

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **The Use of Paging Numbers by Mobile Operators in Secretarial or Short Messages Services (IV)**

#### **Introduction**

At the 26th Telecommunications Numbering Advisory Committee meeting held on 2 April 1998, Members generally agreed to adopt Option 3 in the NAC Paper No. 5/1998 - The Use of Paging Numbers by Mobile Operators in Secretarial or Short Messages Services (III), i.e.

*"New" customers should not be assigned any paging numbers for the Secretarial or Short Messages Services (SMS) operation. However, if necessary, they can be assigned mobile numbers by mobile operators instead in accessing the SMS. However, for the sake of minimising customer inconvenience, "existing" customers will be allowed to use their existing assigned paging numbers as the calling numbers of SMS.*

#### **Separate Mobile Number Blocks for SMS**

2. In the configuration of some of the existing SMS operated by mobile operators in collaboration with paging operators, the SMS calls have to be routed to the mobile operators first before they can be passed to the paging operators for handling. Some mobile operators consider that such routing of SMS calls is inefficient and request the Telecommunications Authority (TA) to allocate separate mobile number blocks for the SMS operation with the paging operators.

#### **TA's Considerations**

3. Having considered the request of mobile operators, the TA has the following considerations -

- the TA agrees that the existing routing of SMS calls between some of the mobile and paging operators are inefficient. The problem can be resolved if mobile operators can use separate mobile number blocks or to employ leased circuits to pass the calls back to the paging operators for handling;

- the TA agrees in principle to allocate separate mobile number blocks to mobile operators to operate the SMS. In general, any mobile operators can make an application to the TA following the procedures given in the Code of Practice Relating to the Use of Numbers and Codes in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan (Cap. 269) to apply for separate mobile number blocks for their SMS operations regardless of whether they have any joint SMS operation with paging operators or not. Judging on the utilization rate and justification, the TA will allocate initially 50K mobile numbers out of a mobile number block to the successful mobile operator for the SMS operation. The rest of 50K mobile numbers will be reserved for that particular mobile operator until it has the requirement to use it. For any additional allocation of the mobile number blocks to mobile operators for the SMS operation, mobile operators should have achieved a minimum utilization rate of 50% with the number blocks already allocated to them for the SMS operation;
- if mobile operators have no requirement at all to use separate mobile number blocks for their SMS operations, they can continue using the sub-levels of their normal allocated mobile number blocks for the SMS operation and follow the same procedures and principles of the Code of Practice to apply for the additional mobile number blocks from the TA. The utilization rate will remain to be 50% for the numbers assigned to customers for all types of mobile services including SMS within the allocated mobile number blocks of the mobile operators.

### **Advice Sought**

4. Members and mobile operators are invited to give their comments and views on the above TA's considerations in para. 3 above.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority  
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