

No. N-45001/4/2024-DAS
Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Room No. 755, 'A' Wing
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Date: January 17th, 2025

ADVISORY

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting administers the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 (the Act) and rules made thereunder Which inter-alia provides for granting registrations to the Cable Operators i.e. Local Cable Operators (LCOs) and Multi-System Operators (MSOs).

2. Section 3 of the Act prohibits the operation of cable television networks unless they are registered pursuant to the provisions of the Act. Section 4 provides that any person desirous of operating or is operating a cable television network is required to apply for registration or renewal of registration as a cable operator before the registering authority.

3. Section 2 (h) of the Act defines the 'registering authority' for cable operators as the authority specified by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette. Rule 2(e) of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 (the Rules) defines the following as registering authorities for cable operators:

- (a) For LCOs- the Head Post Master of a Head Post Office of the area within whose territorial jurisdiction the office of the cable operator is situated.
- (b) For MSOs- the Central Government.

4. The registration of LCOs had hitherto been carried out in an offline manner. The validity of LCO Registration was one year and fee for the same was Rupees Five Hundred only. Also, the registration framework restricted cable network operations to specified area.

5. LCOs and their associations, at various platforms, have raised the issue of manual registration process being cumbersome, hindering and ineffective. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), from time to time, had also highlighted the need of a centralized registration process for LCOs which shall be done online.

6. Pursuant to the above, the Central Government has now introduced key amendments to the Rule vide Notification S. O. No. 65(E) dated January 17th, 2025. Further, in exercise of powers conferred under clause (h) of Section 2 of the CTN Act, 1995, a notification vide S.O. No.315(E) dated January 17th, 2025

notifying the Section Officer and Additional/Joint Secretary to be the registering authorities for LCOs and MSOs respectively, has been issued.

7. The salient features of the amendments carried out in the Rules are:

- a) LCO Registration to be done online through the Broadcast Seva Portal.
- b) The Registering Authority for LCOs shall be designated Section Officer dealing with digital addressable systems (DAS) in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- c) The validity of LCO Registration shall be 5 years.
- d) The processing fee for LCO registration shall be Rs. 5000/-.
- e) The details of applicants such as PAN, Aadhaar, CIN, DIN etc. shall be verified online through the portal. Aadhaar number is to be shared voluntarily. In case Aadhaar is not shared or is not available, the applicants shall furnish PAN along with documents prescribed for proof of identity in Form 1.
- f) The LCO Registration shall be valid throughout the territory of India and registered LCOs shall be granted a unique National Registration Number.
- g) LCOs shall be required to apply for renewal of their registration at least 90 days before the expiry of the same.

7.1 Applicant may prefer an appeal with Under Secretary (DAS) against the decision of the registering authority refusing grant of LCO registration or its renewal within 30 days of such decision.

7.2 Applicant may prefer an appeal with Secretary (I&B) against the decision of the registering authority refusing grant of Multi System Operators registration or its renewal within 30 days of such decision.

8. In view of the above amendments, the persons desirous of applying for LCO registration or already operating a cable television network are suggested to take the following actions:

(a) The persons applying for the LCO registration for the **first time shall make an online application** in the Broadcast Seva Portal along with the requisite processing fee of Rs. Five thousand and documents as per the option available in the portal.

(b) The persons already having **valid LCO registration from the Local Head Post Offices** of their respective areas **shall continue to operate** their cable television networks **till the validity of their registration period** and **shall be required to apply for renewal** of their registration on the Broadcast Seva Portal **at least 90 days before the expiry of their registration.**

(c) The persons whose LCO registrations **are set to expire in a period less than 90 days shall immediately apply** for renewal of their registration on the Broadcast Seva Portal with the requisite processing fee and documents. The applications of renewal made after the expiry of registration are liable to be rejected as per the extant provisions.

(d) The persons whose **application for registration or renewal of registration is pending** with the Local Head Post Office of their respective areas shall withdraw their application and **shall apply for registration/ renewal through the Broadcast Seva Portal.**

(e) In case any assistance is required, the helpline No.-011-23381707 and toll free No.-18002127307 (also available on the portal) may be contacted, or an email may be sent to lco.das@gov.in.

Satbir Singh
17/01/2025
Satbir Singh
Under Secretary (DAS)

To

All Local Cable Operators.

Copy To:

1) The Director General (Posts), Postal Directorate, Dak Bhavan, New Delhi, 110001, Email: dgposts@indiapost.gov.in.