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August 23, 2023

Shri Rohit Kumar Singh, IAS
Secretary (CA)
Department of Consumer Affairs

Subject: Kindly refer meeting dated 21st August 2023 on the issue pertaining to the declaration of month and year of manufacture on the packaged commodities and request for appropriate amendments

Respected Sir,

Greetings from MAIT!

At the outset, MAIT extends its heartiest thanks to the DoCA for inviting industry at the meeting held on 21st August 2023 under your chairmanship to discuss issue pertaining to declaration of month and year of manufacture on the packaged commodities.

We also appreciate your continuous initiative to accommodate requests made by various industry stakeholders especially ICT Sector for facilitating ease of doing business and reducing compliance burden as well as protecting consumer interest.

As agreed during the meeting, we would like to reiterate the following submission from electronics industry for your kind perusal:

Definition:

- **“Accessories”** means “products that are complementary to the main/core product and support or complement or add-on to the usage of the main/core product, including spare parts and components, and can also be sold separately.
- **“Spare Parts”** mean all parts or components which are used as a replacement to identical or functionally similar parts or components within a product.

Proviso to the clause 6(1)(d)

- Provided that Spare Parts & Accessories used for the purpose of servicing with a warranty, are exempted from this clause - 6(1)(d).

Industry Understanding:

It is the common understanding that the Legal Metrology (Package Commodities) Rules does not require mandatory label information on the spare parts & accessories used for servicing & not sold to end customers.

Flexibility in display & Timelines:

- **Permit flexibility to declare month and year of manufacture anywhere on the retail package for the finished goods or accessories not part of any service channel.** Kindly provide **exemption** from the **font-size requirement** for displaying the month and year of manufacture of the pre-packaged commodities. We assure that the information provided will be **visible & clearly legible**.
- **Timelines:** To implement the stated flexibility, we request you for the extension of timelines for the following:
 - **For Finished Goods:** Kindly extend the timeline for implementation of the November 2021 amendment from **1st September 2023 to 1st September 2024**, to allow manufacturers/importers to smoothly implement changes at their manufacturing, packaging facilities, and streamline all their global supply chain operations required for the implementation of the November 2021 amendment.
 - **For Spare Parts and Accessories intended for Sale through Retail Channels, not accompanied by a Service:** Kindly extend the timeline for implementation of November 2021 amendment for the spare parts and accessories that are intended for retail channels, not accompanied by a service, i.e. goods available over the counter/available to consumer through retail channel, not accompanied by a Service **from 1st September 2023 to 1st February 2025**.

Your kind consideration will go a long way in ease of doing business in the ICT sector. We continue to ensure that the consumer's interest is protected.

We look forward to receiving positive consideration of our requests.

Warm regards,


Col Suhail Zaidi (Retd)
Director General

CC: Ms. Nidhi Khare, IAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs

CC: Shri Anupam Mishra, IAS, Jt. Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs

CC: Shri Ashutosh Agarwal, Deputy Director (Metrology), Department of Consumer Affairs