



Newsletter

Telecommunication and Post

Dutch Caribbean

Dear reader,

This is the first Newsletter of the year 2012, through which Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands (the Radiocommunications Agency) informs the residents of the Dutch Caribbean and telecommunications and parties in the postal market of sector-specific facts, events and developments.

Market regulation telecommunications sector

The new Establishment Act, which came into effect as per 10 October 2010, has raised some questions among local officials. Hence, they asked the ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (to be referred to hereinafter as: EL&I) to clarify the envisaged developments in the telecommunications sector. EL&I has tackled these issues and aims at submitting a policy framework market regulation telecommunications to the local administration and market parties in June 2012. At present, EL&I is having a number of basic principles for the benefit of market regulation tested for feasibility at stakeholders / interested parties. This survey shall serve as a basis for the new policy framework market regulation telecommunications. The local administration and the market parties (current telecommunications companies

and potential newcomers) are closely involved with the feasibility study to ensure a well-considered and prudent decision.

Pending the feasibility study, no telecommunications applications will be accepted for processing. Since the feasibility study is primarily aimed at the Windward Islands, this temporary 'moratorium' will, in principle, be intended for Saba and Sint Eustatius. New applications may be submitted after May 2012, so these can be processed in accordance with the newly established policy.

Administrative load and simplified authorizations and concessions

In our aim to optimize the provision of service to the market, the demands to authorization and concession applications are also closely monitored in terms of administration, technology and finances. The purpose is to prevent and responsibly alleviate the burden on the market wherever possible.

For example, for a new application, it is no longer required to submit the company's license to establish a business and an original certificate of registration from the Chamber of Commerce and Industries (not older than



three months) of Bonaire, Saba or Sint Eustatius will be accepted.

In case of an extension of an existing authorization or concession, it is no longer required to submit a technical plan and business plan again.

Besides this, the conditions included in authorizations and concessions have been critically assessed and where possible these have been responsibly simplified, deleted or otherwise newly phrased. These simplifications will be implemented for new concessions and authorizations to be issued.

The use of wireless equipment

All wireless equipment (transmitter and receiver systems) to be used on the BES islands must comply with the applicable technical specifications and guidelines on the BES.

The use of transmitter and receiver systems in principle requires authorization from the Radiocommunications Agency. However, there are also transmitter and receiver systems, like computers with WIFI, wireless telephones, wireless microphones, etc. for which no authorization is required.

Local vendors and importers of wireless equipment must ensure that wireless equipment complies with the valid technical specifications and guidelines on the BES islands. For this purpose, a copy of the Type Approval certificate for the BES islands may be requested from the foreign suppliers or by submitting an application for Type Approval at the Radiocommunications Agency in Bonaire. Equipment with an FCC (Federal Communications Commission) or a CE mark does not automatically comply with the technical specifications and guidelines applicable on the BES islands. For example, the foreign transmitter equipment may transmit on a different frequency or with a higher capacity than is permitted on the BES islands. This may cause interference to other wireless applications.

Thus, it is not permitted, to sell and use DECT 6 wireless telephones on the BES islands, since this equipment uses the frequency bands 902 – 928 MHz and 1900 – 1930 MHz designated for local mobile concession holders. A list of prohibited DECT 6 wireless telephones can be downloaded from the website www.btnp.org or can be requested by e-mail from bonaire@burtel.an.

Equipment that fails to meet the technical requirements and guidelines for use on the BES islands may be seized by Customs or retained on behalf of the

Radiocommunications Agency by the inspectors of "Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post".

Considering the extensive consequences of equipment that does not comply with the technical demands and guidelines for the BES islands on key mobile networks of concession holders and authorization holders, there will be pro-active monitoring on the import, trade and use of prohibited.

Radio exams

Those interested in taking Radio Exams may register in advance for the next exams, which are planned in June 2012.

The exact dates for the exams to be conducted will be announced in the local newspapers and on the websites of the Radiocommunications Agency and "Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post". Candidates who are interested may request for the registration form at the Front-Office of "Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post" in Bonaire.