industry 4.0 opportunities to South Korean enterprises on a global scale.

Jinho Choi, vice-president, Access Network Design, KT, said: "Having worked successfully with Ericsson on 4G LTE, we are pleased to continue that partnership to make our 5G ambitions a reality with Ericsson's leading 5G technology.

"South Korea is one of the most competitive and technology-advanced markets in the world.

"By taking a global lead to enable nationwide commercial 5G services through commercially available 5G smartphones, KT is demonstrating our commitment to our customers and showing how we can drive a global 5G ecosystem where Korea plays a key role."

Patrick Johansson, head of Ericsson South Korea, said: "We've worked with KT for many years to bring the very best mobile user experiences to its customers.

"Notably on 5G, we worked closely together to show the world what 5G could do during a major global winter sports event in 2018.

"With 5G we aim to help KT to take their customers' experiences to new levels."

Peter Dinham

CONTENT BLOCK IF IT VIOLATES ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY: AKAMAI

American content delivery network and cloud service provider Akamai says it would immediately block access to offensive content like child pornography stored by a customer if it deems this to be in violation of its acceptable use policy.

The company was asked what process it would adopt if it found that any of its clients were storing child pornography images on their servers.

The inquiry was made in the wake of an *iTWire* [story](#) about reverse proxy and DDoS protection provider Cloudflare saying that it would not stop providing services to a client even if it had clear indications that the site in question was hosting child pornography. The company said it had a process it would follow and it would not act out of step.

Following the massacre of 50 Muslims by a white supremacist in New Zealand last week, British security expert Kevin Beaumont had pointed out that Cloudflare was providing services to the website 8chan where users store images of child porn.

Akamai did not provide a statement, but pointed to its AUP, citing the last section as having relevance to the query posed by iTWire.

According to this policy, customers have to take action if they discover "inappropriate and illegal content" and prevent it being routed to, passed through or stored on the Akamai network.

The company said it reserved the right to terminate or suspend services to such clients if continuing to provide services violated existing law or harmed its network, services or other customers.

Part of the AUP reads: "Akamai also reserves the right to co-operate with legal authorities and third parties in the investigation of alleged wrongdoing, including disclosing the identity of the party that Akamai deems responsible for the wrongdoing.

"Akamai will endeavour to provide notice to [the] customer prior to suspension or termination of Akamai services but may immediately suspend or terminate in instances where continued provision of services would have a material adverse effect on Akamai.

"Akamai shall not be liable for any damages of any nature suffered by any customer, user, or any third party resulting in whole or in part from Akamai's exercise of its rights under this AUP."

Sam Varghese

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