

TELECOMMUNICATIONS NUMBERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Assignment of "306" Numbers for IDD-type of Services

Introduction

The Statement of the Telecommunications Authority (TA) of 25 November 1998 - "Local Access Charge and Modified Delivery Fee Arrangement" stipulates that the local access charge (LAC) should be applied to all telephonic and non-telephonic traffic delivered over "IDD-type of services". The "IDD-type of services" would include all existing and future external telecommunications services similar to the existing "00x" services, callback services and calling card services. These types of services would therefore include the existing international simple resale (ISR) services for facsimile and data and the future ISR services for voice. It would also include telephonic and non-telephonic services based on the Internet or other technologies (e.g. Frame Relay, ATM, etc.) where the interface with the customers is similar to that for the existing IDD services. The implementation of the LAC arrangement for the above services has been effective from 1 January 1999.

Classification of PNETS Operators under LAC

2. Under the new charging regime, Public Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Services (PNETS) operators are in fact classified into the following two categories -

- Category 1 : PNETS operators who operate international value-added services and Internet services providers would pay the PNETS charge but are NOT required to pay LAC; and
- Category 2 : PNETS operators who operate calling card services, callback services, ISR services for facsimile and date, virtual private network (VPN) and the external telecommunications services (ETS) are required to pay LAC.

3. At present, the existing PNETS operators of the above two categories are assigned with the same prefix "300" 8-digit numbers as the service access numbers. As a result of the licensing of the ETS operators, the TA will assign a unique access code under "15xx" and "16xx" range to each ETS operators. The ETS operators could use the "15xx" or "16xx" code and "30x" numbers for their direct IDD services or calling card services.

Allocation of "306" Numbers

4. Recently, the TA has opened a new number range "306" and initially allocated a 10K number block from this number range to each fixed telecommunication network services (FTNS) operator. The FTNS operator can then assign the "306X XXXX" numbers to ETS or PNETS operators who are operating "IDD-type of services". FTNS operators will measure or meter the traffic passed through the access lines of "306X XXXX" numbers in order to calculate the LAC to be paid by the operators concerned. In line with the current practice, other PNETS operators who are not operating "IDD-type of services" will still be assigned with "300" numbers which are not subject to LAC payment.
5. For application of additional "306" access numbers, a FTNS operator needs to achieve a minimum of 50% utilisation with the number blocks already allocated to it. If the application is successful, the TA will allocate a new 10K "306" number block to the FTNS operator concerned.
6. The TA will monitor closely the usage of "306" numbers in the market. If necessary, the TA will consider opening "307 - 309" number ranges for the same purpose to serve the need of the industry.
7. The TA will 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 the allocation of "306" number level to those Cat. 2 PNETS operators for the operation of "IDD-type of services".

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
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