

Regulatory Update

New cell handset Requirements in UAE

UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has confirmed new mandatory cellular handset requirements in recently published Technical Specification TS040.

These requirements are being developed in order to establish a “Public Warning System” which will use several channels to broadcast public warnings in emergency cases or disaster situations.

Technical requirements are as per below:

1. The Handset should be configured by default to receive all Warning Notifications.
2. Messages should support both English and Arabic languages.
3. Message should be limited to 1 page maximum.
4. An emergency alert message should be immediately recognizable. (Emergency messages shall be specifically recognizable as being an emergency message that cannot be mistaken for an ordinary message)
5. The emergency warning message should stay on the display regardless of the user setting, until the message indication is cancelled by the user. It should be possible for the user to review the message at a later time.
6. Handset should only be required to receive and present Warning Notifications in languages as presented by the Warning Notification Provider.
7. It should be possible for the Warning Notification to be displayed on the handset upon reception and without any user interaction.
8. The alerting indication for a specific Warning Notification should continue until suppressed by users’ manual operation (e.g. by pushing keys). The frequency and duration of the continued alerting indication is mobile device implementation specific. This should not suppress the alerting indication for subsequent Warning Notifications.

9. The handset should not support any capabilities to forward received Warning Notifications, to reply to received Warning Notifications, or to copy and paste the content of Warning Notifications.
10. The handset should have the ability to present previously displayed Warning Notifications if requested by the user.
11. The handset should be able to support concurrent reception of multiple Warning Notification.

The above requirements will be applicable to all cellular handsets entering UAE from 1 January 2016.

PCS are investigating which frequency bands the warning notifications will be sent on, and will issue a further update once confirmed.

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