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DIGITALEUROPE response on Compulsory Registration Order Extension to 15 more Categories

DIGITALEUROPE would like to contribute views and suggestions on the recent Gazette notification of 7th November 2014 on the extension of the CRO to a further 15 categories by the Department of Electronics & information Technology, Government of India.

While the industry appreciates the efforts made by the DeitY, we see scope for improving the process of registration and aligning to global norms in this sector. There are opportunities for DeitY to ensure that regulations like CRO provide a platform for all stakeholders to achieve the intended benefits.

We recommend CB test reports be allowed to be accepted as an mutual recognition option to the In-country BIS test lab reports as part of the CRO registration process towards issue of the BIS approval. Also only Safety testing be asked for against India standard or equivalent global standard, given its relevance to safety of the end consumer

Moreover we encourage DeitY to revisit the timeline of the CRO expansion for all of the products listed in the Notification, DIGITALEUROPE believes that the proposed transition period of six months is too short. Our concern is that requiring component level approvals for products such as power adapters, batteries, UPS, etc. before system level approvals are granted will effectively result in a bottleneck and prevent products from entering the Indian market. If DeitY intends to enforce using BIS certified components in host products, we expect that a transition period much longer than six months is needed to allow local labs to deal with the surge in test and registration activity. Without such an extension we expect that many of these products would not be available for the India market due to delays in BIS registrations of these components (battery, adaptors)

Factory Registration

Introducing the product to the Indian market aligned with global timings is the goal. In this context the role of the industry and test labs becomes critical. DietY should ensure that products are able to reach the markets in a specified timeframe.

A suggestion for reducing the time, the liability for the products safety should be on the brand and not on the manufacturing factory. We feel it best for the brand owner be provided with BIS registration and not the factories. This would avoid repetitive process of testing of the same sample / product across factories and hence will also align BIS/DeitY process with prevailing global norms, this also significantly reduces compliance cost for the industry which ultimately gets passed on to the end customer. Once a brand is approved that approval shall be valid for three years.

Testing

Suggestion for the systemic improvements in terms of the implementation framework is always welcome. As India is an IECEE CB Member, BIS may also consider evaluating and accrediting foreign labs who have requested BIS or shall request BIS, for accreditation of their labs. With this it reduces the bottle neck at test labs, and allows industry have more options of the labs and it also saves time for the industry and eliminates duplicate testing given the additional items into recent CRO list, this will also align India systems with global practices. On a mutual recognition basis, the test reports generated by the BIS accredited labs globally, be acceptable for the reasons stated above.

Labeling

E-labeling may be allowed as an option for the labeling, This is inline with international norms, and the local Department of Telecommunications SAR regulation DOT Notification No. 18-10/2008. This is particularly more beneficial and informative to the consumer as they have a better understanding of the significance of the marking. This is similar to as existing in many regions, like: US, Canada, South Africa, United Arab Emirates.

There should be one registration number for the host product e.g Mobile handset, Notebook/tablet sold, as packaged box along with battery and charger included, rather than separate registration for the Mobile handset, battery and charger in the same sealed box.

Similarly when phones are sold with battery integrated into it, it should be single testing and one registration number for the entire packaged product.

It is very cumbersome to have labeling for small electronic products on the device as such and thus could be asked for on the box/ outer packaging of the product and not on the products, and this is in alignment with the global practices.

We understand BIS is in the process of introducing a logo to replace the statement. We welcome this initiative by BIS. We encourage this process and should be fast tracked allowing early adoption for industry to develop artwork to be ready for the extended CRO products

Power Adapters and Batteries

According to global norms for the ICT industry, power adapters and batteries for portable applications are considered to be components of their host products. As such, they can be treated as “critical components,” and we believe they should be eligible for approval under the CRO based on an IECEE CB test report, without any additional testing by a BIS recognized lab (per DeitY FAQ #27, #49).

We recommend that for host devices including notebook computers, Tablets Mobile phones a single registration label on the package should suffice for the notebook system itself and not require separate registration labels for the notebook, the adapter, and the battery, respectively. This single label approach will avoid overly complex requirements for creating packaging labels for every host-component combination.

We recommend only in the case where the power adapter or battery is to be sold as a stand-alone product in India (as an after-market accessory) should DeitY require the product to have its own registration and be labeled accordingly, Where the manufacturer/supplier can demonstrate power adapters or batteries are entering the market as spares or service replacements, while linking those components to the list under the original host device registration, these units should be allowed to proceed without additional registration. We would welcome the opportunity to work with DeitY and BIS to define a mechanism to differentiate between these two kinds of imports. This mechanism works well in other markets and simply needs to be aligned to Indian ecosystem.

Digital Europe also seeks further clarification regarding registration for adapters and batteries:

- India’s standard for battery safety, IS16046:2012 appears to be based on IEC 62133:2002. However, this standard is now in its second edition (published in 2012). Will the referenced IS be reflect in the latest IEC standard?
- Will host products that are currently registered and utilize unregistered component batteries or adapters be exempted (“grandfathered”) or will they be stopped at customs the date of the notification is enforced?
- Will the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) revise their system testing description if DeitY is are now going to require separate registrations on batteries, adapters, etc.? Currently, when a notebook computer is evaluated, there are already tests performed involving batteries and adapters. Duplicate testing of registered adapters and batteries must be avoided.

Mobile Phones

Digital Europe requests that DeitY provide additional details regarding requirements under the CRO for mobile phones. This to include -

- In line with prevailing global practices in other markets mobile phone with battery integrated (not user removable or replaceable), need to be treated as one integrated unit and hence one CRO testing and one registration number for composite unit. As an option to CRO in country testing global CB test report to be accepted for granting CRO number.

- Mobile phone power sources shall be treated as critical components of the system and shall accept the CB test report (per DeitY FAQ #27, #49). This will facilitate one CRO registration number for the Mobile phone as a system.
- The shelf life of the handsets in general is short and the time to announce and actual launch is also very minimum. Hence there should be a provisional acceptance and certification granted to the Mobile handsets or a deemed approval within 5-7 working days be granted to Mobile Handsets.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

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ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies.

DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies. DIGITALEUROPE's members include 59 corporate members and 36 national trade associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

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