

RADIO SPECTRUM AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Thirtieth Meeting
held at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, 24 July 2024
in Conference Room 2020, 20/F Wu Chung House, Wan Chai

Present

Mr T S Chew	Chairman (OFCA staff)
Mr Desmond Chan	Representative of Hong Kong Broadband Network Limited / HKBN Enterprise Solutions Limited / HKBN Enterprise Solutions HK Limited
Mr Henry C H Chan	Representative of Hutchison Telephone Company Limited
Mr Henry H W Chan	Representative of Independent Commission Against Corruption
Mr S P Chan	Ad Personam
Mr Samuel Chau	Representative of ComNet Telecom (HK) Limited
Mr Matthew Cheng	Representative of China Mobile Hong Kong Company Limited
Ir W Y Chu	Representative of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Ms C K Chu	Representative of Radio Television Hong Kong
Prof L Dai	Ad Personam
Mr K L Ho	Representative of Local Industry Associations as a group
Mr T Y Hui	Representative of Localised Wireless Broadband Service / Pubic Radiocommunications Service / Wireless Internet of Things Licensees as a group
Mr H C Hung	Representative of Unified Carrier (External Fixed Services) Licensees as a group
Mr Garry Kum	Representative of Television Broadcasts Limited
Mr Allan Kwan	Representative of PCCW Media Limited / Hong Kong Television Entertainment Limited
Mr Alex Lai	Representative of Hong Kong Cable Television Limited / Fantastic Television Limited
Mr Voller Lam	Representative of HGC Global Communications Limited
Mr Dennis Lau	Representative of SmarTone Mobile Communications Limited / SmarTone Communications Limited
Ms Irene Lau	Representative of Localised Wireless Broadband Service / Pubic Radiocommunications Service / Wireless Internet of Things Licensees as a group
Dr Tony Lee	Representative of the Institution of Engineering and Technology Hong Kong

Dr K C Lee	Representative of Local Certification Bodies as a group
Mr George Mak	Representative of Consumer Council
Mr Karson Ng	Representative of Carrier Licensees not providing Domestic Retail Fixed Services as a group
Mr W K Shiu	Representative of Hong Kong Police Force
Ms Vicky Wong	Representative of Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited
Mr Sheldon Yau	Representative of Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited / PCCW-HKT Telephone Limited and Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited / PCCW Global (HK) Limited / Genius Brand Limited
Mr M Yuen	Representative of Television Broadcasts Limited
Dr R Zhang	Representative of Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited
Mr Ivan Chan	Secretary (OFCA staff)

Absent with Apologies

Ms Alice Au	Representative of Carrier Licensees not providing Domestic Retail Fixed Services as a group
Mr X Chen	Representative of APT Satellite Company Limited
Mr Herman Chow	Representative of Hong Kong Productivity Council
Mr S M Ko	Representative of Metro Broadcast Corporation Limited
Mr Paul Lam	Representative of Hong Kong Commercial Broadcasting Company Limited
Mr Kin Hei Lau	Representative of Civil Aviation Department
Mr Kin Ho Lau	Representative of Services-based Operators (MVNO and ETS Operators only) Licensees as a group
Mr Michael Lee	Representative of EU ICT Council in Hong Kong and Macau
Mr Johnny Siu	Representative of Amateur Radio Societies as a group
Mr Tony Tsang	Representative of VNET Group Limited

In Attendance

Mr Tony Yip	OFCA staff
Mr Charles Chow	OFCA staff
Dr Yvonne Lee	OFCA staff
Mr Roger Chan	OFCA staff
Ms Kim Cheung	OFCA staff
Mr Gary Lam	OFCA staff
Ms Andrea Lau	OFCA staff
Mr Brian Lee	OFCA staff
Mr Patrick Leung	OFCA staff
Mr Jack Yip	OFCA staff

Agenda Item 1: Matters Arising

Minutes of the 29th Meeting of the Radio Spectrum and Technical Standards Advisory Committee (“SSAC”)

1. The Secretary reported that OFCA had not received any comment from Members on the draft minutes of the last SSAC meeting. Subsequently, the minutes were confirmed and published on OFCA’s website in February 2024.

Item 2 of the 29th SSAC Meeting (World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 Decisions)

2. The Secretary reported that OFCA had not received any further comment from Members on this item. The Communications Authority (“CA”) had approved the additional primary allocations of the 117.975 – 137 MHz band to aeronautical mobile-satellite (route) service, and the 18.1 – 18.6 GHz, 18.8 – 20.2 GHz and 27.5 – 30 GHz bands to inter-satellite service, in accordance with the decisions of the World Radiocommunication Conference (“WRC”) convened in late 2023 (“WRC-23”). As the WRC-23 decisions would enter into force on 1 January 2025, the Hong Kong Table of Frequency Allocations would be updated accordingly.

Item 3 of the 29th SSAC Meeting (Proposed Revision to HKCA 1065 Performance Specification for Multi-Standard Radio (MSR) Base Station)

3. The Secretary reported that OFCA had not received any comment from Members on the proposed revision to HKCA 1065. Subsequently, the revised HKCA 1065 was adopted and published on OFCA’s website in February 2024.

Item 4 of the 29th SSAC Meeting (Proposed New Performance Specifications for New Radio (NR) Base Station and Active Antenna System (AAS) Base Station)

4. The Secretary reported that OFCA had not received any comment from Members on the proposed new specifications HKCA 1082 entitled “Performance Specification for New Radio (NR) Base Station” and HKCA 1083 entitled “Performance Specification for Active Antenna System (AAS) Base Station”. Subsequently, HKCA 1082 and HKCA 1083 were adopted and published on OFCA’s website in February 2024.

Agenda Item 2: Proposed New Conformance Specification for Radiation Safety of Wireless Devices and Revision to HKCA 2001 Compliance Test Specification - Safety and Electrical Protection Requirements for Subscriber Telecommunications Equipment (SSAC Paper No. 4/2024)

5. Ms Kim Cheung presented SSAC Paper No. 4/2024 on the proposed new specification HKCA 1084 entitled “Conformance Specification for Radiation Safety of Wireless Devices” which would eventually replace the existing HKCA 2001, and the revision of HKCA 2001 by introducing a transitional period till 31 December 2025.

6. Mr Desmond Chan enquired whether HKCA 2001 would be withdrawn after 31 December 2025. The Chairman explained that HKCA 2001 would remain valid after 31 December 2025 even though the requirements therein would be superseded by the new HKCA 1084, as most of the existing HKCA specifications were still making reference to HKCA 2001. HKCA 2001 would be withdrawn only after all these concerned HKCA specifications had been updated to remove their reference to HKCA 2001.

7. In response to the enquiry from Dr K C Lee on the publishing date of the new specification HKCA 1084, the Chairman said that if there were no other comments from Members on this new specification, it would be adopted and published in August 2024 tentatively.

8. Mr Henry C H Chan asked about the main differences between HKCA 1084 and HKCA 2001. The Secretary explained that HKCA 2001 covered mobile phones operating in frequency bands below 6 GHz, while HKCA 1084 would cover all types of wireless devices operating within 20 cm to human and in frequency bands both below and above 6 GHz. For measurement at frequencies below 6 GHz, both specifications were based on specific absorption rate which measured power within a cubic volume, and they were basically the same except that the new HKCA 1084 used the latest version of the relevant standards for testing. On the other hand, test methods for frequencies above 6 GHz were not covered in the existing HKCA 2001, but would be covered in HKCA 1084 by referencing the relevant IEC/IEEE and EN IEC/IEEE standards, which measured power over a surface area instead of a cubic volume due to the shallow penetration in human body for radiation above 6 GHz.

9. The Chairman invited Members to provide comments on the proposed new specification HKCA 1084 and revision to HKCA 2001, if any, by 14 August 2024.

Agenda Item 3: Proposed Revision to HKCA 1039 Performance Specification for Radiocommunications Apparatus Operating in the 2.4 GHz or 5 GHz Band and Employing Frequency Hopping or Digital Modulation (SSAC Paper No. 5/2024)

10. Ms Kim Cheung presented SSAC Paper No. 5/2024 on the proposed revision to specification HKCA 1039 with a view to clarifying that the use of radiocommunication apparatus operating in the 5.15 – 5.25 GHz band inside road vehicles with a maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power of 40 mW would be allowed in alignment with Resolution 229 adopted in the WRC held in 2019.

11. The Chairman invited Members to provide comments on the proposed revision of HKCA 1039, if any, by 14 August 2024.

Agenda Item 4: Overview of Wi-Fi 7 and its Regulatory Regime (SSAC Paper No. 6/2024)

12. Mr Jack Yip presented SSAC Paper No. 6/2024 which provided an overview of Wi-Fi 7 and its regulatory regime. The paper also covered the key new features and benefits of Wi-Fi 7 as well as the regulatory control of Wi-Fi devices including those supporting Wi-Fi 6E and Wi-Fi 7 in Hong Kong.

13. Mr Henry C H Chan asked if OFCA had any information on availability of Wi-Fi equipment capable of operating in the 6425 – 7125 MHz band (“the upper 6 GHz band”) in Hong Kong, and expressed concern about the potential harmful interference to the future mobile services operating in this band. The Chairman said that certification of Wi-Fi equipment was on a voluntary basis in Hong Kong, except for Wi-Fi access points (“APs”) operating in the 5925 – 6425 MHz band which were subject to compulsory certification requirement. Mr Charles Chow supplemented that when the Class Licence for 6 GHz Device was created in April 2022, OFCA had informed the industry, including major importers and distributors that Wi-Fi APs operating in the upper 6 GHz band was prohibited in Hong Kong. Mr Tony Yip added that OFCA was conducting regular market surveillance on illegal Wi-Fi APs operating in the upper 6 GHz band, and no such illegal equipment was found in the local market for the time being.

14. Mr Dennis Lau raised concern about foreign visitors bringing mobile phones capable of supporting Wi-Fi 6E / 7 in the upper 6 GHz band to Hong Kong. Mr Charles Chow replied that client devices, including Wi-Fi dongles and mobile phones, normally worked under the control of APs on the use of frequency channels and generally operated at a much lower transmitting power than APs. Taking these factors into consideration, when creating the Class Licence for 6 GHz Device, the CA decided that APs rather than client devices should be subject to tighter regulatory control, i.e. compulsory certification and labelling requirements.

15. Mr Matthew Cheng asked if OFCA had conducted any measurements to check if there were any signals, including Wi-Fi signals, in the upper 6 GHz band. The Chairman said that as there were fixed services operating in the upper 6 GHz band, such measurements could only be conducted in a more meaningful manner after vacating the relevant spectrum in the upper 6 GHz band for public mobile services, which was targeted for completion by the end of 2024.

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

16. Mr T Y Hui enquired on the allocation of the 5905 – 5925 MHz band to cellular vehicle-to-everything (“C-V2X”) in Hong Kong. The Chairman replied that while OFCA would consider applications for using the 5850 – 5925 MHz band, or parts thereof, for conducting trials on C-V2X, the policy for Intelligent Transport Systems (“ITS”), including C-V2X, was under the purview of the Transport Department (“TD”). OFCA would continue to liaise with TD with a view to facilitating the deployment of ITS in Hong Kong.

17. Mr Matthew Cheng asked about the plan on the lifting of the restriction zone in Tai Po for enabling the deployment of radio base stations operating in the 3.4 – 3.6 GHz band (“3.5 GHz RBS”) in this area. The Chairman said that the relocation of the concerned earth stations for telemetry, tracking and control purposes from Tai Po to Chung Hom Kok Teleport was expected to be completed by the end of 2024, and the restriction zone in Tai Po would then be removed accordingly. Mr Tony Yip added that the concerned parties, including mobile network operators, would be informed of the schedule of lifting the restriction zone in Tai Po, and consulted on the revised guidelines in relation to the installation and use of 3.5 GHz RBS within the restriction zone shortly.

18. The Chairman said that this was the last meeting of the current term of the SSAC, and expressed sincere gratitude to Members for their active participation and support to the SSAC over the past two years.

19. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Office of the Communications Authority
August 2024