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CCITT

THE INTERNATIONAL
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GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES

CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

GENERAL CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO AN INTERNATIONAL VIDEOCONFERENCING SERVICE

Recommendation D.188

FOREWORD

The CCITT (the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee) is a permanent organ of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). CCITT is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The Plenary Assembly of CCITT which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study and approves Recommendations prepared by its Study Groups. The approval of Recommendations by the members of CCITT between Plenary Assemblies is covered by the procedure laid down in CCITT Resolution No. 2 (Melbourne, 1988).

Recommendation D.188 was prepared by Study Group III and was approved under the Resolution No. 2 procedure on the 1st of October 1992.

CCITT NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized private operating agency.

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Recommendation D.188

GENERAL CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO AN INTERNATIONAL VIDEOCONFERENCING SERVICE

(1992)

Preamble

This Recommendation sets out the general principles and conditions applicable to the videoconference service. A description of the international videoconference service can be found in the Recommendation F.730, concerning videoconferencing.

The CCITT,

considering

(a) that the availability of satellite systems and terrestrial infrastructure between Administrations makes it possible to offer a wide range of services;

(b) that current technological developments make it possible to provide audiovisual transmission between groups of users at remote locations;

(c) the necessity to meet customer needs by offering an international videoconference service;

(d) the need, in so far as possible, to achieve at an interntional level a certain harmonization of general principles of tariffs and accounting applicable to this service;

(e) that besides point-to-point connections also multipoint connections are possible using a multipoint control unit (MCU);

(f) finally, the need to accept sufficiently flexible principles to take account of current technological evolution in this field and the conditions applying to the provision of this service in the different countries participating in CCITT activities,

recommends

1 Tariff principles

1.1 *Tariff components*

While the determination of customer charges is a national matter, the charges for the videoconference service may include one or more of the following elements:

– *Connection charge*

  The connection charge (one-time installation charge) normally should cover the cost of connecting a private studio to the videoconference service.

1.2 *Subscription charge*

Subscription charges for customers with private studios should normally cover the cost of providing dedicated facilities and/or equipment at the premises of the customer.

1.3 *Occasional use charges*

The occasional use charges should normally cover the cost to Administrations of the facilities used, which cost could include one or more of the following:

– the transmission capacity used;

– the facilities used (i.e. transmission routed via the terrestrial network or via an earth station);

– the transmission duration;

– the provision of possible transit facilities;

– the time of transmission (in order to allow, where applicable, for a difference in tariff depending upon the time of day);

– the amount of use during a fixed period;

– where appropriate, the distance between correspondents;

– MCU;

– conversion facilities;

– interconnection between different networks.

1.4 *Studio charge*

The charges for customers using a studio provided by an Administration should normally cover the cost of providing that studio. This charge may be additional to the usage charge related to the duration of the transmission.

1.5 *MCU connections*

The charges for MCU connections should, in so far as possible, be based on a harmonized tariff structure which is independent of network configuration and location of the MCU(s).

1.6 *Special arrangements*

By bilateral or multilateral agreement, Administrations may agree that one Administration participating in the provision of service may bill and collect, on behalf of one or all the Administrations providing the service, all rental and usage charges.

1.7 *Cancellation charge*

Where a customer cancels a transmission within an agreed time period, Administrations may apply a cancellation charge.

1.8 *Rebate for service interruption*

Where a service interruption is not the fault of the customer, the customer normally will be entitled to a rebate provided the interruption has exceeded an agreed time period. Alternatively, Administrations may extend the transmission for a period equivalent to the outage, if capacity is available, or, if preferred by the customer, give the customer a corresponding credit.

2 International accounting

2.1 *Accounting units*

An initial accounting unit period for international videoconferencing should normally be 30 minutes, with incremental periods of 15 minutes. Other accounting unit periods can be agreed bilaterally.

2.2 Normally there is no accounting between two terminal Administrations since each customer pays its own Administration.

2.3 *Accounting for transit costs*

Where transit facilities are provided exclusively by terrestrial circuits, each terminal country should normally pay the transit country the amount due for transit expenses. This amount will be billed by the transit country to the terminal countries.

2.4 Normally, where transit facilities are provided by means of an earth station, the terminal country which does not use its own earth station but requests a transit country to provide earth station facilities, shall pay all of the transit expenses (terrestrial circuit between the frontier and the international transmission centre and the earth station usage charges).

2.5 In case of a faulty connection caused in the transit country, the international account will be reduced as follows:

a) *terrestrial transit:* generally no accounting payment for the whole transit connection;

b) *satellite use for transit:* payment of accounting for space segment charges only.

2.6 When for reasons of availability or network optimization, the Administration in one country uses an MCU in another country for setting up a multipoint connection, it should normally pay a flat-rate MCU-access accounting-rate to the Administration providing the MCU.

2.7 When settling international accounts for a multipoint videoconference, Administrations shall specify the nature of the service and the period to which it refers.

2.8 When one Administration, on behalf of one or more Administrations collects rentals or charges under the conditions as set out in § 1.6, these shall be credited to the other Administration(s) concerned via the international accounts by identifying the nature of the fee and the period to which it refers.