

1 March 2024

Cyber Security Legislative Reform – Smart Device Standards

Submission: Smart Phones to be included

Dear Home Affairs,

Concerning the Cyber Security Legislative Reform – Smart Device Standards, we understand that there is still a discussion regarding the inclusion or exclusion of Smart Phones among the “IoT and Smart Devices” covered by the proposed legislation.

- The argument for inclusion is that a Smart Phone is a smart device, and it would follow the principle adopted by UK.
- The argument for exclusion is that Smart Phones are covered in the Telecommunications Act, and the desire not to duplicate legislation.

When it comes to the parts of the ETSI EN 303 645 standard that are considered, namely:

1. ensure that smart devices do not have universal default passwords;
2. implement a means to receive reports of cyber vulnerabilities in smart devices; and
3. provide information on minimum security update periods for software in smart devices.

we feel that the first and the third requirements are already well covered when it comes to Smart Phones.

However, the second requirement, “implement a means to receive reports of cyber vulnerabilities in smart devices”, is not.

The important issue is that owners of Smart Phones are provided with this means, not whether it is included in the Cyber Security Legislation or the Telecommunications Act, even though it seems easier at this point to include in the Cyber Security Legislation.

Our submission to the Consultations is thus that Smart Phones should be included among Smart Devices. If this will not be the case, due to reference to the Telecommunications Act, we submit that it should be ensured the corresponding requirements are included in the Act.

Thank you and best regards,
Hakan Eriksson
APAC Executive, Quokka