

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Review of Arrangement for Advising International Organizations, Operating Agencies and Administrations of the Change of Hong Kong Telecommunications Numbering Plan

Introduction

In the 17th NAC Meeting, the members discussed and adopted the arrangements for advising the International Telecommunication Union and international carriers about the numbering change. In summary, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority would notify the ITU of the changes in advance. The local operators would provide the test numbers to Hong Kong Telecom International (HKTI), the then franchised external carrier, who would coordinate testing with international carriers.

2. With the introduction of new types of licences and as more external carriers launched their services, it is necessary to review the arrangements.

TA's Consideration

3. The Telecommunications Authority (TA) considers that there is a need to review and update the existing arrangement, particularly to clarify the responsibilities of the external carriers and other relevant operators. Having considered the existing arrangement, the TA would like to propose some amendments of the existing arrangement as follows.

Arrangement

- A. Whenever there is a major change to the numbering plan, for example, opening entire new number levels for the existing or new services, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) will notify the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) of the changes at least 3 months in advance before the actual implementation and will ask the

Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) of ITU to promulgate such a change in the upcoming ITU Operational Bulletin. Please also note that recently, ITU publishes information of national number plans and contact points of the administrations at the ITU webpage <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/inr/nnp/> to facilitate the administration and carriers to understand and have an update on the domestic numbering plan of individual countries/areas. OFTA will copy the notice to the Fixed Telecommunications Network Services (FTNS) or Fixed Carrier Licensees including External FTNS Operators, Mobile Carrier Licensees, Public Mobile Radiotelephone Service (PMRS) Operators, Personal Communications Service (PCS) Operators, Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNO) and other relevant service providers for information and necessary action.

- B. Upon receiving the notification from OFTA, wireline-based and wireless-based Fixed Telecommunications Network Services (FTNS) operators, mobile network operators and mobile virtual network operators will provide test numbers to their associated external FTNS operators within two weeks. The associated external FTNS operators will notify all their major direct international carriers about the numbering change and the implementation schedules and seek their positive acknowledgement within one month's time. The associated external FTNS operators should also remind the international carriers to endeavour relaying the information to the local operators/carriers in their countries/areas. Before the actual implementation, the associated external FTNS operators should make preparations and co-ordinate testing with the direct international carriers to ascertain the accessibility and usability of the new numbers. Upon request by the above local operators, other external FTNS operators who are not associated with the relevant licensees or operators are also encouraged to perform similar tests with their direct international carriers. In case of difficulties which could not be resolved, the external FTNS operators could report the case to OFTA for assistance. OFTA may then liaise with the administrations of the concerned countries/areas to resolve the problem.
- C. If OFTA received notifications/advice from overseas administrations and carriers and correspondences from the ITU about the change of the numbering plan of any overseas countries, OFTA would distribute

such advice and information to all local and external operators in Hong Kong accordingly for their information and dissemination.

Advice Sought

4. Members are invited to give their views and comments on the above proposed new arrangement.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
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