



Dear Readers,

Welcome to a new edition of our newsletter.

Mobile phones now centrally registered

The International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) is a unique numeric identifier with 14-17 digits of mobile phones with SIM card slots. It is printed inside the battery compartment and can be displayed by typing *#06#.

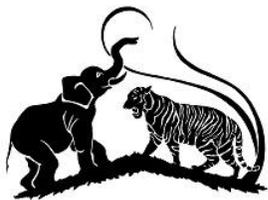
Police may use the identifier as a forensic tool to track a suspect's present and past locations by requesting telecom service providers to monitor how devices connect to cellular networks. If a suspect removes his or her SIM card to avoid detection, the phone is still traceable as the IMEI is embedded in the hardware. When a new SIM card is inserted and the phone's power is switched on, the mobile network logs both the new SIM card and the device's IMEI.

Some countries such as India, the UK, Turkey, Kenya, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Australia have created central IMEI databases (called Central Equipment Identity Registers, "**CEIR**"), ostensibly to reduce black market imports and to block and find stolen devices. On 5 March 2026, the CEIR and EIR System Project Steering Committee under the National Defence and Security Council announced that Myanmar had joined this list of countries.

Generally speaking, mobile phones whose IMEI code is not on the CEIR's whitelist cannot be used in Myanmar starting from 1 April 2026 as Myanmar's four telecom service providers are to block them.

According to the announcement,

- unspecified "taxes" must be paid on a handset for its IMEI to be included in the whitelist;
- the IMEIs of mobile phones that are currently in use are automatically added to the whitelist without tax payment if the phone is switched on at some point until 31 March 2026 with an activated MPT, ATOM, U9 or Mytel SIM card inserted;
- companies officially importing mobile phones must pay taxes for their IMEIs to be included in the whitelist;
- visitors bringing their own handset from abroad may use it for 30 days with an MPT, ATOM, U9 or Mytel SIM card without registering its IMEI and paying taxes;



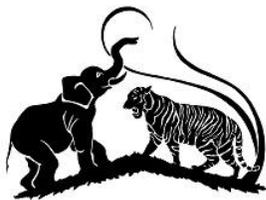
- mobile phone owners whose handset's IMEI is for some reason not registered automatically or by the importer may individually pay "the taxes due and penalties" electronically on www.ceir.gov.mm or in person at an IRD or Customs Department office to have the IMEI included in the whitelist.

In addition to the newly established registration of handsets, it is [compulsory](#) to register or re-register SIM cards when they are being sold, re-sold or transferred.

CONVENIENCE TRANSLATION - ACCURACY NOT GUARANTEED

Public announcement on the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) implementation plan

1. In some countries of the world, the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) Code of mobile phones and other mobile network communication devices is registered in the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) and used to connect to and use the telecommunications network in the country.
2. A Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) will be implemented also in Myanmar starting from the first week of March 2026, so that mobile phone users may confidently use mobile phones that comply with standards and for which taxes due have been paid to the state.
3. Mobile phones currently in use by the public will be automatically added to the CEIR system's white list so that they may continue being used without taxes having to be paid. To be included in the whitelist, SIM cards of telecommunications networks (MPT, ATOM, U9, Mytel) must be inserted in the phone and activated no later than 31 March 2026.
4. Companies wishing to import mobile phones and mobile network communication equipment from abroad must import them as prescribed. They will be added to the CEIR system's whitelist if the taxes due have been paid.
5. Starting from 1 April 2026, mobile phones not on the whitelist may be temporarily used for 30 days from the time they are first connected to a mobile communication network. Continued use will only be permitted after payment during this period of the taxes due and penalties.



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6. Taxes due and penalties may be paid electronically by entering the mobile phone's International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number on the website <https://www.ceir.gov.mm>.
7. Persons living in border areas and areas with difficult internet access may pay taxes due and penalties at the local Internal Revenue Department offices or Customs Department offices.
8. For more information, please visit the website <https://www.ceir.gov.mm> or contact the CEIR Call Center numbers 1577 and 1755 during office hours.

CEIR and EIR System Project Steering Committee

We hope that you have found this information useful.

Sebastian Pawlita
Managing Director

About Lincoln Consultancy (Myanmar) Limited

Lincoln Consultancy (Myanmar) Limited provides the full range of consultancy, tax advisory and compliance work required by investors. We pride ourselves in offering result-oriented work, high dependability and a fast response time at very competitive prices. Please do not hesitate to contact us:

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