

Investigation Report

File No	ACMA2022/740-17
Carriage service provider	BSC (WA) Pty Ltd
CAN	162 881 601
Scope of Investigation	Compliance with clauses 10.1.1(b) and 10.4 of the Telecommunications Consumer Protections Code C628:2019 (the TCP Code)

Findings

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (the **ACMA**) finds BSC (WA) Pty Ltd (ACN 162 881 601) trading as Star Telecom (**Star Telecom**) contravened:

- clause 10.1.1(b) of the TCP Code because it did not register with Communications Alliance within one month after it first acquired customers; and
- clause 10.4 of the TCP Code because it did not provide Communications Compliance Ltd (**CommCom**) with prescribed statements regarding code compliance by the applicable date specified in clause 10.8 of the TCP Code.

Background

1. On 21 December 2022, the ACMA commenced an investigation under section 510(c) of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* to determine whether Star Telecom was complying with clauses 10.1.1(b) and 10.4 of the TCP Code.
2. On 23 February 2023, the ACMA sent its preliminary findings to Star Telecom and invited it to respond.
3. On 9 March 2023, Star Telecom responded to the ACMA and did not dispute that it had not met its obligations under clauses 10.1.1(b) and 10.4 of the TCP Code. On 27 March 2023, Star Telecom confirmed that it applied to register with Communications Alliance.

Reasons for findings

4. The table below sets out the ACMA's findings and the reasons for those findings. In making its findings, the ACMA has considered Star Telecom's response of 9 March 2023.

TCP Code clause	Requirement	Reasons and finding
10.1	Suppliers with one or more customers must implement and comply with the Code Compliance Framework and register with Communications Alliance for compliance purposes.	Star Telecom is a carriage service provider (CSP) providing telecommunications services to residential consumers and small business consumers who do not have reasonable opportunity to negotiate the terms of their customer contract. It is therefore a 'supplier' under the TCP Code.
10.1.1(a)	A Supplier must take the following actions to enable this outcome: Code Compliance Framework:	On 5 December 2022, Communications Alliance provided the ACMA with a list of suppliers that are

<p>10.1.1(b)</p>	<p>implement and comply with the obligations applicable to them contained in the Code Compliance Framework set out in this Chapter (that is, Chapter 10 of the TCP Code)</p> <p>Registration by Supplier with Communications Alliance: within one month after the Supplier first acquires customers, supply the following information in writing to Communications Alliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a statement that the Supplier is providing this information in accordance with clause 10.1.1 of this Code (and in so doing the Supplier accepts that Communications Alliance will forward this information to CommCom to facilitate CommCom's performance of its functions which may include publication of the information in clause (ii) below); (ii) the legal name, the ACN or ABN, and all relevant business names, or the Supplier and the URL of the home page of the website of each of its relevant businesses; (iii) contact details for a nominated staff member of the Supplier (including name, title, address, telephone number and email address) 	<p>registered with it in accordance with clause 10.1.1(b) of the TCP Code. Star Telecom was not on that list.</p> <p>TIO complaints data available to the ACMA indicates that Starr Telecom was the subject of consumer complaints to the TIO during the period 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022. This indicates Star Telecom had customers during that period.</p> <p>As Star Telecom had customers during the period 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022 and was not registered with Communications Alliance by 30 November 2022, it has not complied with clause 10.1.1(b) of the TCP Code to register with Communications Alliance within one month after first acquiring customers.</p> <p>On 7 March 2023, Star Telecom confirmed that it had registered in the CommCom CSP portal. On 27 March 2023, Star Telecom confirmed that it had applied to register with Communications Alliance.</p> <p>This further indicates that Star Telecom had not previously registered with Communications Alliance within one month after first acquiring customers as required by clause 10.1.1(b).</p>
<p>10.4</p> <p>10.4.1(a)</p>	<p>Suppliers must provide to CommCom prescribed statements regarding compliance with the TCP Code in the manner set out in this clause 10.4 and at the times set out in clause 10.8.</p> <p>A Supplier must: Compliance Attestation: provide to CommCom a Compliance Attestation which has been endorsed by the chief executive officer or a senior manager of the</p>	<p>As Star Telecom had one or more customers on 1 April 2022, it was required under clause 10.4 to provide CommCom with the prescribed statements regarding compliance with the TCP Code in accordance with the timeframes specified in clause 10.8.1 of the TCP Code.</p> <p>On 16 November 2022, CommCom provided the ACMA with a list of suppliers that had lodged the prescribed statements regarding TCP Code compliance for 2022. Star Telecom was not on</p>

	<p>Supplier, by the date each year specified in clause 10.8.1 and in the form required by CommCom.</p> <p>Suppliers must meet the timeframes set out in this clause if they have one or more customers on 1 April each year.</p> <p>Date for provision of attestation statements: If the supplier is a small supplier as at 1 April, the supplier must provide the statements prescribed in clause 10.4.1 by the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) 1 April in the same year, or the following working day; or(b) If the supplier has submitted an attestation deferral notice, 1 September in the same year, or the following working day. <p>Note: A 'small supplier' is defined in clause 2.1 of the TCP Code to mean a supplier with fewer than 3,000 services in operation.</p> <p>Date for provision of Compliance Attestation for all other suppliers: If the supplier is not a small supplier as at 1 April, 1 September in the same year, or the following working day.</p>	<p>that list.</p> <p>In its response to the ACMA on 9 March 2023, Star Telecom did not dispute that it had not met this obligation.</p> <p>Therefore, the ACMA is satisfied that Star Telecom did not comply with clause 10.4 of the TCP Code.</p>
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