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Department of Telecommunication
(Security Unit)

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Draft IMEI Tampering Rules

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With the growing importance of mobile phones and variety of new applications, the handset has become a critical item particularly in terms of the personal data/information stored in it.

2. International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) is a unique serial number which identifies the handset. Presently, most of the mobile devices are software based and therefore their IMEI is easily re-programmable.

3. In view of the above, rules need to be framed to prevent tampering of IMEI of mobile phones and accordingly, it is desired to consult with the public, civil society, industry and businesses in a meaningful and effective in formulation of the rules.

4. Suggestions/ Feedback, if any, may kindly be mailed at hoshiar.singh70@gov.in latest by 11.06.2017.

Encl: Draft IMEI Tampering Rules


30.5.17
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To,

All Stake Holders

THE MOBILE PHONE EQUIPMENT IDENTIFICATION TAMPERING RULES

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (k) of section 7 read with sub-section (c) of section 25 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1985), the Central Government, hereby, makes the following rules namely:

1. Short title of the Commencement

- 1) These rules may be called **The Mobile Phone Equipment Identification Tampering Rules, 2017.**
- 2) They shall come into effect on the date of their publication in the official Gazette.

2. Definition - In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,

(1) 'manufacturer' means a person who has lawfully obtained the right to assign a mobile device equipment identification number to a mobile device before the initial sale of the mobile device, and

(2) 'mobile phone equipment identification number' means a unique -

“(a) international mobile equipment identity number (IMEI);

(b) electronic serial number (ESN) ; or

(c) any other number or signal -

“(i) that identifies a unique mobile wireless communication device; and

(ii) has the same function and purposes as a number described in sub rule (a) or (b).

3. Mobile phone equipment identification number tampering - with effect from the date of notification, except as provided in sub- rule (3) it shall be unlawful to -

“(1) intentionally remove, obliterate, tamper with, or alter unique mobile device equipment identification number; or

(2) Intentionally use, produce, traffic in, have control or custody of, or possess hardware or software, knowing it has been configured to engage in the conduct described in Sub Rule (1).

(3) Exception - Sub-Rule (1) and (2) shall not apply to the manufacturer of mobile device.”
