



NOTICE TO RECOGNISED TESTING AUTHORITIES
13 December 2018

Discontinuation of role for Recognised Testing Authorities under the Telecommunications Act 1997 (the Act) and Telecommunications (Labelling Notice for Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Instrument 2015 (TLN)

Cessation of determination by NATA of Recognised Testing Authorities

Background

Section 409 of the *Telecommunication Act 1997 (Cth)* (the Act) provides for the determination of accreditation bodies and recognised testing authorities (RTA).

409 Recognised testing authorities and competent bodies

- (1) The ACMA may, by notice published in the *Gazette*, determine that a specified person or association is an **accreditation body** for the purposes of this section. The determination has effect accordingly.
- (2) An accreditation body may, by written instrument, determine that a specified person is a **recognised testing authority** for the purposes of this Division. The determination has effect accordingly.
- (3) An accreditation body may, by written instrument, determine that a specified person or association is a **competent body** for the purposes of this Division. The determination has effect accordingly.¹

NATA was determined in 1999 as an accreditation body for the purposes of determining recognised testing authorities.

Basis for determining an RTA

Laboratories have been determined by NATA on the basis of their accreditation by:

- NATA; or
- an accreditation body which is a signatory to either the ILAC² or APLAC³ (APAC⁴) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA); and

having in their scope of accreditation one or more of the Standards for equipment listed in the TLN identified as either:

- requiring testing at compliance level 3 (2001 version of the TLN); or
- high risk (2015 version of the TLN).

Impact of changes to the Labelling Notice

Changes to the [Telecommunications \(Labelling Notice for Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling\) Instrument 2015](#) as specified in the *Telecommunications (Labelling Notice for Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Amendment Instrument 2018 (No. 1)*

¹ This provision of the Act has never been utilised.

² International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

³ Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

⁴ APLAC will become the Asia Pacific Accreditation Forum (APAC) on 1 January 2019

which was registered on the Federal Register of Legislation on 12 December 2018 means that there are no longer any requirements for a testing laboratory to be determined as an RTA.

As such, NATA has ceased to determine RTAs effective from the 12 December 2018.

Implications for all existing and applicant RTAs

Equipment identified as being high risk in the 2015 version of the TLN (as amended) will still require testing to the requirements specified.

Testing laboratories wishing to continue testing services for high risk products should maintain their accreditation by NATA or another ILAC/APLAC MRA signatory accreditation body for applicable standards identified in the TLN as required by the laboratory's customers.

For regulatory purposes, the Australian Communications and Media Authority will continue to recognise a laboratory's testing capability on the basis of their accreditation without the additional step of having to be determined by NATA.

Reporting requirements for accredited laboratories as specified in the TLN continue unchanged.

Implications for equipment manufacturers and suppliers

The requirements for all equipment to comply with the TLN continue unchanged.

Where the evidence of compliance requires testing and this is to be performed in a laboratory accredited by NATA or another ILAC/APLAC MRA signatory;

- the applicable Standard(s) specified in the TLN must appear in the laboratory's scope of accreditation;
- test reports must bear the accreditation body's 'endorsement' or approved means of showing that the testing was performed in accordance with the accreditation.

To identify appropriately accredited laboratories, the search facilities of the relevant accreditation body(ies) should be used. A listing of ILAC signatory accreditation bodies and their contact/website details is maintained on the ILAC website at <https://ilac.org/ilac-mra-and-signatories/>.

RTA List

The RTA list currently on NATA's website is now closed to new determinations as of 12 December 2018.

The list will be removed from the website on 27 January 2019.

A copy will be retained in NATA's archives for reference by the Australian Communications and Media Authority in case of disputes regarding the compliance of equipment already on the Australian market.

Enquiries

Any enquires regarding the RTA list should be directed to RTA-enquiry@nata.com.au

Any enquiries regarding the TLN or equipment requirements should be directed to info@acma.gov.au