Manufacturers of cheap cellphones in China have been unable to put a genuine IMEI number on their phones. This caused a lot of phones to be unusable in many western countries, due to the fact that you need an IMEI number to connect to a signal transmitter. But in India, phones with illegitimate IMEI numbers and even phones without IMEI numbers would be allowed to work just fine. That was until April 15th, 2009, where India decided that phones without a genuine IMEI number weren’t serviceable. This rendered up to 25 million unusable cellphones in India, from one day to another. The reason why phones was sold without a genuine IMEI number, is that only two instances, British Approvals Board of Telecommunications and the North America's PCS Type Certification Review Board was allowed to issue IMEI numbers to cellphone manufacturers. In December 2008, the Telecommunication Terminal Testing & Approval Forum in China was allowed to issue IMEI numbers to cellphones manufactured in China[[1]](#footnote-1).

1. <http://www.chinatechnews.com/2009/04/07/9476-chinese-mobile-phones-lacking-imei-numbers-face-death-in-india> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)