

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Assignment of “30” Numbers for Public Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Services**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to propose the assignment of “30” numbers to Public Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Services (PNETS) connected to the public switched telephone or data network for which these service operators are required to have the interconnection charge payment to the Fixed Telecommunication Network Services (FTNS) operators concerned.

#### **Background**

2. For the provision of the International Value-Added Network Services (IVANS), the Local Value-Added Network Services (LVANS)) and the International Simple Resale Services (ISR) data and fax services as well as the upcoming ISR voice services, operators need to apply for a licence called PNETS Licence. Since the operation of these services have to use and rely on the networks and facilities provided by the FTNS operators, these IVANS, LVANS and ISR operators have to pay the required interconnection charge to the FTNS operators concerned.

3. In the numbering plan, “30” numbering range is specified for IVANS only. It does not clearly indicate that this numbering range can also be used for the LVANS and ISR. This means that IVANS operators can use “30” numbers but not the other numbers to be their service access numbers dialled by their customers to access their service offerings. With the use of “30” numbers for IVANS, the FTNS operator could easily meter the usage time of the “30” access lines of IVANS operators and calculate the amount of interconnection charge. If a customer makes a call indirectly from another FTNS network to access the IVANS operators’ service, the prefix “30” numbers will be useful for both the originating and the terminating FTNS operators to meter the call and settle the required interconnection charges among themselves in the appropriate manner.

#### **Problem**

4. As there is no special numbering range in the numbering plan designated to cater for LVANS and ISR, the industry has doubt about whether it is appropriate to assign “30” numbers to these services as well. However, since FTNS operators have to meter the access lines of LVANS, IVANS and ISR fax and data services in order to calculate the interconnection charge payment, FTNS operators have been assigning

“30” numbers to IVANS, LVANS and ISR fax and data services operators. Nevertheless, some of the LVANS and IVANS operators are, for historical reasons, still using the leading digit “2” numbers and have not migrated to “30” numbers. If the calls to the these “2xx” series numbers LVANS and IVANS are within the same FTNS network, the FTNS operator concerned may be able to meter the required access lines and bill the LVANS and IVANS operators for the associated interconnection charge.

5. However, if a customer has access to the LVANS or IVANS attached to another FTNS network via a leading digit “2” access number, the originating FTNS operator may not be able to recognize that this number is the service access number of an LVANS or IVANS operator. As a result, the originating FTNS operator might not be able to meter the usage time of such calls and settle the required interconnection charges with the terminating FTNS operator in the correct manner.

### **TA's Considerations**

6. In order to clarify the issue, the Telecommunications Authority (TA) would like to confirm that it is appropriate to assign “30” numbers to all LVANS, IVANS and ISR such that all service access lines of these services for access by customers should use “30” numbers. The access lines provided by the FTNS operators to these LVANS, IVANS and ISR operators could be served by different switching/transmission platforms (such as public switched telephone network, X.25 packet switching network and Internet Protocol network) of the FTNS operators. By using “30” numbers, FTNS operators would be able to meter and settle the required interconnect charge with all LVANS, IVANS and ISR operators and among themselves correctly and efficiently.

7. As a result of the above consideration, the TA proposes to amend the numbering plan and the Code of Practice Relating to the Use of Numbers and Codes in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan (Cap. 269) to specify that the whole of "30" numbering level should be used for PNETS connected to the public switched telephone and data network.

### **Proposed Transitional Arrangement**

8. For those existing LVANS and IVANS operators which are still using “2xx” series numbers, the TA proposes to give them six months to migrate to “30” numbers. The TA will request all FTNS operators to provide information about these operators and work out a detailed migration schedule.

## **Advice Sought**

9. Members are invited to give their views and comments on the TA's consideration and proposal given in para. 6-8 above.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority  
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