

24 October 2003

CIRCULAR LETTER to
all Public Non-Exclusive Telecommunications Service (PNETS) licensees

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Compliance with the Numbering Plan for Telecommunications Service
in Hong Kong (Numbering Plan) issued
by the Telecommunications Authority (TA) and
the Code of Practice relating to the use of Numbers and
Codes in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan (CoP)**

From time to time, OFTA receives reports that some PNETS operators have used improper numbers not in compliance with the Numbering Plan to provide public telecommunications services such as external telecommunications services (ETS), international value-added network services (IVANS) and Internet services.

It is a licence obligation for public telecommunications services operators to comply with any Numbering Plan made or approved by the TA and any directions given by the TA in respect of the Numbering Plan. For the purpose of providing guidance to the operators to whom the TA has delegated the administration of part of the Numbering Plan, the TA has issued the CoP containing the necessary principles for these operators to follow when assigning telecommunications numbers and/or codes to end customers.

Under the Numbering Plan, only the numbers with prefix “15”, “16” or “30(5-9)” have been allocated for PNETS for ETS/IDD type of services. Numbers with prefix “300(1-9)” and “30(1-4)” have been allocated for PNETS other than ETS/IDD type of services. Use of numbers not in accordance with the Numbering Plan violates the respective licence conditions of the PNETS Licence.

According to the CoP, assignment of individual numbers and codes to end customers including the PNETS operators has been entrusted by the TA to the operators providing the services such as the Fixed Telecommunications Network Services (FTNS) operators or Fixed Carriers. According to the Assignment Principles of Telecommunications Numbers to PNETS in Appendix 4 of the CoP, assignment of numbers with leading digits “30” are reserved for PNETS and these numbers are assigned by the FTNS operators or Fixed Carriers to PNETS operators for the provision of public telecommunications services such as ETS, IVANS or Internet services.

When applying telephone lines from the FTNS operators or Fixed Carriers, the PNETS operators have the obligation to inform the FTNS operators or Fixed Carriers whether the lines applied are for the provision of public telecommunications services and the type of services to be provided (e.g. ETS, IVANS, Internet services, etc) so that

the FTNS operators or Fixed Carriers could assign proper telecommunications numbers to the PNETS operators accordingly. Your company is urged to review your use of telecommunications numbers for the provision of public telecommunications services and to take appropriate action as necessary to ensure compliance with the Numbering Plan and the CoP.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority

For enquiries on Numbering Plan, please contact **Assistant Controller (Technical Regulation)2** on phone no. 2961 6699.