




**SUBSCRIBERS IDENTIFICATION
MODULE (SIM) CARDS / REMOVABLE
USER IDENTITY MODULE (RUIM)
REGISTRATION REGULATIONS 2011**

LTA - REG - 004



**LIBERIA
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AUTHORITY**

**LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
MONROVIA, LIBERIA
OCTOBER 7, 2011**

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EXTRAORDINARY

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ANNOUNCES THAT THE LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AUTHORITY (LTA), PURSUANT TO ITS MANDATE
UNDER PART III SECTION 11 (Q) OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2007, HAS ISSUED
ON OCTOBER 7, 2011, ITS REGULATIONS HEREINUNDER:**

**REGULATIONS RELATING TO SUBSCRIBERS
IDENTIFICATION MODULE (SIM) CARDS /
REMOVABLE USER IDENTITY MODULE (RUIM)
REGISTRATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

**J. LEVI DEMMAH
ACTING MINISTER**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Monrovia, Liberia
October 7, 2011**



LIBERIA
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AUTHORITY

Subscribers Identification Module (SIM) Cards/Removable
User Identity Module (RUIM) Registration Regulations

2011

LTA-REG-004

Republic of Liberia
Liberia Telecommunications Authority

Revised Version

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Part I: PRELIMINARY

1.1 Preamble

These Regulations have been developed by the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (the "LTA") pursuant to Part III section 11(q) of the Telecommunications Act of 2007 of the Republic of Liberia (the "Act").

1.2 Purpose

These SIM Card/RUIM Registration Regulations are made to provide a regulatory framework for the following:

- a) The compulsory registration of all activated SIM Cards/RUIMs and SIM Card/RUIM users
- b) The control, administration, and management of a subscriber Database for all SIM Cards/RUIMs and SIM Card/RUIM users.

1.3 Scope of Application

These Regulations shall apply to corporate, private, government institutions, and all other users of SIM Cards/RUIM in the Republic of Liberia, but shall not extend to users of SIM Cards/RUIM issued by Foreign Licensees that are roaming on the network of a Service provider in the Republic of Liberia, provided such holder/user of a SIM Card/RUIM issued by a Foreign Licensee shall remain in the Republic of Liberia for thirty (30) days or less.

1.4 Terms and Definitions

As used in these Regulations the defined terms shall have the following meanings and shall refer to both the singular and plural:

"Activate" means to allow - access to the electronic communication system of the Licensee who provides a mobile cellular Electronic Communications Service, including the ability to make and receive calls, and to send and receive short message services;

"Activated", **"activation"**, **"deactivated"** and **"deactivation"** shall be read and construed accordingly;

"Activation Window" means the period of time in which service providers will be required to register all currently activated SIM Cards/RUIM and SIM Card/RUIM

users and beyond which unregistered SIM Cards/RUIMs will be deactivated from the network of service providers.

“Data Dictionary” refers to the required subscriber information for the purpose of the SIM Card/RUIM registration as defined by the LTA.

“Effective Date” means the date on which the SIM Card/RUIM Registration Regulations shall come into force;

“Electronic Communications Service” means any service which provides to users the ability to send or receive wire or electronic communications;

“Existing Subscriber” means a Subscriber on a Licensee's electronic communication services system prior to the Effective Date of These Regulations;

“Foreign Licensee” refers to a telecommunications and or Electronic Communications Service provider licensed by a telecommunications regulator other than the LTA, to provide Electronic Communications Services in a country other than Liberia;

“LTA” means the Liberia Telecommunications Authority;

“New Subscriber” means a Subscriber who acquires a SIM Card/RUIM or subscribes for the provision of Electronic Communications Service after the commencement of these Regulations;

“Personal Information” refers to the name (first, middle and Last), gender, date of birth, residential address, nationality, county of origin, occupation and such other personal information and contact details of Subscribers as the LTA may from time to time specify in a data dictionary.

“Proxy Registration” refers to the registration process in which a person under the age of 18 years is allowed to be registered by his/her parent or guardian.

“Regulation” means these SIM Card/RUIM Registration Regulations;

“Service Provider” means any telecommunication and or Electronic Communications operator licensed by the LTA for the provision of Electronic Communications Services including Global System for Mobile (GSM), Code Division Mobile Access (CDMA)[and fixed line services in the Republic of Liberia;

“SIM Card/RUIM Registration Database” means the subscriber SIM Card/RUIM Database, containing the specific information stipulated in section 3.1 (a) of these Regulations.

“SIM Card” means a Subscriber Identity Module smart card containing the telephone number of a subscriber, encoded network identification details, the personal

identification number and other user data such as an address book provided by a Licensee for the provision of Electronic Communication Services;

“**Subscriber Information**” refers to the Biometrics and other Personal Information of a Subscriber recorded and stored by Licensees and or the SIM Card/RUIM Registration Solution Providers;

“**Subscriber Registration Period**” means the ninety (90) days period (July 18, 2011 to October 18, 2011) allotted by the LTA within which Existing Subscribers will be required to register.

“**Subscriber**” means any person who subscribes for the provision of Electronic Communications Services either as a result of the purchase of a SIM Card/RUIM or the conclusion of a contract for the provision of electronic communication service by a Licensee (including an employee of the Licensee or any person who receives or received such service as a gift, reward, favour, benefit or donation) and shall, where the context so admits, include both Existing Subscribers and New Subscribers.

“**Security Agency**” refers to any of the national security apparatus, military or para-security agencies established by an Act of the National Legislature.

“**Removable User Identity Module (RUIM)**” refers to identification chips for cellular phones that are made for CDMA network.

“**Vouch Registration**” refers to a registration process in which a prominent resident of a community is allowed to supply/give evidence/testimony about the identity of a subscriber who does not have a valid identification document.

PART II: SUBSCRIBER DATABASE

2.1 Establishment and Maintenance of Subscribers Database

- a) All service providers shall establish and maintain a database of all recorded Subscribers' Information as defined in Section 3.1 (a) of these regulations to be known as the **SIM Card/RUIM Registration Database** and in accordance with part X section 51 of the Telecommunications Act of 2007.
- b) The **SIM Card/RUIM Registration Database** shall be domiciled and housed within a location designated by each service provider.
- c) All Subscribers' Information acquired by service providers pursuant to these Regulations shall belong to the service providers with unhindered access to the LTA.

PART III: SIM CARD/RUIM REGISTRATION PROCESS

3.1 *Registration of Subscribers*

- a) All Service Providers are hereby required, from the effective date of these Regulations to register all SIM/RUIM Cards and the subscribers to whom the Cards are issued as specified below:
- i. Phone number
 - ii. Full Name of SIM Card/RUIM user;
 - iii. ID Number/Passport Number/Birth Certificate Number/Voter Registration Card Number (if available) or any other valid identification;
 - iv. One passport size photo (mandatory);
 - v. Occupation;
 - vi. Place of work or school or business address;
 - vii. Physical address (Home address);
 - viii. Country of origin (in the case of legal residents, copies of that legal permits)
 - ix. Business registration (where applicable) and prove of income tax payment
- b) In the case of corporations and/or other business entities, capture the information of the said corporations and/or the business entities as specified in subparagraph (a) above.
- c) Proxy SIM Card/RUIM registration shall be allowed during the registration process and such registration shall be limited to a maximum of 5 persons. However, anyone who proxy for an individual(s) under this section shall be held liable for activities carried out on said SIM Card/RUIM.
- d) A proxy may de-proxy a registration of a given beneficiary upon the attainment of the legal age of 18 years by the beneficiary or the wilful decision of the proxy during any age of the beneficiary.
- e) Any person above the age of 18 who might not have any valid identification document shall be allowed to be vouched for by a prominent resident within that community.

3.2 *Non-activation of New SIM Cards/RUIMs prior to registration*

No Service provider shall activate a SIM Card/RUIM on its network unless the Service provider has first registered the New Subscriber's details pursuant to Section 3.1 of these Regulations.

3.3 *Registration of Subscribers*

- a) Service providers shall enforce the SIM Card/RUIM registration process for existing subscribers by promptly deactivating any SIM Card/RUIM where the Subscriber of such SIM/RUIM Card has not been registered by the service provider after the deadline set for the registration of SIM Cards/RUIMs.

3.4 *Non-Compliance with activation and deactivation requirements*

- a) Any Service provider who activates a SIM Card/RUIM in violation of Section 3.1 or who fails to deactivate a SIM Card/RUIM in accordance with Section 3.3 shall be deemed to be in material breach of these Regulations, and shall be subjected to the payment of penalties stipulated in sections 5.1 and 5.4 of these regulations.

PART IV: THE SIM CARD/RUIM REGISTRATION DATABASE

4.1 *Operation of the SIM Card/RUIM Registration Database*

- a) All service providers shall, on a regular basis capture subscribers' information in accordance with Section 3.1, paragraph (a) of these Regulations.
- b) The care, control and management of subscribers' information on the SIM Card/RUIM Registration Database shall be vested in each service provider.
- c) The Subscriber Information contained in the SIM Card/RUIM Registration Database shall be held on a strictly confidential basis and no person or entity shall be allowed access to such information on the SIM Card/RUIM Registration Database except as provided for by Sections 49 (1) and 52 of the Telecommunications Act of 2007.

4.2 *Data Protection*

- a) Service Providers shall retain and protect Subscribers' Information on their networks in keeping with subsection (c) above and Part X, section 51 of the Telecommunications Act of 2007.
- b) Any service provider that exposes/releases subscribers' information to third parties contrary to paragraphs 4.1 (c) and 4.2 (a) shall face a penalty as defined in section 5.3 of these regulations.
- c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4.1 (c), 4.2 (a) and subject to the provisions of any Act of the Legislature, Subscriber Information on the SIM

Card/RUIM Registration Database may be release to Government authorities in keeping with Section 52 of the Telecommunications Act of 2007 and /or by an order of a circuit Court within the Republic of Liberia.

Part V: PENALTIES

- 5.1 Any service provider who activates a SIM Card/RUIM in violation of Section 3.1(a) or who fails to deactivate a SIM Card/RUIM in accordance with Section 3.3 of these Regulations shall be deemed to be in material breach of these Regulations and shall be subject to a fine of US\$ 500.00 per SIM Card/ RUIM upon first offense. For the second and every subsequent offense, the service provider shall be fined US\$1,000.00 per SIM Card/RUIM.
- 5.2 Failure by any service provider to grant LTA access to the SIM Card/RUIM Registration Database, said service provider shall be subjected to a penalty of USD \$500 per day with in the period of denial.
- 5.3 A breach of the confidentiality provisions of these Regulations by any service provider, said service provider shall be subjected to a fine of US\$35,000.00 per day until the breach is remedy.
- 5.4 The failure of any service provider to register a SIM Card/RUIM that is in use beyond the registration deadline set by these Regulations shall subject said service provider to a fine US\$500.00 per SIM Card/RUIM.

Part VI: AMENDMENTS

The LTA may amend and modify these Regulations or any part thereof, at any time, if the LTA deems it necessary according to the following reasons;

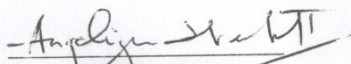
1. In the interest of National Security or imperative national interest hinges to international treaties, commitments, recommendations, standards, or laws of Liberia requires the amendment;
2. Changes and advancement in technology requires the amendment;
3. And/or as may be determined by the LTA.

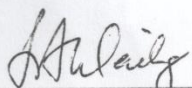
Part VII EFFECTIVE DATE

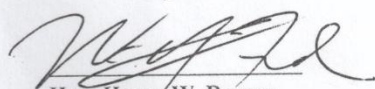
These regulations shall be cited as the Regulations on SIM Card/RUIM Registration for the Republic of Liberia and shall come into effect on July 18, 2011 and when published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Liberia.

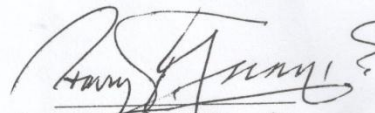
Part VII of these Regulations shall come into full force and effect on July 18, 2011. The date of the commencement of the SIM Card Registration, the SIM Card Registration shall end on October 18, 2011.

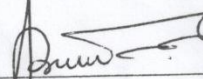
ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY, THIS 18th DAY OF July 2011 IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTERRADO, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.


Angelique Weeks
Chairperson


Hon. Lamini A. Waritay
Commissioner


Hon. Henry W. Benson
Commissioner


Hon. Harry T. Yuan, Sr.
Commissioner


Abdallah L. Kamara
Commissioner