



## Decision 01 of 2025-On New processing Fees for Type approval Certification and Import Permit of the Republic of Vanuatu

### Introduction

#### Ensuring Quality and Safety in Telecommunications

The Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulation Act 30 of 2009 (as amended), (herewith referred to as the Act), Section 7, establishes the general functions and powers of the Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (**TRBR**). Specifically, Sub-section 7(3) empowers the Regulator to make necessary or convenient regulations to give effect to the Act's provisions, including those allowing the TRBR to impose restrictions or limitations on the importation, sale, or use of equipment used in radiocommunications or telecommunications (as outlined in Section 7(4)(f)). This legislative framework provides the foundation for safeguarding the national telecommunications landscape.

Leveraging this authority, the TRBR has proactively implemented a Type Approval Regulation and conformity to technical standards. This strategic measure is designed to proactively ensure the consistent quality of all imported Radiocommunications and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment (RTTE). Type approval serves as a critical quality assurance process by which ICT equipment and devices are verified against applicable international standards and technical requirements. This verification is essential to prevent interference with existing radio and telecommunications networks and to protect the environment and the general public from potential long- or short-term damage caused by substandard equipment.

In 2018, the TRBR implemented the *Type Approval Regulation and conformity to technical standards Regulation Order No 191 of 2018*, which establishes a clear, streamlined process for equipment. Under this regulation, any individual or company importing RTTE or ICT devices must first obtain a valid permit from the TRBR. This permit confirms that the device meets the approved quality standard for Region 3, signifying that the equipment is safe for consumer use and compatible with the national infrastructure. The application process, which includes associated Registration and Permit fees, is a necessary step that supports the TRBR's continuous regulatory oversight and quality maintenance efforts.

### Legal Basis for Action

The Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulation Act (the Act), grants the Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR) the necessary powers for this action.

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## Regulatory and Restrictive Powers

Section 7 of the Act outlines the general functions and powers of the TRBR. Specifically:

- Section 7(3) empowers the Regulator to "make such regulations as may be necessary or convenient to give effect to the provisions of this Act," subject to the approval of the Minister.
- Section 7(4)(f) grants the power to impose "restrictions or limitations upon the importation, sale or use of any equipment used or likely to be used in connection with radiocommunications or telecommunications."

## Authority to Charge Fees

The power to levy a fee is established in the subsidiary legislation, *Type Approval Regulation and conformity to technical standards Regulation Order No 191 of 2018*, Clause 9, sub-clause (4) of the relevant Regulation states:

"(4) The Regulator may define and charge a permit application processing fee in respect of each application received. The fee must be paid with the applications and applies irrespective of whether the application is granted or refused."

## Rationale for the Decision: Revision of Type Approval Fees

The Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR) has made this Decision to revise the type approval fees for the following compelling reasons, which span past necessity, current operational demands, and future regulatory imperatives.

### I. Driving Factors and Chronological Necessity

This fee revision is a necessary and timely step driven by external events and increasing operational demands:

1. **Delayed Statutory Review:** The mandated review of type approval fees, originally scheduled for 2022 pursuant to Decision 1 of 2020, was regrettably postponed due to a succession of unavoidable circumstances. These included the COVID-19 Pandemic, the impact of severe national disasters such as the twin category cyclones that caused widespread damage, and periods of governmental instability.
2. **Increased Workload and Operational Strain:** The successful integration of the type approval process into the Single Window System has resulted in a marked and rapid increase in the volume of applications for Certificates and/or permits. This greater demand has placed a significant burden on the TRBR Engineering Division, necessitating officers to frequently work weekends, after hours, and on public holidays to ensure timely processing and mitigate potential applicant costs, such as storage fees.
3. **Demand for Expedited Services:** TRBR has observed a corresponding rise in requests from applicants and their brokers for the urgent processing of applications. To address this operational need and provide an official mechanism for priority service, an Express Fee has been specifically introduced in Schedule 1, Table 2 of this Decision.

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4. **Cost Recovery and Operational Sustainability:** The national economic environment has witnessed a continuous escalation in the price of goods and services. The revised type approval fees are necessary to accommodate the increased internal costs associated with the entire type approval process, including, but not limited to, the management of the central database and essential administrative overheads such as printing, scanning, photocopying, paper, and inks.

## I Regulatory and Environmental Objectives

The adjusted fee structure is crucial for achieving TRBR's core regulatory and statutory mandates:

1. **Enforcement of Technical Standards:** The revised fees will ensure that TRBR possesses the necessary resources to carefully and thoroughly review all new devices and technologies, guaranteeing that all imported ICT/RTTE equipment complies with the established Region 3 standards set by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Type Approval and Conformity to Technical Standards Regulation Order No. 191 of 2018 (the Regulation).
2. **Consumer and Environmental Safety:** The regulatory review funded by these fees is critical for ensuring that imported devices are safe for both users and the environment, thereby upholding public interest and consumer protection.
3. **Market Integrity and Fair Use:** The fees support the regulatory function to prohibit the importation, sale, and use of non-standard devices and to only issue permits for standard-compliant devices imported, sold, or manufactured in Vanuatu, thereby promoting the fair use of various technologies.

## Exemption from TRBR Fees

The revised decision establishes clear criteria and conditions under which an exemption from the applicable TRBR fees may be granted.

## Eligibility and Conditions for Exemption

Exemption from TRBR fees is subject to the following mandatory conditions:

- **Formal Written Request:** An applicant seeking an exemption must submit a formal written request to the Regulator.
- **Purpose-Specific:** Exemptions are granted exclusively for devices imported for Education, Community, or Humanitarian purposes.
- **Regulator's Discretion:** The granting of any exemption remains subject to the Regulator's assessment and absolute discretion.

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## Non-Exempt Categories

The following categories of imports and applications will not be granted a fee exemption:

- **Personal Items:** No exemption will be granted for items imported for personal use.
- **Small Consignments:** Any consignment comprising five (5) items or fewer is not eligible for exemption. This includes single-item imports (quantity of one), which remain subject to the standard TRBR fees.

## Government Exemption

- Government Ministries and Departments are automatically exempted from the fees for applications processed through the Single Window system.

## Decision of the Regulator

In consideration of the factors set out in the Rationale and in exercise of the powers vested in me under the Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulation Act 30 of 2009 (the Act) and the Type Approval and Conformity to Technical Standards Regulation Order No. 191 of 2018 (the Regulation), I, Jesse Benjiman, the Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator, hereby make the following decisions:

## Imposition of Fees and Permits

- **Type Approval Fees for Overseas Manufacturers.**  
The TRBR shall, when processing an application for a Type Approval Certificate for a manufacturer or exporter, charge the fees set out in Schedule 1 (Table 1).
- **Type Approval Fees for Import Permit and Registration Certificate for Local Importers.**  
The TRBR shall require local importers to obtain a Type Approval Import Permit for each consignment of approved equipment imported into Vanuatu. The fees applicable are set out in Schedule 1 (Table 2).
- **Type Approval Fees for Personal Application**  
The TRBR when processing an application for a type approval import permit or registration certificate for personal consignment, fees will be charge as set out in Schedule 1 (Table 2)

## Operational Procedures and Future Intent

4. **Validity and Duration:** Any Certificate or Permit granted by the Regulator to the manufacturer or local importer shall come into effect on the date of issue. The duration of the Permit is governed by Clause 11 of the Regulation.
5. **Application Processing Standard:** TRBR shall review and process all applications on a "first come, first served" basis.



6. Payment Method: Payments relating to applications for both Type Approval Certification and Type Approval Import Permits must be made via the designated TRBR bank account: [Insert TRBR Bank Account Details].

**Account name:** Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR)

**Account number:** 2000493656

**Bank Name:** Bank South Pacific (BSP)

**SWIFT Code:** BOSPVUVX

**BSB Code:** 039033

**Fees:** Refer to Table of Schedule 1 and 2

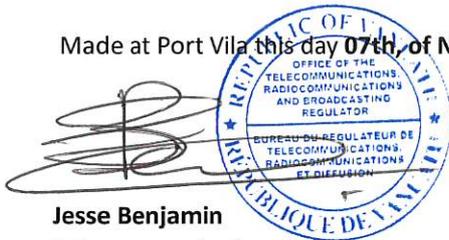
### III. Fee Structure and Future Review

7. Future Fee Inclusion (Non-Standard Devices): TRBR intends to incorporate specific fees for the storage and eventual demolition of non-standardized devices into this fee schedule. This inclusion will occur following mandatory consultation with local importers.

### IV Effective Date

8. Decision 1 of 2025 On New processing Fees for Type approval Certification and Import Permit of the Republic of Vanuatu will be effective as of 1<sup>st</sup> of **January 2026**

Made at Port Vila this day **07<sup>th</sup>**, of **November 2025**



**Jesse Benjamin**

**Telecommunications, Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR)**

## Schedule 1

### Considerations for Fee Structure Determination

In establishing a fair and justifiable fee structure, the TRBR has rigorously accounted for the internal administrative and technical processes involved in issuing Type Approval Certificates and Permits. These factors directly contribute to the operational costs and service delivery standards:

#### I. Resource Allocation and Technical Review

The fees reflect the operational expenditure necessary to execute TRBR's technical and administrative mandate, including:

- **Engineering and Review Time:** Compensation for the professional hours spent by technical officers on the meticulous review and validation of technical documents and specifications submitted by manufacturers and local importers.
- **Documentation and Issuance:** The time and resources dedicated to drafting, verifying, and finalizing the official Manufacturer's Certificates and Local Importer Permits.
- **Administrative Overheads:** The sustained costs of utilizing TRBR's essential internal resources, including consumables (paper, ink), equipment use (printing, scanning, photocopying), and the management and maintenance of the central technical database.

#### II. Express Application Fees (Premium Service)

A premium fee is imposed for Express Applications to cover the additional operational expense of providing prioritized service:

- **Scope:** The Express Fee applies to both:
  - **Urgent Applications:** Applications that require expedited processing **within [1-3days] business days** from the date of submission (during standard working hours).
  - **After-Hours Processing:** Applications processed **outside of standard working hours** (e.g., evenings, weekends, or public holidays) to meet applicant deadlines. TRBR has determined that the fee schedule, inclusive of VAT, will be as summarized in Table 1 for the Manufacturer's Certificate and in Table 2 for the Registration Certificate and Import Permit processed through the TRBR Module in the Single Window Portal below.

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### Overseas Manufacturers Certificate

Type of Type Approval Application	Standard Application Fee	Express Application Fee
Registration Certificate	8000 vatu per model	12,000 vatu per model

Table 1: Showing Manufacturers Standard and Express Application Fee.

### Local Registration Certificate and Import Permit

Type of Type approval application	Standard Application fee	Express application Fee
Registration Certificate	6000 vatu	12,000 vatu
Import Permit	2000 vatu	4000 vatu
Personal	1000 vatu	2000 vatu

Table 2 Showing Standard and Express Fee for Registration certificate and I

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