

NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

THE NCC DEVICE CHECKER AND TYPE APPROVAL

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is NCC Type Approval?

Type Approval is a requirement under Nigerian law that every communications device meets approved technical standards before it is sold or used in the country. It ensures that all device models brought into the country are fit for use in Nigeria. It is prohibited to use, sell or import non-Type Approved communications devices.

2. What is the Device Checker?

The Device Checker is an NCC service for checking whether a SIM-enabled device model is NCC Type Approved and whether the device is verified for use on Nigerian mobile networks. Consumers can check their devices by dialing *315#, visiting www.ncc.gov.ng/devicechecker or calling the toll-free number 315.

3. Why is the NCC Strengthening Type Approval Compliance?

Type Approval is an existing regulatory requirement. NCC is leveraging technology to make compliance checks and enforcement more efficient and consistent. This helps consumers make informed choices about devices that meet the applicable standards and support reliable mobile networks.

4. How do I check a device before I buy it?

Before paying, ask the seller to confirm that the device is NCC Type Approved. Use *315# and follow the Device Checker prompts, or visit www.ncc.gov.ng/DeviceChecker. For another device, you may be asked to enter its 15-digit IMEI. Check that the result says the device is Type Approved and confirms the device is verified for use on Nigerian mobile networks.

5. What if the Device Checker asks me to complete an additional verification step to Switch Devices?

Follow the instructions shown by Device Checker. If it is a previously owned device that is cloned or fake, you may be asked to confirm a previously used number with a

one-time verification code. Enter the code only through the official flow and never share it with another person. If you cannot complete the process, call toll free number 315, or your service provider or NCC for assistance.

6. How do I know if a phone is type approved and compliant?

A genuine and compliant phone is one the NCC has type-approved: it has passed the Commission's existing Type Approval process, which confirms it meets required standards. The Device Checker on www.ncc.gov.ng/DeviceChecker helps you check the status.

7. Can I use a device bought abroad on a Nigerian mobile network?

Yes, you can, provided its model meets applicable NCC Type Approval requirements and the particular device satisfies the relevant verification conditions. Different procedures may apply to personal imports and devices sold in bulk.

8. Will my current phone stop working?

Any phone already connected to a Nigerian network before the system takes effect (from 7th October 2026) has been automatically verified, with no action needed from you. Phones already in use, phones bought within Nigeria (brand new or second-hand), and phones passed on from family or friends do not require any action. However, if the device cannot be verified or is affected by a compliance restriction, follow the instructions shown to contact your seller or service provider for assistance.

9. Which devices does this Type Approval compliance cover?

It covers SIM-enabled devices designed to connect to Nigerian mobile networks, including smartphones, feature phones, eligible cellular IoTs devices, cellular tablets, SIM-enabled PoS terminals, SIM enabled laptops and other cellular devices.

10. What information does the Device Checker use, and can it access my personal data?

The technology supporting Device Checker uses device identification information, including IMEI numbers, to verify compliance with NCC Type Approval requirements. Device identifiers may also be associated with mobile numbers for verification and compliance purposes. Device Checker does not give the NCC access to your personal content, such as messages, photos, or other files stored on your device.

11. Can the NCC listen to my calls or read my messages?

No. The system does not give NCC access to listen to your calls, messages, photographs or other files stored on your device, nor does it enable monitoring of the content of personal communications. It verifies devices.

12. Does Device Checker show or track my location?

No. Device Checker does not track, monitor or record your location or movements. The underlying technology is designed to verify whether devices meet NCC Type Approval and device verification requirements. It does not provide the Commission with the ability to track the physical location of devices or monitor users' movements.

13. Can I buy a second-hand phone that is already being used in Nigeria?

Yes, but check it before paying. Use *315# or www.ncc.gov.ng/DeviceChecker to confirm that the device is NCC Type Approved and verified for use on Nigerian mobile networks. Do not assume that previous network use means its status is acceptable.

14. Can I sell or give away my phone?

Yes. A device that is NCC Type Approved and verified can normally be used by another person with their SIM. Before buying a used device, the buyer should check its status. If Device Checker requests additional verification, follow the official instructions or contact your service provider.

15. How do I protect myself from Device Checker scams?

Use only *315# and the official NCC Device Checker webpage. If you start an official verification process, a code may be sent to you: enter it only in that process and never tell the code to a caller, seller or other person. NCC staff will not need you to disclose your one-time code.

16. What must sellers do about SIM-enabled devices already in stock?

Sellers should work with the responsible OEM, importer or supplier to confirm that stock is NCC Type Approved and that each applicable device has completed the required device-level verification before sale. Consumers should be able to check the device through Device Checker before paying.

17. Can I request verification for a device I brought into Nigeria for personal use?

Personal imports may follow a different process from devices supplied by manufacturers or importers for sale. At the moment, only individuals who purchase

devices outside the country for personal use can carry out the verification process using details of their travel history. Call 315 for a step by step guide.

18. What law gives the NCC the authority to require Type Approval?

The Nigerian Communications Act 2003, including section 132(2), and the Nigerian Communications (Type Approval) Regulations 2024 establish Type Approval obligations for equipment manufacturers, suppliers to obtain Type Approval from the Commission before communications equipment is sold or used in Nigeria. The Type Approval Business Rules 2024 provide supporting procedures, including device-level verification. NCC is strengthening enforcement of an existing requirement, not introducing a new Type Approval obligation.

19. Why is device verification necessary if my SIM is already registered? I already registered my SIM. Why do I need this now, too?

SIM registration concerns the mobile subscription and subscriber. Device Checker serves a different purpose: it checks whether the device model is NCC Type Approved and whether the particular device is verified for use on Nigerian mobile networks. You do not need to obtain Type Approval yourself when buying a device locally from a seller.

20. When will the system take effect?

The system takes effect from 7th October 2026. From that date, a new device brought into the country by an importer must be verified. A device bought within the Nigerian market can be verified before purchase by dialing [*315#] or using the Device Checker portal on www.ncc.gov.ng/devicechecker

21. What is an IMEI important and why might I need it to check a device?

The International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) is a unique 15-digit number assigned to a mobile device that connects to a cellular network. Some devices have more than one IMEI. Device Checker may ask for an IMEI when you want to check a device other than the one you are using. It helps mobile network operators and regulators supports efforts to detect device cloning and the use of devices reported stolen.

22. How do I find my phone's IMEI?

Dial *#06# on your phone, and the IMEI will display. It is also shown in the phone settings and on the original packaging

23. What makes a phone counterfeit or cloned?

A counterfeit phone is a device designed, manufactured, or marketed to imitate a genuine device without the authorization of the original manufacturer. It may unlawfully use a manufacturer's brand name, logo, model number, software, or other identifying characteristics to mislead consumers into believing it is an authentic product.

A cloned phone is a device that is replicating the assigned International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number of another legitimate device. As a result, two or more devices may appear on a mobile network using the same IMEI, making it difficult to uniquely identify the device and potentially facilitating fraudulent or unlawful activities.

24. I live abroad and am visiting Nigeria. Will my phone work, and how long can I use it?

If you are using international roaming with a foreign SIM, your phone is not affected. If your phone has previously been used in Nigeria with a Nigerian SIM, it is already verified and will continue to work normally.

However, if you are bringing a phone that has never been used in Nigeria and intend to use it with a Nigerian SIM, you can use it for up to 30 cumulative days within a one-year period without verifying it.

25. I had my phone repaired and its IMEI changed. What should I do?

A genuine device must keep its original identity. An IMEI must not be altered without the required consent of the original equipment manufacturer. A phone operating on its original, unaltered IMEI is not affected.

26. Why are unauthorised IMEI changes a concern?

An IMEI helps distinguish devices on mobile networks. An unauthorised change or duplicate IMEI can make verification unreliable and may be used to disguise counterfeit or stolen devices. Repairs should follow the manufacturer's authorised procedures.

27. What should a repairer do if a repair could affect the IMEI?

Repairers should follow the original equipment manufacturer's authorised procedures, preserve the existing IMEI wherever required and retain the necessary documentation.

If an authorised repair changes a device identifier, the applicable approval and verification steps must be followed.

28. My phone was stolen. Can the Device Checker help?

Yes. Once you report it and ownership is verified, the device can be blocked across every Nigerian mobile network, which makes it useless to whoever has it and supports recovery.

29. Where can I find official information about Device Checker?

Visit www.ncc.gov.ng/DeviceChecker, the NCC website and Consumer Portal, or contact NCC through its official consumer support channels. Be cautious about unofficial websites, messages or links claiming to offer device verification.

30. Does a successful Device Checker result guarantee that every part of the device is genuine?

No. It confirms the reported NCC Type Approval and device-verification status. It is not a complete assessment of the device's condition, repair history, software, seller representations or every physical component. Buy from trustworthy sellers and check before paying.

31. What happens if a device does not meet NCC requirement?

Devices confirmed not to meet applicable requirements, such as counterfeit devices will be refused access to Nigerian mobile networks. They pose safety and quality risks a. Consumers should check the status of a device before purchasing and seek clarification from the seller if it is not verified.

32. Where can I get help with Device Checker?

For device verification, dial *315# or visit www.ncc.gov.ng/DeviceChecker. If you need assistance with a failed check or network access, call 315 or contact your mobile service provider or NCC on 622. Use only support contacts published through official NCC channels.

33. Who is responsible for ensuring devices meet NCC Type Approval and verification requirements before sale?

Manufacturers, importers, suppliers and other businesses placing communications devices on the Nigerian market are responsible for meeting their applicable Type Approval and device-verification obligations. Consumers buying from Nigerian sellers

are not expected to obtain Type Approval themselves; they should check a device before paying.

34. Does the Type Approval Compliance also apply to IoT devices?

Yes. Any SIM-enabled device that connects to a Nigerian mobile network, including IoT devices, must be Type Approved and verified.

35. How do I find an IMEI on a SIM-enabled IoT or connected device?

Check the device label, packaging, manufacturer documentation, settings page or an application supplied by its manufacturer. If you cannot find an IMEI, contact the manufacturer or seller.

36. What should I do if Device Checker says a device is not yet verified?

Do not pay for a device until the seller can clarify and resolve an unsuccessful verification result. If you already own the device, contact your seller or mobile service provider for guidance. A device that cannot be verified is not automatically confirmed to be counterfeit.

37. Do I have to upload my device IMEI or obtain Type Approval myself?

When you buy a SIM-enabled device from a seller in Nigeria, you should not normally have to obtain Type Approval or submit the device's IMEI yourself. Those duties fall on the relevant businesses in the supply chain. Different procedures may apply if you personally bring a device into Nigeria from abroad.