

1- STATUS REPORT ON COMMON CHARGER FOR DATA ENABLED MOBILE PHONES

a. Current status

Since the introduction of the MoU common charger standard in 2011 the MoU has been continuously successfully implemented in data enabled mobile phones, which can be charged either by direct connection or via a supplied adapter. The introduction has not only taken place in the EU market, but also globally, and currently we estimate that more than 90% of data enabled mobile phones offered for sale on the global market is compliant to the MoU.

b. Additional achievements

In addition we see a broad market penetration of the use of micro USB as a charging interface for a variety of common consumer products. This adoption by other market segments of the MoU principles has therefore enhanced its overall impact.

The majority of our customers are still asking for a charger in the sales boxes, however some operators are now selling their own chargers instead of those available from the mobile phone manufacturer.

As industry we have also continued to supply new charger designs as current chargers are very different in size and performance from older chargers (typical weight reduction of 50-75% depending on the charger current). The current energy efficiency requirements are also fulfilled by the new chargers, and industry can promote long term environmental improvements by supplying the market with new charger designs.

c. Industry concerns

Industry has a number of concerns in this area: non-compliant chargers are often found with electrical safety issues; also a number of chargers are marketed as mobile phone chargers based on compliance to generic EMC standards. It is questionable if these chargers fully comply with relevant EMC requirements (EN 301489-34 or similar).

Non-compliant chargers on the market were one of the key concerns for the signatories of the MoU and it seems that this is an area where more elaborate market surveillance should be initiated.

In addition we see battery power pack accessories which the user can charge and then use for charging a mobile phone (as well as other devices using the same interface). The EMC aspects for these chargers is generally not verified in combinations with radio equipment even if they are clearly marketed as intended for mobile phones.

Chargers supplied by operators and other sales shops must be compliant in combination with the different brands of mobile phones marketed by them; this is the responsibility of the operators and shops.

2- PROPOSALS

a. Standard update

We see a need for changes in the IEC/EN 62684 standard, and would appreciate the support of the European Commission for updates to the necessary standards. We propose that the lower current limit shall be removed and that the upper limit shall be 2A instead of today's 1,5A.

Removing the lower limit will allow us to use the same charger concept on a range of accessories with smaller battery capacity, and also to use a low current charger for charging during a longer time period when fast charging is not required

3- INDUSTRY AGREEMENT

a. Current MoU

Battery and charging technology is constantly developing and we see new technologies for charging mobile phones as well as other type of products.

For example, different wireless charging technologies are presently being implemented by several manufacturers of mobile phones and the trend in storing data, in cloud based services, is also affecting our products' need for different connectors. In a couple of years we might not see any external connectors on some mobile phones.

The majority of the MoU signatories feel that this evolution means that we cannot, at this stage, commit to a specific technical solution for a certain time period. This was also foreseen in the development of the MoU and was the main reason that a time limit was set. Our estimation of the rate of technology evolution at the time of signing the MoU was consistent with current developments in charging technologies.

Some of the original MoU signatories are no longer available and others are not producing mobile phones any longer.

b. New approach

As Industry representatives in DIGITALEUROPE we propose to focus on a technology-independent agreement for developing new common charger solutions through EU standards organisations. We, as industry representatives for the mobile phone industry in DIGITALEUROPE, agree to promote future common charger

solutions that we see as feasible possibilities for our data enabled mobile phones. At least on a yearly basis we will report to the European Commission, including agreement on any potential technologies and any need for a standards mandate from the Commission.

c. Radio Equipment Directive

In the ongoing development of the RE-D directive there are several discussions and proposals for setting a regulation on a mandatory charging solution. We can certainly understand the wishes and reasoning behind such proposals. We would however like to point out that we see a high risk with such proposals, which would mean that the legislation must take responsibility for defining what a common charger is and how it must function and relate to different product technologies as well as future battery technologies and charging methods.

We recommend that such regulation should be removed from the Directive or at least be degraded to a potential legislation if the market is not developing in the right direction.

Any such legislation as proposed will be an obstruction for the development of new technical solutions – a hindrance to implement new technologies.

Other economic areas might even see it as an attempt to block trade from other areas.

ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies.

DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies. DIGITALEUROPE's members include 57 global corporations and 36 national trade associations from across Europe. In total, 10,000 companies employing two million citizens and generating €1 trillion in revenues. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: <http://www.digitaleurope.org>

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