



National Communications Authority

- News Item

NCA ORGANISES TYPE APPROVAL AND DEALERSHIP LICENSING WORKSHOP

The National Communications Authority (NCA) on the 24th of May 2016 organized a sensitization workshop on Type approval and Dealership Licensing at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Accra. The workshop with the theme, “Compliance with Electronic Communication Standards” was aimed at creating awareness on the requirements and procedures for Type Approval Certification, Dealership Licencing, port inspection and also to initiate discussion on the establishment of a Laboratory for testing electronic communication equipment, the services of the laboratory will be aimed at improving the standardization monitoring in the country and possibly the West African sub-region.

Mr Kofi Datsa, the Director for Regulatory Administration at the NCA, read the welcome address on behalf of the Director General, spoke on the important role of Ghana within the sub-region in the monitoring and testing of communications equipment which enter into the country will also give the country the necessary clout during regional deliberations at the international level. He said, “Africa’s involvement in ITU-T standardization has always been commendable and with rapid development in the IMT 2020 network space, the NCA is positioning itself to lead the way in equipment testing and standardization in the sub-region”.

He also called on all stakeholders to collaborate with the NCA to promote the use of safe interfaces especially of network, terminal and frequency dependent devices that connect in one way or the other to our public switch Telecom Network (PSTN) system as well as taking necessary action to eliminate the effects of sub-standard electronic communications equipment on our frequency spectrum and particular to the danger they pose to users. He also highlighted on the importance of all stakeholders to promote the use of safe hands-free devices particularly in vehicles.

Mr. Datsa ended by assuring participants of the Authority’s commitment to make sure that all communications equipment entering into the country adheres to stipulated safety directives for the benefit of the end user.

Participants at the workshop were made up of Manufactures, Network Providers, Internet Service Providers, Importers, Dealers, representatives from Ghana Customs, the Standards Board as well as consumers of Telecommunication and Broadcasting Equipment services. Some of the concerns raised by participants were;

- Due to frequent delays in the type approval process, participants were concerned about the heavy penalty charges being borne by importers and manufacturers; they therefore suggested that both the Standards Board and the NCA merge their processes into one to make it easier and quicker for all concerned.
- The absence of relevant agency officials at all the entry points into the country to ensure a wide monitoring scope of the governmental agencies, in that presently, the monitoring were only being conducted at only a few of the entry ports.
- When would the Authority start market surveillance of communications equipment nationwide.
- The possibility of the Authority publicly naming equipment which have not been typed approved and even manufactures or retail shops who deal in unapproved communications equipment

The NCA is empowered under the Electronic Communications Act, 2008, Act 775 to ensure that Electronic Communications Equipment (ECE) are certified and approved before they are put out on the Ghanaian market. This power is exercised through the Type Approval Certification, Dealership licensing and physical inspection procedures.

The aim of type approval is to help protect consumer health and safety, prevent disruption to public network, facilitate the availability of quality equipment on the market and to ensure adherence to environmental health and safety standards as enshrined in the Electronic Communications Act of 2008, Act 775 and in line with international best practices.