



Media Release - 5 September 2006

ComReg to give green light to iTrips

The Commission for Communications Regulation has today said that short range transmitting devices such as iTrips will soon be made legal in Ireland. These are small radio-transmitting devices that are used for connecting MP3 players to radios and car stereos which allow people to listen to music transmitted from an MP3 player. It is expected that such devices will be legalised before the end of the year.

The proposal is included in ComReg's draft interface requirements for radio services in Ireland which have been notified to the European Commission (EC) and are published in ComReg document 06/47. Interface requirements are technical and administrative regulations e.g. frequency bands, type of application, power limits, relevant technical standards and licensing regime for each type of radio service.

The purpose of the notification is to provide information on the requirements for the operation of different radio applications in specific frequency bands, which have been stipulated by ComReg for the purpose of ensuring the efficient and effective use of the radio spectrum.

The interface requirements document includes, for example, draft requirements to allow for the use of very low power (50nW E.R.P limit) short-range FM transmitters, e.g. iTrip-type devices, in the broadcast band (87.5 – 108 MHz) on a licence exempt basis, subject to certain technical parameters being met.

Following the notification to the EC a 3 month standstill period is invoked and during this time Member States and the EC can comment on the draft requirements. While ComReg intends to adopt the draft interface requirements as per document 06/47, any comments made by those bodies during the standstill period will need to be taken into account and subsequent amendments to the interface requirements document may therefore be necessary. ComReg expects to adopt final interface requirements at the end of the year. However should detailed opinions be given by other Member States or the EC the 3 month standstill period may be extended.

Interested parties can provide comments on the draft interface requirements to either the European Commission or to their relevant national authority responsible for administering Directive 98/34/EC in the field of technical regulations (In Ireland, the National Standards Authority of Ireland).

The notification was made in accordance with Directive 98/34/EC in fulfilment of our obligations under Regulation 5(6)(a) of SI 240 of 2001 which transposes Article 4.1 of the Radio and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment Directive (1999/5/EC) into Irish law.

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie