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1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Scope

This specification defines the interface between a telecommunications carrier that provides telecommunications services to the public for hire using IPCablecom capabilities (a “PC/TSP”) and a Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) to assist the LEA in conducting lawfully authorized electronic surveillance. Companies using IPCablecom capabilities will not in the normal case be “telecommunications carriers.” Instead they will be providers of information services. However, some companies using IPCablecom capabilities may, by virtue of other actions, be “telecommunications carriers” for purposes of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) with respect to their use of IPCablecom capabilities. The purpose of this specification is to assist those companies in meeting their obligations under CALEA. In this regard, a telecommunications carrier that complies with a publicly available technical requirement or standard adopted by an industry association or standards-setting organization shall be found to be in compliance with the assistance capability requirements of CALEA.

As noted, cable operators are not ordinarily telecommunications carriers, but if a cable operator has taken the steps to become a carrier, and uses IPCablecom to provide carrier services, then CALEA might apply to the equipment used to implement IPCablecom. For this reason, we are providing consideration of CALEA concerns as part of the IPCablecom specification, for the benefit of anyone who might use this architecture/technology as part of their carrier activities.

Accordingly, a PC/TSP, manufacturer, or support provider that is in compliance with this document will have “safe harbor” under Section 107 of CALEA, Public Law 103-414, codified at 47 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.

This specification defines services and features to support Lawfully Authorized Electronic Surveillance, and the interfaces to deliver intercepted communications and reasonably available call-identifying information to a LEA when authorized.

1.2 Requirements and Conventions

Throughout this document, the words that are used to define the significance of particular requirements are capitalized. These words are:

“MUST”	This word or the adjective “REQUIRED” means that the item is an absolute requirement of this specification.
“MUST NOT”	This phrase means that the item is an absolute prohibition of this specification.
“SHOULD”	This word or the adjective “RECOMMENDED” means that there may exist valid reasons in particular circumstances to ignore this item, but the full implications should be understood and the case carefully weighed before choosing a different course.
“SHOULD NOT”	This phrase means that there may exist valid reasons in particular circumstances when the listed behavior is acceptable or event useful, but the full implications should be understood and the case carefully weighed before implementing any behavior described with this label.
“MAY”	This word or the adjective “OPTIONAL” means that this item is truly optional. One vendor may choose to include the item because a particular marketplace requires it or because it enhances the product, for example; another vendor may omit the same item.

1.3 Electronic Surveillance Requirements

Congress passed CALEA October 1994. It requires telecommunications carriers and manufacturers to provide certain capabilities to LEAs with the proper court authorization. Although a cable operator may not have any obligations under CALEA, a cable operator that has taken steps to become a telecommunications carrier, and uses IPCablecom capabilities to provide telecommunications services (as used here, a PC/TSP) that is found in compliance with a publicly available technical requirement or standard adopted by an industry association or