

**Malawi Communications  
Regulatory Authority  
(MACRA)**



**CONFORMANCE AND INTEROPERABILITY TESTING FOR  
THE AFRICA REGION  
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TUNIS, TUNISIA**

**MALAWI TYPE APPROVAL EXPERIENCE**

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## **PRESENTATION OUTLINE**

- ❖ Current Type Approval Regime
- ❖ Challenges
- ❖ Way Forward



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## CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

### ❑ Establishment

❖ Type Approval regime was established under S5(2)(j) and S5(2)(o) of the Communication Act (1998) Cap 68:01 of the laws of Malawi

❖ It specifies three categories of equipment namely:

- Radio Equipment e.g. Transmitters, Transceivers, antennas.
- Telecommunications Terminal equipment e.g. mobile phones.
- Any Interference causing Equipment e.g. Short Range Devices



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## CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

### ❑ Type Approval Process

❖ type approval application is made through the office of the Director General.

❖ Valid documentation must accompany the application:

- Declaration of conformity
- Manufacturers' technical documents and specifications.
- Type approval Certificates from renowned, verifiable and authentic type approving institutions ( e.g. FCC and EU with CE mark)

❖ Upon Verification process and proof of payment, certificate is given.

❖ If the application does not meet the requirements the equipment must be sent for type approval test with accredited test labs under FCC and EU



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## CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

### Who can Apply for Type Approval?

- ❖ local and international manufacturers
- ❖ authorized dealers
- ❖ licensed operators
- ❖ Importers and distributors



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## CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

### Why Type Approve?

- ❖ To ensure compliance with established standards, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and general safety
- ❖ To ensure quality for telecommunications products which are available on the market
- ❖ To ensuring interoperability of telecommunications equipment from different vendors.
- ❖ To Prevent frequency interferences.



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## CURRENT TYPE APPROVAL REGIME

### ❑ Applicable Standards?

- ❖ European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)
- ❖ Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- ❖ European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC).
- ❖ International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- ❖ International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



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## CHALLENGES

- ❖ Lack of collaboration with other government institutions e.g. Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS), Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA)
- ❖ Using very old legal and regulatory framework – Communications ACT (1998) is very old.
- ❖ Specific legislations (regulations) in draft form
- ❖ Availability of low cost counterfeit products
- ❖ No locally available test labs
- ❖ Lack of consumer awareness



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## WAY FORWARD

- ❖ Lobby for the passing of a new communications ACT. Almost ready to be tabled in parliament
- ❖ Promulgate specific regulations on type approval. Drafted regulations at consultation level with stakeholders.
- ❖ collaborate with various government institutions – MBS and MRA
- ❖ Carry out consumer awareness campaigns on the importance of using type approved equipment.
- ❖ Explore possibilities of having own test lab
- ❖ Build the capacity of engineers involved in type approval through various training including this one



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## END PIECE

*Thank you all for your attention*



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