Proposal to remake the sunsetting Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2014

Consultation paper

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# Background

## The ACMA’s regulatory arrangements for telecommunications customer cabling

The ACMA is responsible for the technical regulation of telecommunications customer equipment and cabling, and the performance of cabling work under Part 21 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (the Act). The objectives of the telecommunications customer cabling regulatory arrangements are to manage risks to the health and safety of persons and to maintain the integrity of telecommunications networks.

We regulate customer cabling that connects or can connect to a telecommunications network or facility and is located on the customer side of the boundary of a telecommunications network. As part of these arrangements, we can make rules that relate to the performance and/or the supervision of cabling work.

**Cabling work**is defined in section 418 of the Act as either:

1. the installation of customer cabling for connection to a telecommunications network or to a facility[[1]](#footnote-2)
2. the connection of customer cabling to a telecommunications network or to a facility
3. the maintenance of customer cabling connected to a telecommunications network or
to a facility.

We recently made the [Telecommunications (Types of Cabling Work) Declaration 2024](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00254/asmade/text) (the declaration) through a separate sunsetting process. That instrument specifies the types of cabling work that are captured under the telecommunications customer cabling regulatory arrangements. Under the declaration, all cabling work is a type of cabling work for the purposes of Division 9 of Part 21 of the Act, except for the specified kinds of cabling work listed in Schedule 1 to that instrument.

## Automatic sunsetting of legislative instruments

Under Part 4 of Chapter 3 of the *Legislation Act 2003*, unless an exemption applies, most legislative instruments ‘sunset’. That is, they are automatically repealed on 1 April or
1 October that first occurs 10 years after they are registered. This is an automatic process applying to the legislative instruments affected, regardless of their content.

There are 2 legislative instruments made by the ACMA under the regulatory arrangements for telecommunications customer cabling that are due to sunset:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of instrument | Sunset date |
| [Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2014](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2014L01684/latest/text) (the Cabling Provider Rules 2014) | 1 April 2025 |
| [Telecommunications (Section of the Telecommunications Industry – Cabling Service Operators) Determination 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2015L00291/latest/text) (the Cabling Service Operators Determination) | 1 April 2025 |

We have the preliminary view that the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 are operating effectively and efficiently and continue to form a necessary and useful part of the regulatory arrangements. To preserve their ongoing effect, we propose to remake them in a new instrument prior to the sunset date without any significant changes to the policy framework.

We propose to remake the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 with the necessary changes referred to below and to retitle it: **Telecommunications (Cabling Provider) Rules 2025** (the Cabling Provider Rules 2025).

We have the view that the Cabling Service Operators Determination no longer forms a necessary part of the regulatory arrangements. We intend to allow that instrument to sunset and do not propose to remake it in a new instrument.

# What the instruments do

**Cabling Provider Rules 2014**

We made the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 to maintain the regulatory requirements for people who perform and/or supervise telecommunications customer cabling work.

To comply with the Cabling Provider Rules 2014, cabling work must:

* Be performed or supervised by a properly registered cabling provider.
* Be performed in compliance with the [Industry Standard AS/CA S009:2020 Installation requirements for Customer Cabling](https://www.commsalliance.com.au/Documents/all/Standards/s009) (the wiring rules).
* Use products that comply with the applicable technical standard (as required by the wiring rules) and are labelled in accordance with the labelling requirements.[[2]](#footnote-3)
* Be certified by the responsible cabling provider through (in practice) the completion of a compliance statement.

The Cabling Provider Rules 2014 establish a registration system for cabling providers and outline the training, experience and assessment requirements for those applying to the 3 separate categories of registration. Cabling registrars manage the registration of cabling providers on our behalf, and the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 provides a framework for the accreditation of these registrars.

The risks associated with customer cabling have reduced due to developments in technology. However, continued regulation mitigates the potential harms to end-users and telecommunications workers caused by customer cabling of sub-standard quality or improperly installed.

**Cabling Service Operators Determination**

We re-made the Cabling Service Operators Determination in 2015 to continue the legal basis for the registration of the [Cabling Industry Committee Industry Code – Cabling requirements for Business](https://www.acma.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-10/Industry-code-Cabling-requirements-business.pdf) (the industry code). The re-making of this instrument was intended to facilitate revisions to the code, but this has not been updated since its registration in 2003.

The Cabling Service Operators Determination sets out the section of the telecommunications industry to which the industry code applies. While the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 impose obligations on individuals who perform or supervise telecommunications customer cabling work, the industry code is intended to place obligations on businesses that contract to install and maintain this cabling.

The body responsible for the industry code, the Cabling Industry Committee, no longer convenes and there is no intention to revise the code.

We have the preliminary view that the regulatory requirements established by the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 are sufficient to manage the key risks associated with the performance of telecommunications customer cabling work. We do not propose to remake the Cabling Service Operators Determination.

The Cabling Service Operators Determination will be automatically repealed on 1 April 2025. After this, the industry code will have no effect. Along with allowing the Cabling Service Operators Determination to sunset, we propose to de-register the associated industry code. You can find information about the code on the [ACMA website](https://www.acma.gov.au/publications/2019-10/rules/industry-code-cabling-requirements-business).

We welcome your comments on the proposal to:

* allow the Cabling Service Operators Determination to sunset on 1 April 2025
without replacement
* de-register the associated industry code.

# Proposed changes to the Cabling Provider Rules 2014

## Cabling Provider Rules 2025

We have identified changes that we propose to incorporate in an updated instrument. These are intended to improve the application of the instrument by reducing its length, removing ambiguity in provisions, and updating or removing outdated references.

The minor and administrative amendments reflected in the draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025 include:

* inserting new standard sections dealing with:
* the power to make the instrument
* the commencement date of the instrument
* making stylistic, typographical or grammatical amendments
* changes in layout to follow the formatting rules for legislation
* omitting duplicated or obsolete provisions
* removing Schedules 2, 3, 4 and 5 and incorporating their main provisions into
the rules
* specifying the various transitional arrangements that apply, including to existing cabling providers, registrars and deeds.

We are seeking your views on other changes that we propose to make in the updated instrument. These include:

* updating references to 3 related legislative instruments and 2 industry standards
* including new definitions for technical terminology used throughout the instrument
* clarifying the provisions which describe the Open, Restricted and Lift categories of cabling registration
* clarifying the requirements for the certification of cabling work
* clarifying the evidence required for registration and the process for applying for registration
* clarifying and reformatting the provisions that outline the competency requirements to become a registered cabling provider
* simplifying the process to renew an expired cabling registration
* introducing new provisions to review our decisions about the registration of cabling providers and accreditation of registrars
* updating and reducing the length of provisions for the accreditation of Cabling Provider Registrars
* removing an outdated exemption to certain requirements of the Wiring Rules.

We would like feedback on the proposed Draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025, which are available in the key documents box alongside this consultation paper on our website.

We have provided further information about our main proposed changes below.

### Updating references to 3 related legislative instruments and 2 industry standards

The Cabling Provider Rules 2014 incorporate 5 ongoing, related items by reference:

* 3 legislative instruments made by the ACMA
* 2 industry standards (one developed by Communications Alliance Ltd and one by Standards Australia).

We consider that the incorporation of each of these 5 instruments remains necessary to specify the regulatory requirements for the performance of cabling work.

However, since the making of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014, the industry standards and all but one of the legislative instruments made by the ACMA have been replaced.

We are proposing to incorporate updated versions of all 5 of the existing documents in the Cabling Provider Rules 2025. The re-made instrument should refer to the following documents as in force or existing from time to time, which captures any future amendments to those documents:

* The Telecommunications (Types of Cabling Work) Declaration 2024
* The Telecommunications (Labelling Notice for Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Instrument 2025[[3]](#footnote-4)
* The Telecommunications Technical Standard (Requirements for customer cabling products – AS/CA S008) 2015[[4]](#footnote-5)
* Australian Standard AS/CA S009:2020 Installation Requirements for Customer Cabling (Wiring Rules)
* Australian Standard AS IEC 60038:2022 Standard Voltages*.*

**Question 1**

Do you have any comments on the proposal to include the references to the 3 legislative instruments and the 2 industry standards in the Cabling Provider Rules 2025?

### Including new definitions for technical terminology

Throughout the Cabling Provider Rules 2014, technical terminology is used in relation to the requirements for customer cabling work. We consider this is a chance to incorporate definitions for most of these terms at section 6 of the draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025. This will assist industry in understanding and applying the requirements for cabling work.

We propose that the following terms continue to be used in the Cabling Provider Rules 2025, with added definitions at section 6:

* Aerial cabling
* Broadband cabling
* Co-axial cabling
* Distribution frame
* Distributor
* Frame
* Jumper
* Jumperable distributor
* Jumperable frame
* Main distribution frame
* Network termination device
* Optical fibre cabling
* Patch panel
* Plug
* Socket
* Structured cabling
* Underground cabling.

These terms are used in the proposed Cabling Provider Rules 2025 in relation to the categories of cabling registration and the certification requirements for completed cabling work. Our proposed definitions are based on the definitions given under section 4.2 of the mandated industry standard, the Wiring Rules. This will ensure consistent use of the terminology across the range of instruments a registered cabling provider must comply with.

Some other technical terms are referenced in both the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 and the Wiring Rules but are not given a definition. These terms include ‘module’ and ‘overvoltage unit’. Our preliminary view is that these terms do not require a definition, as they each have a generally well-understood application within the cabling industry and their mention in the instrument appears only in connection with other defined types of cabling equipment.

Where a term referenced in the proposed draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025 already has a definition under the Act, this is taken to have the same meaning as in the Act. This includes ‘customer cabling’ (defined at section 20 of the Act) ‘customer equipment’ (defined at section 21 of the Act) and a ‘line’ (defined at section 7 of the Act).

Additional terms have been added to the definitions section of the proposed instrument, for clarity and to support new provisions relating to the competency requirements for work that involves specialised cabling. These changes and the additional terms are discussed below under ‘Clarifying and reformatting the competency requirements’.

**Questions 2 and 3**

Do you have any comments on the above definitions included in the proposed Cabling Provider Rules 2025?

Are there any other technical terms used in the proposed Cabling Provider Rules 2025 that should be defined to ensure the requirements for customer cabling work are clear?

### Clarifying the provisions which describe the Open, Restricted and Lift categories of cabling provider registration

We have identified opportunities to simplify the provisions relating to the categories of registration, making it easier to understand the kinds of cabling work that a cabling provider is authorised to perform or supervise depending on the registration they hold.

The current wording adopted in Part 2 of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 describes Open, Restricted and Lift as ‘types of cabling work’, rather than different categories of registration according to which a cabler can become registered. We understand this could be a source of confusion for industry.

The intention of Part 2 is to define the classes of cabling provider registration rather than to create categories of ‘cabling work’. We also want to ensure there is a clear distinction between the draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025 and the Telecommunications (Types of Cabling Work) Declaration 2024.

We have proposed wording changes throughout the draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025 to ensure the instrument correctly refers to the ‘kinds of cabling registration’ rather than ‘types of cabling work’.

Based on regular engagement with the cabling industry, we have also identified opportunities to refine the provisions that define the ‘Restricted’ category of registration. Restricted registration enables a cabling provider to perform or supervise a more limited range of cabling work than is authorised under an Open registration – that is, work that typically involves fewer lines and excludes complex termination arrangements. In this way, the competencies that must be demonstrated for Restricted registration are a subset of those required for the Open registration category, and the relevant training and experience components of the competency requirements reflect this.

We have identified possible ambiguities throughout the current instrument relating to the environments in which a cabler with a Restricted registration can perform or supervise cabling work.[[5]](#footnote-6) In practical terms, the Restricted category of registration is intended to authorise the performance or supervision of cabling work that terminates at a socket or network termination device at the boundary of a telecommunications network. This is to
the exclusion of more complex termination arrangements – for example, at a main distribution frame.

To ensure this intention is clear, we are proposing changes to the definition of restricted cabling work registration under the draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025 at section 9. While we are not proposing any changes to the technical characteristics of the work specified in this provision. We intend to limit references to the typical work environments for Restricted registration (single-dwelling domestic premises or small-businesses) to a new note under section 9.

We also propose to relocate, under the definition for Restricted cabling registration, the additional requirement on these Cabling Providers relating to the performance or supervision of cabling work using customer cabling on poles or structures for aerial power lines. This additional requirement is currently located in section 4.5 to the Cabling Provider Rules 2014. It has been moved to the Restricted cabling registration provisions with minor text changes to reflect the current technical terminology used in the Wiring Rules.

**Questions 4 and 5**

Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to clarify that ‘Open’, ‘Restricted’ and ‘Lift’ are categories of cabling provider registration?

Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to clarify the definition of ‘Restricted cabling registration’?

### Clarifying the requirements for the certification of cabling work

Section 4.4 of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 requires a cabling provider to prepare a statement – known as a Telecommunications customer cabling compliance form
(TCA1 form) – for their employer or customer upon finishing any cabling work. This includes where there has been the completion of a ‘discrete part’ of a cabling project. Some minor items of cabling work are excluded from the requirement, including replacing or connecting minor items of cabling or equipment, e.g., for maintenance or measurement purposes.

The compliance statement certifies that the completed cabling work fully complies with the Wiring Rules. This may be prepared in the form approved by the ACMA,[[6]](#footnote-7) or in a sufficiently detailed format accompanying an invoice or receipt for the relevant cabling work.

The requirements are intended to ensure that certification is completed in a timely manner. However, we recognise there are ambiguities in section 4.4 that could delay the certification of cabling work in circumstances involving, for example, disagreements about payment or contract disputes.

To reduce the potential ambiguity and better reflect the policy intention, we are proposing changes to the certification requirements in the draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025. These requirements have always been intended to apply as soon as practicable after the cabler has finished the cabling work (except for specified small jobs) and do so irrespective of whether payment has been issued for the work. We have made changes to clarify that cabling work is taken to be finished when the work commissioned by the client is completed or if there is no commissioning client, when the cabling becomes available for use.

Additionally, we are proposing an amendment to the certification requirements to specify that the requirements apply irrespective of whether payment has been made for the cabling work.

**Question 6**

Do you have any comments on our proposed changes to clarify when a registered cabling provider must complete a compliance statement certifying cabling work?

### Clarifying the evidence required for registration

Part 3 of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 outlines the arrangements for the system of cabling provider registration, which is currently operated by the 5 Cabling Registrars.[[7]](#footnote-8) Under this part, subsection 3.1(3) specifies the evidence a person must give to a Cabling Registrar to establish their eligibility for registration or renewal of registration.

We recognise that the information listed under subsection 3.1(3) is less detailed when compared with other provisions in the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 that express the formal requirements for registration (Clause 9 of Schedule 1) and the competency requirements (Schedule 2).

Since the introduction of the registration system in 2000[[8]](#footnote-9), a person’s eligibility to become registered as a cabling provider has been subject to their providing a registrar with:

* a completed application form and a declaration
* evidence that they have attained the applicable competency requirements.

Schedule 2 of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 goes on to specify the competency requirements as these apply to each of the 3 categories of registration.

To simplify the structure of the instrument, reduce repetition and resolve ambiguities relating to the evidence a person should provide to become registered, we are proposing to remove subsection 3.1(3) as it exists under the current instrument and specify these requirements in Schedule 1. We are also proposing minor text amendments to ensure clarity and to appropriately reflect the long-standing evidentiary requirements for registration.

In support of these requirements, we propose that the Cabling Provider Rules 2025:

* continue to include the detailed competency requirements for each category of registration – consisting of training, experience and examination components
(Schedule 1, also discussed further below).
* introduce more prescriptive and detailed provisions relating to the management of the various situations associated with processing registration applications including when a registration is being renewed or has been revoked or suspended.

**Question 7**

Do you have any comments on our proposed amendments that clarify the required information a person must give to a Cabling Provider Registrar to demonstrate their eligibility to become registered?

### Clarifying the competency requirements

As with the presentation of the evidentiary requirements for registration, we recognise that there are opportunities to condense and clarify the provisions that specify the range of competencies a person must attain before becoming registered under the Open, Restricted or Lift categories.

Currently, the mandatory competencies for each of the 3 categories of registration are found across the following provisions of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014:

* Schedule 2, which specifies the applicable qualifications and examination requirements for each category of registration
* Schedule 4, which incorporates the mandated hours of cabling work experience (for Open and Restricted registration) through the Cabling Registration Declaration.

The Cabling Provider Rules 2014 also reference the [*Pathways to cabling registration*](https://www.acma.gov.au/publications/2020-08/guide/pathways-cabling-registration)document. This is available on the ACMA’s website and outlines the competency requirements for registration, and for the recognition of additional competency units for specialised cabling work.[[9]](#footnote-10)

In summary, the competency requirements for each category of registration consist of:

* mandated units of competency under national qualifications arrangements
* mandated practical cabling experience
* a passing result on an examination intended to assess a person’s understanding of the regulatory framework.

We are proposing changes to ensure the training, experience and examination elements of the competency requirements are captured concisely and in full. Our proposed changes (contained in Schedule 1 to the draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025) do not substantively change those requirements that have been applied by the Cabling Registrars in practice since the making of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014.

As a key change, we are proposing that the training elements of the competency requirements be specified with reference to the recognised training packages that qualify a person for registration as a cabling provider. These training packages are determined by the relevant Jobs and Skills Councils (JSCs):[[10]](#footnote-11) the Future Skills Organisation and the Powering Skills Organisation.

‘Training packages’ will be a defined term, and will capture individually specified units of competency, as well as certificate qualifications, as determined by the relevant JSC. Currently, the Future Skills Organisation determines the certificate qualifications and/or units of competency that are part of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) training packages for cabling registration. The Powering Skills Organisation determines the certificate qualifications and/or units of competency that are part of the Electrotechnology training packages for cabling registration.

We are proposing to define ‘unit of competency’ and ‘certificate qualification’ by reference to the qualification level specified in the ‘National Register’, maintained by the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (the National VET Regulator).[[11]](#footnote-12)

In addition to the training packages determined by the relevant JSCs for Open, Restricted and Lift registrations, it is proposed that we will be able to declare corresponding alternative qualifications for relevant kinds of registration. As an example, an alternative qualification may be declared in the instance that a suitable additional training package becomes available. Relevant pathways to registration will continue to be reflected in the *Pathways to cabling registration* document.

We are also proposing new provisions under the draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025 to incorporate the existing qualification requirements for cabling work involving specialised kinds of cabling. These proposed changes are supported by the inclusion of new definitions at section 6 of the draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025, for ‘aerial cabling’, ‘underground cabling’, ‘structured cabling’, ‘optical fibre cabling’ ‘coaxial cabling’ and ‘broadband cabling’. The definitions of aerial and underground cabling are based on the definitions of those terms in the Wiring Rules.

Our proposed changes to the competency requirements schedule consist of a range of other administrative changes to reduce its length and improve its structure. These changes include removing redundant or purely descriptive provisions such as clauses 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, which re-state the categories of cabling registration.

**Questions 8 and 9**

Do you have any comments on our proposal to outline the training components of
the competency requirements by reference to the relevant training packages?

Do you have any comments on the way the overall competency requirements, including the competency requirements for cabling work involving specialised cabling, have been drafted in the proposed draft Cabling Provider Rules 2025?

### Simplifying the process to renew an expired cabling registration

Under subsection 3.1(3) of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014, should a person wish to apply to a Cabling Registrar to renew a registration that has been expired for more than 12 months, they must provide evidence of their competency in full again at the point of renewing. If they no longer possess their original evidence of competency (based on the applicable training, experience and testing requirements), they can seek that we provide written advice allowing the use of their expired registration as evidence of competency to become re-registered. Clause 4 of Schedule 1 to the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 outlines the process and decision-making criteria for the ACMA in considering a request of this kind.

In our view, these arrangements are no longer suited to the industry environment where the mandatory training competencies, the mandated industry standard, and the level of risks associated with cabling work have remained relatively stable across 2 decades of regulation.

We are proposing to amend the requirements for registration to remove the additional administrative requirements imposed on those who wish to renew a cabling provider registration that has been expired for more than 12 months. We consider it appropriate to allow cabling providers to rely on evidence that they have previously been registered for up to 10 years after the registration expiry date. After 10 years, cablers will have to apply for a new registration as they will no longer be able to rely on an expired registration to demonstrate such competency.

The proposed changes will enable the Cabling Registrars to consider an application for renewal of an expired cabling registration up to 10 years after the expiry date, without requiring the applicant to obtain new qualifications. The applicant can rely on their expired registration as evidence of competency. We think this will reduce the complexity of the registration processes for cablers and registrars.

**Question 10**

Do you have any comments on our proposal to allow the use of an expired cabling provider registration as evidence of competency when renewing that registration, within 10 years of the registration expiring?

### Introducing procedures to review decisions

We are proposing to introduce a review process (see draft Part 6 of the Cabling Provider Rules 2025) in relation to decisions made by the ACMA, in relation to the registration of cabling providers and the accreditation of registrars. The term ‘reviewable decision’ will be defined in Part 6 and will include a decision to:

* refuse to issue a cabling registration
* suspend or revoke a cabling registration
* not accredit a person
* revoke a person’s accreditation.

Those affected by such decisions can apply to us for reconsideration of the decision within 28 days after being notified.

**Question 11**

Do you have any comments on the proposal to introduce procedures to review decisions?

### Updating and reducing the length of provisions for the accreditation of Cabling Provider Registrars

Before a person can act as a Cabling Provider Registrar, under the Cabling Provider Rules 2014, we must first accredit the person in accordance with the procedures specified in Schedule 5 to the Cabling Provider Rules 2014. Under clause 6 of Schedule 1 to the Cabling Provider Rules 2014, to be accredited, a registrar must enter into a *Deed in relation to Cabling Provider Registrar Obligations* (theDeed). The Deed is in a standard form approved by the ACMA and forms Schedule 3 to the Cabling Provider Rules 2014.

As set out in clause 6, the Deed is between the registrar – including its controlling entity or entities (if any) – and the Commonwealth, as represented by the Chair of the ACMA. The Deed must be executed by all of the parties to give effect to the accreditation of the registrar by the ACMA.

We intend for these procedures to continue under the Cabling Provider Rules 2025 but have formed the preliminary view that not all details included in the current instrument are necessary. Our view is that the accreditation procedures detailed in a re-made instrument need only capture the application requirements, our assessment criteria and the outcome related steps for accreditation.

We are proposing to remake the accreditation procedures under Schedule 5, removing the following provisions that relate to outdated or unnecessary administrative steps:

* the requirement for the ACMA to notify each existing Cabling Registrar through the Registrar Coordinating Committee about the receipt of a new accreditation application (clause 2 of Schedule 5)
* that applicants may be asked to make an oral presentation to the ACMA in relation to their application (clause 9 of Schedule 5)
* that applications for accreditation will be treated as ‘commercial in confidence’ (clause 12 of Schedule 5)[[12]](#footnote-13)
* that applications must be sent by post (clause 13 of Schedule 5).

We are also proposing that the Cabling Provider Rules 2025 no longer include a standard form of the Deed that registrars must enter into under the rules. Instead, we intend to publish the standard form of the Deed separately in standalone format on our website. This will reduce the overall length of the Cabling Provider Rules 2025 and will ensure the Deed provisions can be updated as needed.

**Question 12**

Do you have any comments on the proposed amendments to the accreditation procedures?

### Removing the outdated exemption to certain requirements of the Wiring Rules

Schedule 6 to the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 outlines a range of conditions under which a registered cabling provider may be exempted from specified requirements of the Wiring Rules. The exemption applies to specified scenarios where steps are taken to appropriately locate or separate cabling work from low voltage electrical installations or terminations. This Schedule also references the now superseded Australian Standard ‘AS/NZS 60950:2000 Safety of information technology equipment’.

We no longer consider Schedule 6 necessary, as the substantive requirements have since been incorporated into the ‘Separation of Services’ requirements under section 9 of the Wiring Rules.

The proposed Cabling Provider Rules 2025 will continue to require that cabling work is undertaken in compliance with the Wiring Rules. In this respect, there will be no substantive changes to the regulatory requirements for the performance of cabling work as a result of our proposal to remove Schedule 6.

**Question 13**

We propose to make the Cabling Provider Rules 2025 without Schedule 6 of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014, based on our view that this is now duplicative of the Separation of Services requirements of the Wiring Rules. The Cabling Provider Rules 2025 will continue to mandate compliance with the Wiring Rules.

Do you have any comments on this proposal?

# Invitation to comment

## Making a submission

We invite comments on the issues set out in this consultation paper.

* [Online submissions](https://www.acma.gov.au/have-your-say) can be made by uploading a document. Submissions in PDF, Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format are preferred.
* Submissions by post can be sent to:

The Manager
Infrastructure and Equipment Safeguards
Australian Communications and Media Authority

PO Box 13112

Melbourne VIC 3000

The closing date for submissions is **5 pm (AEDT), Tuesday 4 February 2025**.

Consultation enquiries can be emailed to techreg@acma.gov.au.

### Publication of submissions

We publish submissions on our website, including personal information (such as names and contact details), except for information that you have claimed (and we have accepted) is confidential.

Confidential information will not be published or otherwise released unless required or authorised by law.

### Privacy

View information about our policy on the [publication of submissions](https://www.acma.gov.au/publication-submissions), including collection of personal information during consultation and how we handle that information.

Information on the Privacy Act 1988, how to access or correct personal information, how to make a privacy complaint and how we will deal with any complaints, is available in our [privacy policy](https://www.acma.gov.au/privacy-policy).

1. ‘Facility’ is defined in section 7 of the Act as ‘any part of the infrastructure of a telecommunications network’ or ‘any line, equipment, apparatus, tower, mast, antenna, tunnel, duct, hole, pit, pole or other structure or thing used, or for use, in or in connection with a telecommunications network’. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The applicable technical standard is currently the [Telecommunications Technical Standard (Requirements for customer cabling products – AS/CA S008) 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2015L00182/latest/versions). The labelling requirements are imposed by the [Telecommunications (Labelling Notice for Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Instrument 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2015L00190/latest/text) (the Telecommunications Labelling Notice). Some customer cabling products may be exempted from the requirement to apply a compliance label under the Telecommunications Labelling Notice. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The current Telecommunications Labelling Notice is due to sunset on 1 April 2025. We propose to reference the title of the re-made instrument, should this be registered prior to the Cabling Provider Rules 2025. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The Telecommunications Technical Standard (Requirements for customer cabling products – AS/CA S008) 2015is due to be remade and we propose to reference the title of the re-made instrument, should this be registered prior to the Cabling Provider Rules 2025. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. For example, clause 3.1 of Schedule 2 to the Cabling Provider Rules 2014 provides that Restricted registration applies to work that is ‘typically … confined to domestic premises but it may be applicable to certain small business and commercial environments’. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. See the ACMA’s approved form TCA1 – Telecommunications customer cabling compliance form available on the ACMA’s website at: <https://www.acma.gov.au/publications/2019-06/form/form-tca1-compliance-telecommunications-customer-cabling-advice>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. At November 2024, there are 5 cabling registrars accredited by the ACMA under the Cabling Provider Rules 2014: the Australian Cabler Registration Service, the Australian Security Industry Association Limited, BICSI Registered Cablers Australia Pty Ltd, Fire Protection Association Australia and TITAB Australia Cabler Registry Services. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Prior to the commencement of the Cabling Provider Rules 2014, the registration requirements were set out in the Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2000 and the Telecommunications Cabling Provider Rules 2000 - Arrangements for Operation of the Registration System (No. 2) (04/12/2000)(and its replacement instruments). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. If a registered cabler intends to perform or supervise cabling work that involves specialised kinds of cabling, additional qualifications are required for that kind of work. The Registrars currently record an ‘endorsement’ (additional competency for specialised cabling) against a cabler’s registration if they provide evidence of meeting the competency requirements for that endorsement. The Registrars recognise endorsements for work involving the following kinds of specialised cabling: optical fibre, co-axial, structured, underground, aerial and broadband. These competency requirements have been observed by industry since 2014 and are mentioned in Schedule 4 to the Cabling Provider Rules 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. The Jobs and Skills Councils are not-for-profit companies with responsibilities under the Vocational Education and Training system to develop training packages which meet standards set by the Skills Ministers. Further information is available at: <https://www.dewr.gov.au/skills-reform/jobs-and-skills-councils>. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. The National VET Regulator is obligated, by subsection 15A(2) of the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Regulations 2011, to ensure details of units of competency under nationally recognised training packages are entered on the National Register. The National Register is available at: <https://training.gov.au/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. The disclosure of information received by the ACMA in the course of performing its functions is governed by a range of other legislative instruments, including the *Australian Communications and Media Authority Act 2005*. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)