
Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

30th November 2023

AUTHORISATION OF CELLULAR REPEATERS

1. BRIEF HISTORY

- 1.1. The Authority has received and investigated reports of harmful interference to public mobile networks, which discovered the operation of cellular repeaters by consumers. In a recent case in 2023, the cellular repeater was determined to be the cause of the harmful interference.
- 1.2. The Authority has since met with representatives from Digicel and TSTT on the matter, bearing in mind that cellular repeaters are being sourced to address coverage shortcomings of the mobile operators and received various recommendations from the industry on how the operation of cellular repeaters can be facilitated.
- 1.3. Both mobile operators advised that they needed to know when and where cellular repeaters were being installed and would like to identify certain device models with preferred features to be approved as cellular repeaters. The mobile operators also raised that many cellular repeaters were likely already installed and in operation in Trinidad and Tobago and would need to be identified and regularized.
- 1.4. The Authority agreed with approving specific make and model devices for use as cellular repeaters as proposed by the operators. The Authority concurred that the public should be advised to regularize their existing cellular mobile repeaters, and that if they do not regularize their repeater within ninety (90) days of publication of a notice, it will be deemed unauthorized and in breach of Section 36 of the Act.
- 1.5. The Authority invited the mobile operators to submit information on the devices they deem acceptable for operation on their networks. Digicel submitted two devices and TSTT submitted its preferred device, which are listed below:
 - (i) JDTeck¹
 - (ii) Cel-Fi²

¹ JDTeck Consumer Repeater, [Quad Band Consumer Repeater Kit | Cell Signal Boosting Products | JDTECK](#)

² Nextivity Cel-Fi Solutions, <https://nextivityinc.com/go-g32/>

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. Based on a review of the practices from other administrations, the Authority notes the identification of preferred devices is common across all cases. Most administrations include a requirement to notify the wireless provider and obtain consent. For consumer installations, *none of the administrations require the issue of an individual licence to the purchaser of the cellular repeater*. For business or industry-type installations, the USA requires registration with the FCC in addition to notification and consent from the wireless service provider.

2.2. Given the general global practice, the Authority has determined that cellular repeaters identified by the operators be certified and authorised under a class licence, with the requirement:

- (i) for consumers with cellular repeaters to notify and obtain consent from the mobile operator to which the purchaser is subscribed
- (ii) owners of business or industry-type cellular repeaters, in addition to notifying and receiving consent, also register their devices and installation with the Authority and ensure their installation is either performed or inspected by a technical entity (person or firm) approved by the Authority and the operators.

2.3. In consideration of the above, the Authority **advises**:

- a. that cellular repeaters (JDTek and Cel-Fi) recommended by the operators will be certified and authorised under a class licence by the Authority and published on its website.
- b. that owners of **consumer** cellular repeaters must notify and obtain consent/denial from the respective mobile operator to which the purchaser is subscribed if they are not one of the two devices authorised by the operators. Contacts for notification will be provided by the operators.
- c. that those owners and importers of **business or industry-type** cellular repeaters, in addition to notifying and receiving consent, must also **register their devices and installation** with the Authority and ensure their installation is either performed or inspected by a technical entity (person or firm) approved by the Authority and the operators.
- d. that mobile operators notify the Authority of **consumer** cellular repeaters it has granted consent to or denied.

- e. that persons importing cellular repeaters be advised to conform with the two repeaters (JDTek and Cel-Fi) approved by the operators and register with the Authority where applicable.
- f. that the Authority and the operators publish notices advising the general public and their subscribers of the approach to authorise repeaters for operation and the approved models.