

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Arrangement for Return of Numbers 退還號碼的安排**

#### **Purpose**

This paper stipulates the principles and procedure for the return of unassigned telecommunications numbers from operators to the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (“OFTA”).

#### **Background**

2. The Working Group on Numbering Issues (“the WG”) has discussed the issues relating to the return of unassigned numbers to OFTA. This paper captures the arrangement for return of numbers which is applicable to any licensee possessing unassigned numbers.

#### **Principles and Procedure for Return of Unassigned Numbers**

3. OFTA accepts return of non-contiguous numbers from an operator on condition that the operator will accept re-allocation of formerly returned numbers when it applies for additional numbers in future. The operator may however choose, among the formerly returned numbers, the preferred prefixes that it wishes to be allocated first in its subsequent applications for additional numbers.

4. An operator may return unassigned numbers to OFTA at most once in a licensing year and no additional numbers will be allocated to this operator within a period of six months from the date of its last return of numbers.

5. A licensee should submit a written request to OFTA together with a CD/DVD containing all the numbers to be returned. The format and the structure of the electronic file are given in the Annex. The quantity of returned numbers should be in multiples of 1,000.

6. OFTA will check the format of the submitted file, the quantity of the returned numbers, and will ensure the returned numbers are within the number blocks previously allocated to the licensee. OFTA will provide an acknowledgement, or otherwise a request for clarification, to the applicant within 10 working days. OFTA may conduct sample-check to verify that the returned numbers are of 'unassigned' or 'vacant' status.

7. The numbers are considered 'returned to OFTA' on the date when an acknowledgement is sent by OFTA to the licensee. If subsequently any mismatch with the status of the return numbers are found, e.g. through sample check or auditor's certification, the licensee will be required to make clarification or rectification on its former submission.

### **Advice Sought**

8. Members are invited to give views and comments on this paper and endorse the proposed principles and procedure in relation to the return of numbers.

**Office of the Telecommunications Authority  
December 2008**

## Format and Structure of the Electronic File for the Return of Numbers

The numbers listed in the file can be single numbers or number ranges. Each line shall be ended with a carriage return <CR> and a line feed <LF>. The file format is:

```
Line 1: Licence Number
[format: LICENCE_TYPE-LICENCE_NO]
(e.g. UCL-001, the abbreviation of each applicable licence type will
be defined and provided to operators later)

line 2: Number Return Request Submission Date
[format: YYYY-MM-DD]
(e.g. 2009-01-01)

line 3: Total quantity of numbers returned
[format: XXXX]
(e.g. 3000)

line 4+: List of returned numbers in ascending order (either an
individual number per line or a range of numbers per line)
[note: for a range of numbers, the starting and ending numbers (inclusive)
are delimited by a hyphen (-)]
(e.g. 91234000 or 93301000-93303009)
```

### Example file content:

```
UCL-001
2008-12-05
3000
91234000
93301001-93302009
94773347
95470001-95471989
```