



**ACIF G623:2005**

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY FORUM

**ACIF Working Committee Report**

**Regulatory adoption of Customer Equipment  
safety requirements**

ACIF Working Committee Report ACIF G623:2005 *Regulatory adoption of  
Customer Equipment safety requirements*

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## FOREWORD

This Report was prepared by the ACIF Working Committee CECRP/WC11 on *Safety of Customer Equipment*. It is the output of a review of the Standards and regulatory arrangements for customer equipment (CE) safety in Australia. The Report has been prepared to provide the background to current CE safety standardisation, a summary of the review process, the impact on consumers and industry and the implementation timetable.

This Report is the result of a consensus of representatives of the ACIF CECRP/WC11 Working Committee concerning the suitability of the ACA requiring compliance with either of the following two standards instead of, or as an alternative to, AS/NZS 60950:2000:

- (a) AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 *Safety of information technology equipment*; or
- (b) AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 *Information technology equipment – Safety, Part 1: General Requirements*.

Standards Australia Committee TE-001 has the responsibility for AS/NZS 60950 and all enquiries related to that Standard should be directed to that Committee in the first instance.

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Working Committee Terms of Reference</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Working Committee initial review</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Working Committee Project</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Consumer and industry impact</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>End user Safety</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Manufacturers and importers of Customer Equipment</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Carriers and Carriage Service Providers</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Industry sectors related to testing and compliance</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Telecommunications regulator (ACA)</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Standardisation bodies</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendation to the ACA</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>6</b>

## PARTICIPANTS

The Working Committee that developed this Report consisted of the following organisations and their representatives:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Australian Communications Authority	Non voting	Peter Joynson
Austest Laboratories	Voting	John Wang
Cisco Systems	Voting	Kim Yan
Comtest Laboratories	Voting	Peter Arms
Consumers' Telecommunications Network	Voting	Sarah Wilson
IBM (Australian Information Industry Association)	Voting	Paul Robinson
NEC	Voting	Ian Faichney
Optus	Voting	Aaron Bui
Siemens	Voting	Bob Davis
Stanimore (Australian Information Industry Association)	Voting	Kevin Richardson
Telstra	Voting	Phil Day
Thomson Telecom Australia	Voting	Laurie Collier

This Working Committee was chaired by Merv Sewell of Telstra until June 2004, then Bob Davis. Mike Johns of ACIF provided project management support.

## **1 Introduction**

The specification of safety requirements for CE is an important part of mandatory telecommunication regulations in Australia. While Standards Australia has primary responsibility for the content of national standards, Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) has responsibility for recommending to the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) what safety requirements should be adopted into formal regulatory instruments by the ACA.

## **2 Working Committee Terms of Reference**

The ACIF Board approved the establishment of the *CECRP/WC11 : Customer Equipment Safety* Working Committee in 2001. Its Terms of Reference are:

'To review the way Customer Equipment safety Standards are used in Australia and referenced under the telecommunications regulatory framework, concentrating on the following activities:

- (a) the review and development of CE safety requirements to replace ACA TS 001-1997, specifically:
  - (i) to review ACA TS 001-1997 to determine applicable safety requirements;
  - (ii) to determine applicable safety Standards (e.g. AS/NZS 60950:2000, AS/NZS 4117:1999) and appropriate references;
  - (iii) to determine new safety requirements (e.g. from other existing ACA Technical Standards), if necessary;
  - (iv) to develop the recommendation for the ACA for the withdrawal of ACA TS 001-1997;
  - (v) to develop recommendations to be forwarded to other bodies such as the ACA and Standards Australia Committee TE/1 for the migration of safety requirements to appropriate documents, such as AS/NZS 60950 or the ACA Telecommunications Labelling Notice; and
  - (vi) to develop the appropriate publications (e.g. industry statements, guidelines) to address any safety requirements that cannot be addressed by existing documents.
- (b) the development of an informative document which identifies network interface voltage levels.'

## **3 Working Committee initial review**

The CECRP/WC11 Working Committee was originally established to review ACA TS 001-1997. ACIF published the report ACIF G610:2003<sup>1</sup> on the review of safety requirements and regulatory arrangements for CE in Australia.

The main recommendation in that report was that the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) should withdraw ACA TS 001-1997 and make a new standard under section 376 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997*, to directly reference the national standard, AS/NZS 60950:2000.

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<sup>1</sup> ACIF G610:2003 can be found at <http://www.acif.org.au/publications/guidelines>.

That recommendation has been implemented by the ACA in amendments to the *Telecommunications Labelling (Customer Equipment and Customer Cabling) Amendment Notice 2003 (No. 2)*<sup>2</sup> and the publishing of the Section 376 instrument *Telecommunications Technical Standard (Safety of Information Technology Equipment – AS/NZS 60950:2000) 2003*.

This Report and the submission of its recommendations to the ACA will conclude the work of the CECRP/WC11 Working Committee addressing all the aspects of its original Terms of Reference as set out under Section 2.

## 4 Working Committee Project

Standards Australia published AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1 and AS/NZS 60950.1 in 2003<sup>3</sup>. The **CECRP/WC11 : Customer Equipment Safety** Working Committee reviewed the impact of these two publications on the current ACA safety Standard for telecommunications CE, AS/NZS 60950:2000<sup>4</sup>. This review was required to maintain currency and effectiveness of Australian telecommunications regulatory safety requirements. Specifically:

- (a) AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 is AS/NZS 60950:2000 with amendment 1 incorporated. It introduced some of the requirements of IEC 60950-1:2001 but did not alter the Australian national deviations of AS/NZS 60950:2000 applicable to CE (i.e. Clause 6.2).
- (b) AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 is a new Standard intended to replace AS/NZS 60950:2000 and AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003. The title has been changed because while AS/NZS 60950:2000 is not divided into different parts, Standards Australia decided in 2003 to develop AS/NZS 60950 into parts. The substance of the current version of AS/NZS 60950:2000 will be incorporated into Part 1, which is why it is now being identified as AS/NZS 60950.1:2003. It adopts IEC 60950-1:2001 with deviations to take account of Australian/New Zealand conditions. The Australian national deviations in AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 impacting telecommunications safety have not been altered from those contained in AS/NZS 60950:2000.

The changes introduced by AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 were predominantly focused on IT communications equipment and power cabling. A new Clause 7 applies where the equipment is connected to a Cable Distribution Network mainly intended for transmission of video and/or audio signals between separate buildings or between outdoor antennas and buildings. Clause 7 would not apply to telecommunications equipment (e.g. the TLN does not apply to set top boxes etc). ACIF will be seeking public comment on the proposed recommendation to adopt AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 and AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 between 3 May 2005 and 5 July 2005. On the basis that the review does not identify any impediments for

<sup>2</sup> Further information on the ACA Telecommunication Labelling Notice and the ACA compliance and labelling regime can be found on the ACA website under the Telecommunications Standards and Compliance Regulatory Arrangements page (at [http://internet.aca.gov.au/ACAINTEr.852416:STANDARD:735979672:pc=PC\\_2164](http://internet.aca.gov.au/ACAINTEr.852416:STANDARD:735979672:pc=PC_2164)).

<sup>3</sup> Further information and purchasing details for AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 and AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 can be found on the Standards Australia website at <http://www.standards.com.au>.

<sup>4</sup> Further information on ACA Telecommunications Standards can be found on the ACA website under the Telecommunications Standards List page ( at [http://internet.aca.gov.au/ACAINTEr.852416:STANDARD:735979672:pc=PC\\_2545](http://internet.aca.gov.au/ACAINTEr.852416:STANDARD:735979672:pc=PC_2545)).

regulatory adoption, it is proposed that ACIF will forward the recommendations under Clause 6 of this report to the ACA.

It is intended in the future when Standards Australia is seeking comments on new editions or amendments of AS/NZS 60950, the public comment draft will also contain the proposed recommendations for regulatory adoption. This 'dual' public comment process of seeking comments on the technical requirements and the proposed regulatory adoption will replace the need for two separate public comment processes (one by Standards Australia and one by ACIF), thereby shortening the time for any new editions to be adopted.

## **5 Consumer and industry impact**

The following outlines the anticipated impact that the proposed changes to the requirements of CE safety may have on specific areas of the market.

### **End user Safety**

There will be no change to end user safety in adopting AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 and AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 because the telecommunications safety requirements are the same as those already existing in AS/NZS 60950:2000.

### **Manufacturers and importers of Customer Equipment**

There will be no engineering design impact on manufacturers and importers because the telecommunications safety requirements are the same as those already existing in AS/NZS 60950:2000. The adoption of both AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 and AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 will be of benefit to manufacturers and importers.

Standards Australia no longer publishes AS/NZS 60950:2000 without the amendment incorporated, so it is difficult for manufacturers to identify what requirements are specified in AS/NZS 60950:2000.

It is recognised that equipment manufacturers testing for the global market are testing to IEC 60950-1:2001 plus national deviations to that Standard. Adoption of AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 would facilitate greater alignment and remove the need to address backward compatibility with AS/NZS 60950:2000.

### **Carriers and Carriage Service Providers**

Network equipment and the safety of carrier and carriage service provider staff working on the network is not affected by the adoption of AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 and AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 because the telecommunications safety requirements are the same as those already existing in AS/NZS 60950:2000.

### **Industry sectors related to testing and compliance**

The accreditation of test laboratories and the mutual recognition of overseas test report and compliance statements will not be an issue as most Australian and overseas test laboratories are already accredited to test to both AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 and AS/NZS 60950.1:2003.

### **Telecommunications regulator (ACA)**

An amendment to the TLN will need to be *made* to reference AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 and AS/NZS 60950.1:2003.

Adopting AS/NZS 60950:2000 Amdt 1:2003 and AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 will align Australian telecommunication regulatory requirements with world practice. This will reduce the likelihood of misunderstanding of the Australian telecommunication safety requirements by manufacturers/suppliers and test houses alike and therefore result in a reduction in enquiries received by the ACA. It will also serve to reduce the cost of compliance for industry as a result of reduced testing costs due to alignment with world practice. Reduction in the cost of compliance is of course an important consideration concerning any proposed change to Regulation.

### Standardisation bodies

The peak national standards organisation, Standards Australia Committee TE-001, is responsible for all requirements for safety of equipment and these will now be located in a single publication. Any impact on the safety of converging consumer electronics, IT and telecommunications equipment arising from the merging of IEC 60950 and IEC 60065 can now be addressed by Standards Australia Committee TE-001 in a coordinated fashion. The cross-referencing of standards in ACA and Standards Australia publications should also be simplified. Standards Australia will be withdrawing AS/NZS 60950:2000 on 1 July 2006.

## 6 Recommendation to the ACA

The Working Committee will recommend that the ACA:

- (a) make a standard under section 376 requiring compliance with AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 ***Safety of information technology equipment***;
- (b) amend the Telecommunication Labelling Notice (TLN) so that AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 is adopted on gazettal as an alternative to AS/NZS 60950:2000 and is to supersede AS/NZS 60950:2000 after a minimum of 3 months phase-in period;
- (c) make a standard under section 376 requiring compliance with AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 ***Information technology equipment – Safety, Part 1: General Requirements***;
- (d) amend the Telecommunication Labelling Notice (TLN) so that AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 is adopted on gazettal as an alternative to AS/NZS 60950:2000 and AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 and is to supersede AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 on 1 July 2006; and
- (e) adopt the compliance levels as currently listed for AS/NZS 60950-2000 in Schedule 1 of the TLN for both AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 and AS/NZS 60950.1:2003.

## **7 Acronyms**

The following lists the acronyms used in this report:

ACA	Australian Communications Authority
ACIF	Australian Communications Industry Forum
AS/NZS	Australian Standard/New Zealand Standard
CE	Customer Equipment
CECRP	Customer Equipment and Cable Reference Panel
IEC	International Electrotechnology Commission
TLN	Telecommunications Labelling Notice
TS	Technical Standard
WC	Working Committee

## **8 References**

The following Standards referenced in this report, including their superseded editions, are listed below:

### **ACIF publications**

ACIF G610:2003 *The superseding of ACA TS 001-1997 by AS/NZS 60950:2000* Working Committee Report

### **AS/NZS Standards**

AS/NZS 60950:2000/Amdt 1:2003 *Safety of information technology equipment*

AS/NZS 60950.1:2003 *Information technology equipment—Safety—Part 1: General requirements*

AS/NZS 60065:2000 *Audio, video and similar electronic apparatus—Safety requirements including Amendments 1 & 2*

AS/NZS 4117:1999 *Surge protective devices for telecommunication applications*

### **IEC Standards**

IEC 60950-1:2001 *Information technology equipment—Safety—Part 1: General requirements*

### **ACA Technical Standards**

ACA TS 001-1997 *Safety Requirements for Customer Equipment Telecommunications Technical Standard (Safety of Information Technology Equipment – AS/NZS 60950:2000) 2003*

ACIF is an industry owned, resourced and operated company established by the telecommunications industry in 1997 to implement and manage communication self-regulation within Australia.

ACIF's role is to develop and administer technical and operating arrangements to foster a thriving, effective communications industry serving the Australian community through

- the timely delivery of Standards, Codes and other documents to support competition and protect consumers;
- driving widespread compliance; and
- the provision of facilitation, coordination and implementation services to enable the cooperative resolution of strategic and operational industry issues.

ACIF comprises a Board, an Advisory Assembly, standing Reference Panels, various task specific Working Committees, a number of Industry Facilitation/Coordination Groups and a small Executive.

The ACIF Standards and Codes development process involves the ACIF Board, Reference Panels, Working Committees and the ACIF Executive. The roles and responsibilities of all these parties and the required operating processes and procedures are specified in the ACIF Operating Manual.

ACIF Standards, Codes and other documents are prepared by Working Committees made up of experts from industry, consumer, government and other bodies. The requirements or recommendations contained in ACIF published documents are a consensus of views of representative interests and also take into account comments received from other stakeholders.

**Care should be taken to ensure that material used is from the current version of the Standard or Code and that it is updated whenever the Standard or Code is amended or revised. The number and date of the Standard or Code should therefore be clearly identified. If in doubt please contact ACIF.**



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