MCMC MOVES TO PROTECT CONSUMER INTERESTS THROUGH MARKET SURVEILLANCE

Cyberjaya, 18 April 2012 – The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) through SIRIM will be conducting market surveillance on communications equipment and devices widely available in Malaysia to ensure that they comply with safety standards and technical regulations as required by the law.

“The purpose of this exercise is two-pronged,” said Dato’ Mohamed Sharil Tarmizi, Chairman of MCMC.

"First, we want to make sure that the equipment and devices available in the market meet with safety and other technical standards, so this move is aimed at protecting consumers. Secondly, globalization and trade liberalization have made it easier for products to enter the market, so we have to make sure that we put in place effective market surveillance and this should be done periodically,” added Dato’ Mohamed Sharil.

Malaysia is a party to the ASEAN Telecommunication Regulator’s Council Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ATRC MRA) on Telecommunication Equipment which aims to facilitate trade in telecommunications equipment within ASEAN and to remove non-tariff barriers to trade by reducing further regulatory action that equipment manufacturers have to comply with in order to sell their products in each market.
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According to Dato’ Sharil, the market surveillance programme will ensure that communications equipment available in the market complies with the standards as well as technical regulations which will make them safe for usage.

Also, that certification marks or labels are correctly applied without fraud and counterfeit. Further, this move will facilitate actions by MCMC based on the periodical report findings. MCMC’s decision to appoint SIRIM as a partner to undertake the market surveillance signals that it recognizes SIRIM QAS International’s experience in conformity assessment activities.

According to Dr. Zainal Abidin Mohd Yusof, Chairman of SIRIM QAS International, the market surveillance will leverage on e-ComM application software developed by Dagang Net Technologies Sdn Bhd (Dagang Net). The e-ComM or Online Certification for Communication & Multimedia provides a platform for online application on certification and directory of certified equipment that meets regulatory requirements. Currently e-ComM is integrated to Malaysia’s National Single Window (NSW) to facilitate trade and customs clearance. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) has appointed Dagang Net to build and operate NSW which is connected to ASEAN Single Window.

“The establishment of market surveillance will enhance consumer and business confidence in the regulations and the quality of conformity assessment systems,” said Dato’ Sharil.

End.
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Notes to Editor:

If your organization wishes to include a quote from Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (SKMM) in an article or news item, kindly attribute the quote to our organization (SKMM) rather than an officer of the organization, unless a designated spokesperson from SKMM is specified in the Press Release or reply to Press.

About Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (SKMM)
The primary role of SKMM is to implement and promote the Government's national policy objectives for the communications and multimedia sector. SKMM is also charged with overseeing the new regulatory framework for the converging industries of telecommunications, broadcasting and on-line activities, in accordance with the national policy objectives set out in the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (CMA), as well as postal services and digital certifications.

The CMA 1998 provides that SKMM undertakes a policy implementation role, while policy decision-making is vested with the Minister. The Minister may also give policy directions to the Commission. The CMA 1998 provides a framework for SKMM to regulate the sale and use of communications and multimedia equipment to promote network interoperability, safeguard public safety, protection from harmful interference, efficient use of the spectrum and ensuring electromagnetic compatibility. For more information visit http://www.skmm.gov.my

About SIRIM QAS International Sdn. Bhd.
SIRIM QAS International Sdn. Bhd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of SIRIM Berhad, is Malaysia’s leading certification, inspection and testing body. As a one-stop solution provider, they offer services to a cross-section of economic sectors ranging from the electrical and electronic sectors to forest management and the construction and building sector. SIRIM QAS International has also been appointed by Malaysian regulatory bodies, such as SKMM, the Energy Commission and the Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia, as a certifying and testing agency for regulated products.

SIRIM QAS International offers the following services:
• Management system certification
• Product certification
• Engineering inspection
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- Inspection on behalf of other certification bodies and other third party inspection
- Testing

Through their certification, inspection and testing services, they support businesses in providing quality products and services, whilst safeguarding consumer interests and the environment. They have received recognitions and accreditations from organisations such as Department of Standards Malaysia (STANDARDS MALAYSIA) and the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), attesting to the credibility of their services.

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