



Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) – Type Approval Procedure User Guidelines

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1. Introduction

- (a) “Terminal equipment” refers to any apparatus that is directly or indirectly connected to a network termination point and is used for sending, processing, or receiving intelligence.
- (b) The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in exercise of its powers under the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act, 1996, has established Type Approval Regulations to ensure that all terminal equipment intended for commercial use in Pakistan adheres to internationally recognized technical standards. Equipment may be tested by laboratories national/international duly recognized by international standardization and accredited by the accreditation council within the originating country.
- (c) Furthermore, pursuant to Section 29 of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-Organization) Act, 1996, no terminal equipment shall be connected, either directly or indirectly, to a public switched telecommunications network unless it has been duly approved by the Authority or an agency designated by the Authority for this purpose. Such approval shall remain subject to any conditions as may be imposed by the Authority, including limitations on connectivity to specific categories of telecommunication systems.

2. Objectives of Type Approval

- (a) **To ensure interoperability and technical conformity** of terminal equipment with national and international telecommunication standards, thereby enabling seamless integration with public telecommunications networks.
- (b) **To safeguard public telecommunications infrastructure** from harmful interference and potential disruption caused by non-compliant or substandard equipment.
- (c) **To promote fair market competition** by enforcing uniform technical benchmarks and discouraging the circulation of unauthorized or counterfeit equipment in the market.
- (d) **To protect consumer safety** by ensuring that all approved equipment meets applicable electromagnetic, health, and SAR standards.
- (e) Ensure availability of **after-sale services** and establishment of authorized service centers within Pakistan. Promote consumer protection through timely support, repairs, and access to spare parts.

3. Applicability and Scope

These procedures apply to all terminal equipment as defined above, encompassing a wide range of technologies and device categories, including but not limited to:

- a) SIM/IMEI-based devices such as mobile phones, tablets, dongles and smartwatches etc.
- b) Wireless communication modules intended for integration into finished products
- c) Short-range devices (SRDs), Ultra-Wide Band (UWB) equipment, Bluetooth, RFID, and similar technologies supported equipment
- d) Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communication equipment
- e) Satellite communication terminals and associated user-end devices
- f) IP-based communication systems including IP phones, video conferencing systems, and gateways
- g) The Type Approval process is mandatory for **both locally manufactured and imported equipment** prior to their commercial use or deployment within Pakistan.

4. Comprehensive Type Approval Process

The following table outlines the detailed steps in the Type Approval process:

| Step | Description | Details |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Application Submission | Submit the Type Approval application form and relevant documents to PTA. | A separate application is required for each model. Use the official PTA form available on the website link https://www.pta.gov.pk/assets/media/2024-11-21-app_form_undertaking_07-12-2022.docx below. |
| 2. Appointment of Local Representative | Foreign applicants may appoint a local representative to liaise with PTA. | The representative will manage the submission, compliance, and communication process. |
| 3. Payment of fee | Applicants shall pay the non-refundable processing fee at the time of submission, and the applicable Type Approval certificate fee upon confirmation of technical evaluation, in accordance with the prescribed fee structure. | Ensure accurate fee submission to avoid delays in processing. |
| 4. Sample Submission | Provide one sample device with all necessary accessories for technical evaluation and testing. | Devices with IMEI functionality must be registered with DIRBS before submission. |
| 5. Technical Evaluation | PTA conducts detailed testing of hardware and system-based functionality. | Internal hardware inspection, PCBA validation, and software verification may be performed. |
| 6. Verification of Compliance | PTA verifies conformance with international standards and GSMA TAC databases for IMEI-based devices. | Further verification may be conducted with accredited test laboratories if necessary. |
| 7. Issuance of Type Approval Certificate | Upon successful evaluation, PTA issues the Type Approval certificate, which is valid for the specific model. | The certificate is non-transferable and limited to the approved model. |

5. Checklist for Type Approval Application

| S. No. | Document | Requirement |
|--------|--|-------------|
| 1 | Application Form | Mandatory |
| 2 | Application Fee | Mandatory |
| 3 | Undertaking for Compliance with PTA Regulations | Mandatory |
| 4 | Functional Sample with Accessories | Mandatory |
| 5 | Declaration of Conformity (DoC) reflecting applied device standards (EMC, RF, Safety, SAR) | Mandatory |
| 6 | Technical Data Sheet | Mandatory |
| 7 | Test Reports for all standards reflected with in DOC | Mandatory |
| 8 | Physical/Remote Demo | As Required |

6. Fee Structure

The Application Processing Fee (non-refundable) and Type Approval Certificate Fee are charged separately.

| S. No. | Type Approval Equipment Categories | *Local (PKR) | Imported (USD) |
|--------|--|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | Tracking Devices (SIM/IMEI-based) | 5,000 | 100 |
| 2 | Satellite Terminal Equipment | 5,000 | 100 |
| 3 | Wireless Radio Transceivers (VHF, HF, UHF) | 5,000 | 100 |
| 4 | ISM Band Devices, GNSS Equipment | 5,000 | 100 |
| 5 | SRD, UWB, IoT Devices | 2,500 | 50 |
| 6 | IP Phones, VoIP Systems, PABX | 5,000 | 100 |
| 7 | Mobile Devices (SIM/IMEI/Wi-Fi-based) | 5,000 | 100 |

**A device shall be considered 'local' only if it is indigenously manufactured within Pakistan, whereas any device imported in Completely Knocked Down (CKD), Semi-Knocked Down (SKD), or Completely Built-Up (CBU) form shall be classified as an imported device.*

7. Module-Level Type Approval

Module-Level Type Approval is a regulatory mechanism administered by PTA to ensure that communication modules such as GSM **sim module comply the** applicable standards prior to their integration into finished products.

Approval under this category is granted exclusively for the specific module when used within the declared host product model, and shall not be construed as blanket approval for all products utilizing the same module.

8. Key Guidelines:

- (a) **Scope of Approval** – Restricted solely to the declared finished product model incorporating the approved module.
- (b) **Fresh Approval Requirement** – A new Type Approval application is mandatory for any change in the finished product model, even if the module remains unchanged.
- (c) **Testing and Documentation** – Submission of complete technical documentation, including test reports from accredited laboratories, is required.
- (d) **Non-Transferability** – The granted approval is non-transferable and shall not apply to other product models or manufacturers.

9. Technical Standards and Compliance

All terminal equipment shall conform to technical standards prescribed by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) or to internationally recognized standards to ensure safe, reliable, and interference-free operation. Accepted standards include, but are not limited to:

- a) **ITU-T, ETSI, IEC, and ISO standards applicable to telecommunications and electronic equipment**
- b) **Specific Absorption Rate (SAR):** Devices must comply with the SAR limit of 2 W/kg, averaged over 10 grams of tissue, to ensure user safety
- c) **Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) / Electromagnetic Interference (EMI):** Devices must meet applicable EMC/EMI standards to prevent harmful interference with other equipment or networks

10. Payment Details

All payments shall be made via Pay Order/Demand Draft to the following:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Account Title | Pakistan Telecommunication Authority Fund A/C |
| Account Number | 3000942222 |
| Bank Name | National Bank of Pakistan |
| Branch Code | 2221 |
| IBAN | PK39NBPA2221003000942222 |
| Branch Address | Ground Floor, NBP Building, Sector G-5/1, Islamabad, 44000, Pakistan |

References

The following regulations and frameworks govern the Type Approval process:

- a) Type Approval Technical Standards Regulations, 2021 link https://www.pta.gov.pk/assets/media/type_approval_amendment_reg_2022_09-09-2022.zip.
- b) Type Approval Technical Standards (Amendments) Regulations, 2021 https://www.pta.gov.pk/assets/media/type_approval_amendment_reg_2022_09-09-2022.zip
- c) Regulatory Framework for Short Range Devices (SRD) and Terrestrial Internet of Things (IoT) Services, 2021. https://www.pta.gov.pk/assets/media/iot_srd_regulatory_framework_07-02-2023.zip

Notes:

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) reserves the right to:

- (a) **Suspend or revoke Type Approval** in the event of non-compliance with regulatory requirements at any period of time.
- (b) **Refer cases for legal action** to the relevant enforcement or judicial authorities, where violations of applicable laws or regulations are identified.
- (c) **Amend the Type Approval procedures and associated fee structure** from time to time to reflect advancements in technology and align with international best practices.
- (d) Emphasize that the **Type Approval procedures are established to uphold high technical standards and ensure regulatory compliance** for all terminal equipment intended for use in Pakistan. Applicants are strongly advised to adhere strictly to these procedures to facilitate a smooth and timely approval process.