

N-45011/25/2022-DAS  
Government of India  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Room No. 544A, 'A' Wing  
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001  
Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2024

**ADVISORY**

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has granted registration to Multi-System Operators (MSO) to provide cable television services through digital addressable system (DAS). The details of some of these MSOs, hereafter "Scheduled MSOs", along with their registration information, have been tabulated and enclosed in the schedule attached to this advisory.

2. One of the terms and conditions of the MSO registration was that MSOs shall comply with the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, and the Rules made thereunder, as amended, and adhere to all the terms and conditions of the registration. Failing to do so, the permission/ registration is liable to be cancelled or suspended.

3. Further, according to Regulation 15(1) of the Interconnection Regulations, 2017, it is mandatory for every distributor of channels to conduct an audit of their system once in a calendar year. However, as per the information shared by TRAI, the Scheduled MSOs have not conducted audits of their systems for the calendar years 2021 and/or 2022. Moreover, the Scheduled MSOs were required to furnish information like seeding data, headend location, etc. under Rule 10A of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. Taking into account the non-compliance, this Ministry had marked the status of these MSOs as "Non-Compliant".

4. Furthermore, through this Ministry's advisory dated 23.03.2023, all broadcasters were advised not to enter into interconnection agreements with non-compliant MSOs and to notify the non-compliant MSOs with whom they already have interconnection agreements.

5. However, despite being classified as "Non-Compliant", the scheduled MSOs have not made any reference to this Ministry for change in their status to "Compliant". Accordingly, an advisory dated 01.08.2023 was issued to these MSOs in which they were requested to furnish the requisite documents and get their status changed to "Compliant" by 15.08.2023.

6. As the scheduled MSOs did not provide the requisite clarification/explanation within the stipulated period, therefore, a Show Cause Notice dated 04.09.2023 was issued

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seeking reasons for their non-compliance with the terms and conditions of registration. Time period of 15 days were granted to the scheduled MSOs to furnish the requisite response.

7. However, the scheduled MSOs did not provide the requisite details within the stipulated period, therefore, a reminder vide communication dated 25.09.2023 was sent to them. In this communication, time period upto 15.10.2023 was granted to provide the requisite information.

8. It has been observed that despite lapse of the given period, the scheduled MSOs have failed to provide the requisite information or make any reference to this Ministry regarding their compliance status. By doing so, these MSOs have continued to remain in contravention outlined in preceding paras.

9. In view of the above, the Broadcasters are again advised to communicate to the Scheduled MSOs who have interconnection agreements with them to get their status changed to "Compliant" by 31.01.2024 and mark the copy of such communication to this Ministry. Broadcasters are also advised to not enter into fresh interconnection agreement or renew the existing agreements with MSOs till their status is changed to Compliant.

10. Also, the Scheduled MSOs are hereby advised to furnish the requisite details/information and get their status changed to "Compliant" latest by 31.01.2024, failing which their MSO Registration shall be liable to be cancelled.

11. This advisory may be treated as a last opportunity for alteration of compliance status and sufficient opportunity of hearing under Section 4(7) of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

  
(Subhash Kumar)

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

To  
Multi-System Operators (as per schedule)

Copy to:

- (1) TRAI
- (2) All Broadcasters
- (3) IBDF