



1200 G Street NW Suite 500 Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-628-6380 Fax: 202-393-5453 Web: www.part68.org

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ACTA ADVISES MODULAR PLUG AND JACK MANUFACTURERS TO COMPLY WITH ANSI/TIA-1096-A May 15, 2012

The Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments (ACTA) reminds modular plug and jack manufacturers of the obligation to comply with the requirements of Part 68 of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules [47 C.F.R. 68.2143(b)].

Part 68 requires, among other things, that plugs and jacks used in connection with customer premises wiring conform with the ACTA-approved Technical Criteria, ANSI/TIA-1096-A, *Telecommunications – Telephone Terminal Equipment – Connector Requirements for Connection of Terminal Equipment to the Telephone Network*.

The technical requirements outlined in ANSI/TIA-1096-A specify physical dimensions, mechanical characteristics, and contact requirements for:

1. Carrier-installed jacks used at the demarcation point in accordance with 47 CFR 68.105(a);
2. Plugs and jacks used with inside wiring in accordance with 47 CFR 68.213(b); and
3. Plugs and jacks used to connect terminal equipment to wireline carrier networks in accordance with ANSI/TIA-968-B.

Manufacturers of plugs and jacks for use in the above described applications within the U.S. must comply with ANSI/TIA-1096-A. Additionally, the data sheets associated with such connectors must cite ANSI/TIA-1096-A.

Recently, the Telecommunications Industry Association's (TIA) TR-41 User Premises Telecommunications Requirements committee advised ACTA that a substantial number of modular plug and jack manufacturers are incorrectly referencing compliance with the requirements in Part 68 Subpart F of the FCC's rules and regulations instead of ANSI/TIA-1096-A. Subpart F of Part 68 has not existed since 2000, when the Commission removed this subpart in its entirety from the FCC's rules and asked the industry to develop a standard containing the technical criteria that was previously included in Subpart F of Part 68. The TIA TR41.9 subcommittee developed such a standard for terminal equipment and connectors (referenced above) and the standard was adopted by the ACTA. Incorrect technical criteria citations can jeopardize the validity of Suppliers Declaration of Conformity statements required by the ACTA for terminal equipment approval.

The FCC has the authority to enforce compliance with Part 68 including the ACTA approved Technical Criteria for modular connections (plugs and jacks) in connection with customer premise wiring. Pursuant to FCC rules in 47 C.F.R. §68.423, the Commission may "conduct such inquiries and hold such proceedings as it may deem necessary to enforce the requirements" of Part 68, including conducting investigations. Persons with information relevant to an investigation, e.g., concerning the alleged

provision of non-compliant TTE for connection to the PSTN, or to wireline carrier facilities used in providing private line services, may provide such information to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau.

For additional information regarding compliance with, and enforcement of, Part 68 rules, please contact the FCC Enforcement Bureau at (202) 418-7450.

Need more information?

For general information regarding FCC rules and whether or not your particular product needs to be listed within the ACTA database, please contact the FCC Wireline Competition Bureau at (202) 418-0940.

For information on the process for listing your equipment on the ACTA Database, please contact the Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments at www.part68.org or contact acta@atis.org.

About ACTA

The ACTA is an open organization established to: (1) adopt technical criteria and to act as the clearing-house, publishing technical criteria for terminal equipment developed by ANSI-accredited standards development organizations; and (2) establish and maintain a registration database of equipment approved as compliant with the technical criteria. ACTA is jointly sponsored by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) and Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA).