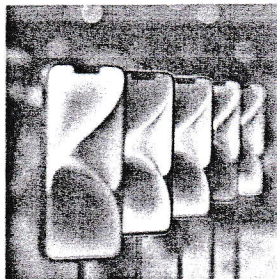


# Now, manufacturers must register IMEI of cell phones made in India

**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

The government has amended the prevention of tampering of Mobile Device Equipment Identification Number, Rules, 2017, in which it is being made mandatory for mobile manufacturers to register the International Mobile Equipment Identity number (IMEI) of handsets made in India.

"The manufacturer shall register the international mobile equipment identity number of every mobile phone manufactured in India with the Indian Counterfeited Device Restriction portal (<https://icdr.ceir.gov.in>) of the Government of India in the DoT, prior to the first sale of the mobile



phone," said a gazette notification dated September 26.

These new rules will be called the prevention of tampering of the Mobile Device Equipment Identification Number (Amendment) Rules, 2022, it said, adding that the principle rules were published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Subsection (i), dated August 25,

2017. The latest notification also says that the IMEI number of the mobile phone imported in India for sale, testing, research or any other purpose, should also be registered by the importer with the Indian Counterfeited Device Restriction portal, prior to the import of mobile phone. "The rules shall come into force with effect from January 1, 2023, and the rule 4 (2) shall come into force on the date of publication in the official Gazette," it added.

## **PENALTY**

IMEI helps security agencies in tracking mobile phones as well as calls made from them. Tampering of the IMEI number, like duplication, is an offence and may land the person in jail, along with a fine.