

Response to the Consultation Paper on The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable)
Services Addressable Systems Audit Manual

We thank you for giving the stakeholders an opportunity to share thier views on the subject matter under consultation.

Please find below our views on the questions raised in the said Consultation Paper.

- Q1. Whether it should be mandatory for every DPO to notify the broadcasters (whose channels are being carried by the DPO) for every change made in the addressable system (CAS, SMS and other related systems)?

In our view, a majority of all changes made in the addressable system at the DPO end are of day-to-day operational nature. These changes have no business impact and are of technical nature to ensure smooth functioning of the systems. In case there are any major changes, the same may be reported to broadcasters within a reasonable time period. Such major change events should be limited to addition/deletion of a CAS or SMS system. All package changes shall be reported in the relevant formats to the relevant broadcasters on a monthly basis, therefore no separate reporting of package changes is required.

- Q2. Whether the Laptop is to be necessarily provided by the Auditee DPO or the Audit Agency may also provide the Laptop? Please provide reasons for your comment.

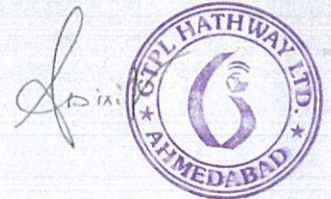
The DPO shall provide a laptop/desktop ("Device") as specified in Annexure 1 of the Consultation Paper for the purpose of the audit. In case the DPO is unable to provide a Device, the audit agency may be allowed to use their own Device for the purpose of the audit. During the course of the audit, the Device should not leave the premises of the DPO and should not have any internet connectivity which may be used to send data out of the premises so as to protect the integrity of data.

- Q3. Whether the Configuration of Laptop vide Annexure 1 is suitable? If not, please provide alternate configuration with reasons thereof.

The configuration of the Device as per Annexure-1 is sufficient for the purpose of audit.

- Q4. Do you agree with the provisions regarding seeking of TS recording and ground sample information from IBF/ NBA for verification/ checking by the Auditor?

Required TS recording and ground sample information may be provided through IBF/NBA for verification by the auditor. Such samples should be of a minimum defined size as per the size of the DPO being audited. We suggest a minimum sample size as per below table:



Subscriber Size of the DPO	Suggested Sample Size
Less than 10,000	500
Between 10,001 and 100,000	2,000
Between 100,001 and 1,000,000	10,000
Between 1,000,001 and 5,000,000	25,000
Above 5,000,001	50,000

The size of the sample needs to be defined by the Regulator while framing the Audit Manual. Ground sample information may also be obtained from competing DPOs where possible.

- Q5. Do you agree that Data Dump may be cross-checked with weekly data of sample weeks basis? If yes, do you agree with checking of random 20 % sample weeks? Please support your comments with justification and statistical information.

In our view, data dump may be cross checked with data of sample weeks and a random 20% of such weeks will be sufficient to ensure the veracity of the reports submitted to broadcasters.

- Q6. Do you agree with the proposed Data extraction methodology? If not, suggest alternates with reasoning thereof.

We have some reservations in the proposed data extraction methodology which have been detailed below along-with possible resolutions.

Clause No.	Issue	Possible Resolution
III (a) of the Consultation Paper	Admin/ Super Admin access to auditors cannot be provided to due to security concerns	The DPO may login to the systems in the presence of the auditors and access shall be allowed to the auditors in the presence of the DPO's representative.
III (b) of the Consultation Paper	Live extraction of data may not be possible from all CAS systems due to legacy systems and support issues from CAS service providers who are unable to further develop or upgrade their systems.	In such cases, CAS logs should be extracted on a daily basis and stored securely. Such storage should

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		compulsorily log any changes to the stored files.
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Q7. Do you agree with verification and reporting of City-wise, State-wise and Head-end wise subscription report? Please provide supporting reasons/ information for your comment.

We strongly disagree with reporting and verification of City-wise, State-wise and Head-end wise subscription reports. The reporting formats as provided in Schedule VII of The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Service Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulation 2017 are sufficient for the broadcasters for the purpose of raising subscription invoices. Since the Regulations do not provide for any differential pricing based on city, state, or geography, such reports are not relevant to the broadcasters for any purpose. In any case, the broadcasters have specified such reports where the DPO is willing to subscribe to their incentive schemes as per their respective RIOs. In addition, such reports may be available only in the SMS system and reconciliation would not be possible since no such data is available in the CAS systems.

Q8. Do you agree with the tests and procedure provided for checking covert and overt fingerprinting? Provide your comments with reasons thereof?

We agree with the tests and procedures as provided. However, the mechanism for checking covert fingerprinting has to be devised and arranged by the auditor since this may involve specialized equipment to verify.

Q9. Any other suggestion/ comments on the provisions or methodology proposed in the Audit Manual.

Transition Period - We suggest that the auditors may consider the period from 1st February 2019 to 31st March 2019 as a transition phase from the earlier regime to the New Regulatory Regime. As such, the conclusions of the audit for the current calendar year (i.e. 2019), may have variations for the months of February and March 2019.

Network Audit – As mentioned in Clause 4.1 (vi) of the Consultation Paper, a Network Audit is required to be conducted at the time of the audit. The required Network Audit is mandated to include a self-declaration by the DPO of the Network Configuration and Territory/Areas covered by each head-end. Such a Network Audit is not acceptable to us since it is irrelevant for the broadcasters to know the network arrangement/configuration. It does not have any commercial impact on the broadcasters or any bearing on the reported numbers and should be excluded from the scope of audit.

