DOCSIS Modem Interoperability and Certification Overview

1. MSOs and CableLabs require interoperability among DOCSIS modems.
   - That is the whole point of the DOCSIS project, customers will settle for nothing less
   - While no CableLabs member company will be required to purchase DOCSIS modems, we expect the majority of modems purchased will be DOCSIS certified.
   - DOCSIS certification is the next logical step in the DOCSIS project.

2. To assure interoperability and prepare for certification CableLabs is developing a certification plan that includes:
   - Developing a DOCSIS Conformance Checklist, Acceptance Test Plan, and Interoperability Test.
   - Hosting hot-staged interoperability venues at least 3 times per year at events such as the NCTA Convention, SCTE Expo and Western Cable Show.
   - Helping vendors understand that their moving to retail without certification will frustrate consumers and MSOs.
   - Leveraging efforts of vendors that are working interoperability issues among themselves.

3. MSOs and CableLabs require vendors seeking product certification to work with other vendors and CableLabs:
   - As part of the hot-staging for interoperability venues.
   - When completing the Conformance Checklist, Acceptance Test Plan, and Interoperability Test.
   - When following the certification process (see accompanying flowchart).

4. When vendors make claims of MCNS- or DOCSIS-compliant, regarding a product which is not yet certified, CableLabs will not confirm or deny such claims but will:
   - Gratefully acknowledge vendors’ efforts towards building a product based on the DOCSIS.
   - Ask the vendor when they plan on participating in the certification program.

5. Cable Operators, vendors and the public at large will continue to be advised and educated on the DOCSIS certification program by:
   - A special section of the www.cablemodem.com web site devoted to certification.
   - News releases, press interviews and technical articles.
   - CableLabs conferences, publications, and monthly vendor meetings.

6. At this time there is no certification authority outside of CableLabs.
   - The MSO-staffed certification board has final say over which products will carry the DOCSIS interoperability seal.