

Information note to the Press (Press Release No.05/2017)

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI releases Recommendations on “In-Building Access by Telecom Service Providers”

New Delhi, 20th January 2017 – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued its Recommendations on **“In-Building Access by Telecom Service Providers”**.

2. An effective telecommunications infrastructure is an essential component of any building for its connectivity to the outside world. Telecommunications services such as voice, data and wideband multimedia services are indispensable in the modern society. In order to improve in-building coverage and to offer quality high data rate services, installation of in-building solutions (IBS) for wireless services and laying of cables such as copper cables, optical fibre cables (OFC), LAN cables etc. is required.

3. To lay cables or install telecom infrastructure inside the building, Telecom Service Providers (TSP)/Infrastructure Providers (IP-1) require permission of the owner of the building. However, it is seen that generally restrictive practices are adopted by building owners while giving access to the building due to commercial interests. In many cases, these owners enter into exclusive agreement with one of the TSPs for providing telecom services to dwellers and deny access to other TSPs, thus creating an artificial entry barrier for other TSPs. Such practices not only limit competition, it also leaves no choice to consumers except to avail services from the TSP with whom the contract is done; taking away choice and flexibility from the consumers which they would have had in terms of quality of service (QoS), tariff, redundancy etc.

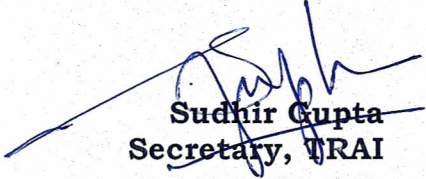
4. In view of the above, a need was felt for policy intervention and to evolve a framework applicable to in-building facilities to enable the telecom operators to obtain efficient access on reasonable terms and conditions. Therefore, the Authority, *suo-motu*, decided to initiate a consultation process on the issue. Accordingly, a Consultation Paper on “In-Building Access by Telecom Service Providers” was released on 6th June 2016 seeking the comments of the stakeholders. An Open House Discussion (OHD) on the issue was also convened on 30th September 2016 at New Delhi.



5. Based on the comments received and further analysis, draft Recommendations on 'In-Building Access by Telecom Service Providers' have been issued and the same have also been placed on TRAI's website www.traai.gov.in. Some of the main recommendations are:

- (i) TSPs/IP-Is be mandated to share the in-building infrastructure (IBS, OFC and other cables, ducts etc) with other TSPs, in large public places, commercial complexes and residential complexes in transparent, fair and non-discriminatory manner.
- (ii) Indulgence into exclusive contract prohibiting access to other TSPs may be treated as violation of the license agreement/registration.
- (iii) Suitable provisions for the creation of Common Telecom Infrastructure (CTI) inside the building should form part of the Model Building Bye-Laws.
- (iv) The essential requirement for telecom installations and the associated cabling should be formed part of National Building Code of India (NBC), being amended by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- (v) Completion certificate to a building to be granted only after ensuring that the CTI as per the prescribed standards is in place.
- (vi) Access to building including CTI facilities be available to the TSPs on a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner and minimum three TSPs/IP-Is should have presence in the building.

6. For any clarification/information Shri Sanjeev Banzal, Advisor (Network, Spectrum and Licensing), TRAI may be contacted at Tel. No.+91-11-23210481 or email advmn@traai.gov.in.


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