INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

CCITT D.79

THE INTERNATIONAL
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES

CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL VIDEOTEX SERVICE

Recommendation D.79

Geneva, 1991

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.79 was prepared by Study Group III and was approved under the Resolution No. 2 procedure on the 15th of July 1991.

CCITT NOTE

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

2) A list of abbreviations used in this Recommendation can be found in Annex B.

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Recommendation D.79

CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL VIDEOTEX SERVICE

Preamble

This Recommendation sets out the general principles and conditions for charging and international accounting to be applied by Administrations for the provision of the international videotex service as described in Recommendation F.300. It takes into account the two specific elements involved: communication charges and application charges.

1 General principles

1.1 In determining tariff principles to be applied to this service, consideration should be given to the structure and level of charges applicable to other international telecommunication services supplied by the Administrations concerned, and to the provisions of Recommendation D.5.

1.2 In principle, tariffs developed for videotex services should:

- be flexible enough to enable new needs to be accommodated as the service develops;
- be as administratively simple as possible;
- be easily understood by subscribers.

Note – This Recommendation is illustrated by a scheme in Annex A. This scheme is just a theoretical diagram (Figure A-1/D.79) to ease the understanding of the tariff principles described hereafter. The schemes related to the real international interworking configurations are to be found in Recommendation F.300, § 5.3.

2 Explanation of some terms specifically related to the videotex service

2.1 **communication charges**

The charges to cover the costs of the use of the public networks and dedicated videotex equipment, between the user and the application.

2.2 **application charges**

The charges to cover the costs of the information and/or transaction provided to the user.

2.3 *Country A*

The country in which the user of a videotex terminal originates a videotex call.

2.4 *Country B*

The country which receives a videotex call from country A.

3 International accounting

3.1 *Communication element*

3.1.1 The costs for the videotex communication service incurred in country A (including the costs for the use of the national public networks and the international videotex equipment of country A) are covered by the collection charges levied in this country and are not included in the international accounting.

3.1.2 The level and division of the accounting rate for the international network used are those normally applied to that network, as specified in the relevant Recommendations.

3.1.3 The costs for the provision of the videotex communication service in country B are covered by an accounting share calculated on a duration basis (see Note 2) in order to cover the following cost elements:

a) the use of the international videotex equipment of country B;

b) the data transmission between the international videotex equipment and the videotex service in country B;

c) the use of the videotex service in country B;

d) the use of data transmission between the videotex service in country B and possible external computers.

These cost elements may vary according to the day or the time of day or service offered; therefore their remuneration may be dynamically specified by country B.

Note 1 – Not all items may be involved in all videotex service communications.

Note 2 – Calculation of the accounting share on a volume or other basis is for further study.

3.2 *Application element*

3.2.1 The application costs are remunerated via international accounting when both concerned Administrations (of country A and country B) are involved in the provision of the international videotex service.

3.2.2 In a case where a user signs a direct contract with a third party application provider in country B or with the Administration of country B, the remuneration of the application is not handled by international accounting and therefore is not covered by this Recommendation.

3.2.3 In a case where a videotex service provider in country A signs a direct contract with a third party application provider in country B, remuneration of the application is not handled by international accounting and therefore is not covered by this Recommendation.

3.2.4 It may be necessary to identify different types of application charges for commercial or legal reasons.

4 Collection charges

The establishment of collection charges is a national matter. The Administration of country A may inform the Administration of country B about its charging rules in order for the Administration of country B to make this information available to application providers, if required.

4.1 *Communication element*

The charge collected from the user shall cover the end-to-end costs incurred for the provision of the videotex communication service.

4.2 *Application element*

4.2.1 *Basic principle*

The collection charge includes the application element when both concerned Administrations are involved in the provision of the international videotex service.

4.2.2 *Charging units*

Application costs can be remunerated through the following units:

– frame;

– duration;

– transaction.

Other units are for further study.

The application charges are usually subject to agreement between the application provider and the videotex service provider of country B. These charges may be subject to limits set by bilateral agreement between the videotex service providers involved.

5 Exchange of charging data

5.1 *Basic principles*

5.1.1 Information about the application and possibly communication costs is usually only available in country B. These costs may vary during a session. Therefore it is necessary to transmit this information to country A in order to:

– bill the user;

– inform the user in advance about the costs of the application or videotex service requested (if this facility is provided);

– support the "cost limit" facility (if this facility is provided).

To meet these requirements, concurrent transmission of charging data is recommended. The charging data is expressed in the currency of country B. It is the responsibility of the Administration of country A to use this data to inform and bill the user.

5.1.2 In case of duration-based application or communication charges with a constant level during a given session, the concurrent transmission of the charging data may not be necessary. In this case, the Administration of country A can charge the user depending upon the selection of the application or network address. This implies that the Administration of country A is informed beforehand about the charging levels related to the relevant application or network address.

5.1.3 "Post session" transmission of billing information is for further study.

5.2 *Cost limit facility*

5.2.1 It is an optional facility designed to protect the user or the Administrations concerned from incurring costs which exceed certain limits. These limits may be valid for only one type of charge or for the sum of several types. They may be set by the user or by the Administrations concerned.

5.2.2 In videotex international interworking, three situations may occur:

a) Country A (country in which the user is situated) implements the "cost limit" facility with no support from country B (country in which the applications provider is located), or the facility is not available at all.

b) Country B sends the cost information with the actions required by the user in country A. Country A accepts or rejects the individual charges or modifications to time-based charges. Country B is only authorized to record international charging and accounting data after positive acknowledgement by country A.

c) The cost limit information is transferred from country A to country B at the beginning of a session. Country B checks whether the actions required by the user in country A comply with the cost limits indicated.

The choice between these three situations is left to country B, unless otherwise bilaterally agreed.

6 Recording of charging and accounting data

6.1 The Administration of country B is responsible for keeping the records for accounting purposes. In order to maintain consistency between the records in the two countries, individual charges and any subsequent modifications to the time-based charges may need to be acknowledged by country A before being officially recorded by country B.

6.2 The unit time for duration-based charges is subject to the capabilities of the videotex services involved. The chargeable period starts when the international videotex equipment of country B detects that the requested service or application is connected. It stops when this equipment detects that the service or application is disconnected from country A.

Note – Reverse charging of communication charges and negative application charges (credit) are for further study.

7 Exchange of accounting data

7.1 The accounts related to application costs are expressed in the currency of country B, unless otherwise agreed on a bilateral basis.

7.2 The Administration of country A may wish to be remunerated for collecting charges for the Administration of country B, but the application provider should be paid for his information at the same rate as for national access.

7.3 The remuneration of the costs incurred by the Administration of country A and by the Administration of country B for acting as agents of the application provider is for bilateral agreement.

8 User complaints and refunds

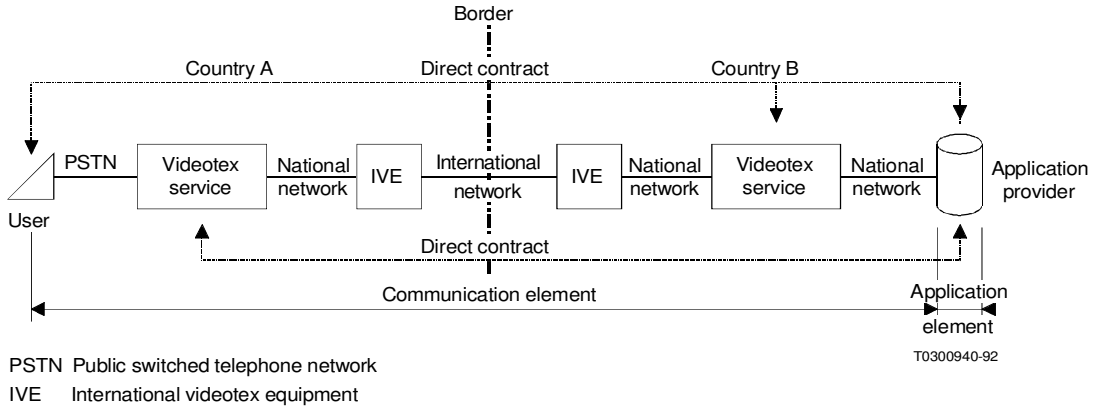
8.1 A user in country A should complain to the Administration of country A.

An application provider in country B should complain to the Administration of country B.

8.2 The problem of refunds is for further study.

ANNEX A

(to Recommendation D.79)



PSTN Public switched telephone network
IVE International videotex equipment

FIGURE A-1/D.79

ANNEX B

(to Recommendation D.79)

Alphabetical list of abbreviations used in this Recommendation

IVE	International videotex equipment
PSTN	Public switched telephone network