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**GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES**

NO. 2204

24 June 2022

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS ACT, 2005 (ACT NO. 36 OF 2005)****BROADCASTING DIGITAL MIGRATION POLICY (AS AMENDED):****GUIDELINES: PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO USE THE GO DIGITAL  
TRADEMARK**

I, **Khumbudzo Ntshavheni**, Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, hereby, under paragraph 5.1 of the Broadcasting Digital Migration Policy published in Government Notice No. 958, Government Gazette No. 31408 of 08 September 2008, as amended by Government Notice 124, Government Gazette No. 35051 of 17 February 2012 and further amended by Government Notice 232, Government Gazette No. 38583 of 18 March 2015, published guidelines setting out the procedure to be followed by manufacturers to obtain permission to use the **GO DIGITAL** trademark for Integrated Digital Television (IDTV) and Set Top Box (STB).

**KHUMBUDZO NTSHAVHENI, MP****MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

# Guideline in respect to Procedure to be followed in obtaining permission to use “Go Digital” Trademark for Integrated Digital Television (IDTV) and Set Top Box (STB)



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## Acronyms

- DCDT – Department of Communications & Digital Technologies
- DTH-S – Direct To Home - Satellite
- DTT – Digital Terrestrial Television
- ICASA – The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa
- ICT – Information and Communication Technology
- ILAC – International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
- ITU – International Telecommunications Union
- LOA – Letter of Authority
- NRCS – National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications
- MRA – Mutual Recognition Arrangement
- SABS – South African Bureau of Standards
- SANS – South African National Standard
- SANAS – South African National Accreditation System
- SMME – Small Medium and Micro Enterprises
- STB - Set Top Box
- STBM - Set Top Box Manufacturer

## 1. PURPOSE

The main objective of this document is to outline a procedure to be followed in obtaining permission to use “Go Digital” Trademark for Free-to-Air Set-Top boxes (STBs) and Integrated Digital Televisions (IDTV). The document serves a guideline, in line with established technical standards and regulatory compliance from established institutions within and outside the ambit of the State, to ensure that manufacturers of STBs and IDTVs meet the basic requirements to qualify for the use of the Department’s Go Digital registered trademark.

Digital receiving devices play a critical function in the digital migration process. To this effect, device manufacturers need to ensure compliance to established local regulatory and standards, national and international, for the following reasons among others:

- a) To protect the South African consumer against sub-standard and non-functional STBs or IDTVs.
- b) To ensure role players are aware of their conformance and regulatory obligations.
- c) To assist South Africans to identify a receiving device that is compliant with SA Digital networks and safe to use.

Therefore, this document is aimed at sensitizing and assisting manufacturers about compliance and regulatory requirements as administered by regulatory and standards organizations and entities. Moreover, compliance with the aforesaid requirements will afford the opportunity for device manufacturers to make use of the popularly known Go Digital trademark to associate their compliant digital reception devices to be associated with the larger citizen digital migration programme.

## 2. STB CONFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

The SABS developed and published SANS 862 to set the minimum compliance requirements for DTT STBs, and SANS 862 standard also requires compliance to SANS 60065 (Audio, video & similar electronic apparatus – Safety Requirements for STBs), SANS 213 (Emissions) and SANS 2200 (Immunity). The SANS 60065 is administered by the NRCS through VC8055, which is the compulsory specification for electrical and electronic apparatus in terms of section 5 (1) of the NRCS Act.



The SABS further published SANS 1719 to set minimum compliance requirements for DTH-S STBs. SANS 1719 serves to regulate free-to-air STBs for satellite reception and directly references SANS 862 on common technical and functional specifications. In addition, the SABS further published the SANS10352 IDTV standard for DTT reception, on the back of the provisions of DTT SANS862.

The aforementioned SABS standards are not listed in ICASA's list of regulated standards and as such are voluntary by default. However, these SABS standards have been referenced from international standard bodies and adapted for the South African environment. It is therefore highly recommended for the manufacturers to adhere to the basic provisions of the said SABS standards.

Three main areas of the STBs and IDTV functionality covered by the standards are as follows:

- a) Software guidelines (displays, messages etc.)
- b) Hardware – the actual box itself, enclosure and material; and
- c) Communication elements (to receive signal, to convert signals etc.)

The STBs and IDTVs are required to comply with ICASA's Type Approval requirements, in terms of section 35 and 36 of the Electronic Communications Act.

### 3. THE CONFORMANCE & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR STBs and IDTVs OPERATING IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN DIGITAL TRANSMISSION NETWORK

The high-level flow for the conformance process is illustrated in Fig 1. below:

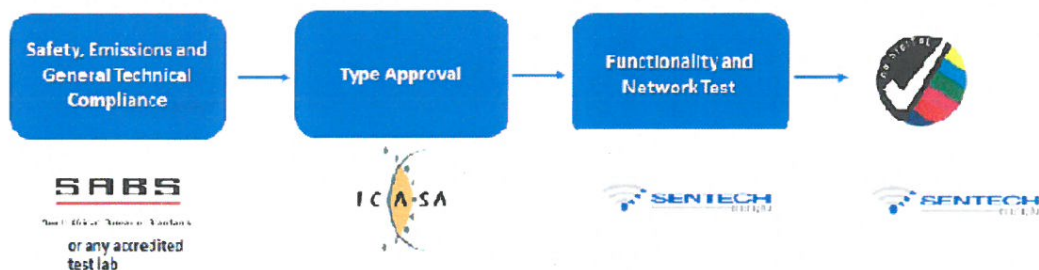


Fig1. High Level Conformance Flow Process



### 3.1 COMPLIANCE WITH SANS 862, SANS1719 AND SANS10352 STANDARDS

- 3.1.1 The STB or IDTV Manufacturer procures the specifications from SABS and ensure that the STB or IDTV complies with the Specification.
- 3.1.2 Although the SABS standards are not compulsory, safety and emissions and noise immunity requirements are mandatory and referenced within the SABS standards and must be complied with. The required tests and associated certificates can be obtained from the SABS or any accredited test laboratory.
- 3.1.3 The SANS 862, SANS 1719 and SANS10352 documents can be purchased from the SABS website *www.store.sabs.co.za*
- 3.1.4 The manufacturer issues a compliance report for the STB or IDTV to ICASA for Type Approval certification.

### 3.2 ICASA TYPE APPROVAL

- 3.2.1 The manufacture or distributor submit a Type approval request to ICASA, attaching the SABS or international standards compliance report.
- 3.2.2 The ICASA type approval and labelling will be issued by the regulator once the STB or IDTV meets the requirements.

### 3.3 NETWORK AND FIELD TEST

- 3.3.1 Sentech will test the STB or IDTV's tuning capability and ability to receive digital signals in a South African network.
- 3.3.2 Sentech will test the STB or IDTV 's navigation and user interface
- 3.3.3 A Network Field Compliance Report is issued by Sentech for successful samples.
- 3.3.4 For satellite STBs, compliance with the requirements of the CA system is a prerequisite before the STB is subjected to the network tests. Details of the CA certification are outside the scope of this document.

### 3.4 THE GO DIGITAL MARK



- 3.4.1 Once a Set-top box and IDTV comply with the SABS or international standards requirements, ICASA Type approval and meets the network performance requirements, it will be awarded with the Go Digital sticker and permission to utilize the Go Digital registered trademark in compliant products.
- 3.4.2 The “Go Digital” Mark is a final indication by Government that the STB has met all the conformance and regulatory requirements and can be installed in the network to access digital broadcast services.
- 3.4.3 The “Go Digital” mark is a registered trademark of the Department of Communications & Digital Technologies.
- 3.4.4 SENTECH has been delegated by the Department to award the permission for the use of Go Digital logo to compliant digital television receiving devices.
- 3.4.5 SENTECH will issue the approval for the compliant STB or IDTV.

## 4 CONCLUSION

The Collaboration between the government and the suppliers of digital television sets and set-top-boxes will contribute in driving household migration towards conclusion of analogue switch off.

## 5 REFERENCES

- Gazetted Digital Migration Policy, 2008, 2012 and 2015
- Electronic Communications Act of 2005, Section 35 (1)
- NRCS Act 5 of 2008, Section 5 (1)
- SANS 862 – Set Top Box decoder for free-to-air digital terrestrial television
- SANS 1719 - Set-top box (STB) decoders for free-to-air direct-to-home (DTH) digital satellite television
- STB Conformance Regime: Sentech Network Conformance Testing Scope
- VC8055 – Compulsory Specification for Electronic and Electrical Products



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