

# IMPORTERS GUIDE



## ECOLEVY PROGRAM



**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRE-SHIPMENT AND  
COLLECTION OF ADVANCE ECO-LEVY FEES FOR  
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT IMPORTED  
INTO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**



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## 1. PRE-INSPECTION AND COLLECTION OF ECO-LEVY FEE

In accomplishing its obligations, Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has introduced the requirement for pre-inspection and collection of advanced eco levy fees for the electronic communication equipment at the country of export to ensure that all imported equipment complies with the Electronic and Postal Communications (Electronic Equipment Standards and E-Waste Management) Regulations, 2020.

In implementing this requirement, **TCRA** has entered a contract with **M/S BUREAU VERITAS TANZANIA LIMITED** to carry out all assessment processes at the country of export and facilitate the collection of advanced eco levy fee for each electronic communication equipment imported into the country paid by the exporter.

From **23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023**, applications for the importation of regulated categories of electronic communication equipment shall be done through [https://verigates.tcra-bureauveritas.co.tz/how\\_to\\_apply.html](https://verigates.tcra-bureauveritas.co.tz/how_to_apply.html) or manually through the Verigates EcoLevy page, <https://verigates.bureauveritas.com/programmes/tanzania-ecolevy> where the exporter can download the request for certificate application form for completion and transmission to [ecolevy.tanzania@bureauveritas.com](mailto:ecolevy.tanzania@bureauveritas.com)

### 1. Advance eco-levy fees

Pursuant to the requirement of section 17 (1) (a) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Electronic Equipment Standards and E-Waste Management) Regulations, 2020, advance eco levy fees shall be paid for each electronic communication equipment imported into the country in respect of handling their end-of-life processes. The advance eco levy fees shall be paid to TCRA before the equipment is exported into the country.

- **Exporter** shall pay advance eco-levy fees in respect of each **new electronic communication equipment** for managing their end-of-life processes,
- **Exporter** shall pay advance eco-levy fees for each **used electronic communication equipment** for managing their end-of-life processes.

Details for the collection account shall be provided when filing the application for importation at <https://verigates.tcra-bureauveritas.co.tz>.

### 2. EcoLevy fee certificate

The certificate confirming compliance with the assessment criteria will be issued for each shipment/consignment being exported to Tanzania, **indicating the number of devices being imported and the amount of eco levy fees paid**. Authentication of the EcoLevy certificate can be done by TCRA

officials through the Verigates portal by scanning through a special code (QR code) or a direct login to the platform.

## 1. PROCEDURE FOR IMPORTATION

Following the successful conclusion of the assessment and collection of advance eco levy fees for the electronic communication equipment an EcoLevy certificate shall be issued.

**The EcoLevy Certificate shall be presented as an attachment and filed to Customs systematically together with the Importer Declaration (directly or through a Clearing Agent) as an additional mandatory requirement among other usual requirements such as the TCRA Import License.**

**The importer should inform his supplier/s of the need to subject any electronic telecommunications equipment to assessment by Bureau Veritas prior to importation of the goods into the Republic of Tanzania.**

## 2. PERMITS FOR IMPORTING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

To import electronic communication equipment into the country, an importer must obtain a **license to import electronic communication equipment from TCRA**. In addition, individuals or companies importing electronic communication equipment shall ensure that the equipment to be imported are **Type Approved by TCRA** to ensure conformity and interoperability. Type Approval is done for



each device model to ensure that the equipment is safe for users, conforms to the standards and uses appropriate frequencies per the National Frequency Plan.

### i. License for Importation

To import electronic communication equipment, an individual or a company is required to obtain **The Importation License from TCRA**. This importer's license is to be attached as a minimum requirement for applying EcoLevy certificate.

This license can be obtained by filing an online application through <https://tanzanite.tcra.go.tz/index.htm>. The applicant must register and provide the required information to complete the application, including paying the license fees.

### ii. Requirement for Type Approval

Pursuant to **section 83 (1) of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, 2010**, all electronic communication equipment to be used for connection to electronic communication network for receiving and/or transmitting electronic communication signals shall be **Type Approved by TCRA** to verify that the equipment is suitable for communication use according to **national and international standards and the national frequency usage plan**. A special (Type approval) database containing type-approved equipment records is accessible online.

Therefore, an individual or a company wishing to import electronic communication equipment shall ensure that the equipment is type approved by checking the details through <https://tanzanite.tcra.go.tz/type-approval-equipment.htm>.

In addition, where the electronic communication equipment is not type approved, the importer/exporter/manufacturer shall apply for type-approval of the equipment through <https://tanzanite.tcra.go.tz/login.htm>.

The type approval process is done for each model of equipment.

### 3. KEY ISSUES TO CONSIDER DURING IMPORTATION

During the importation of electronic communication equipment into the country, an individual or a company shall:

- a. Ensure that they have an **Importation License** from **TCRA**.
- b. Ensure that the equipment models imported into the country **are Type Approved**.
- c. The importers will inform their exporters to submit an application to import the electronic equipment through [https://verigates.tcrabureauveritas.co.tz/how\\_to\\_apply.html](https://verigates.tcrabureauveritas.co.tz/how_to_apply.html)
- d. **Exporter** shall pay advance eco-levy fees in respect of **new or used electronic communication**

**equipment** for managing their end-of-life processes;

(Payments are made by the exporter to TCRA upon a provision of the relevant invoice.).

- e. An importer of electronic communication equipment will receive an **EcoLevy certificate** after payment of the Eco-Levy and successful assessment of the consignment from the **Exporter, via a Verigates account or e-mail** from the Bureau Veritas issuing or liaison office.
- f. The importer will present the **Eco-Levy Certificate** when importing electronic communication equipment to the **Customs Department of the United Republic of Tanzania as an additional mandatory requirement attachment together with the usual import declaration** ensuring that electronic communication equipment imported into the country have been assessed in accordance with stipulated requirements.

#### 4. ASSESSMENT OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

Electronic communication equipment will be assessed in the country of export before being imported to the United Republic of Tanzania.

**The importer should inform his supplier/s of all the requirements to be considered on regulated electronic communication equipment before shipment to Tanzania.**

The assessment will consider the following:

- a) Compliance to set Restriction of **hazardous substance (RoHS) requirements for new products**
- b) Manuals on how to dismantle equipment when it reaches its end of life (**Dismantling guide**) not applicable for used equipment.
- c) Ensure the goods are type approved prior to export to the United Republic of Tanzania.
- d) Provision of authentic information provided when applying for assessment, including documentation related to the equipment.
- e) Ensure that used goods are functional and not electronic waste.

All electronic communication equipment that fails to meet the set criteria at the time of assessment shall not be issued with an

EcoLevy Certificate and should not be imported into the country.

#### CONSIGNMENTS ARRIVING WITHOUT THE MANDATORY ECOLEVY CERTIFICATE

Any goods which are not accompanied by an EcoLevy Certificate will not be allowed into the country. Importers are encouraged to contact Bureau Veritas Tanzania to explore destination assessment modalities and to get guidance on how to apply for the certificate and destination assessment penalties that may apply.

#### INCOMPLETE PAYMENT OF ECO-LEVY FEES

Payment in full, including bank fees, is required for the advance eco levy fees. Incomplete payments to TCRA will result in shipment/consignment delays until all payments are made in full. Payments have to be paid through the Tanzania Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG).

#### ILLEGAL IMPORTATION

Importers of electronic communication equipment are required to ensure that they do not engage in illegal importation. Any illicit importation shall be prosecuted under the applicable laws and regulations.

#### HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS

All complaints or queries relating to the importation of electronic communication equipment shall be submitted to: -

Bureau Veritas via +255 745 620 329 / +255 745 620 251  
or through [ecolevy.tanzania@bureauveritas.com](mailto:ecolevy.tanzania@bureauveritas.com)

TCRA via 0800008272 (toll-free) / +255 784 558 270-1  
or through [dawatilahuduma@tcra.go.tz](mailto:dawatilahuduma@tcra.go.tz)



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