

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assignment of Codes and Numbers to Operators of External Fixed Telecommunication Network Services and Local Wireless Fixed Telecommunication Network Services

Purpose

This paper discusses the assignment of numbers and codes in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan to cater for the requirements of the new operators of external fixed telecommunication network services (EFTNS) and local wireless fixed telecommunication network services (LWFTNS).

Background

2. On 5 May 1999, the Government announced the decision to issue new licences for the provision of external facilities-based FTNS with effect from 1 January 2000 and for the provision of local FTNS using networks based on wireless technologies within this year. As a result of the invitation of licence applications, the Office of the Telecommunications Authority (OFTA) had received 34 and 14 applications respectively applying for the EFTNS and LWFTNS licences. It is expected that new EFTNS and LWFTNS licences would be issued by the end of 1999/early 2000.

3. In order to facilitate the operation by successful applicants of the telecommunication networks and services, it would be necessary for the Telecommunications Authority (TA) to assign them with the appropriate numbering resources in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan such that customers would be able to gain access to and use their networks and services in an effective and efficient manner.

Scope of Services of EFTNS and LWFTNS Licences

4. The EFTNS licence authorises the licensee to provide external facilities as well as external services operated over external facilities. Access to the external

services will be through the public switched networks (of local fixed network operators or local mobile network operators) or by leased circuits provided by local FTNS operators.

5. The scope of the LWFTNS licence may cover all local telecommunications services between fixed points within Hong Kong utilising the wireless access network operated by the licensee. The LWFTNS licence will not authorise the licensee to operate external telecommunications services (ETS), but the licensee may apply and obtain a Public Non-exclusive Telecommunications Services (PNETS) Licence for the operation of ETS.

Assignment of International Signalling Point Codes (ISPCs)

6. Following the assignment principles as stipulated in the "Code of Practice Relating to the Use of Numbers and Codes in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan (Cap.269)" (CoP), the TA will assign ISPCs to EFTNS operators and also LWFTNS operators if they have acquired the PNETS licences to operate the ETS. As such, they can plan, establish and operate their own international gateways and networks. Each international gateway would be assigned with a unique ISPC for the exchange of C7 signalling messages with international carriers and networks.

Assignment of Signalling Point Codes (SPCs)

7. To be in line with the current practice, the TA will assign 64 SPCs to each of the EFTNS operators and LWFTNS operators that has a need to operate C7 signalling network for connection and operation with the local fixed networks.

Network Testing and Routing Codes

8. Since the "19" prefix short codes have been allocated to all network operators for network testing and routing purposes, the TA is of view that EFTNS and LWFTNS operators should also make use of "19" codes for network testing and routing internally or externally with other local or overseas carriers.

Access Codes to External Services

9. At present, the four FTNS operators and ETS operators are each allocated a

short access code "00X" and "15XX/16XX" respectively for access to the external services operated by these operators. Provided that the LWFTNS operators also operate external services under a PNETS licence, the TA proposes to assign to each of them a 4-digit access code from the existing pool of "15XX"/"16XX" codes currently used by ETS operators for the operation of external services. In general, LWFTNS operators are allowed to extend the assigned 4-digit "15XX"/"16XX" code to a maximum of 5 digits in length to cater for their service requirements.

Codes/Numbers for LWFTNS Operators

10. Apart from the codes and numbers already mentioned above, the TA proposes to assign/depict the rest of essential numbering resources to LWFTNS operators in the following table -

Type of Services	Codes/Numbers	Digit Length	Category (Note 1)	Quantities to be allocated to each operator
Prime access code for IDD	001 for IDD voice	3	3	1
Prime access code for IDD	002 for IDD fax	3	3	1
Directory Enquiry Service	108(1,3,8)	4	3	3
Telephone repair service	109	3	3	1
Customer enquiry and hot lines or operator-assisted services	Spare codes from "124X" to "129X"	≤ 7	2	1
Fixed telecommunication network services	Spare number ranges under "31" to "39"	8	2	100,000

<u>Number Portability</u> (Note 2)				
Network Identifier Or Network Numbers	Spare codes under "140" to "149" Spare number ranges under "40" to "49"	3 9 or 10	- -	1 100,000

Note 1:

Category 2 - Codes which are universally accessible and allocated to a single operator.

Category 3 - Codes, which in general will not be passed across networks and are universally allocated to all operators.

Note 2: A separate discussion paper on the assignment of NN and NI by LWFTNS operators for the implementation of number portability is to be prepared by OFTA.

12. Both EFTNS and LWFTNS operators can make an application to the TA directly for the above relevant numbers and codes in the provision of their telecommunications services. If the applications are justified, the TA would assign/allocate the required codes/numbers in accordance with the principles and criteria given in the CoP.

Advice Sought

13. Members of the Telecommunications Numbering Advisory Committee are invited to give their views and comments on the above TA's proposals given in paragraphs 6-12.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
12 November 1999