



THE NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MANDATES REGISTRATION OF SIM-ENABLED DEVICES UNDER THE DEVICE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Nigerian Communications Commission (“NCC”) recently introduced the Nigerian Communications Commission Device Management System (“NCC-DMS”), a framework designed to strengthen and protect the telecommunications ecosystem from stolen, counterfeit, cloned, invalid, and non-Type Approved devices. Under the framework, all SIM-enabled devices must be registered on the NCC-DMS by the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or their importers licensed by the NCC. Non-compliant devices risk being disconnected or restricted from accessing Nigerian mobile telecommunications networks.

What Device Users and Stakeholders Should Know:

- The Type Approval Business Rules 2024, issued pursuant to the Type Approval Regulations 2024, establish the NCC-DMS as a Central Equipment Identity Register (“CEIR”) that maintains device records and manages device access to mobile networks.
- All SIM-enabled devices must be registered on the NCC-DMS by the OEMs or their NCC-licensed importers. Registration requires the uploading each device’s International Mobile Equipment Identity (“IMEI”) number(s) on the NCC-DMS and payment of a fee (depending on the classification of the device to be registered).
- According to the NCC, all devices already imported into Nigeria and held as stock-in-trade are to be onboarded and registered by 6th October 2026.
- For new devices to be imported into Nigeria going forward, the NCC is working in partnership with the Nigeria Customs Service to incorporate DMS Authorisation Certificates into the applicable import-clearance requirements for devices entering Nigeria.

- The NCC has clarified that devices already in use by consumers in the Nigerian Market before the verification system became fully operational have already been automatically captured. Hence, they are not affected by this registration process.
- Non-compliant devices risk being disconnected or restricted from accessing Nigerian mobile telecommunications networks.
- For devices already in stock in Nigeria, Suppliers, in collaboration with the OEMs (and/or importers) should ensure compliance with registration obligation.
- Consumers are advised to dial *315# or visit the NCC's Device Checker portal to confirm whether their SIM-enabled devices had been duly registered and approved. Purchasers of unverified devices are advised to contact their sellers for replacements.



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