

Rules of the Company

UKCTA'S primary objective is to ensure that the UK communications market becomes genuinely competitive, an environment that maximises investment and innovation by all competitors and one that is free from undue discrimination. To achieve this primary objective UKCTA shall amongst other things:

- afford its members an opportunity for inter-changing opinions and discussing matters affecting the sector and to co-operate with other associations or companies on matters of common interest;
- provide a representative negotiating body to meet with regulators, Government and other interested parties in the sector;
- prepare and submit position papers and other documentation bearing upon the business of the sector; and
- confer, consult and maintain contact with any company or association, society firm or partnership having objects in whole or in part similar to those of UKCTA in respect of matters within the objects of UKCTA.

General Principles

UKCTA members will work to ensure that wherever possible consensus is achieved when responding to public consultations. The Standing Committees will work to ensure focussed intervention in public regulatory debate by UKCTA prioritising on the key issues and principles for its members.

Wherever possible UKCTA will forward plan to identify key issues and the possibility of consensus and agree key messages whilst ensuring that the working practices allow for open internal debate and meet Ofcom deadlines and schedules.

Early identification of key issues areas is vital. The Secretariat will maintain a Matrix of Issues. Any changes to the Matrix must be notified to and agreed by the members at the Monthly meeting.

UKCTA will focus responses to public consultations on the key issues upon which its members agree.

Members at monthly meeting will decide if there is a need for external communications. Members will be guided on this by the Standing Committee/Working Group with responsibility for the particular issue and the Communications Standing Committee.

Process for agreeing UKCTA position papers

1. All issues must first be identified and included in the Matrix of Issues
2. The relevant Standing Committee/working group will prepare a 1-page outline on the issue in executive summary bullet point form. This outline will:
 - a. Identify the key issues
 - b. Propose (in overview) the UKCTA response
 - c. Identify a timeline for preparation and sign off of an agreed UKCTA response
 - d. Identify the member representatives working on the response.
3. The outline document will be circulated via the Secretariat to all members for open debate at the monthly meeting. Member representatives working on the issue will make themselves available at the monthly meeting to answer questions and to debate the issue.
4. If there is agreement at the monthly meeting a full response will be drafted within timescales that allow for final review by all members.
5. If Members at monthly meeting are not able to agree an unanimous position, they can decide to deal with the issue in an alternative manner:
6. If one UKCTA member is unable to agree with all other members an UKCTA response can be agreed whilst identifying that a named member will be submitting a separate response.
7. If two or more conflicting views exist the members at monthly meeting can agree to the preparation of an UKCTA response, which would include the alternative views of members. This will only be possible when the conflicting views/concerns are not significantly material to the response.
8. In the event that none of the above is possible Members will agree that no UKCTA response will be submitted.

These Rules will initially be reviewed in June 2007 (taking into account the views of members and key external stakeholders such as Ofcom.

All Members acknowledge their obligations with regard to Article 81 of the EC Treaty (Article 81) and section 2 (the Chapter I prohibition) of the Competition Act 1998. For guidance Members are referred to the Office of Fair Trading guidance booklet - Trade associations, professions and self regulating bodies – Understanding Competition Law.