

# Briefing for LegCo ITB Panel

## Proposed Amendments to the Telecommunications (Control of Interference) Regulations (Cap.106B)

**13 February 2012**



## The Proposal

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To amend the **Telecommunications (Control of Interference) Regulations (Cap. 106B)** (the “Regulations”) to -

- (a) update the classes of apparatus subject to the Regulations
- (b) update the control limits applicable to each class of apparatus that is subject to the Regulations
- (c) introduce a transitional arrangement leading to the full compliance with the new requirements by the industry



## Background - Regulatory

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Under Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) section 37, Chief Executive in Council (CE in C) may by regulations provide for –

- Operation and use of non-telecommunications apparatus that generates and emits radio waves
- prohibition and control of electrical or radiated interference with the operation of telecommunications apparatus

↙ The Regulations were created in 1966, and amended in 1993 to update -

- the classes of apparatus under control
- the associated control limits



## Background - Classes of Apparatus

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Classes of apparatus currently under control of the Regulations -


Class of Apparatus	CISPR standard
Ignition apparatus of internal combustion engines	CISPR 12
Information technology equipment	CISPR 22
Sound and television broadcast receivers and associated equipment	CISPR 13
Fluorescent lamps and luminaires	CISPR 15
Household electrical appliances and similar electrical apparatus, and portable tools	CISPR 14-1

CISPR : International Special Committee on Radio Interference



## Background - Need for Amendment

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- Since 1993, CISPR has revised its standards to update the control and to embrace new types of apparatus (e.g. light-emitting diode (LED) lights, electrical vehicles)
  - New apparatuses complying with regional or national standards other than CISPR are available in the market
- ↪ There is a need to -
- update the classes of apparatus under control of the Regulations
  - streamline the procedure to allow the Telecommunications Authority (TA) to make reference to the widely recognised standards without the need to seek CE in C's approval on each occasion



# Proposed Amendments (1)

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## Update the Classes of Apparatus

- (a) vehicles and boats propelled by an internal combustion engine, electrical means, or both, and devices (not primarily intended to carry persons or goods) equipped with ~~ignition apparatus of internal combustion engines or traction batteries or both~~
- (b) Information technology equipment
- (c) Sound and television broadcast receivers and associated equipment
- (d) ~~Fluorescent lamps and luminaires~~ Electrical lighting and similar equipment
- (e) Household ~~electrical~~ appliances, electric tools and similar ~~electrical apparatus and portable tools~~

\* The amended Regulations are referred to as the “Amendment Regulations”.



## Proposed Amendments (2)

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### Update the Control Limits

- To align with the following widely recognised standards -
  - up-to-date CISPR standards
  - European harmonised standards (EN standards)
  - National standards of the PRC (GB standards)
  - Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) of the USA
- For each class of apparatus, compliance with any one of the above standards would be acceptable
- Make reference to the relevant standards (e.g. CISPR 12:2007) in the Amendment Regulations, rather than setting out the exact control limits



## Proposed Amendments (3)

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### Future Updating of the Control Limits

- To authorise the TA to amend the control limits, without the need to seek prior approval of CE in C, by making reference to standards published by any of the following -
  - International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
  - CISPR
  - a European Standards Organisation, including -
    - European Committee for Standardisation (CEN)
    - European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC)
    - European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)
  - the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and/or the Standardisation Administration of the PRC
  - FCC of the USA



# Proposed Amendments (4)

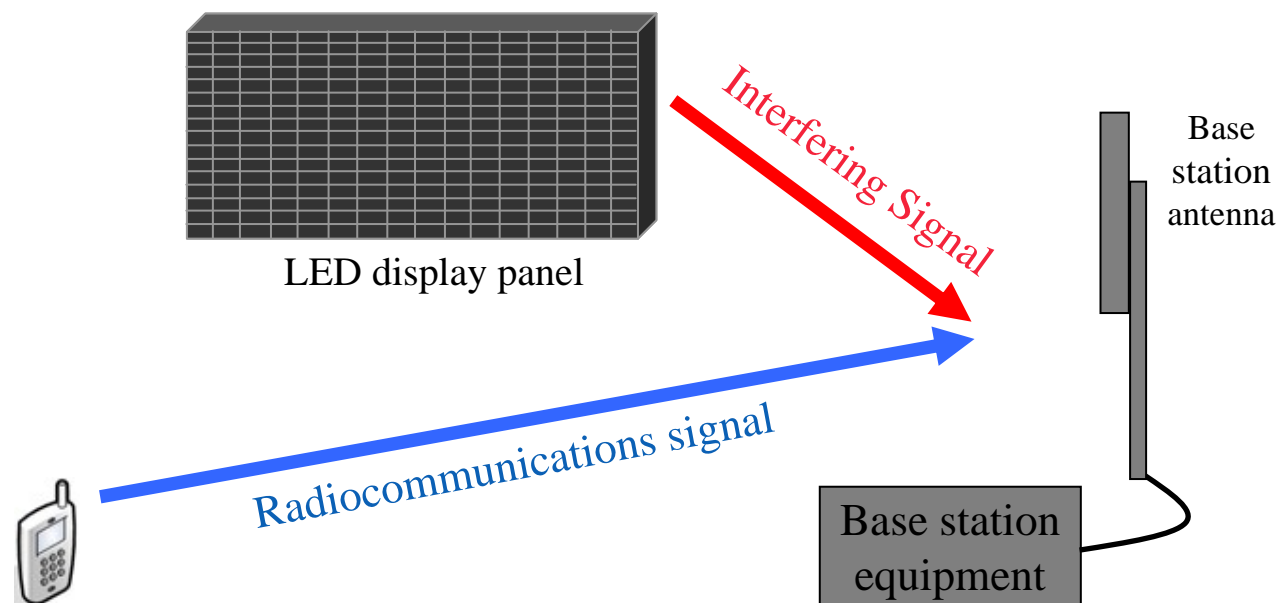
## Transitional Arrangement

Apparatus	1-year transitional period*	Afterwards
Covered by current Regulations	Need to comply with control limits of either the current Regulations or the Amendment Regulations	Need to comply with control limits of the Amendment Regulations
Covered by Amendment Regulations but not current Regulations	Not subject to control	

\* Starting from the date the Amendment Regulations comes into operation

## Implication for Industry

- The Amendment Regulations imposes control on such new apparatuses to ensure harmonious operation with telecommunications services



- Our proposed standards are adopted by the European Union (EU), the PRC and the USA. We believe that any additional cost by manufacturers or importers to meet the new requirements of the Amendment Regulations should be minimal



## Industry Consultation

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- A consultation paper was issued on 17 November 2011 with the consultation period ended on 6 January 2012
- The respondents in general support or have no objection to our proposed amendments to the Regulations
- The vehicle industry suggested adopting also the Vehicle Regulations on electrical emission (based on an early version of the CISPR standard) from United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
  - **Our response** : Accept the proposal to include relevant CISPR standard in the Amendment Regulations
- Views of lighting industry => extend grace period  
Views of a telecom operator => impose more stringent standards
  - **Our response** : The Amendment Regulations have struck a balance between the interests of the telecom operators and those of the suppliers of electrical, lighting and electronic apparatuses



## Way Forward

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- We will proceed with the legislative amendment

### 2012 Q2

- Gazettal of subsidiary legislation
- Tabling at LegCo for negative vetting

### Mid-2012

- Complete the legislative process
- Members are invited to give their views on the proposal



**Thank You**