



Republic of Namibia
Annotated Statutes

REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS MADE IN TERMS OF

Communications Act 8 of 2009

section 129(1)(f) read with sections 129(4), (5), (6) and (7)

**Regulations setting out Minimum Technical Standards
for Set-Top Box Decoders**

General Notice 475 of 2013

(GG 5357)

came into force on date of publication: 6 December 2013

as amended by

General Notice 159 of 2020 (GG 7197)

came into force on date of publication: 29 April 2020

**These regulations and amendments were made by the
Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia.**

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

1. Definitions
 2. Applicability
 3. Spectrum
 4. System features
 5. Software features
 6. Hardware features
 7. Accessories
 8. Warranty and Support
 9. Non-Compliance with Minimum Technical Standards
 10. Amendment of Minimum Technical Standards
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**REGULATIONS
Communications Act 8 of 2009**

Regulations setting out Minimum Technical Standards for Set-Top Box Decoders

[The capitalisation of the regulation headings and text is reproduced here as it appears in the *Government Gazette*.]

Definitions

1. In these regulations, a word or expression to which a meaning is assigned in the Act has the same meaning, and unless the context otherwise indicates -

“the Regulations” means the Regulations Setting out Minimum Technical Standards for Set-Top Box Decoders.

“Act” means the Communications Act, 2009 (Act No. 8 of 2009).

“Minimum technical standards” means, for the purposes hereof, those set of standards that specifies the minimum technical requirements that are mandatory for set-top box decoders as prescribed in these regulations

“Set-Top Box Decoder” means an information appliance device that generally contains a tuner and connects to an analogue television set and an external source of signal, turning the source signal into content a form that can then be displayed on the television screen or other display device.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall be applicable to -

- (1) All Digital terrestrial television Set-Top Box decoders imported and sold within the Republic of Namibia.
- (2) These regulations shall also be applicable to all of the following Set-Top Box decoder providers: -
 - (a) Broadcasting Service licensees;
 - (b) Signal Distributor Licensees;
 - (c) Multiplex Licensees;
 - (d) Decoder manufacturers/distributors/retailers; and
 - (e) The Public

Spectrum

3. The Set-Top Box decoder shall operate within the VHF and UHF television broadcasting bands as set out in the table below, using 8 MHz channel spacing in accordance with the International Telecommunications Union GE06 plan (*International Telecommunications Union Final Acts of the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for Planning of the digital terrestrial broadcasting service in parts of Regions 1 and 3, in the Frequency Bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz (RRC-06) – Geneva 15 May – 16 June 2006*).

BAND		FREQUENCY RANGE MHz
VHF	VHF III	174 to 230

REGULATIONS
Communications Act 8 of 2009

Regulations setting out Minimum Technical Standards for Set-Top Box Decoders

UHF	UHF IV	470 to 582
	UHF V	582 to 694

System features

4. The Set-Top Box decoder shall operate according to the system features as shown in the table below in accordance with the European Telecommunications Standards Institute.

DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM STANDARD
System Standard	Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) – Terrestrial and Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) – Terrestrial 2.
	<i>(The following references are indispensable for the application of this document. For undated reference, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies: (ETSI TS 101 154, Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Specification for the use of Video and Audio Coding in Broadcasting Applications based on the MPEG-2 Transport Stream; ETSI EN 300 743, Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Subtitling systems; ETSI ETR 162, Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Allocation of Service Information (SI) codes for DVB systems)</i>
Video Decoding	Moving Pictures Experts Group 2 and Moving Pictures Experts Group 4
Video Resolution	Standard Definition
Conditional Access	No Conditional Access Module to be embedded
Video Profile	Moving Pictures Experts Group -4 MP@L3 Phase Alternating Line I/B/G modulator
Over-The-Air (OTA) Download	Yes
Memory	8 MB RAM, 16 MB Flash
Audio	Mono and Stereo

Software features

5. (1) All middleware included on the set-Top Box decoder should be embedded.

(2) The Set-Top Box decoder should be able to display an electronic programme guide depicting information for a minimum period of seven (7) days.

(3) Parental Lock functionality should be available.

Hardware features

6. The Set-Top Box decoder should be manufactured in accordance with all hardware features as shown in the table below.

DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM STANDARD
Power Supply	Internal 160 – 264V AC and 47-63 HZ or External AC to DC adaptor Over/under voltage protection Overheating protection
Connections	IEC 60169-2 RF IN – Female RF OUT – Male Audio/Video RCA or HDMI Serial/USB for software upgrade Ethernet Port
Exterior	Standby functionality Volume (V+ & V-)

REGULATIONS
Communications Act 8 of 2009

Regulations setting out Minimum Technical Standards for Set-Top Box Decoders

	Channel Change (Ch+ & Ch-) One tri-colour LED indication required Channel Scan Menu with accept functionality
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Accessories

7. (1) The following accessories shall be included in the box for each Set-Top Box decoder:

- (a) A Standard remote control with batteries;
- (b) Required power adaptors and a RF cable and/or a RCA cable;

[The word “a” should be “an” before both “RF” and “RCA”.]

- (c) An English instruction manual.

Warranty and Support

8. (1) The manufacturer of the Set-Top Box decoder shall offer a one (1) year warranty as a minimum requirement.

(2) Manufacturers and Importers of Set-Top Box decoders shall maintain local repair and/or swop facilities within the borders of the Republic of Namibia.

Non-Compliance with Minimum Technical Standards

9. (1) Any person, Signal Distributor Licensee, Multiplex Licensee, decoder manufacturer or distributor or retailer who fails to comply with any of the provisions contained in these Regulations shall be in contravention of these Regulations.

(2)

[subregulation (2) deleted by General Notice 159/2020]

Amendment of Minimum Technical Standards

10. The Authority may amend these minimum technical standards from time to time.