

Health Risks of ICTs and Importance of Compliance Marks

The health risks of using Information Communication Technology (ICT) are a concern to some citizens who have raised this to TRBR staff on numerous occasions. This mainly comes from individuals, consumers and consumer groups. The fact that ICT devices and products emit certain levels of radiation have been used by some ICT critics to implant fear and/or cause concern in the lives of people. It should firstly be noted that through a multitude of research conducted to date, over many years, and in many countries, so far NONE have established ANY concrete fact that the use of ICTs, particularly their radio signal emissions, are a health hazard

This particularly applies to mobile phones.

Similarly, it should be noted that all genuine ICT devices are manufactured in factories according to high industry standards and specifications employing strict quality control processes. An important part of the manufacturing process is testing, where the emission rate of radiation from an ICT device is tested against industry's safe human (tissue) absorption levels.

Products tested and found to be safe for human use are certified and given a compliance mark(s), and made available on the market. Products that have failed the test requirements are withheld and are not allowed into the market.

It should also be noted that even with this process in place, unscrupulous businesses do exist, and are involved in manufacturing fake products and devices. Many of these fake products are prevalent in a lot of markets and the Vanuatu market is no exception.

Even though compliance mechanisms are in place, the Vanuatu legal framework is currently unable to stop this and, as such, consumers need to protect themselves by ensuring that they purchase and use genuine products only. Fake products are somewhat hard to identify. However, there are tell-tale signs that can be picked up if consumers take the time to look closely.

For example, unusually cheap prices for well-known brands and lookalikes of well-known high quality brands in one shop compared to a much dearer price tag of the genuine brands in another shop. While TRBR encourages and strongly recommends suppliers to only import, sell or use equipment that bears any of the compliance marks shown below, it is advisable for a consumer to always check and look for a compliance mark when purchasing any equipment; e.g. a mobile phone, etc.



FACT SHEET 1

TRBR is here to help you



There are a number of things a consumer can do to ensure products and devices purchased are genuine, including buying from reputable shops, but the best and surest way of ensuring a product is genuine is through compliance marks. These marks are usually located at the back, or on the inside of casings, on batteries and in such places on the devices. A quick check will reveal these marks.

Below the page is a list of common international compliance marks which are used by Testing and Certification Institutes, whose requirements are met thus, certifying a product as genuine

EMC Compliance			Environmental Compliance		
Shortband	Compliance Mark	Compliance with requirements of:	Shortband	Compliance Mark	Compliance with requirements of:
CE		Directives issued by the European Commission	A-Tick		Australia
GS		GS Mark Germany Europe	HKSI		Hong Kong Safety Institute Mark also Hong Kong Safety Mark
FCC		Federal Communications Commission (FCC) (USA)	S		S-Mark. Europe
C-Tick		Australian and NZ C-tick	KC		KC Mark will replace the old eK Mark in RoK
VCCI		Japan's VCCI Mark	CCC		China compulsory Certification (CCC) Mark
PSB		Singapore Safety Authority, Productivity and Standards Board.	KCC/ MIC		Ministry of Communications (RoK)
MIC		South Korean Ministry of Information and Communications.	UL		North American Product Safety
BSMI		Taiwanese Bureau of Standards, Metrology and inspection.	Demko or VDE		European Union Product Safety
HKSI		Hong Kong Safety Institute Mark	Ex		European Union Hazardous Locations
eK		South Korea. eK Mark	LR		Marine Approval (Lloyd Register)
KCC/ MIC		Ministry of Communications (RoK)	WEEE		Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directives
LR		Marine Approval (Lloyd Register)	RoHS		RoHS Directives. (Restriction of Hazardous Substance)
			ISO 9001/14001		Quality/Environmental Management System



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