

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Emergency Routing Codes for IP Telephony Services**

This paper seeks members' views and comments on whether the short codes '991', '994' and '996' should be assigned as the emergency routing codes for Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services and the number translation arrangements proposed by Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF).

Background

2. At present, '990', '993' and '995' are designated as the emergency routing codes for 999 calls originated from the New Territories, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island in the traditional telephone networks using circuit switched technology. On the other hand, '999' and '992' are adopted as the emergency code for voice services and the emergency code for fax line and short message respectively. '997' are being used by PCCW-HKT Telephone Limited (PCCW-HKT), whose network directly connects with the 999 centres, as the test code for emergency services. The remaining short codes in 99x level i.e. '991', '994', '996' and '998' are reserved for other emergency services.

HKPF's Proposal

3. Similar to the current routing code arrangements for traditional telephone networks, HKPF proposes to use different 99X codes to signify 999 VoIP calls made in the "nomadic" way (i.e. at any locations as long as broadband access is available and without intervention from the service providers) from different regions and proposes the following number translation and routing arrangements.

- a. The routing codes '991999', '994999' and '996999' are used to signify the 999 VoIP calls originated from the 3 regions i.e. the New Territories, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island.
- b. When a VoIP subscriber makes an emergency call, the VoIP service provider should insert the appropriate 99x999 routing

- code in accordance with the registered installation address of the subscriber as the called number.
- c. The fixed telecommunications network operator or fixed carrier which directly connects with the three 999 centres (i.e. PCCW-HKT) is responsible to route the calls to the appropriate 999 centres based on the routing code.
 - d. VoIP service providers may insert the routing code '991999' for all 999 VoIP calls if they are incapable of determination of the appropriate 99x999 routing codes during the call processing.

HKPF intends to perform a trial of the above arrangements in early November 2005 and put the proposed emergency routing codes in use shortly afterwards.

Advice Sought

4. In view of HKPF's genuine operational need and tight project schedule for trial, this NAC paper is prepared and circulated to the Members for comments. Any comments on proposed assignment of emergency routing codes and the proposed number translation and routing arrangements in paragraph 3 should be sent to OFTA on or before 12 October 2005.

5. After considering the comments received from the Members, the TA will decide on whether the short codes '991', '994' and '996' should be assigned as the emergency routing codes for VoIP services which support, without intervention (e.g. change of registration address) from the service providers, the nomadic mode of operation.

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