

Date:25/4/2016

To,
Mr. S.K.Singhal
Advisor
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan,
Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, (Old Minto Road),
New Delhi-110002.

Dear Sir,

Subject: Comments on Draft Regulations on **THE REGISTER OF INTERCONNECT AGREEMENTS (BROADCASTING AND CABLE SERVICES) REGULATIONS, 2016**

Please find our brief response on the above subject.
We request a detailed discussion alongwith stakeholders on same

Yours Faithfully,

For INDUSIND MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS LTD.

Subhashish Mazumdar

Authorized Signatory

IMCL Response on Draft Regulations of :

THE REGISTER OF INTERCONNECT AGREEMENTS (BROADCASTING AND CABLE SERVICES) REGULATIONS, 2016

Q1. Why all information including commercial portion of register should not be made accessible to any interested stakeholders?

Response: We feel that the answer for this can be considered regarding the commercial portion between Broadcaster and MSOs, and MSOs and LCOs after the new tariff policy is formulated and the full framework is understood.

In principle a policy for same be formed under various confidential and non disclosure clauses.

We feel this can be revisited post the new tariff policy

Q2. If the commercial information is to be made accessible, (a) In which way, out of the three ways discussed above or any other way, the commercial information should be made accessible to fulfill the objective of non-discrimination? (b) Should it be accessible only to the service providers, general public or both? (c) Should any condition be imposed on the information seeker to protect the commercial interests of the service providers?

Response: Same as Answer 1, however it can be only to service providers as these are B2B (business to business) issues.

But we feel more time is required post the new tariff policy and possibly a new standard interconnect between Broadcaster and MSO

Q3. If the commercial information is not made accessible to stakeholders, then in what form the provisions under clause (vii) and (viii) of Section 11 (1) (b) of TRAI Act be implemented in broadcasting and cable sector so that the objective of non-discrimination is also met simultaneously?

Response: This is more important for MSO Broadcaster commercial information.

The LCO MSO commercials are widely known either through standard interconnection or basic sharing clauses.

For MSO Broadcaster, we feel a standard Interconnect is required and after the new tariff policy is announced by authority, this can be discussed and responded accordingly in details.

Q4. Please provide suggestions on regulation 5 of the draft regulations regarding periodicity, authentication etc.

Response: As of now , the regulations 5 of draft regulations seem to be in order, however instead of 10 days 20 days be considered.

We may still need to review once the tariff issues and Broadcaster MSO standard interconnect is updated

Q5. Please provide comments on how to ensure that service providers report accurate details in compliance of regulations?

Response: Regarding the deals taking place between an MSO and the LCOs would only be confined to the standards/ parameters which are pre-defined in MIA or the SIA going forward and their formats are already available on the website of the Authority and thus, are in public domain. In such a scenario, extracting required information only for the purpose of reporting under the proposed draft regulations from such pre-defined agreements may not be necessary.

We can examine the Broadcaster – MSO deals post the standard interconnect and new tariff policy.

Q6. Please provide comments on digitally signed method of reporting the information.

Response: This should be acceptable and regulations for digitally signed method should be promoted between MSO- LCO and also between MSO Broadcaster

7. Please provide suggestions on regulation 6 of draft regulations and also the formats given in schedules? Stakeholders can also suggest modified format for reporting to make it simple and easy to file.

Response: This again , we request to be provided post - both Tariff and MSO- Broadcaster inter connect agreement are regulated or standardized. A modified and simpler format can be considered, but needs a discussion within the stakeholders. We request time for this .

Q8. Any other suggestions relevant to the draft regulations.

Response: NA
