



Norme
Européenne de
Télécommunication

NET 4

Source: TRAC

Key words: PSTN, Access, TE

**Attachments to Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN);
General technical requirements for equipment to be
connected to an analogue subscriber interface
in the PSTN**

ETSI

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NORMES EUROPEENES DE TELECOMMUNICATION

It is recognized, in the field of telecommunications within Europe, that there is a need to create common European standards for telecommunications equipment.

Such harmonization would, among other things facilitate co-operation between telecommunications equipment manufacturers and public telecommunications network operators, create a marketplace which naturally transcends that of national frontiers, enhance the efficiency of business and other communication across Europe to bring economic benefits and help translate the vision of a united Europe into a working reality.

In 1985 an initiative by the Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) resulted in the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreeing to the mutual recognition of results of tests of conformity to a technical specification which would be known as a Norme Européenne de Télécommunication (or NET). A list of signatories to the MoU is shown at the end of this introductory text. The signatories represent telecommunications Administrations in most countries in Western Europe, including EEC and EFTA Administrations.

In 1991, in view of the transition from the Directive 86/361/EEC (on the initial stage of the mutual recognition of type approval for telecommunications terminal equipment) to the Directive 91/263/EEC (on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning telecommunications terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity) a new Memorandum of Understanding on Common Technical Regulations (CTRs) for telecommunications terminal equipment was agreed by the same signatories of the 1985 MoU. The 1991 MoU also contains provisions for the continuation of the mutual recognition of test results against NETs.

1 NETs

1.1 Guiding principles under which a NET is written are the need to ensure *essential requirements* are met. These include:

- user safety insofar as this requirement is not covered by other legal instruments (e.g. Directive 73/23/EEC);
- safety of employees of public telecommunications network operators insofar as this requirement is not covered by other legal instruments (e.g. Directive 73/23/EEC);
- protection of public telecommunications networks from harm;
- inter working of terminal equipment, in justified cases.

1.2 Each NET constitutes part of a series of NETs prepared in response to the MoU.

1.3 A NET details the requirements and a specification of interface tests for conformance to those requirements which a defined type of telecommunications terminal equipment is required to satisfy in order to obtain authorization for connection of the equipment to a defined European telecommunications network. The NET also includes, where appropriate, requirements made necessary in a given State by historical network peculiarities.

1.4 The existence of a NET will make it possible for an accredited laboratory in a country whose Administration has signed the MoU to carry out tests specified in the NET, on terminal equipment submitted to it and to issue a test report. On the basis of the report, a competent body may then issue a certificate of conformity to the NET. There may of course be cases where the laboratory itself is the competent certification authority. This certificate is then recognized as valid in all the other signatory countries, avoiding the need for the equipment to have to undergo the same tests over again each time approval is applied for in any of those countries.

1.5 The common reference point which a NET represents thus offers the opportunity of substantially reducing the complexity, length and cost of approval formalities. The operators of public networks are required to make reference to relevant NETs in public supply contracts. Manufacturers are thereby enabled to compete on a more equal technical basis in the supply of terminal equipment covered by NETs.

2 TYPES OF NET

The majority of NETs fall into one of the two categories: access NETs and terminal NETs.

a) Access NET

Details of the technical characteristics (electrical, mechanical and access control protocol), to be offered by terminal equipment at the interface to a specific public telecommunications network are covered in an "access NET".

The objective of an access NET is to ensure no disturbance occurs to the network and to ensure interworking between network and terminal equipment so that calls can be routed successfully through the network (but without any guarantee of terminal to terminal operation). Indeed, since an access NET may have to serve a number of terminal NETs and applications which have not even been envisaged at present, it is important for the content not to include anything which is particular to a specific terminal or otherwise inhibiting to new developments.

b) Terminal NET

The objective of a terminal NET is to ensure the end-to-end compatibility of a defined telecommunication service. The terminal NET should include any requirements which must be added to the corresponding access NET(s) to ensure end-to-end communication.

3 DATE OF APPLICATION

The date of application of a NET is that date at which the NET is recognized as being applicable, in the signatory Administrations, for the purposes of type approval.

4 TRANSITION PERIOD

4.1 The transition period commences at the date of application. The transition period is a period of flexibility during which there will be coexistence between the NET and any national requirements which relate to the Scope.

After the expiry of the transition period the only applicable standard within the Scope for type approval purposes will be that of the particular NET.

The end of the transition period is fixed by TRAC as an objective for all signatory countries of the MoU. In some cases, however, for example when a new network has to be set up, all network operators may not be in a position to meet the objective. In such cases, the end of the transition period will be a date which is individual to the given country and Administrations will publish the projected date by which the end of the transition period can be achieved.

4.2 The following notes are offered as guidance on conformance testing of telecommunications equipment during the transition period.

During the transition period, new telecommunications equipment offered by manufacturers under the Scope of this NET may be tested at a certified laboratory located within the signatory countries, either under this NET or under the existing national requirements, at the choice of the manufacturer. Testing under the NET rather than under the old requirements might offer the manufacturer the opportunity of a larger marketplace in which to sell the equipment.

The transition period is also an opportunity for the public network operators to update their network. However, a national approval authority would have the facility of refusing the approval of terminal equipment, for which a certificate of conformance to a NET had been issued, if the network were not yet compatible with the terminal equipment to be connected.

4.3 The following note is offered as guidance on the supply and connection of telecommunications equipment that has already been approved either before application of this NET or during the transition period.

After the application date of this NET that is during and after the transition period, the supply and connection of equipment already approved to earlier standards may continue unless the national authority terminates the validity of approvals to earlier standards for whatever reason.

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic representation of the above points.

5 APPROVAL PROCEDURES

Details of national type approval procedures are not contained within NETs but are decided by national Administrations.

6 REQUIREMENTS TO BE SATISFIED

The scope statement defines which types of equipment must meet the requirements of each NET. In addition, equipment may also have to satisfy the requirements in other NETs (as defined in their scope statements) or, in the absence of harmonised NETs, one or more published national standards. In the absence of any requirements in other NETs, or in published national standards no additional tests may be sought by any approval authority in the countries whose Administration has signed the MoU.

7 LEGAL BASIS OF THIS INTRODUCTION TEXT

This introductory text is provided for guidance, and to aid interpretation. The legal basis varies from country to country. This NET must be seen in the context of the 1985 MoU and of the 1991 MoU.

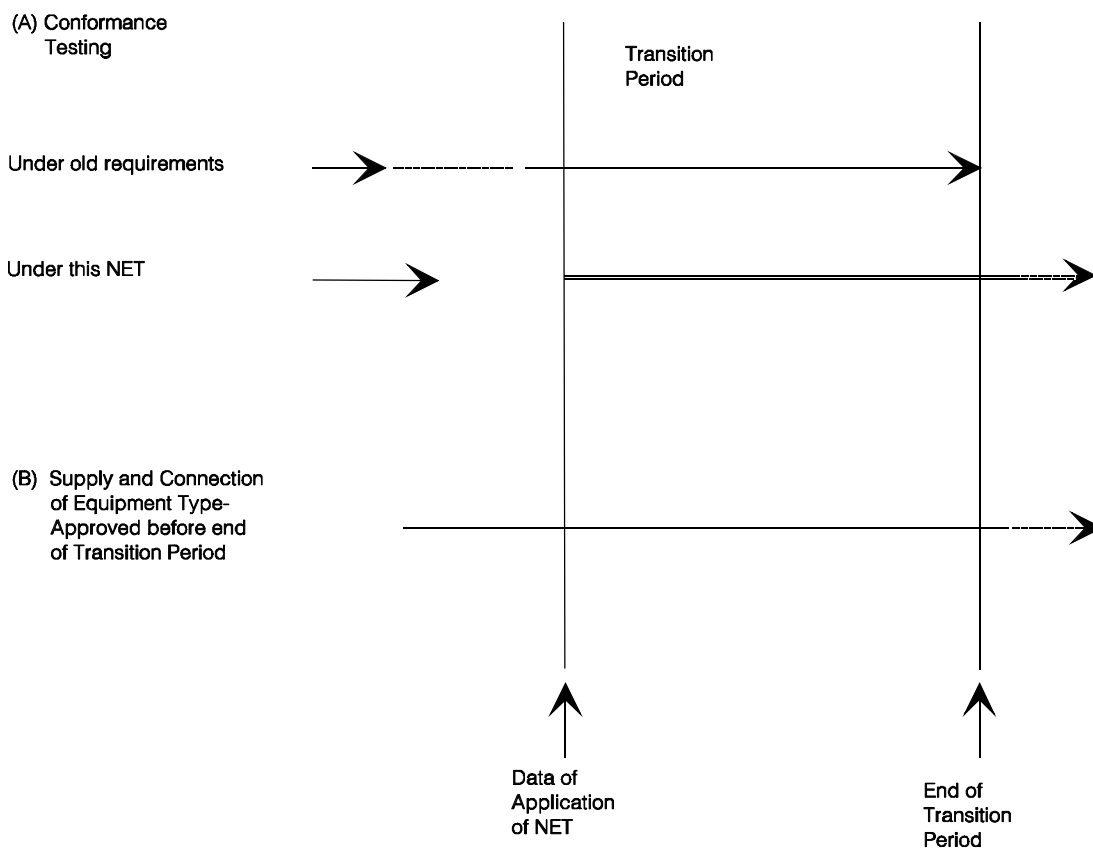


Figure 1

8 SIGNATORIES OF THE MOU

Austria	Italy
Belgium	Luxembourg
Bulgaria	Netherlands
Denmark	Norway
Finland	Portugal
France	Spain
F.R. Germany	Sweden
Greece	Switzerland
Iceland	United Kingdom
Ireland	

9 AMENDMENTS TO THIS NET

9.1 PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL PARTS

It is recognised that NET 4 contains national peculiarities. Signatories shall take any reasonable initiative to amend their national regulations to reduce or eliminate these peculiarities, and in particular to align them with the essential requirements of Directive 91/263/EEC.

Draft changes to the national parts shall be notified in accordance with the provisions and procedures of Directive 83/189/EEC or with equivalent procedures for countries not falling under Directive 83/189/EEC and at the same time, to TRAC and ETSI. This ensures transparency.

The draft shall indicate how the change relates to the existing NET 4. Normally this will be by quoting the relevant parts of the NET 4 English text.

Normally, the Directive 83/189/EEC (or equivalent) procedures should be completed after three months. Exceptionally a further standstill period may be invoked (additional three months). On completion of the procedures, the change can be adopted by the initiating country. The TRAC secretariat and ETSI shall be advised of the change. Either an "Amendment" or a "Corrigendum" shall be issued by ETSI.

Exceptionally, for example if safety of users is at risk, regulatory authorities can implement changes immediately on a national basis, but this must be indicated according to Directive 83/189/EEC procedures.

All the above notifications will be carried out by the contact person that each country has identified for this task.

9.2 PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMON PART

Where the NET 4 text applies to more than one country, any change shall be made on a co-ordinated basis. Proposals for change may be raised in TRAC or ETSI, but the technical content shall be debated through ETSI procedures.

For each change, an ETSI "Change Request" should be completed by the proposer of the change. This will include reasons, degree of urgency, solution and details of the proposed change. It shall quote the relevant parts of NET 4 English text.

Normally, the change shall not be introduced nationally until a corresponding Amendment is approved by ETSI and accepted by TRAC. Exceptionally, for example if safety of users is at risk, regulatory authorities can implement changes immediately on a national basis, but this must be indicated in the change request.

When a change to NET 4 common text is accepted by TRAC, a transitional period will normally be agreed, after which the new text should apply in all countries. Each country is obliged to notify the change in its national regulations under Directive 83/189/EEC (or equivalent) procedures, so that the change is introduced by the end of the agreed period.

The TRAC secretariat shall advise the ETSI of the accepted change.

ETSI shall issue an Amendment to NET 4.

9.3 ERRORS DETECTED

Errors detected within the text of a NET, or difficulties experienced with the application of a NET, should be reported to the following address:

The Director
European Telecommunications Standards Institute
06921 Sophia Antipolis Cedex
France

The comments will be considered and acted upon by TRAC under an approved modifications procedure. Public consultation will take place in respect of all but the most urgent modifications to this NET.

10 THIS NET (NET 4)

NET 4 refers to ETS 300 001 and covers issues of regulatory nature which are associated with NETs (date of application, transition period, etc.).

The text of ETS 300 001 is available from:

European Telecommunications Standards Institute
06921 Sophia Antipolis Cedex
France

10.1 ADOPTION

The content of NET 4 was adopted along with the agreement in chapter 11 by a meeting of the Technical Recommendations Application Committee (TRAC), on the basis of an ETS/ETSI, on 16 October 1992, the Hague, the Netherlands.

10.2 DATE OF APPLICATION

This NET applies from 16 October 1992 within those States represented in the list of signatories, subject to the transition period.

10.3 TRANSITION PERIOD FOR THIS NET

This NET is subject to a transition period of about 18 months from the date of application. After the expire of the transition period on 30 April 1994 the only applicable standard for type approval purposes within the Scope will be this NET.

11 TRAC AGREEMENT ACCOMPANYING THE ADOPTION OF NET 4

The regulatory authorities who are Signatories of the TRAC Memorandum of Understanding on European Telecommunications Standards (NET) for terminal equipment (Copenhagen, 15 November 1985), considering that TRAC adopted NET 4 at its 20th meeting in The Hague on 16 October 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the MoU with a transitional period lasting up to the end of April 1994, considering that this implies the mutual recognition of test results, i.e. of conformance certificates accompanied by test reports, undertake:

- 1) to recognize the validity of the results of these tests carried out by designated laboratories, properly accredited, in whichever signatory country they are established for:
 - the common part of NET 4,
 - the national parts,

thus avoiding the repetition of tests in their respective countries;

- 2) to promote mutual confidence amongst designated laboratories and notified bodies by encouraging them to reach the demonstration of equivalence of test results;
- 3) to notify TRAC, and the CEC where appropriate, of the testing laboratories, designated in their countries in accordance with the relevant harmonized standards, which are able to test conformance to NET 4, specifying for which national parts the designation has been given, after appropriate consultation with the countries concerned;
- 4) to amend NET 4 national parts only in the sense of alignment to the essential requirements by means of 83/189/EEC Directive provisions;
- 5) to use the procedure described in chapter 9 for the maintenance of NET 4;
- 6) to cooperate in resolving practical difficulties in implementing the agreement via the mechanism of TRAC, as well as to keep this agreement updated.

History

Document history	
June 1994	Published
February 1996	Converted into Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF)