

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
12/3/2004
Press Note No: 21/2004

TRAI Amends Notification Specifying Ceiling Rates for Cable Services

The TRAI provided its interim Recommendations on 23rd February, 2004, to the Government that the Notification No. SO 792 (E) dated 10th July, 2003, which notified the areas for implementing CAS, be kept in abeyance for at least three months. The Government accepted the Recommendation and vide Notification No. S.O.271(E), dated 27th February, 2004, the mandatory operation of CAS was suspended until such date as may be notified by the Government.

TRAI in its tariff order dated 15th January, 2004 had specified ceiling charges payable for cable services as those prevailing on 26th December 2003 with respect to both free-to-air channels and pay channels, and for both CAS and non-CAS areas. Due to above mentioned Notification there is no separate CAS or non-CAS areas and as such distinction between CAS and Non-CAS area is withdrawn from the earlier tariff order. This would lead to a situation that

- In non-CAS areas, the 26th December, 2003 ceiling would continue as such.
- For such erstwhile notified mandatory CAS areas, where CAS was not actually implemented, the ceiling of 26th December, 2003, will continue.
- For erstwhile notified mandatory CAS areas where CAS was implemented, the Authority recognises that CAS may continue on a voluntary basis and in such a case the ceiling would again be the rates prevailing on 26th December, 2003, which the Authority recognises may have been lower than the rates in non-CAS areas.

The amendment is not applicable for Chennai Metropolitan Area on account of stay granted by Madras High Court in writ petition numbers 4863, 4890, 4936 and 4919 of 2004.

For more details please visit TRAI's website at: www.traigov.in