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9th April 2021



The Manager

Technical Regulation & Carrier Infrastructure Section
Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 13112 Law Courts
Melbourne VIC 8010

Dear Sir/Madam,

3M Australia appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Radiocommunications equipment rules consultation. These dialogues are important to deliver best outcomes for both industry and the public.

Following review of the Draft Radiocommunications Equipment (General) Rules 2021, 3M Australia have noted there are no provisions under the Draft General Rules 2021 for devices that are prototypes or devices for exhibition/demonstration purposes. Under the current Radiocommunications Labelling (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Notice 2017, Schedule 2, the Notice does not apply to devices that are prototypes or devices for exhibition/demonstration purposes. We would like to clarify if such devices are now required to comply with the Radiocommunications Equipment (General) Rules 2021. If this is the case, we foresee a significant impact to our business activities.

3M Australia import samples for demonstration/exhibition purposes primarily to confirm customer requirements and assess market opportunity. The imported samples would usually be compliant with the European EMC & EME Standards; however, they may not have had their full assessment against the ACMA compliance rules conducted. Once customer/market opportunity is confirmed, 3M Australia proceed to complete the assessment against the ACMA compliance rules prior to import of products for supply to the ANZ market. If samples now require assessment against the ACMA compliance rules prior to confirming customer requirements/market opportunity, there will be many instances where resource intensive assessments may never lead to market supply which results in a negative resource allocation.

3M Australia also collaborate with our customers on developing/customising products. Consequently, 3M would develop prototypes that may not have their full assessment against the ACMA compliance rules conducted. This is due to changes that might be required following customer feedback. Once feedback/changes are made to the prototype and final design is confirmed, the assessment against the ACMA compliance rules are completed prior to market supply. If prototypes now require assessment against the ACMA compliance rules prior to design finalisation, there will be many instances where resource intensive assessments may never lead to market supply which results in a negative resource allocation.

3M Australia have also noted there are no provisions under the Draft General Rules 2021 for devices that do not incorporate a radiocommunications transmitter and complies with the radio emission standard that applies to the law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory, example: a device that is compliant with the EMC requirements specified by the Therapeutic Goods Administration under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989. Under the Radiocommunications Labelling (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Notice 2017, Schedule 2, the Notice does not apply to these devices. If these devices now also require compliance to the EMC Standards under the new General rules, dual regulation will apply.

3M Australia welcomes further involvement in this discussion. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaskanwal Kathpal', written in a cursive style.

Jaskanwal Kathpal | Fall Protection Quality Engineer & HRE Regulatory Associate
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