

Consultation on Creation of a Class Licence for Regulating the Use of and Trade in 6 GHz Devices for Wireless Local Area Network (“WLAN”) and Variation to the Class Licence for Provision of Public Wireless Local Area Network Services

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As stated in paragraph 13 of the consultation paper, Wi-Fi 6E devices are gradually available in some countries. It can be anticipated that there will be Wi-Fi 6E devices deployed in our local market before the concerned new class licence conditions are in force.

In this connection, we would like to seek your further information and clarification to the consultation paper about regulating the use of or trade in 6 GHz devices for WLAN as follows:

- i. According to paragraph 20 and 21 of the consultation paper, Access Points (“APs”) shall be subject to much tighter regulatory control compared to client devices. In the market, however, there are client devices which may also be used as APs (i.e. dual-operation), for instance:
 - Smartphones, by activating the tethering feature.
 - Computers, by activating the "mobile hotspot" feature for Windows and "Sharing" feature for MacOS.

In this regard:

- a) Would you please clarify if these types of dual-operation mode client devices also need to pass mandatory certification under the concerned new class licence and the related regulations?
- b) For these kinds of dual-operation mode client devices, some of them may come from countries that have already allocated the whole 6 GHz band for WLAN services. If the client device mode supports the entire 6 GHz band, the AP operation mode will also operate in the entire 6 GHz band when used in Hong Kong. Will certification be granted to this kind of client device?
- c) Meanwhile, kindly please clarify if pocket Wi-Fi with Wi-Fi 6E is to be classified as an AP?
- ii. Referring to paragraph 15 of the consultation paper, kindly please share your understanding about which countries listed in Appendix 1 currently require mandatory certification or labelling for their 6 GHz WLAN devices.
- iii. For devices that are used for point-to-point WiFi 6E links, what are the certification requirements?
- iv. What will be the treatment for WiFi 6E AP devices that are already used by consumers before the concerned class licence regulation is in force? For example,

please refer to the devices in the attached link which can already be purchased for use in Hong Kong:

<https://www.price.com.hk/search.php?g=A&q=Wi-Fi+6e&c=100047>

- v. What will be the policy on foreign visitors/tourists bringing in devices such as pocket Wi-Fi/smartphones/computers with Wi-Fi 6E capability and those devices which are not certified in Hong Kong?

HKT considers it is important to clarify the above matters before OFCA proceeds with the licensing proposals put forward in the consultation paper.

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