

CONTENTS

VIII. CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDIZATION	68
1. Conformity assessment	68
2. Standardization	68

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1. Conformity assessment

Until September 2002 the conformity assessment of radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment and the issuance of import, manufacture and/or distribution permissions were made on the basis of Ordinance No 5, which introduced EU Directive 98/31.

The total number of type approval certificates issued in 2002 under the said ordinance was 363 and the total number of the issued import, manufacture and/or distribution permissions according to TA – 130.

The work on making the legal framework compliant with Directive 99/5/EC started along with the activities on issuance of type approval certificates and permissions.

The amendments to Telecommunications Act (promulgated in State Gazette No 112/2001) and new Ordinance for the essential requirements and conformity assessment of radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment (promulgated in State Gazette No 79/2002) revoking Ordinance No 5 (promulgated in State Gazette No 9/2000) came into force on 12 September 2002. The new Ordinance was issued on the grounds of the Law for the Technical Requirements to the Products (promulgated in State Gazette No 86/1999). The regulation introduced the above-mentioned EU Directive and the provided therewith essential requirements, conformity assessment procedures and requirements for the conformity assessment authorities. The permission regime and type approval procedure fell off. The conditions for placing on the market of radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment are close to those in the European Union. The surveillance of the equipment placed on the market was entrusted to the State Agency of Metrology and Technical Surveillance by virtue of the Technical Requirements to Products Act.

With reference to application of the Ordinance, CRC prepared a draft decision of the Council of Ministers on approval of a list of radio facilities, which have certain limitation for their placing on the market and putting them into service under art. 29 of the Telecommunications Act.

To a great extent, those changes harmonized the legal framework related to telecommunications devices with the EU legislation but there are some issues still pending.

A necessity arose for enabling CRC, as a regulatory body, to restrict placing on the market the radio equipment, which cause or may cause interferences to existing or planned services. This will comply with the practice of the EU Member States. Besides, the list of radio equipment for which certain restrictions for their placing on the market or putting into service are imposed should be replaced by a list which introduces the equipment classes as determined by Decision 2000/299/EC.

These unconformities to the EU legislation are expected to be avoided with adoption of the new Telecommunications Act.

2. Standardization

The functions of the National Standardization Organization of Bulgaria before ETSI were successfully fulfilled. Through its web page CRC organized public consultations on project European standards EN and also took part in the member votings.

The discussions and votings carried out in 2002 and the new publications received are as follows:

Table 16

	Number of processed documents		Number of procedures	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
PE – Public discussion	197	17	21	10
Vote – Voting	288	28	29	20
OAP – One-stage procedure	301	84	38	27
MV – Member voting	31	92	17	25
PUB – Standards received on a weekly basis	1670	2461	weekly	

CRC specialists participated in the activities of the Technical Standardization Committee (TC) 57 "Information and Communications Technologies" and TC 47 "Radio Communication Systems and Equipment". The prepared lists of standards harmonized with Directive 99/5 were proposed to TC 47 to be implemented as Bulgarian standards. They were then published in the information bulletin issued by the State Agency for Standardization and Metrology. In order to update these lists CRC followed closely the resolutions and lists of European Commission and the work of ETSI and prepared regularly proposals to TC for introducing some standards as Bulgarian ones.

The information about the published national standards, which adopted ETSI standards, was entered into the ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) on a regular basis. Their number was 308 in year 2002.

With a view to the coming market liberalization and opportunity to use the capacities provided by telecommunications network operator by subscribers to other networks, it was monitored whether or not the European and international standards adopted in Bulgarian were applied to the operation of telecommunications networks.

When reviewing some issues related to network interconnection, granting of numbering capacity and quality of services provided CRC examined many standards and ETSI and ITU recommendations for determination of the technical requirements and parameters which were to be observed by operators.

In the following year CRC has envisaged to propose that the standards and specifications listed by the European Commission for electronic communication networks and services (2002/C 331/04) be adopted as Bulgarian ones.