

# **Cable & Wireless**

**Comments submitted in response to the  
ICTA's Public Consultation on  
Technician Certification Programme  
(Ref: CD (2006) 1)**

10 May 2006



**CABLE & WIRELESS**

## Introduction

1. The following represents Cable and Wireless (Cayman Islands) Limited (“C&W”) comments in response to the Authority’s Public Consultation Document (“CD”) on “Technician Certification Programme” (CD (2006) 1).

## Support for the Programme

2. C&W supports the proposed establishment of a Technician Certification Programme, as it is considered a welcome move toward creating and sustaining high standards of telecommunications wiring inside residential and commercial buildings. However, as structured cabling (installation of Cat5/5e Unshielded Twisted Pair UTP cable and RJ45 sockets) is now widely adopted in Cayman Islands, we recommend that the local standards the Technician Licensing Board intends to establish be based on the following internationally accepted US standards:

**ANSI/TIA/EIA- 568-B (B.1, B.2 and B.3):** This standard covers cable installation practices for commercial buildings. It addresses the six main components of a structured cabling system:

- Entrance facility
- Main and Intermediate cross-connect
- Backbone distribution
- Horizontal cross-connect
- Horizontal distribution
- Work area

**ANSI/TIA/EIA-569-A:** This standard addresses telecommunications pathways and spaces associated with commercial buildings. It addresses the following:

- Entrance facility
- Equipment room
- Backbone pathways
- Telecommunications room
- Horizontal pathways
- Work area

**ANSI/TIA/EIA-606-A:** This standard provides guidelines for administering and maintaining telecommunications cabling infrastructure within commercial buildings.

**ANSI/TIA/EIA-607:** This standard covers grounding and bonding of elements associated with telecommunications installations.

**ANSI/TIA/EIA-570-A:** This standard addresses residential and light commercial telecommunications cabling practices.

[Other equivalent standards would be ISO/IEC 11801, EN50173 and EN50174.]

### The Licensing Board

3. The proposed composition of the Licensing Board appears to be reasonable.

### Grades of Licensed Technicians

4. The proposed grading of licensed technicians seems acceptable. However, it is felt that training based on the relevant ANSI/TIA/EIA standards (or equivalent) for telecommunications cabling should also be included in the qualification requirements.

It is recommended that the **Certified Cabling Technician** be fully conversant with an installation standard based on ANSI/TIA/EIA 570-A standard (Residential and Light Commercial Installations). Additionally, the **Certified ICT Technician** should be quite knowledgeable of installation standards that are in keeping with ANSI/TIA/EIA 570-A, ANSI/TIA/EIA- 568-B, ANSI/TIA/EIA-569-A, ANSI/TIA/EIA-606-A and ANSI/TIA/EIA-607 standards. They should also be required to obtain the CompTIA A+ and Network + qualifications as well as the Microsoft MCDST. The **Certified Master ICT Technician** should have the MCSE, CCNA and MCSA qualifications.

### Technician Qualification

5. C&W endorses the view of the Authority that internationally certified technicians relocating to the Cayman Islands would be required to submit their internationally recognized certifications to the Technician Licensing Board for approval and that they should also be required to study and pass an examination on applicable Cayman Laws, regulations and standards, particularly the National Electrical Code (NEC) and ICTA Regulations.

C&W also supports the proposal that Licences be valid for a period of one year and only renewed after completion of a refreshers course and that previous practical work be considered prior to renewal.

### Appointment and Role of Inspectors

6. C&W is also of the view that all Inspectors should be Certified Master ICT Technicians. However, it does not in the immediate future wish to be directly involved with the inspection of customer inside wiring/cabling, and feels that this is best left to an independent group reporting to the ICTA who is not affiliated in any way with any licensee or customer premises ICT service provider. C&W will

continue to take full responsibility for the quality of cabling between its distribution facility and the Demarcation Point located at the customer's premises, and would not expect this section of its network to be subjected to regulatory inspection.

#### Scope of Licensing Requirements

7. C&W agrees to the mandatory licensing of technicians providing services to third parties. C&W feel that it is advantageous for its technicians to be trained to the suggested requisite ICT certification. It should be explicit in the policy that these qualifications and standards apply only to ICT installations on the customer's side of the network demarcation point. Licensees should not be subjected to any regulations as regards the qualifications of their core network technicians. In addition, C&W maintains that its Customer Premises Installation Technicians should be deemed to have already met the qualification requirements for ICT Certified Cabling Technicians and be certified without any further training. These technicians are highly trained in the installation of wiring inside residential and commercial buildings in conformance with FCC Part 68, and were fully engaged in this particular activity prior to liberalization.

#### Support

8. In general, C&W supports this programme and looks forward to its timely introduction.