

Communications Legislation (Protected Symbols) Determination 2023

The Australian Communications and Media Authority makes the following determination under subsection 417(7) and subparagraph 417(8)(b)(i) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and subsections 165(9) and 166(2) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

Dated:

Member

Member/General Manager

Australian Communications and Media Authority

1 Name

This is the *Communications Legislation (Protected Symbols) Determination 2023*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences at the start of the day after the day it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Note: The Federal Register of Legislation is available, free of charge, at [www.legislation.gov.au](http://www.legislation.gov.au).

3 Authority

This instrument is made under subsection 417(7) and subparagraph 417(8)(b)(i) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and subsections 165(9) and 166(2) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

4 Repeal

The *Protected Symbols Determination 2013* [F2013L00087] is repealed.

Note: At the time of making this instrument, the *Protected Symbols Determination 2013,* so far as it was made under subsection 188A(7) and subparagraphs 188A(8)(a)(i) and (b)(i) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, as in force before the commencement of Part 1 of Schedule 4 to the *Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment (Reform and Modernisation) Act 2020*,had effect as if it had been made under subsections 165(9) and 166(2) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* (see item 48 of Part 4 of Schedule 4 to the *Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment (Reform and Modernisation) Act 2020*).

5 Interpretation

In this instrument, unless the contrary intention appears:

***accreditation body*** means a person or association that is an accreditation body for the purposes of section 409 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

Note: See subsection 409(1) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

***competent body*** means a person or association that is a competent body for the purposes of Division 7 of Part 21 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

Note: See subsection 409(3) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

***radiocommunications standard*** means a standard for equipment prescribed by equipment rules.

***RCM*** (short for Regulatory Compliance Mark) means the symbol known as the RCM, the design of which is set out in Schedule 3.

***telecommunications technical standard*** means a standard made under subsection 376(1) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

Note 1: A number of other expressions used in this instrument, when used in relation to the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, are defined in that Act, including the following:

(a) accreditation (see sections 5 and 263);

(b) ACMA (see section 5);

(c) device (see section 5);

(d) equipment (see section 5);

(e) equipment rules (see sections 5 and 156);

(f) label (see section 5);

(g) protected symbol (see sections 5 and 166);

(h) supply (see section 5).

Note 2: A number of other expressions used in this instrument, when used in relation to the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, are defined in that Act, including the following:

(a) ACMA (see section 7);

(b) customer cabling (see sections 7 and 20);

(c) customer equipment (see sections 7 and 21);

(d) label, and when it is taken to be applied (see section 406);

(e) protected symbol (see subsection 417(8));

(f) recognised testing authority (see section 7 and subsection 409(2)).

6 References to other instruments

In this instrument, unless the contrary intention appears:

(a) a reference to any other legislative instrument is a reference to that other legislative instrument as in force from time to time; and

(b) a reference to any other kind of instrument or writing is a reference to that other instrument or writing as in force or existing from time to time.

Note 1: For references to Commonwealth Acts, see section 10 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*; and see also subsection 13(1) of the *Legislation Act 2003* for the application of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* to legislative instruments.

Note 2: All Commonwealth Acts and legislative instruments are registered on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Note 3: See section 314A of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* and section 589 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

7 Protected symbol

*Radiocommunications*

(1) For the purposes of paragraph 166(1)(a) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, the design of the RCM as set out in Schedule 3 is determined.

Note: This means the RCM (a purpose of which is to indicate compliance by equipment with applicable radiocommunications standards) is a ***protected symbol*** for the purposes of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*.

*Telecommunications*

(2) For the purposes of subparagraph 417(8)(b)(i) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, the design of the RCM as set out in Schedule 3 is determined.

Note: This means the RCM (a purpose of which is to indicate compliance by customer equipment or customer cabling with applicable telecommunications technical standards) is a ***protected symbol*** for the purposes of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*.

8 Permitted purposes

*Radiocommunications*

(1) For the purposes of subsection 165(8) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992,* each of the purposes specified in Schedule 1 is determined unless the purpose is excluded by subsection (2).

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a purpose specified in Schedule 1 is excluded if:

(a) the purpose refers to a radiocommunications standard and to equipment; and

(b) no equipment rules require any person to apply a label to that equipment to indicate compliance by the equipment with the radiocommunications standard.

*Telecommunications*

(3) For the purposes of subsection 417(7) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, each of the purposes specified in Schedule 2 is determined unless the purpose is excluded by subsection (4).

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), a purpose specified in Schedule 2 is excluded if:

(a) the purpose refers to a telecommunications technical standard and to customer equipment or customer cabling; and

(b) no instrument made under section 407 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* requires any person to apply a label to that equipment or cabling to indicate compliance by the equipment or cabling with the telecommunications technical standard.

9 Transitional

*Radiocommunications*

(1) If:

(a) a person used or applied a symbol that was a protected symbol before the commencement day; and

(b) the use or application was for a purpose specified in the *Protected Symbols Determination 2013,* as in force at the time of that use or application:

(i) in a case where that time is before the modernisation day – under subsection 188A(7) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*, as in force at that time; or

(ii) in any other case – as if it had been made under subsection 165(9) of the *Radiocommunications* Act *1992*; and

(c) the symbol continues to be a protected symbol after the start of the commencement day; and

(d) the use or application continues after the start of the commencement day for the same purpose;

the use or application that occurs after the start of the commencement day is taken to be for a purpose specified in this instrument under subsection 165(9) of the *Radiocommunications* Act *1992* (except to the extent that the use or application is already for such a purpose or otherwise authorised by or under that Act or the equipment rules).

Note: For paragraph (b), see item 48 of Part 4 of Schedule 4 to the *Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment (Reform and Modernisation) Act 2020*.

*Telecommunications*

(2) If:

(a) a person used or applied a symbol that was a protected symbol before the commencement day; and

(b) the use or application was for a purpose specified in the *Protected Symbols Determination 2013*, as in force at the time of that use or application under subsection 417(7) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*; and

(c) the symbol continues to be a protected symbol after the start of the commencement day; and

(d) the use or application continues after the start of the commencement day for the same purpose;

the use or application that occurs after the start of the commencement day is taken to be for a purpose specified in this instrument under subsection 417(7) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (except to the extent that the use or application is already for such a purpose or otherwise authorised by or under that Act).

*Definitions*

(3) In this section:

***commencement day*** means the day this instrument commences.

***modernisation day*** means the day item 48 of Part 4 of Schedule 4 to the *Radiocommunications Legislation Amendment (Reform and Modernisation) Act 2020* commenced.

Schedule 1—Permitted purposes for the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*

(subsection 8(1))

| **Column 1** | **Column 2** |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Purpose** |
| *1* | Showing that equipment complies with a radiocommunications standard, other than as referred to in subsection 165(7) of the *Radiocommunications Act 1992* |
| *2* | Showing that a person provides services to assist others to ensure that equipment complies with a radiocommunications standard |
| *3* | Provision of information or comment about a radiocommunications standard |
| *4* | Showing that a person:  (a) holds an accreditation of a specified kind; and  (b) may exercise powers under equipment rules, conferred on persons who hold such an accreditation, in relation to a radiocommunications standard |
| *5* | Showing that a person:  (a) satisfies conditions specified in equipment rules; and  (b) may exercise powers under equipment rules, conferred on persons who satisfy such conditions, in relation to a radiocommunications standard |
| *6* | Showing that a person may exercise a power under equipment rules not otherwise specified in this table in relation to a radiocommunications standard |
| *7* | Supplying a copy of a protected symbol to a person entitled to use or apply it |
| *8* | Showing that a person supplies:  (a) copies of a protected symbol to a person entitled to use or apply it; or  (b) copies of radiocommunications standards |
| *9* | Showing that a person supplies equipment that complies with a radiocommunications standard |
| *10* | Publicising compliance with a radiocommunications standard |
| *11* | Complying with a law of a State or Territory in relation to electrical safety |

Schedule 2—Permitted purposes for the *Telecommunications Act 1997*

(subsection 8(3))

| **Column 1** | **Column 2** |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Purpose** |
| *1* | Showing that customer equipment or customer cabling complies with a telecommunications technical standard, other than as referred to in subsection 417(6) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* |
| *2* | Showing that a person provides services to assist others to ensure that customer equipment or customer cabling complies with a telecommunications technical standard |
| *3* | Provision of information or comment about a telecommunications technical standard |
| *4* | Showing that a person or association:  (a) is an accreditation body; and  (b) may determine that a specified person is a recognised testing authority or that a specified person or association is a competent body |
| *5* | Showing that a person:  (a) is a recognised testing authority; and  (b) may test customer equipment or customer cabling for compliance with a telecommunications technical standard |
| *6* | Showing that a person or association:  (a) is a competent body; and  (b) may provide services in relation to compliance with telecommunications technical standards and instruments made under section 407 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* |
| *7* | Supplying a copy of a protected symbol to a person entitled to use or apply it |
| *8* | Showing that a person supplies:  (a) copies of a protected symbol to a person entitled to use or apply it; or  (b) copies of telecommunications technical standards |
| *9* | Showing that a person supplies customer equipment or customer cabling that complies with a telecommunications technical standard |
| *10* | Publicising compliance with a telecommunications technical standard |
| *11* | Complying with a law of a State or Territory in relation to electrical safety |

Schedule 3—RCM

(sections 5 and 7)

A compliance mark that consists of a triangle with the letter C inside it, and a tick symbol inside the letter C