



BIPT

**BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

PRESS RELEASE

BIPT emphasises that the installation and use of GSM or UMTS repeaters is strictly reserved for mobile operators

Brussels, 24 July 2012 – BIPT notices that businesses and private persons install equipment enhancing the reception of GSM or UMTS signals (called GSM or UMTS repeaters), example given in areas where mobile coverage is not experienced as optimal. This equipment is available on the market and can also be purchased through Internet, which may create the impression that its use is free and not subject to regulation. However, only mobile operators can install such repeaters without causing interference. To that effect the GSM or UMTS operators have exclusive rights to the frequencies by virtue of the licences they have obtained.

Repeaters “repeat” the GSM or UMTS frequency(ies): they retransmit the signal received after having enhanced it. In order to use these frequencies the mobile operators have obtained a licence subject to strict conditions, as regards coverage among other things. By virtue of this licence the GSM or UMTS operators are allocated frequencies on an exclusive basis. **Only mobile operators may install such repeaters.** This way they are able to integrate this equipment judiciously into their networks and ensure it operates without causing interference. They supervise the functioning of this equipment and intervene should there be any problems.

Installing and using repeaters at one’s own initiative is illegal unless the operator in question grants permission. Should one wish to enhance the coverage of multiple operators, permission shall have to be obtained from each operator separately. As the operators are responsible for the extension of their networks, the repeater has to be installed by or under the supervision of this operator. Should you believe that your GSM or UMTS reception is insufficient and you need a repeater, you have to submit a request with the operator involved.

Certain websites and shops advertise GSM and UMTS repeaters and sometimes create the impression that these are easy to install and that their use will not cause problems. Repeaters may only be sold on the condition that they are provided with the appropriate legal CE marking. **Repeaters without CE marking are illegal.**

Moreover, merchants selling repeaters need a general holder’s licence delivered by BIPT. One of the obligations a merchant with a general holder’s licence is subject to, is a monthly declaration of his sales. As private persons may not purchase a repeater given that they do not hold the appropriate licence, a merchant may only sell repeaters to mobile operators or to merchants also holding a general holder’s licence.

Conclusion:

- If you feel a GSM or UMTS repeater constitutes a possible solution to your coverage problem, contact your mobile operator;
- GSM and UMTS repeaters may only be installed by or under the supervision of the mobile operator involved. Installing and using a repeater at one's own initiative is illegal;
- BIPT will take action against illegal repeaters; The equipment may be seized and a legal procedure may be initiated;
- Merchants have to hold a general holder's licence covering the commercial purposes of conform GSM and UMTS repeaters. They have to make a monthly declaration of their sale;
- If you have already installed a GSM or UMTS repeater yourself, you should immediately take it out of service and make it unusable.

A [document](#) has been published on BIPT's website containing more information, including the mobile operators contact points.

For more detailed information (press):

Dirk Appelmans
Spokesman
Tel.: 02 226 87 67

BIPT
Ellipse Building – Building C – Boulevard du Roi Albert-II, 35
1030 Brussels
Tel. 02 226 88 88
Fax 02 226 88 77
info@bipt.be