

Ghana

Electronic Communications Act

Emergency Communications System Instrument, 2020

Executive Instrument 63 of 2020

Legislation as at 23 March 2020

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Emergency Communications System Instrument, 2020
Contents

1. Emergency preparedness 1

2. Central Subscriber Identity Module Register 1

3. Central Equipment Identity Register 2

4. Hosting of Central Subscriber Identity Module Register and Central Equipment Identity Register 2

5. Connection and synchronisation of the Central Subscriber Identity Module and Central Equipment Identity Registers 2

6. Interpretation 2

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WHEREAS, under the power conferred by section 100 of the Electronic Communications Act, 2008 (Act 775), the President may, by Executive Instrument, make written requests and issue orders to operators or providers of electronic communications networks or services requiring them to provide user information or otherwise in aid of law enforcement or national security;

WHEREAS, Ghana is committed to dealing with emergency situations, especially public health emergencies;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to establish an emergency communications system to trace all contacts of persons suspected of or actually affected by a public health emergency and identify the places visited by persons suspected of or actually affected by a public health emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, the President of the Republic, do hereby make the following orders:

1. Emergency preparedness

- (1) A network operator or service provider shall
 - (a) put the network of the network provider or service provider at the disposal of the State for the mass dissemination of information to the public in the case of an emergency, including a public health emergency; and
 - (b) cooperate with the National Communications Authority Common Platform to provide information to State agencies in the case of an emergency, including a public health emergency.
- (2) A network operator or service provider shall make available the following:
 - (a) all caller and called numbers;
 - (b) Merchant Codes;
 - (c) Mobile Station International Subscriber Directory Number Codes; and
 - (d) International Mobile Equipment Identity Codes and site location.
- (3) A network operator or service provider shall ensure
 - (a) that all roaming files are made available to the National Communications Authority Common Platform; and
 - (b) location log files are provided to the National Communications Authority Common Platform to facilitate location-based tracking.

2. Central Subscriber Identity Module Register

- (1) An institution designated by the Minister under paragraph 4 shall establish a Central Subscriber Identity Module Register.

- (2) The Central Subscriber Identity Module Register shall be the centralised database for validly registered Subscriber Identity Module cards and subscriber numbers on all networks of mobile and service providers in the country.

3. Central Equipment Identity Register

- (1) An institution designated by the Minister under paragraph 4 shall establish a Central Equipment Identity Register.
- (2) The Central Equipment Identity Register shall be the centralised database for validly registered terminal equipment on all networks of mobile and service providers in the country.
- (3) A network operator or a service provider who provides services over a public communication network shall establish an Equipment Identity Register.
- (4) A network operator or service provider shall include in the Equipment Identity Register
 - (a) the Mobile Station International Subscriber Directory Number Code of the network operator or service provider;
 - (b) the International Mobile Equipment Identity Code of the network operator or service provider;
 - (c) the International Mobile Subscriber Identity and Site Location information of subscribers of the network operator or service provider; and
 - (d) any other information that the Minister may determine.
- (5) A network operator or service provider shall connect the Equipment Identity Register of the network operator or service provider to the Central Equipment Identity Register for purposes of synchronisation and the sharing of information.
- (6) A network operator or service provider shall ensure that only a terminal equipment which is registered with a unique identifier is connected to the network of the network operator or service provider.

4. Hosting of Central Subscriber Identity Module Register and Central Equipment Identity Register

The Central Subscriber Identity Module Register and the Central Equipment Identity Register shall be hosted by an institution designated by the Minister responsible for Communications.

5. Connection and synchronisation of the Central Subscriber Identity Module and Central Equipment Identity Registers

An institution designated under paragraph 4, shall where the circumstances require, connect the Central Subscriber Identity Module Register and Central Equipment Identity Register to other external databases for the purpose of verification and validation of

- (a) a subscriber number,
- (b) a Merchant Code,
- (c) a Subscriber Identity Module card, and
- (d) a terminal equipment.

6. Interpretation

In this Instrument, unless the context otherwise requires,

"International Mobile Equipment Identity" means a code of a telephone device which is used to identify the telephone device;

"Merchant Code" means a specific code assigned to a merchant by a mobile money operator for payment on the platform of the operator;

"Mobile Station International Subscriber Directory Number" means a code on a Subscriber Identity Module card that identifies the Subscriber Identity Module card of the network including the phone number and network number; and

"terminal equipment" means an equipment which is used to process a large amount of data in a speedy manner such as a server, hardware, software and terminal devices.

Given under my hand this 23rd day of March, 2020.

Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

President of the Republic of Ghana