



October 01, 2009

My Dear Fellow Colleagues,

As the festive season rolls out, please allow me to extend my warm wishes to all of you.

So far, this year has marked a phenomenal success for the telecom industry as a whole. The growth of the industry in the midst of recession is a sure sign that our industry is recession proof. With some of the operators crossing the 10 crores subscriber bench mark, new GSM operators setting foot and the rural business taking off the mobile handset business is booming.

India is selling more than one crore mobile handsets every month. A great success story, compared to where we were ten years ago. While all this growth is good for mobility and has uplifted the quality of communication, there are some serious concerns. Terrorists and dangerous elements may have taken cover under the illegal and fictitious IMEI mobile phones, which could have been used to trigger a series of criminal activities.

As a part of the great mobile trade and industry, we believe that by disallowing the existence of illegal IMEI numbers in our telecom ecosystem we can play a greater role to strengthen our nation's security requirements.

Selling Handsets with non-genuine IMEI is not only illegal it may endanger the public by arming, aiding and abetting criminal elements.

Selling of any mobile phones:

- Without IMEI number or
- All zeros as IMEI number or
- Fake IMEI number or
- Fake/Cloned IMEI number is against national security and is illegal.

I am listing some of the facts which you should be aware of

- There is already a ban on the import of mobile phones with wrong IMEI. Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India already issued a Notification No.112 (RE-2008)/200-2009 dated 16th June 2009 to this effect.
- There is now a clear directive from Government of India directing Operators not to process and reject calls from mobile handsets IMEI numbers not available in the updated GSMSA database or without IMEI Numbers or all Zeros from 30.11.2009.
- As Cellular Service Companies in both prepaid and postpaid plans have to check IMEI on their computers. In the interest of security of nation the calls from mobile handsets with IMEI numbers not available in the updated GSMSA database or without IMEI Numbers or all Zeros are not to be processed and rejected

HELP CRUB ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

- We request you to help in curbing illegal activities by encouraging end consumers to check IMEI numbers of their mobile handsets with an SMS solution that is being provided to check the validity of the IMEI number. The consumer or you or anyone can send an SMS to 57886 and verify.

HOW TO CHECK THE IMEI NUMBER

- The IMEI number will be displayed after you press *# 06 #
- The genuine IMEI number is a 15 digit number

Whatever is the result of the above, genuineness of the same can be checked by sending an SMS to 57886 with the following steps:

Step-1: Open SMS window

Step-2: Type (IMEI number displayed above). Eg. IMEI 357719009240555

Step-3: Send to 57886

Step-4: The SMS reply will provide the brand name and the model number for which this IMEI number was originally allotted.

In case your mobile handset is not having genuine IMEI number, please encourage the consumer to change his mobile phone before 30.11.2009 to avoid disconnection.

HOW ARE WE HELPING ?

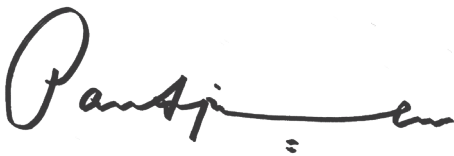
We are working with various government agencies and other interested groups to launch a strict enforcement plan to stop sale and trade of mobile handsets posing threat to national security by arranging searches / seizures and raids to stop such an illegal trade.

We sincerely expect that you shall contribute to this great cause by desisting from trading in mobile phones without genuine IMEI numbers and by circulating information about sale of such phones in your areas

Many thanks for your understanding and cooperation. We will be in touch with you and keep you posted.

We wish you a very fruitful festive season. May we all flourish with great success and reap in wonderful rewards.

Warmest Regards,



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