

Proposed amendments to telecommunications customer equipment regulation

Consultation paper

JULY 2026

Canberra

Level 3
40 Cameron Avenue
Belconnen ACT

PO Box 78
Belconnen ACT 2616

T +61 2 6219 5555
F +61 2 6219 5353

Melbourne

Level 32
Melbourne Central Tower
360 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne VIC

PO Box 13112
Law Courts
Melbourne VIC 8010

T +61 3 9963 6800
F +61 3 9963 6899

Sydney

Level 5
The Bay Centre
65 Pirrama Road
Pyrmont NSW

PO Box Q500
Queen Victoria Building
NSW 1230

T +61 2 9334 7700
F +61 2 9334 7799

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Executive summary

We are seeking feedback on proposed changes to three instruments under our regulatory arrangements for telecommunications customer equipment and cabling.

We are proposing:

- amendments to the [Telecommunications \(Labelling Notice for Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling\) Instrument 2025](#) (the TLN)
- to remake the [Telecommunications \(Customer Equipment Safety\) Technical Standard 2018](#) (the 2018 Safety Standard)
- to remake the [Telecommunications \(Mobile Equipment Air Interface\) Technical Standard 2022](#) (the 2022 Air Interface Standard).

These instruments are part of our framework for ensuring that items of customer equipment and customer cabling comply with specified technical requirements, prior to being supplied to the Australian market. We make technical standards with the objective of managing specified consumer risks and network risks, and the TLN imposes testing, labelling and record-keeping requirements in relation to an item's compliance with applicable technical standards.

Our proposal focuses on 3 key areas:

1. Extending record-keeping timeframes for standards compliance under the TLN.
2. Limiting the grandfathering arrangements in relation to standards compliance for mobile phones and, subject to a 6-month or 12-month transition period, mandating compliance with the latest industry standard for emergency call access.
3. Adopting a revised industry standard for the safety of customer equipment and introducing a provision to remove duplicative compliance obligations.

We are proposing these changes to strengthen the existing framework for telecommunications devices supplied to the Australian market.

The reason we are undertaking this consultation is, following the Optus outage on 18 September 2025, there have been issues raised about whether the ACMA's current arrangements for equipment regulation could be improved to provide further assurances that mobile phones will continue to provide durable connectivity to Triple Zero over time.

These concerns have been reflected in industry calls for a mobile device register to be established that would provide real-time information about the status of mobile phones, including changes made through updates that occur after the time of initial supply.

The ACMA notes that giving regulatory force to requirements about the performance of mobile phones post-supply and for a mobile device register would require legislative change. These changes are properly considered by the Triple Zero Custodian's Triple Zero current Legislative and Regulatory Review.

The changes proposed through this consultation can be made in the near-term to improve the durability of the connectivity of mobile phones to Triple Zero in the interim. We expect further changes to device regulation for mobile phones following the completion of the broader review by the Triple Zero Custodian.

The proposed changes form part of a program of work undertaken by the ACMA in support of the government's program of bolstering the effectiveness of consumer safeguard measures, particularly in relation to Triple Zero. This program of work also includes:

- (a) strengthening the obligations on carriers and carriage service providers under the [Telecommunications \(Emergency Call Service\) Determination 2019](#), including in relation to wilting, camp-on, testing, information-sharing and blocking mobile phones
- (b) strengthening the obligations on carriers and carriage service providers to notify of major outages and significant local outages, and maintain a register of resolved outages, under the [Telecommunications \(Customer Communications for Outages\) Industry Standard 2024](#)
- (c) introducing the requirement under the [Telecommunications \(Mobile Network Coverage Maps\) Industry Standard 2026](#) for mobile network operators to prepare a mobile network coverage map based on standardised modelling assumptions and descriptions.

Currently, the TLN requires manufacturers and importers to keep documentation about their item's compliance with applicable technical standards for 2 years after the last time it is supplied in Australia. We are proposing to increase this 2-year timeframe to 7 years to enhance our ability to investigate compliance should safety issues occur during an item's likely lifecycle.

The 2022 Air Interface Standard mandates compliance with specified industry standards which, among other things, provide the emergency call service access requirements for mobile phones. It includes 'grandfathering' arrangements that allow the continuing supply of certain items of customer equipment without the need to re-test such an item if there have been changes to any mandated industry standard applying to the item. We are proposing to shorten the period during which mobile phones can be tested against previous versions of any applicable industry standard. This will provide greater assurance that mobile phones supplied to the Australian market will be able to contact Triple Zero.

The 2018 Safety Standard provides safeguards for the design, construction and operation of customer equipment that uses audio, video and information technology. We are proposing to remake the 2018 Safety Standard to adopt the [latest version of an industry safety standard](#) published earlier this year. We have also identified opportunities to reduce regulatory overlap in this technical standard, where customer equipment is subject to equivalent safety requirements under certain other regulatory frameworks.

To give effect to our proposed changes, we intend to make:

- an instrument to amend the TLN, with the proposed amendments set out in a marked-up compilation of the TLN
- the Telecommunications (Mobile Equipment Air Interface) Technical Standard 2026 (the 2026 Air Interface Standard) to replace the 2022 Air Interface Standard
- the Telecommunications (Customer Equipment Safety) Technical Standard 2026 (the 2026 Safety Standard) to replace the 2018 Safety Standard.

We invite submissions on the attached draft of the TLN and draft technical standards.

Issues for comment

We invite comments on the issues set out in this paper:

1. Do you have any comments on our proposal to amend the TLN to extend the record-keeping timeframes about an item's compliance to 7 years after the item is supplied in Australia? Or if the item is included in a class of items, after all items of the class cease to be supplied in Australia?
2. Do you have any comments about our proposal to limit the grandfathering arrangements for mobile phones in relation to:
 - (a) Requiring mobile phones to comply with the 2025 version of each applicable industry standard from commencement of the 2026 Air Interface Standard?
 - (b) Providing a transition period, starting from commencement of the 2026 Air Interface Standard, for mobile phones and classes of mobile phones existing before commencement, to change over to testing to the 2025 version of each applicable industry standard?
 - (c) Whether the transition period should be 6 months or 12 months? Please provide reasons to support your preferred timeframe for the transition period.
3. Do you have any comments about our further proposed limits to grandfathering arrangements in relation to:
 - (a) Requiring mobile phones to comply with any amendment to the *AS/CA S042.1:2025 Requirements for connection to an air interface of a Telecommunications Network – Part 1: General (AS/CA S042.1:2025)* or a replacement of that standard?
 - (b) Providing a transition period for mobile phones (even if they are included in a class of items) to comply with any amendment to *AS/CA S042.1:2025* or a replacement of that industry standard?
 - (c) Whether the transition period should be 6 months or 12 months? Please provide reasons to support your preferred timeframe for the transition period.
4. Do you have any comments on:
 - (a) Whether it is necessary and appropriate to mandate compliance with *AS/NZS 62368.1:2026 Audio/video, information and communications technology equipment, Part 1: Safety requirements (IEC 62368-1:2023, (ED. 4.0) MOD)*?
 - (b) The proposal to allow manufacturers and importers to test their customer equipment to *AS/NZS 62368.1:2022 Audio/video, information and communication technology equipment, Part 1: Safety requirements (IEC 62368-1:2018 (ED. 3.0), MOD)* until it is withdrawn in March 2029?
5. Do you have any comments on the proposal in the draft 2026 Safety Standard to provide that customer equipment that complies with other duplicative compliance requirements for aviation and electrical safety is taken to comply with the 2026 Safety Standard?
6. Do you have any feedback on the other minor changes proposed to the TLN or the 2026 Safety Standard?

Background

Existing regulatory framework

We are responsible for the technical regulation of telecommunications customer equipment and customer cabling under Part 21 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (the Act).

Customer cabling, in the absence of any regulations, is defined in subsection 20(4) of the Act as ‘a line that is used, installed ready for use, or intended for use on the customer side of the boundary of a telecommunications network’.¹

Customer equipment, in the absence of regulations, is defined in subsection 21(4) of the Act as:

- (a) any equipment, apparatus, tower, mast, antenna or other structure or thing that is used, installed ready for use, or intended for use on the customer side of the boundary of a telecommunications network; or
- (b) any system (whether software-based or otherwise) that is used, installed ready for use, or intended for use on the customer side of the boundary of a telecommunications network
- (c) but does not include a line.

The legislative framework requires manufacturers or importers of customer equipment and customer cabling to meet appropriate safeguards through compliance with our technical standards. Customer equipment and customer cabling must be labelled for compliance or non-compliance with our technical standards before the item is supplied to the Australian market. There are testing, labelling and record-keeping requirements imposed on manufacturers and importers under the TLN.

There are offences under the Act if customer equipment or customer cabling is unlawfully supplied, labelled or connected to a telecommunications network based on the obligations set out in the TLN, unless an exception applies.²

The ACMA, or an inspector appointed by the ACMA under the Act, has powers under the Act to request documents and information from a manufacturer or importer of customer equipment or customer cabling about compliance with our technical regulation.

ACMA technical standards

When making technical standards under the Act, we may only impose requirements for customer equipment or customer cabling as are necessary or convenient to meet specified objectives. The specified objectives include, but are not limited to:

- protecting network integrity
- protecting people’s health and safety
- ensuring customer equipment can provide access to the emergency call service

¹ The boundary of a telecommunications network is defined by section 22 of the Act.

² The offences are set out in sections 411 to 416 of the Act.

- ensuring the interoperability of customer equipment.³

Our technical standards typically incorporate by reference the requirements in industry standards published by the Australian Telecommunications Alliance Ltd (formerly known as Communications Alliance Ltd) and Standards Australia.

At the time of publishing this paper, there are 9 technical standards in force for customer equipment and customer cabling. The proposals set out in this paper relate only to 2 of these standards: the 2022 Air Interface Standard and 2018 Safety Standard.

The 2022 Air Interface Standard

The 2022 Air Interface Standard applies to customer equipment that is:

- a. designed or intended for use in connection with a public mobile telecommunications service⁴ (PMTS) or a satellite service, or both
- b. an addressable device.⁵

To be compliant with the 2022 Air Interface Standard, an item of customer equipment must comply with applicable ATA industry standards, adopted by the technical standard. This is based on the technologies used and the date the item is manufactured or materially modified in Australia or imported. These ATA industry standards specify technical requirements that are consistent with internationally recognised 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) standards.⁶

The 2022 Air Interface Standard includes 'grandfathering' provisions that allow an item included in a class of items to rely on the compliance of the original item or original modified item of the class with a particular version of the industry standard to meet the requirements of the 2022 Air Interface Standard (even if that particular version of the industry standard has been later amended or replaced).⁷ An item is included in a class of items if each item is identical to one another and has the same manufacturer or importer.⁸ The original item of the class is the item of the class that was the first to be manufactured in Australia or imported. The original modified item of the class is the item of the class that was first to be so modified in Australia or imported.⁹

The grandfathering provisions mean manufacturers and importers of items included in a class do not have to retest mass or series-produced items if the items have not been materially modified.

Grandfathering does not apply to items that have been materially modified. A modification is material if it would or could reasonably be expected to affect whether the item complies with the same version of the industry standard that the original item complied with.¹⁰

³ The ACMA's power to make technical standards is set out in section 376 of the Act, including the full list of specified objectives.

⁴ Public mobile telecommunications service is defined in section 32 of the Act.

⁵ Addressable device is defined in section 6 of the 2022 Air Interface Standard.

⁶ The [3rd Generation Partnership Project](#) is a partnership of 7 international telecommunications standard-making organisations, which produce technical specifications and technical reports to cover cellular telecommunications technologies.

⁷ Subsections 15(3) and (4) and section 19 of the 2022 Air Interface Standard.

⁸ Section 10 of the 2022 Air Interface Standard sets out when an item is included in a class of items.

⁹ Paragraphs 10(1)(b) and (2)(b) of the 2022 Air Interface Standard.

¹⁰ Subsection 15(4) of the 2022 Air Interface Standard

On 30 June 2025, the ATA published the following revised versions of the relevant industry standards:

- [AS/CA S042.1:2025 Requirements for connection to an air interface of a Telecommunications Network – Part 1: General](#) (AS/CA S042.1:2025)
- [AS/CA S042.4:2025 Requirements for connection to an air interface of a Telecommunications Network – Part 4: IMT-2000 and IMT-Advanced Customer Equipment](#) (AS/CA S042.4:2025)
- [AS/CA S042.5:2025 Requirements for connection to an air interface of a Telecommunications Network – Part 5: IMT-2020 Customer Equipment](#) (AS/CA S042.5:2025).

The 2022 Air Interface Standard automatically adopts the revised industry standards as 'replacement standards' of the applicable industry standards originally adopted.

The 2018 Safety Standard

The 2018 Safety Standard complements the full suite of technical standards for customer equipment by mandating compliance with Standards Australia industry standards for the safe design, construction and operation of audio, video and information and communication technology related customer equipment.

The 2018 Safety Standard applies to an item of customer equipment if the item is designed or intended for connection to a telecommunications network and there are any other technical standards specified in table items 1 to 4 of Schedule 1 to TLN that apply to the item.

Depending on the date the item was manufactured or modified in Australia or imported, the 2018 Safety Standard mandates the following applicable industry standards:

- [AS/NZS 60950.1:2015 Information technology equipment – Safety, Part 1: General requirements \(IEC 60950-1, Ed. 2.2 \(2013\), MOD\)](#)
- [AS/NZS 62368.1:2018 Audio/video, information and communication technology equipment, Part 1: Safety requirements \(IEC 62368-1:2014 \(ED. 2.0\) MOD\)](#) (AS/NZS 62368.1:2018)
- [AS/NZS 62368.1:2022 Audio/video, information and communication technology equipment, Part 1: Safety requirements \(IEC 62368-1:2018 \(ED. 3.0\), MOD\)](#) (AS/NZS 62368.1:2022).

The 2018 Safety Standard automatically adopts AS/NZS 62368.1:2022 as the 'replacement standard' of AS/NZS 62368.1:2018.

On 6 March 2026, Standards Australia published a replacement to AS/NZS 62368.1:2022. This replacement is titled [AS/NZS 62368.1:2026 Audio/video, information and communications technology equipment Part 1: Safety requirements \(IEC 62368-1:2023, \(ED. 4.0\) MOD\)](#) (AS/NZS 62368.1:2026). The 2018 Safety Standard does not automatically adopt AS/NZS 62368.1:2026 which is an industry standard that replaces a replacement standard.

AS/NZS 62368.1:2026 adopts an international version of the product safety standard, IEC 62368.1:2023, with national modifications for Australia and New Zealand.

The TLN

We make the TLN under subsection 407(1) of the Act to impose obligations on manufacturers and importers of customer equipment and customer cabling, to label items of specified customer equipment or customer cabling to reflect whether they are compliant with our applicable technical standards before the items are supplied to the Australian market.

The applicable technical standards for customer equipment and customer cabling are set out in Schedules 1 and 4 to the TLN, respectively. Schedule 1 to the TLN further categorises customer equipment and the applicable technical standards according to whether they are used in connection with a PMTS, or to a satellite-based facility, or other telecommunications networks.

If there are one or more applicable technical standards for an item, the TLN requires a manufacturer or importer of the item to apply a label to indicate the item's compliance or non-compliance with each applicable technical standard before the item is supplied in Australia. A manufacturer or importer of an item must satisfy certain requirements before applying a compliance label to the item, such as testing or certification of the item, making a declaration of conformity and registering on the national database of suppliers.

The documents required to show an item complies with an applicable technical standard will vary depending on whether Schedule 1 to the TLN lists the technical standard as a 'high risk' applicable technical standard (high risk standard) or not.¹¹ The compliance label must meet requirements under the TLN in relation to its form, scale, visibility and method of application.

If an item of the customer equipment or customer cabling does not comply with the applicable technical standards, the manufacturer or importer of the item is required to apply a non-compliance label to the item before supplying it.

Once an item is labelled, the manufacturer or importer of the item must keep specified written records about the item and its compliance with our applicable technical standards. The manufacturer or importer must store these records from the commencement of supply in Australia and for 2 years after the item is supplied in Australia; or if the item is included in a class of items, after all items of the class cease to be supplied in Australia. Typically, these records are stored electronically.

Relationship with regulatory ecosystem for Triple Zero

Our telecommunications device supply regulation complements other aspects of the regulatory ecosystem for Triple Zero. This includes the obligations imposed on carriers and carriage service providers in the [Telecommunications \(Emergency Call Service\) Determination 2019](#) (ECS Determination) to identify and block mobile phones that are not configured to access the emergency call service.

On 17 March 2026, the Minister for Communications announced a [Triple Zero Legislative and Regulatory Review](#), to be undertaken by the Triple Zero Custodian in the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts. The review will consider, among other things, the effectiveness and appropriateness of device

¹¹ A manufacturer or importer of an item must obtain a third-party test report (for example, an endorsed test report by an accredited testing body) to meet the testing and compliance declaration requirements in relation to high-risk standards. See subsection 22(4) and item 2 of the table in clause 1 of Schedule 1 to the TLN.

supply regulation to support an effective, accessible and accountable emergency calling system.

The changes proposed in this paper are separate from any potential further changes to the regulatory framework for telecommunications devices following the outcome of the Triple Zero Custodian's review. We are proposing these changes now as we have identified them as practical steps we can take in the interim to strengthen the current framework.

Proposed amendments

Extending the timeframe for keeping written compliance statements

We are proposing to strengthen the regulatory safeguards for telecommunications devices by extending the timeframe in which compliance records must be kept by manufacturers and importers of items of customer equipment and customer cabling under sections 18 and 28, and clause 9 of Schedule 4 to the TLN.

We are proposing to extend the timeframe to 7 years after the last instance of supply in Australia, to more appropriately reflect product life cycles and to align with similar European rules for phone equipment.¹²

Our proposed change will improve our capacity to detect and manage safety issues related to standards-compliance while a device remains in use.

The proposed changes will not alter any other aspect of the requirements for keeping compliance documentation. For example, manufacturers and importers can continue to keep their records in electronic format.

Question 1

Do you have any comments on our proposal to amend the TLN to extend compliance record-keeping timeframes about an item's compliance to 7 years after the item is supplied in Australia? Or if the item is included in a class of items, after all items of the class cease to be supplied in Australia?

Limiting the grandfathering arrangements for mobile phones

We are proposing to make the 2026 Air Interface Standard, to repeal and replace the 2022 Air Interface Standard.

To strengthen our device supply regulation, the proposed 2026 Air Interface Standard will limit grandfathering arrangements for mobile phones manufactured or modified in Australia or imported.

Our proposed changes will apply to mobile phones only, as these devices are now the primary means of accessing voice calls in Australia including calls to Triple Zero. Recent Triple Zero outages have highlighted the need to ensure mobile phones can make emergency calls throughout their lifecycle, and our proposed changes will work in conjunction with a range of other regulatory measures which work towards this aim.

¹² The [European Union's regime for the ecodesign of phone equipment](#) requires manufacturers, importers or their authorised representatives to maintain public access to compliance information until at least 7 years after the date a product ceases to be placed on the market.

These other regulatory measures include, but are not limited to:

- (a) the obligations imposed on carriers and carriage service providers under the ECS Determination, including in relation to wilting, camp-on, testing, information-sharing and blocking mobile phones¹³
- (b) the obligations on carriers and carriage service providers to notify of major outages and significant local outages, and maintain a register of resolved outages, under the [Telecommunications \(Customer Communications for Outages\) Industry Standard 2024](#)
- (c) the requirement under the [Telecommunications \(Mobile Network Coverage Maps\) Industry Standard 2026](#) for mobile network operators to prepare a mobile network coverage map based on standardised modelling assumptions and descriptions.

Under the proposal, the definition of 'mobile phone' in the Air Interface Standard 2026 will have the same meaning as in the [ECS Determination](#):

mobile phone includes a handheld mobile device that is capable of voice communications when connected to, or intended for use in connection with, a mobile network but does not include a device which is capable of using a mobile network that is not ordinarily considered to be a mobile phone such as:

- (a) fixed broadband gateways;
- (b) internet of things devices;
- (c) personal alert devices;
- (d) smartwatches; or
- (e) tablets.

We are proposing to limit grandfathering arrangements for mobile phones supplied with the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) in 2 ways:

- Firstly, for mobile phones which are part of a class of items first manufactured, modified or imported after the commencement of the 2026 Air Interface Standard, the mobile phone will generally need to comply with¹⁴, and be tested against:
 - AS/CA S042.1:2025 and, as applicable, AS/CA S042.4:2025 and AS/CA S042.5:2025, or subject to a transition period any amendments to or replacement of those standards if supplied after those amendments or replacement.
- Secondly, mobile phones will generally need to comply with and be tested against the latest iteration of S042.1, subject to a transition period, irrespective of whether the mobile phone has been tested to a previous iteration of S042.1.

Compliance with latest versions of the applicable industry standards

If a mobile phone is manufactured, modified or imported after commencement of the 2026 Air Interface Standard, our proposal will mean that a phone to be supplied with the RCM must comply with AS/CA S042.1:2025.

¹³ The ECS Determination imposes obligations on carriers and/or carriage service providers which are designed to improve the reliability of access to emergency call services including:

- (a) wilting facilities if they lose connectivity to a core network
- (b) taking steps to prevent networks and facilities from impeding emergency call camp-on functionality during an outage
- (c) testing that emergency calls can be delivered to the emergency call persons, including emergency call camp-on functionality
- (d) sharing information about outages with specified entities
- (e) identifying and blocking mobile phones that are not able to access the emergency call service.

¹⁴ There are some exceptions in the circumstances defined in section 32 of the TLN.

Where applicable, it also must comply with AS/ CA S042.4:2025 and AS/CA S042.5:2025, subject to a transition period. We are considering a transition of either 6 months or 12 months, starting from the commencement of the 2026 Air Interface Standard. During the transition period, the manufacturer or importer of mobile phones and classes of mobile phones existing before commencement will be able to rely on the compliance and testing of the first item of that model with each industry standard applicable at that time.

Once the transition period ends, manufacturers and importers of mobile phones will no longer be able to rely on the compliance and testing of the first item of that model with editions of the industry standards made before 2025.

If there is any amendment or replacement of AS/CA S042.1:2025, subject to a transition period, manufacturers and importers will need to test compliance with the amended or replaced standard. This additional requirement reflects the importance of the emergency calling requirements in AS/CA S042.1.

The proposed testing requirements for mobile phones are outlined in Table 1.

This proposal is designed to ensure that mobile phones supplied, or that will continue to be supplied, to the Australian market are tested to the latest relevant technical requirements, while allowing industry a 6-month or 12-month window to update arrangements.

Table 1: Applicable industry standards for mobile phones

Date that mobile phone is manufactured, modified or imported	Date that original item of class of mobile phones is manufactured, modified or imported	Applicable air interface industry standards
Before 30 June 2025	Before 30 June 2025	AS/CA S042.1:2022 ¹⁵ AS/CA S042.4:2022 ¹⁶ (if relevant) AS/CA S042.5:2022 ¹⁷ (if relevant)
On or after 30 June 2025, and before commencement of 2026 Air Interface Standard.	On or after 30 June 2025, and before commencement of 2026 Air Interface Standard.	AS/CA S042.1:2022 or AS/CA S042.1:2025 AS/CA S042.4:2022 or AS/CA S042.4:2025 (if relevant) AS/CA S042.5:2022 or AS/CA S042.5:2025 (if relevant)
On or after commencement of 2026 Air Interface Standard but before publication of any amendment or replacement of an applicable industry standard.	On or after commencement of 2026 Air Interface Standard but before publication of any amendment or replacement of an applicable industry standard.	AS/CA S042.1:2025 AS/CA S042.4:2025 (if relevant) AS/CA S042.5:2025 (if relevant)
During 6-month or 12-month transition period starting from publication of any amendment or replacement of an applicable industry standard.	During 6-month or 12-month transition period starting from publication of any amendment or replacement of an applicable industry standard.	The applicable industry standard in force before the relevant amendment or replacement. or The applicable industry standard as amended or the replacement standard.
After 6-month or 12-month transition period starting on publication of any amendment or replacement of an applicable industry standard.	After 6-month or 12-month transition period starting on publication of any amendment or replacement of an applicable industry standard.	The applicable industry standard as amended or the replacement standard.

Question 2

Do you have any comments about our proposal to limit the grandfathering arrangements for mobile phones in relation to:

- (a) Requiring mobile phones to comply with the 2025 versions of each applicable industry standard from commencement of the 2026 Air Interface Standard?
- (b) Providing a transition period, starting from commencement of the 2026 Air Interface Standard, for mobile phones and classes of mobile phones existing before commencement, to change over to testing to the 2025 version of each applicable industry standard?
- (c) Whether the transition period should be for 6 months or 12 months? Please provide reasons to support your preferred timeframe for the transition period.

Compliance with any amendment to AS/CA S042.1:2025 or a replacement standard

As mentioned above, we are also proposing that mobile phones comply with any amendment to AS/CA S042.1:2025 or a replacement standard, subject to a transition period. This proposal will apply to mobile phones that are manufactured, modified or imported after AS/CA S042.1:2025 has been amended or replaced.

If such a mobile phone belongs to a class of items that existed prior to publication of any amendment or a replacement standard, our proposal will require the mobile phone to comply with the latest version of the standard, subject to a transition period.

Effectively, after the transition period for any amendment to AS/CA S042.1:2025 or a replacement standard, manufacturers and importers of mobile phones will not be able to rely on the original item of that class complying with an earlier version of AS/CA S042.1:2025. Instead, they will require an updated certification statement, test report and/or endorsed test report against the amended version of AS/CA S042.1:2025 or the replacement standard.¹⁸

A transition period of 6 months or 12 months will also apply in these circumstances to provide manufacturers and importers of mobile phones sufficient time to changeover testing to any amended AS/CA S042.1:2025 or a replacement standard. Each time AS/CA S042.1:2025 is amended or when it is replaced, a 6-month or 12-month transition period will apply.

The proposed testing requirements for mobile phones, if AS/CA S042.1 is amended or replaced, are outlined in Table 2.

By requiring a mobile phone to comply with any amendment to AS/CA S042.1:2025 or a replacement standard, we will be effectively increasing the frequency of testing of mobile phones against our emergency call service access requirements, prior to their ongoing supply. Even if the changes to AS/CA S042.1:2025 are minor, we consider additional

¹⁵ [AS/CA S042.1:2022 Requirements for connection to an air interface of a Telecommunications Network – Part 1: General](#).

¹⁶ [AS/CA S042.4:2022 Requirements for connection to an air interface of a Telecommunications Network—Part 4: IMT Customer Equipment](#).

¹⁷ [AS/CA S042.5:2022 Requirements for connection to an air interface of a Telecommunications Network—Part 5: IMT-2020 Customer Equipment](#).

¹⁸ The parts of the 2026 Air Interface Standard that relate to AS/CA S0421.5 are a high-risk standard for the purposes of the TLN (refer item 2 of the table in clause 1 of Schedule 1). A manufacturer or importer must therefore obtain specific documents (such as an endorsed test report by an accredited testing body) to be satisfied that the item complies with this standard (see section 22 of the TLN).

frequency of testing will help provide greater assurance that a mobile phone can initiate Triple Zero calls.

Table 2: Applicable iteration of AS/CA S042.1 for mobile phones during 6-month or 12-month transition period

Date that mobile phone is manufactured, modified or imported	Date that original item of class of mobile phones is manufactured, modified or imported	Applicable industry standards
Any time during 6-month or 12-month transition period starting from publication of any amendment to AS/CA S042.1:2025.	Any time during 6-month or 12-month transition period starting from publication of any amendment to AS/CA S042.1:2025.	The version of AS/CA S042.1:2025 prior to amendment. or AS/CA S042.1:2025 as amended.
Any time during 6-month or 12-month transition period starting from publication of the replacement standard.	Any time during the 6-month or 12-month transition period starting from publication of the replacement standard.	The version of AS/CA S042.1:2025 prior to replacement. or The replacement standard.

Question 3

Do you have any comments about our further proposed limits to grandfathering arrangements in relation to:

- (a) Requiring mobile phones to comply with any amendment to AS/CA S042.1:2025 or a replacement standard?
- (b) Providing a transition period for mobile phones (even if they are included in a class of items) to comply with any amendment to AS/CA S042.1:2025 or a replacement standard?
- (c) Whether the transition period should be for 6 months or 12 months? Please provide reasons to support your preferred timeframe for the transition period.

Recognising a revised industry safety standard

We are proposing to make the 2026 Safety Standard, to repeal and replace the 2018 Safety Standard.

AS/NZS 62368.1:2026 reflects the most up-to-date safety requirements for audio, video and information and communication technology customer equipment.¹⁹ Our proposed adoption of AS/NZS 62368.1:2026 will ensure the mandated technical requirements for device safety align with broader industry practice and international arrangements.

¹⁹ The 2018 Safety Standard does not incorporate any replacement standard published after AS/NZS 62368.1:2022. It is necessary to amend 2018 Safety Standard or replace the instrument with changes, in order to incorporate the latest industry standard and any amendment or replacement of that standard.

Our proposed 2026 Safety Standard will adopt AS/NZS 62368.1:2026, including any amendment made to this industry standard by Standards Australia and one replacement standard. This will ensure our technical standard can continue to uphold its safety objectives, by mandating compliance with the latest, minimum requirements for customer equipment.

Standards Australia has stated that AS/NZS 62368.1:2022 will remain current for a 3-year period, ending 5 March 2029. We therefore propose that manufacturers and importers can demonstrate compliance against either AS/NZS 62368.1:2026 or AS/NZS 62368.1:2022 until the earlier edition is withdrawn.

This approach is consistent with established transition practices and supports continuity for industry. Allowing the use of either edition during this period provides regulatory certainty and avoids unnecessary re-testing where valid compliance evidence already exists. As the core safety principles underpinning AS/NZS 62368.1 remain largely consistent across editions, recognising both editions during a transition period does not reduce safety outcomes.

We therefore consider it appropriate to align the transition period with the timeframe set by Standards Australia to withdraw AS/NZS 62368.1:2022.

We are proposing to remake the existing savings and transitional arrangements for items manufactured, imported or modified prior to the commencement of the 2026 Safety Standard, with some modifications to the drafting of the transitional and saving provisions.

Question 4

Do you have any comments on:

- (a) Whether it is necessary and appropriate to mandate compliance with AS/NZS 62368.1:2026?
- (b) The proposal to allow manufacturers and importers to test their customer equipment to AS/NZS 62368.1:2022 until it is withdrawn in March 2029?

Reducing duplicative requirements in 2026 Safety Standard

Members of industry have raised concerns about duplicative requirements if an item of customer equipment is required to comply with an aviation or electrical safety standard and the AS/NZS 62368.1 industry safety standard.

To minimise duplicative compliance costs on manufacturers and importers, we are proposing that customer equipment under the 2026 Safety Standard be taken to comply with parts of the AS/NZS 62368.1 industry standard if:

- (a) There are equivalent requirements in an aviation safety standard or an electrical safety standard that apply to the item under a law of the Commonwealth or a state or territory.
- (b) The item complies with the requirements in the aviation safety standard or electrical safety standard.

It is intended that customer equipment must primarily comply with the applicable industry standard under the 2026 Safety Standard.

The proposed provision will only apply to the extent there are overlapping requirements in an aviation or electrical safety standard mandated by another regulator. Manufacturers and importers must test the item to the relevant parts of the AS/NZS 62368.1 industry standard if there is any difference with the safety requirements in these other standards.

Question 5

Do you have any comments on the proposal in the draft 2026 Safety Standard to provide that customer equipment that complies with other duplicative compliance requirements for aviation and electrical safety is taken to comply with the 2026 Safety Standard?

Other drafting changes

We are also proposing other minor changes to:

- Remove the definition of 'manufacturer' in the 2026 Safety Standard and 2026 Air Interface Standard, in line with the TLN.
- Remove a reference to the *Telecommunications Technical Standard (Information Technology Equipment – Safety, Part 1: General Requirements – AS/NZS 60950.1:2011)* 2011 in section 16 of the 2026 Safety Standard in relation to savings and transitional arrangements for the 2026 Safety Standard. There is no longer a need to incorporate that previous technical standard.
- Improve drafting and provide greater clarity in the 2026 Safety Standard about when a version of an industry standard applies to an item.
- The TLN to update references related to the proposed 2026 Air Interface Standard and 2026 Safety Standard.
- Require manufacturers or importers of mobile phones to obtain documents for the latest applicable version of S042.1, as consequence of limiting grandfathering arrangements in the proposed 2026 Air Interface Standard

Question 6

Do you have any feedback on the other minor changes proposed to the TLN or the 2026 Safety Standard?

Invitation to comment

Making a submission

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

- [Online submissions](#) 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 Section
Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 13112
Law Courts
Melbourne VIC 8010

The closing date for submissions is **COB, Thursday 17 September 2026**.

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.

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