

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR TERMINAL ATTACHMENTS (ACTA)

MEETING DATE: August 6, 2004

TITLE: Type Z Ringers and Customer Information Requirements

SOURCE*: R. W. Gubisch

PURPOSE: Informative

DISTRIBUTION TO: ACTA membership

ABSTRACT

The current ACTA Customer Information document contains no guidance for attachment of terminal equipment with Z-type ringers. The Z-ringer Working Group has reviewed the relevant provisions of TIA-968 and here recommends interim wording to be added to the Customer Information document. Adoption of this recommendation by electronic ballot is requested, for timely response to a TCB inquiry.

The deregulated telecom regime now in place renders unworkable the notification procedure specified for Z-ringer equipment in TIA-968. The Z-ringer Working Group also recommends that the ACTA advise the SDO to amend TIA-968 accordingly.

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I. Customer Information Issue

The user requirements as specified by ACTA no longer state that the user must notify the telephone company before connection. Rather, the ACTA instructions note that if the product causes harm, the user may be contacted. This contradicts the statement in TIA-968-A, as noted below:

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Section 4.7.7 "...Any equipment approved with the type Z designation may only be used with the consent of the local telephone company, provided that the local telephone company does not discriminate in its treatment of equipment bearing the type Z designation."

It would appear that this information should be supplied to the consumer; however, the user manual requirements do not address this at all.

A. Working Group discussion

The Z-ringer Working Group (Jimmy Salinas, Cliff Chamney, Roland Gubisch) teleconferenced July 15, 2004 to address the issue that was originally raised by a TCB query. The WG noted that the "conditional approval" specified in TIA-968 for Z-ringer equipment is not defined in the standard.

B. Working Group recommendation

The WG recommends that the ACTA adopt by electronic ballot the wording below, to be added at the end of the existing ACTA Customer Information document.

Type Z Ringer Information

Equipment that has on-hook impedance characteristics that do not conform to the requirements of TIA-968 may be conditionally approved, as long as the other relevant requirements are met and provided that the equipment is labeled with a Ringing Type designation "Z".

"Z" ringer status was created for equipment that normally does not get connected to the network.

Under present technical requirements, any equipment approved with the type Z designation may only be connected to the network with the consent of the local telephone company. Customer information provided with telephone equipment having a Z ringer designation shall provide the following wording:

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CAUTION: this equipment may be connected to the network only with the consent of the local telephone company.

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If this recommendation is adopted, the WG further recommends that the ACTA should notify the originating TCB of its action, as well as routinely posting a public notice of the change.

II. Requirement to contact local telephone company

A. Working Group discussion

The Z-ringer Working Group noted that, as a consequence of the deregulated telecom regime now in place, the "local telephone company" designated in TIA-968 might in fact be an ILEC or service re-seller. The "local telephone company" may not be in a position to know if specific Z-ringer is acceptable for connection - and therefore may not be in a position to approve connection.

Now there is no FCC requirement that service providers must not discriminate in attachment of Z-Ringer equipment, and ACTA is not authorized to make such requirements on service providers.

B. Working Group recommendation

The WG recommends that the ACTA vote at a regular meeting or by e-mail to remand the issue of Z-ringer approval to the originating SDO for TIA-968, with the recommendation of deleting all Z-ringer provisions from TIA-968 as unworkable in a deregulated telecom environment.