JUSTIFICATION FOR COMMON REGULATORY OBJECTIVES FOR ICT EQUIPMENT

USE OF THE UNECE INTERNATIONAL MODEL FOR ICT PRODUCTS

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector is today truly global. Products in the ICT sector are designed to perform their intended function successfully wherever they are used. At the same time, the commercial life cycle of ICT products is relatively short, which means that the time spent for getting access to markets (from a regulatory point of view) is critical.

The urgent need to facilitate services covering the widest possible population, e.g. e-health, support in emergency situations, e-learning, underlined the importance of establishing common conditions for access to different markets. This justifies the highest priority of converging market access conditions for the most popular devices.

The UNECE International Model is well suited for application to ICT products, thereby reducing the time spent for getting access to markets for such products, for the benefit of (private or business) consumers that will have early access to innovative products.
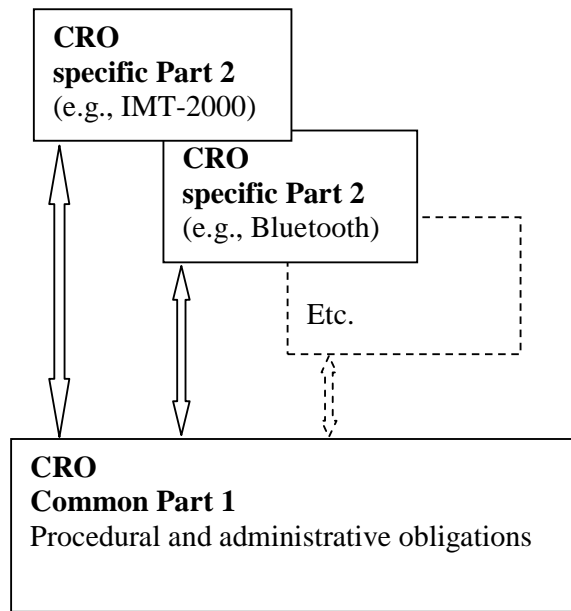
SEPARATE PART FOR GENERAL AND COMMON ASPECTS

Due to the rapid convergence of technologies within the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector, products will increasingly be multifunctional. Several technical solutions will be incorporated into one physical product. Examples are:

- IMT-2000 mobile phones will include GSM and Bluetooth technology,
- a portable PC often includes PSTN access, WLAN and Bluetooth radio technology

In order to ensure that such multifunctional products have coherent administrative requirements related to placing products on the market, there is a need to keep the common and general elements identical for all CROs related to ICT products. This is done by introducing a structure consisting of two parts (see figure below):

- **Part 1** which applies for all ICT equipment CROs and specifies the common and general requirements needed to satisfy the regulatory objectives of the participating Countries.
- **Part 2** is specific for each type of ICT equipment. It specifies, for that type of ICT equipment, the specific requirements needed to satisfy the regulatory objectives of the participating Countries.

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┌─────────────────────────┐
│ CRO                     │
│ specific Part 2         │
│ (e.g., IMT-2000)    ┌───┴─────────────────────┐
└──────┬──────────────│ CRO                     │
       ↕              │ specific Part 2         │
                      │ (e.g., Bluetooth)   ┌───┴─ ─ ─ ─ ─ ─┐
                      └──────┬──────────────┘               ┊
                             ↕              Etc.             ┊
                                            ┊               ┊
┌────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐     ┊
│ CRO                                                 │     ┊
│ Common Part 1                                       │┄┄┄┄┄┘
│ Procedural and administrative obligations           │
│                                                     │
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COMMON REGULATORY OBJECTIVES

Common Regulatory Objectives include technical requirements selected from standards for regulatory purposes. This is covered in part 2 of each CRO but some common understanding is required when translating legitimate authorities' concerns to the corresponding technical basis for regulation.

In this context, prior to stating specific technical requirements relevant for each one of the CROs, it is necessary to establish some common understanding on the scope of the legitimate authorities' concerns to be considered. The following table, derived from different recent experiences from countries converging their legislation, represents for the initial set of proposed CROs the legitimate authorities' concerns considered.

In each CRO, preference is given to the reference to international standards and, in their absence, to the relevant regional standards and, in their absence, national standards.

Equipment type	Regulatory Objectives (Part 2)					
	Electrical Safety	Electromagnetic Compatibility	Efficient use of Spectrum	Electromagnetic fields, safety	Others (e.g. Interoperability)	Individual Frequency license required (out of the CROs' scopes, see note 1)
Bluetooth	EU	EU	EU	EU		
GSM Equipment	EU	EU	EU	EU		
Wireless LANs	EU	EU	EU	EU		
Personal Computers	EU	EU		EU		n/a
POTS telephones and modems	EU	EU		n/a		n/a

Legend

Specific requirements needed	
No requirements accepted	
Not applicable	n/a

Note 1:

The base stations of some radio equipment cited above may need a specific license in some countries. This is not in the scope of the CROs but it will be useful to announce this kind of conditions prior to subscribing a CRO.

Note 2: the exact scope of each CRO has to be carefully studied.