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Circular No. 01/10

TO: ALL SUBSCRIBER TELEVISION OPERATORS

RE: ESPN CHANNELS

**DATE**: June 14, 2010

The Broadcasting Commission has been advised by ESPN that it does not have the distribution rights for the FIFA 2010 World Cup in the **Caribbean Region**. ESPN has further advised that the FIFA 2010 World Cup is only available on the American ESPN feeds, which cannot be distributed outside the United States. Further, there are only two ESPN channels that are authorized for distribution in the region. These are ESPN Caribbean and ESPN 2 Caribbean.

Subscriber Television (STV) licensees are hereby reminded that section 30 (a) of the **Television And Sound Broadcasting Regulations**, **1996** provides that "no licensee shall permit to be transmitted any matter in contravention of the Laws of Jamaica" and **clause 11.2 of the Subscriber Television licences** provides that licensees "shall only transmits programmes for which he has entered into an agreement with the provider of such programme to transmit."

These provisions require cable operators to obtain permission or licences for all channels and comply generally with the **Copyright Act 1995**.

Subscriber Television licensees are hereby notified that any transmission of channels other than those authorized is a violation of copyright and trademark laws and an infringement of the rights holder's rights. Subscriber Television licensees are also hereby directed to desist from broadcasting ESPN channels that are not licensed to be shown in Jamaica.

Cordel Green

**Executive Director** 

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