



भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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**To,
All Registered (Permanent /Provisional) MSOs.**

Subject: MSOs to provide signals of TV channels to LCOs only with written interconnection agreement

In the Digital Addressable Cable TV Systems, often retransmission of TV signal is carried to customer in encrypted form through Multi System Operator (MSO) and its linked Local Cable Operator (LCO). The interconnection between the MSO and LCO is governed by "Telecommunication (Broadcasting and cable services) Interconnection (Digital Addressable Cable Television Systems) Regulations, 2012" as amended.

2. The Sub-regulation 17 & 18 of regulation 5 of the above said regulations requires that:

(a) The MSO shall reduce the terms and conditions of the interconnection agreements into writing

(b) No MSO shall make available signals of TV channels to any linked LCO without entering into a written interconnection agreement.

3. Further, sub-regulation 20 of regulation 5 of the said regulations requires that MSO shall handover a copy of the interconnection agreement signed by the MSO & LCO to the respective LCO within 15 days and obtain an acknowledgement thereof.

4. In order to provide level playing field and to help reducing disputes between MSOs and LCOs with regard to interconnection agreement, TRAI notified formats of the Model Interconnection Agreement (MIA) and Standard Interconnection Agreement (SIA) to be signed between MSOs and LCOs. While the MIA enables MSOs and LCOs to have a mutual agreement in a structured manner in line with the regulatory framework, the SIA provides

standard terms and conditions prescribed by the regulation that can be adopted by MSOs & LCOs for retransmission of TV signal, if they fail to mutually agree on MIA.

5. It has come to the notice of TRAI that some MSOs are alluring LCOs to provide signal without entering into written interconnection. Such an arrangement is not only against the interconnection regulations but also susceptible to disputes.

6. All MSOs are hereby cautioned that any such arrangement will be considered as violation of provisions of interconnection regulations. Stern action will be taken on such MSOs as per provisions of TRAI act.



(S.M.K.Chandra)
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