

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assignment of "307" Numbers to PNETS Operators by FTNS Operators

Introduction

On 24 December 1999, the Telecommunications Authority (TA) received a complaint that a number of mobile network operators barred the call-forwarding functions of their switches to the "300" prefixed numbers for access to a service called "International Roaming Service" (the Service) operated by City Telecom (HK) Limited (CTI). The TA conducted an investigation and invited all the six mobile network operators to submit their views on the issue. Having studied the information and views from operators, the TA concluded his findings and decision on 1 February 2000 in the TA statement "Baring by Mobile Network Operators of Calls Forwarded to "300" Numbers". The TA concludes that the Service operated by CTI is a legitimate service and mobile network operators should not bar their customers' access to the service.

2. In the Statement, the TA states that in order to facilitate the correct measurement by fixed network operators of the traffic of the call-forwarded calls for local access charge (LAC) payment, the TA will open a new numbering level "307" for the Service or similar services. After the new numbering level "307" has been programmed and implemented at all fixed and mobile networks, all public non-exclusive telecommunications services (PNETS) licensees operating the above services should stop assigning the "300" prefixed numbers but instead should start to assign "307" prefixed numbers to customers.

3. This paper proposes the assignment principle for "307" numbers by FTNS operators to PNETS operators for the provision of the Service or similar services.

Existing Assignment Principle of "30" Numbers

4. Pursuant to Appendix 4 of the "Code of Practice Relating to the Use of Numbers and Codes in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan (Cap.269)" (the CoP), PNETS operators could be assigned up to 300 numbers for Group 2 PNETS for every installed or additional T1 circuit (24 DDI circuits). In other words, the maximum ratio of circuit-to-number is 1:12.5.

5. As the TA statement stipulates that the Service is considered as one of the services classified as Group 2 PNETS in the CoP, the maximum ratio of circuit-to-number of 1:12.5 would apply.

Proposed Assignment Principle of "307" Numbers to PNETS Licensee by FTNS operators

6. To operate the Service, the PNETS operator will assign to each customer a "307x xxxx" number for call forwarding to each overseas destination. It is therefore possible that a customer would need more than one number should he wish to register the service for more than one overseas place. To account for the different operational nature of the Service to the ordinary messaging service using "307" numbers in general, it is necessary to adjust the maximum ratio of circuit-to-number. In this connection, the TA would like to propose to increase the circuit-to-number ratio to **1:25**. (i.e. 600 "307" numbers would be assigned to the PNETS operators for every installed or additional T1 circuit.)

7. Regarding other Group 2 PNETS, OFTA had received a number of applications for additional number allocation for each T1 circuit. Having reviewed the details in these applications, it is considered that the circuit-to-number ratio 1:12.5 was set on the low side. In this connection, the TA would like to propose that the circuit-to-number ratio be also increased to 1:25 for all Group 2 PNETS.

Amendment to the Code of Practice

8. The TA will amend the Hong Kong Numbering Plan and the CoP to incorporate the above proposals if they are acceptable.

Advice Sought

9. Members are invited to give their views and comments on the TA's proposals given in paragraph 6 and 7 above.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
6 April 2000