

Notices of deemed compliance for 2025

Australian content: for regional/remote commercial television broadcasting licensees

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Executive summary

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (BSA) establishes the Australian content regulatory framework for commercial television broadcasting licensees (licensees) and includes Australian content quota requirements.

The BSA also recognises that there are differences between licensees operating in metropolitan and regional or remote licence areas. In practice, regional and remote licensees rely on metropolitan licensees for much of their content, which is provided through program affiliation agreements.

The number and type of multi-channels provided by regional and remote licensees can be determined by infrastructure capacity and/or by affiliation agreements.

In 2020, the BSA was amended to recognise that regional and remote licensees can find it difficult to satisfy the Australian content obligations. This is because they have limited or no control over the programming provided on the multi-channels they broadcast, particularly if they carry a reduced number of multi-channels for commercial or technical reasons.

Under the BSA, regional and remote licensees can be deemed compliant with multi-channel quota obligations if they provide the ACMA with a notice that meets relevant conditions set out in subsection 121H(1) of the BSA. The ACMA must publish a copy of the notice on the ACMA's website.

A similar deeming provision can apply under section 16 of the [Broadcasting Services \(Australian Content and Children's Television\) Standards 2020](#) (ACCTS). The [Explanatory Statement](#) to the ACCTS indicates that the deeming provision was introduced to protect regional and remote licensees, which may have limited control over programming retransmitted under an affiliate agreement.

1 notice was given to the ACMA under subsection 121H(1) of the BSA for 2025. Four licensees were deemed to comply with the ACCTS points quota under section 16 of the ACCTS for 2025.

Deemed compliance

The Australian content transmission quotas in the BSA require licensees to transmit:

1. Australian programs¹ for at least 55% of all programming broadcast between 6 am and midnight on their primary television services; and
2. at least 1,460 hours of Australian programs between 6am and midnight across their suite of non-primary television services (multi-channels).

The Australian content points requirement in the [ACCTS](#) provides that licensees must broadcast at least 250 points of first release Australian programs each calendar year. The programs must be from selected genres (Schedule 1 of the ACCTS) and may be broadcast across all primary and non-primary broadcast channels.

For regional and remote licensees to rely on deemed compliance provisions, the licensee must have broadcast:

- > for the multi-channel quota, no less than the total number of hours of Australian programs broadcast on the equivalent multi-channel by the metropolitan commercial television broadcasting licensee, during targeted viewing hours in the calendar year; and
- > for the ACCTS points requirement, no less than the amount of first release Australian programs broadcast by its metropolitan affiliate on the latter's equivalent channel/s, during the same year.

For 2025, 1 notice was assessed for deemed compliance with the BSA multi-channel quota and four licensees were deemed to comply with the ACCTS quota.

¹ An 'Australian program' defined under the ACCTS is one that is produced under the creative control of Australians. This may include having Australian producers, directors, writers, and cast.

Deemed compliance under section 121H of the BSA, 2025

Section 121H of the BSA provides for a regional/remote commercial television broadcasting licensee which operates under an affiliate agreement with a metropolitan licensee to be deemed compliant with its Australian content transmission quota obligations for secondary channels (multi-channels) for a calendar year. Deemed compliance requires specific information to be reported to the ACMA (subsection 121H(1)(b)) and that the hours of Australian programs the regional licensee broadcasts be the same as (or more than) the amount broadcast by its affiliate metropolitan commercial television broadcasting licensee on the latter's equivalent channels during the same year.

Table 1: Deemed compliance under section 121H of the BSA, 2025

Period commencing	Period ending	Licence	Licence area	License Call Sign	Regional multi-channels broadcast	Hours transmitted by regional/remote licensee on multi-channels	Metro licensee	Hours transmitted by metro licensee on equivalent multi-channels	Conditions met for deemed compliance
01/05/2025	31/12/2025	96	Northern New South Wales TV1	NRN	10 Drama, 10 Comedy, Nickelodeon	1389.83	TEN Sydney	1389.83	Yes

Deemed compliance under section 16 of the ACCTS, 2025

Section 16 of the ACCTS sets out the circumstances in which regional/remote licensees that operate under an affiliate agreement with a metropolitan licensee may be deemed compliant with its annual quota obligations to broadcast 250 points of Australian content under the ACCTS.

Table 2: Deemed compliance under section 16 of the ACCTS, 2025

Period commencing	Period ending	Licence no.	Licence area	Licence call sign	On air ID	Regional channels broadcast	Points transmitted by regional/remote licensee	Metro licensee	Metro channels broadcast
1/03/2025	31/12/2025	85	SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES TV1	CTC	10	10, 10 Drama, 10 Comedy, Nickelodeon	208.50	TEN SYDNEY	10, 10 Drama, 10 Comedy, Nickelodeon
1/03/2025	31/12/2025	104	WESTERN VICTORIA TV1	BCV	10	10, 10 Drama, 10 Comedy, Nickelodeon	208.50	ATV MELBOURNE	10, 10 Drama, 10 Comedy, Nickelodeon
1/03/2025	31/12/2025	106	EASTERN VICTORIA TV1	GLV	10	10, 10 Drama, 10 Comedy, Nickelodeon	208.50	ATV MELBOURNE	10, 10 Drama, 10 Comedy, Nickelodeon
1/03/2025	31/12/2025	113	REGIONAL QUEENSLAND TV1	TNQ	10	10, 10 Drama, 10 Comedy, Nickelodeon	208.50	TVQ BRISBANE	10, 10 Drama, 10 Comedy, Nickelodeon

Schedules

Schedule 1

Notice that the regional/remote commercial television licensee wants to rely on section 121H of the <i>Broadcasting Services Act 1992</i>	
Period commencing	1 May 2025
Period ending	31 December 2025
Licence number	96
Licence area	NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES TV1
On air ID	10
Confirm the above regional/remote commercial television broadcasting licensee wants to rely on section 121H to be deemed compliant with the Australian content transmission quota (Yes/No)	Yes
Specify the metropolitan commercial television broadcasting licensee for the purposes of section 121H	88 TEN (Ten Sydney)
Specify the total number of hours (in decimal format) of Australian programs that were transmitted by the above regional/remote commercial television broadcasting licensee during targeted viewing hours on secondary commercial television broadcasting services	1389.83
Specify the total number of hours (in decimal format) of Australian programs that were transmitted by the above metropolitan commercial television broadcasting licensee during targeted viewing hours on the equivalent secondary commercial television broadcasting services	1389.83