

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Circuit-to-number Ratio for Public Non-exclusive Telecommunications Services (PNETS)

Introduction

Number levels “305-309” are designated in the numbering plan for the provision of IDD-type voice services operated by the External Telecommunications Services (ETS) operators. Currently, levels “306-307” have been opened for assignment. These numbers are mainly deployed for the international call forwarding services which allow calls to these numbers be forwarded to overseas destinations.

2. Under the Code of Practice relating to the use of numbers and codes in the Hong Kong numbering plan (“the COP”), the FTNS operator would assign suitable numbers to the ETS operator in accordance with a criterion of “circuit-to-number ratio” of 1:12.5. For example, operators would be assigned three hundred numbers for each installed T1 circuit (or, 24 installed voice circuits). For any request for “30x” numbers in excess of this 1:12.5 ratio, operators need to submit an application with full justifications and reasons to the Telecommunications Authority (TA) for consideration and approval.

3. At the 36th NAC meeting held on 13 April 2000, members had discussed the NAC Paper No. 5/2000 for which the TA had proposed to change the circuit-to-number ratio from 1: 12.5 to 1:25 in order to facilitate PNETS operators to make use of more “30x” numbers for their Group 2 services (for example, public messaging or call-forwarding services whereby each customer subscribing to the services is assigned with a unique “30” number as the access number for his personal mailbox/call-forwarding purpose). However, members generally were of the view that there was no immediate need to change the above ratio as the TA would consider any operator’s special requirement. The subject matter was then put under monitoring and review by OFTA.

4. In view of the need of more “30x” numbers for their Group 2 services, the ETS Society has recently approached and requested OFTA to review and increase the above circuit-to-number ratio.

TA’s Initial View

5. Under the “300 - 304” number ranges for non-IDD type PNETS services, there are about 160,000 spare numbers (excluding “303” which was reserved as

special numbers). Under the “305 - 309” number ranges for IDD type PNETS services, there are 320,000 spare numbers. The percentage of allocated “30x” number blocks out of the total number blocks is 42%. Given more than 50% of number resources are available, the TA is of the initial view that the existing 1:12.5 ratio could be increased to the previously proposed 1:25 ratio in order to suit the operational requirements of all PNETS operators providing the Group 2 services. OFTA would then monitor the utilisation of these number resources under the new arrangement.

Advice Sought

5. Members are invited to give their views and comments on the proposed revision to the circuit-to-number ratio.

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