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Subject: Incorporation of Confidentiality option in the Saral Sanchar portal for ETA approvals

Respected Sir.

Greetings from MAIT!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank WPC for its continued support to the industry in policy & regulatory related issues.

WPC has undertaken a number of steps to make the licensing transparent and user-friendly. Applicants for Equipment Type Approval (ETA) certificates can now apply Online and also make payments online. We thank WPC for the various initiatives in this evolving area under the Ease of Doing Business in the Country.

Currently, the ETA application process entails an applicant applying online and after verification by WPC, the certificate is granted. However, the process has lacunae in that there is a high possibility of new products and their model details being leaked.

Problem Statement:

1. In a world of hyper-competition in bringing new and innovative products and offerings to the market, the preservation of product information from falling into the wrong hands before the official launch of a product is imperative. Every manufacturer, foreign and domestic, is mandatorily required to register its products for de-licensed wireless products with WPC before its import and sale in India.

This also applies to the New Product Introductions (NPI's) launched globally by many of the MNC Brands.

- 2. Because, de-licensed wireless products must be duly registered with WPC, companies usually apply and register the products with the Saral Sanchar portal much before its import/Introduction in the Indian Market.
- 3. However, this has led to a peculiar problem wherein product details in the Saral Sanchar portal may be misused. There have been instances of other regulators' portals where product info got leaked in the media articles even before the launch of the new products in India. In the current implementation, anyone can register in the Saral Sanchar portal with an email id and mobile number and download any ETA certificate, including that of products that are yet to be launched in the market.

Ask:

We would like to propose an additional step of giving an applicant the option of choosing a publication date while applying. The enclosed schematics show the option.

It may be pertinent to mention that BIS has the option of inserting a publication date of a certificate in the BIS portal after a certificate has undergone the due process of certificate grant (Link in Enclosure).

The inclusion of this additional step would greatly benefit OEMs to preserve confidential product data from leaking out and maintaining business-critical information. We would urge WPC to kindly accept this request considering the huge ramifications for business. Such a setup would go a long way in WPC's contribution to the Ease of Doing Business in the country and necessary changes could be made in the Saral Sanchar portal accordingly.

Looking forward to early affirmative action in this regard.

With regards,

George Paul Chief Executive Officer

Enclosed:

- 1. Schematic for Certification flow
- 2. https://www.crsbis.in/BIS/app_srv/tdc/gl/docs/Preserve_confidentiality.pdf

CC:

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