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GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES

CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

CHARGING, BILLING, ACCOUNTING AND REFUNDS IN THE DATA MESSAGING LAND/MARITIME MOBILE-SATELLITE SERVICE

Recommendation D.95

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

CCITT NOTES

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 C.

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Recommendation D.95

CHARGING, BILLING, ACCOUNTING AND REFUNDS IN THE DATA MESSAGING LAND/MARITIME MOBILE-SATELLITE SERVICE

(1992)

1 Definitions

1.1 **land earth station (LES)**

An earth station in the fixed satellite service or in the mobile-satellite service, located at a specified fixed point or within a specified area on land to provide a feeder link for the data messaging mobile-satellite service.

1.2 **land earth station operator (LESO)**

An entity which operates an earth station in the digital Mobile-satellite service. This can be an Administration or other entity/entities designated by the Administration to operate an LES.

1.3 **registered user**

A shore-based customer who, by previous arrangement with the LESO, is able to use the special facilities.

1.4 **reseller**

An entity, other than the Administration, which is authorized to sell the land mobile service direct to the user.

Note – Additional definitions are to be found in Recommendations D.90, D.93 and D.000.

2 Charging

2.1 *General*

2.1.1 The charge to the user may take account of the following elements:

a) the landing charges;

b) the LES charges;

c) the space segment charges;

d) any charges for special services for telegrams that have to be considered in the accounting; and

e) any charges for special facilities;

f) where appropriate, postal charges on telex letters;

g) the reseller's charge, if applicable.

2.1.2 The charges, which shall be expressed in both the currency determined by the LES Administration responsible for fixing them and in either SDRs or G. Fr. (used when billing an accounting authority for charges incurred by foreign mobile stations), shall be notified to the ITU General Secretariat by the LES Administration.

2.2 *Telegrams*

2.2.1 The charge shall be determined using either the per word tariff system or the binary tariff system as defined in Recommendation D.000.

2.2.2 The total charge should be collected from the originator.

2.3 *Telex letters*

2.3.1 Except as otherwise provided in §§ 2.3.2 to 2.3.3, telex letters may be accepted, taking into account CCITT Recommendations relating to letter telegrams, if the telegram service is used to convey telex letters.

2.3.2 The total charge shall include the postal charge (by ordinary letter or airmail letter) due for delivery in the LES country.

2.3.3 An additional charge may be collected where delivery is to be made to a country other than that of the LES.

2.3.4 The following charges are added where applicable:

a) charges due to special facilities;

b) the landline charge when transmission on the land section is exceptionally by telegraph.

2.4 *Telex calls*

2.4.1 *LES and landline charges*

2.4.1.1 Messages originating in mobiles will be charged on the basis of the number of kilobits transmitted.

2.4.1.2 For public traffic originating from non-mobiles, calls may be charged by any of the following three methods, taking into account the relevant CCITT Recommendations:

a) charging based on duration;

b) charging by periodic pulses of the type used in the national automatic service;

c) charging in kilobits or parts thereof.

2.4.1.3 The charge for a call is normally collected from the calling party.

2.4.1.4 If two LESs are participating in the handling of the call, the record of the LES that accepted the call from the originating mobile station will prevail and will also be valid for international accounting.

2.5 *Packet switching*

2.5.1 The provisions of § 2.4 (telex calls) apply.

2.6 *Special facilities*

2.6.1 Call confirmation and message status messages are available to all users.

2.6.2 The charge for these facilities shall be calculated, where applicable, on the basis used for an international call, applied to either:

a) the landline charge only; or

b) all components of the call charge.

2.7 *Communications between mobile stations*

2.7.1 An additional charge may be made when a single LES is used as an intermediary between mobile stations.

2.7.2 When it is necessary to use two LESs as intermediaries between two mobile stations, the LES charge and space segment charge for each station can be collected and also any landline charge for the section between the two LESs.

2.8 *Registered users*

2.8.1 Registered users may have a number of special facilities available to them including Polling (with text or without text), Single and Multiple Addressed Messaging, Data Reporting and Mailbox facilities.

2.8.2 The registration fee, rental and usage charges will be determined by the LESO with whom the registered user is registered.

2.8.3 The total charge, including that for calls in the return direction (initiated by the registered user), shall be billed to the registered user.

2.8.4 Calls will be charged using any of the methods detailed in § 2.4.1.2, additionally charging for data reports will be in packets.

2.9 *New or modified charges*

2.9.1 New or modified charges shall not come into effect for international traffic for countries other than the one which establishes the charges, until the first day of the month following the expiry of the period specified below. The period will be counted from the day after the publication of the ITU Operational Bulletin which contains this notification. Administrations providing information for publication in the Operational Bulletin should observe the deadlines indicated in the Bulletin for forwarding this information to the ITU General Secretariat.

The period to be taken into account is as follows:

a) for traffic originating from a mobile station: 1 month and 15 days

b) for traffic to a mobile station [except mobile-to-mobile where the provisions of 2.9.1 a) above apply]: 15 days, except for changes to bring charges into line with those on competing routes, in which case the period shall be 10 days.

3 Billing

3.1 *General*

3.1.1 Charges for satellite communications from mobile stations shall in principle, and subject to national law and practice, be collected from the mobile subscriber, or if appropriate, registered user:

a) by the Administration that has issued the licence; or

b) by the LESO if different from a) above; or

c) by a credit/charge card company or companies designated by the LESO; or

d) by a third party agreed between the LESO and the mobile subscriber, which may be an accounting authority referred to in Recommendation D.90, L5 to L8; or

e) by a reseller; or

f) by another entity designated for this purpose by the Administration referred to in a) above.

3.1.2 The Administration [see § 3.1.1 a)], recognized private operating agencies [see § 3.1.1 b)] or designated entities [see § 3.1.1 f)] when acting in the capacity stated in § 3.1.1 are referred to in this Recommendation as the accounting authority.

3.1.3 Each accounting authority will be allocated a discrete identification code (see Annex A of Recommendation D.90).

3.1.4 The name(s) and address(es) of accounting authority(ies) with their respective identification codes shall be notified to the ITU General Secretariat for inclusion in the List of Ship Stations. The number of such accounting authorities responsible for mobiles stations, both land and maritime, licensed by Administrations concerned shall be limited as far as possible and should not exceed 25.

3.1.5 The licensing Administrations may authorize accounting authorities recognized by them to notify the ITU directly of additions, modifications and deletions to be made in the List of Ship Stations in respect of ship stations for which they have accounting responsibility. Such additions, modifications and deletions should contain, whenever possible, the full details required for the list. Copies of any such notification to the ITU by an accounting authority may also be required by the licensing Administration in order to avoid duplication of notification to the ITU. When such authorization is given to accounting authorities, the licensing Administration shall notify the ITU of the granting of authority.

3.2 *Procedures for billing the customer direct for traffic originating from mobiles and registered users*

3.2.1 In the case of satellite communications originating from mobile stations or registered users, the LESO shall bill the mobile station or registered user, by a method referred to in § 3.1.1 above.

3.2.2 The LESO (or service provider) will need to record the following data for billing purposes:

a) the mobile station identification;

b) the accounting authority identification code, when required by the service provider;

c) the number of the addressee, including country and area codes;

d) number of chargeable bits/words/packets as applicable;

e) delivery time if applicable;

f) traffic category;

g) special services/facilities used;

h) credit card details if applicable.

This list is not exhaustive.

3.2.3 In the case of satellite communications exchanged between mobile stations:

a) through the medium of a single LES: the LESO bills the origin mobile station by a method stated in § 3.1.1 with the appropriate charges;

b) through the medium of two LESs: the first LESO bills the origin mobile station with the appropriate charges (including two LES charges and two space segment charges), taking into account § 3.1.1. The first LESO shall credit the second LESO for its charges, the first LESO being regarded as the office of origin as far as the accounts are concerned.

3.2.4 Bills should be prepared on a monthly basis, unless otherwise agreed, by the LESO and rendered by it to one of the entities stated in § 3.1.1 above.

3.2.5 All land mobile bills should be paid without delay and, in general, within a maximum timescale set by the LESO, when appropriate, in consultation with the third party billing entity.

3.2.6 If international mobile bills remain unpaid after four months, the Administration that has licensed the mobile station shall on request take all possible steps, within the limits of applicable national law, to ensure settlement of the outstanding bills from the licensee.

3.2.7 Billing procedures for registered users located in the country which the LESO is based are a national matter.

3.3 *Procedures for billing the customer direct for public traffic from non-mobiles and registered users*

3.3.1 Billing procedures are a national matter.

3.4 *Procedures for accounting between accounting authorities for traffic originating from mobiles*

3.4.1 Exchange and verification of international accounts shall be carried out in accordance with the International Telecommunications Regulations, taking into account the relevant CCITT Recommendations.

3.4.2 The bills, with details of charges in duplicate, shall be sent as promptly as possible but in any case before the end of the third month following that to which they relate. They should be sent by the most expeditious means and the covering invoice shall be identified by a unique number and show the date of dispatch.

3.4.3 Unless otherwise agreed, each item of traffic shall be entered individually with all necessary particulars, in the accounting statement (see Annex A).

3.4.4 LESOs shall always establish a separate statement for each mobile station (which shall include the name and the mobile station ID) in such a way that the accounting authority can use the duplicate for billing the mobile station licensee.

3.4.5 Exceptionally, where the volume of traffic for each mobile station is low, each sheet of statement may contain data on more than one mobile station spaced in such a way that the statement can be divided and used for billing with the mobile station licensee. In either case, this statement should give the total charge for each land mobile station and be covered by a single bill.

3.4.6 A specimen statement and summary sheet is given at Annexes A and B.

3.4.7 In principle, an account shall be considered as accepted without the need for specific notification of acceptance to the Administration that sent it.

3.4.8 As a matter of priority on receipt of the account, the accounting authority should notify the LESO of preliminary rejections, i.e. the mobile stations contained within the accounts that are not or are no longer their responsibility.

3.4.9 However, any accounting authority shall have the right to question the contents of an account for a period of six months after dispatch of the account, even if the account has been paid. Adjustments which are later agreed shall be included in a subsequent account.

3.4.10 Accounting authorities shall pay accounts without delay and in any case within four months after dispatch of the account, except where the settlement of accounts is undertaken in accordance with the Telecommunications Regulations. The unique accounting statement numbers and the traffic period(s) covered by the payment should be quoted at the time of payment.

3.4.11 If the period between the date of dispatch and receipt of an account exceeds 21 days, then the receiving accounting authority should at once notify the originator that queries and payment may be delayed. However, the delay shall not exceed three months in respect of payment or five calendar months in respect of queries, even if the account has been paid, both period commencing from the date of receipt of the account.

3.4.12 The debtor accounting authority may refuse the settlement and adjustment of accounts presented more than 18 months after the date of establishment of the traffic.

3.4.13 Payment of balance, shall, where applicable, be carried out in accordance with the Telecommunications Regulations, taking into account the relevant CCITT Recommendations.

4 International accounting

4.1 *General*

4.1.1 The international accounting between Administrations for telegrams, data transmissions and telex calls shall be included in the international telegram, packet switching systems and telex accounts in accordance with the provisions of the Telecommunications Regulations, taking into account the relevant CCITT Recommendations. The agreed international accounting rates shall apply.

4.1.2 The Administration in whose network a LES is established, when serving as intermediary for the exchange of satellite communications between a mobile station and another Administration, is considered as the origin or destination Administration and not as a transit, as far as the application of landline charges is concerned.

4.1.3 In the case of communications addressed to mobile stations and originating in a country other than that of the LES, the accounting rates, which may include some or all of the elements stated in § 2.1.1, shall be included in the international telegram, telex or Packet Switching service accounts by the origin Administration/LESO on the basis of chargeable duration/volumes/words automatically recorded for automatic traffic.

4.1.4 Accounts shall show the Administration of origin, destination ocean area and number of kilosegments/or chargeable duration, and if possible, the number of calls/messages.

4.2 *Accounting for single-operator service*

4.2.1 Except as otherwise provided, the following provisions apply to single-operator satellite message services, in which land subscriber and LESOs of different countries call each other without the aid of an intermediate operator.

4.2.2 The accounting and settlement procedures for single-operator traffic to mobile stations are as follows:

4.2.2.1 The call details are forwarded at least monthly to the Administration in question in the caller's country, unless other arrangements are bilaterally agreed.

4.2.2.2 The Administration/LESO charges the call in its internal billing system and includes the total amount in a quarterly statement of accounts to the credit of the LESO.

4.2.2.3 The LESO may collect the charge by presenting a bill directly either to the foreign subscriber who booked the call or to his registered representative in the LES country.

5 Refunds

5.1 *Telegrams*

5.1.1 The provisions of Recommendation D.43 shall apply with the following exceptions:

– Where a telegram remains undelivered after the required period of retention (Recommendations E.200/F.110, B.43, B.44), the LES Administration may determine the basis of the refund of charge either under the provisions of Recommendation D.43 or refund the LES charges in full. In the second case, the LES Administration may charge a compensatory flat rate handling charge per undelivered message.

5.2 *Telex letters*

5.2.1 When a telex letter fails to reach its destination due to the failure of the postal service, only the charges in respect to the services not carried out are refunded.

5.2.2 Refund of charges is admitted when, through the fault of the telegraph or radiotelegraph service, a telex letter has not reached its destination taking into account the relevant CCITT Recommendations.

5.3 *Telex calls*

5.3.1 When, through any fault of the service, the message does not reach its destination, no charge shall be payable. If the amount of the charge has been paid, it shall be refunded.

5.3.2 Administrations may however, decide to collect charges in cases when there is no fault of service. In that case, the basis of charging shall be notified to the ITU General Secretariat for inclusion in the List of Coast Stations.

5.4 *Packet switching*

The provisions in § 5.3 (Telex calls) apply.

ANNEX A

(to Recommendation D.95)

Specimen call statement for a mobile data messaging satellite account to an accounting authority

Accounting statement reference number

Date:

Name of administration/RPOA (Operating the LES):

Name of accounting authority:

Period (MMYY):

Statement for charges for data messaging satellite traffic originating from mobile stations ID 123456789

Type of call	Date	Delivery time	Message destination	Ref. No	No. of words k/bit	Rate [SDR/G. Fr[1)]]	Fixed rate (SDR/G. Fr)	Amount (SDR/G. Fr)
FTX	020690	0930	999999	223658	99999.99	XX.XX	XX.XX	XXX.XX
FMPS	040690	1155	999999	278888	99999.99	XX.XX	XX.XX	XXX.XX
EMOS	040690	1155	999999	278888	99999.99	XX.XX	XX.XX	XXX.XX
FPS	160690	1048	999999	278900	99999.99	XX.XX	XX.XX	XXX.XX
			Total traffic charge					YYY.YY

Key to type of call

FDRI Message to a CNID (closed network identity)
FMPX Multi address parent (TX)
FMOX Multi address offspring (TX)
EMPS Multi address parent (PSN)
FMOS Multi address offspring (PSN)
FPS PSN single address
FTX Telex single address

1) Currency to be used in international accounts: G. Fr or SDR.
Preferred paper size: 210 × 297 mm.

ANNEX B

(to Recommendation D.95)

Specimen summary of a mobile data messaging satellite account to an accounting authority

Accounting statement reference number

Date:

Name of administration/RPOA (Operating the LES):

Name of accounting authority:

Period (MMYY):

Accounting statement reference number

Mobile stations – Summary of data messaging satellite charges detailed on enclosed statements

Origin mobile station MES ID	Amount [SDR/G. Fr[1)]]
XXXXXXXXXX ZZZZZZZZZZ	XXXXXX XXXX
Total traffic charge	YYYYYY

1) Currency to be used in international accounts: G. Fr or SDR.
Preferred paper size: 210 × 297 mm.

ANNEX C

(to Recommendation D.95)

Alphabetical list of abbreviations used in this Recommendation

CNID Closed network identity

G. Fr. Gold francs

LES Land earth station

LESO Land earth station operator

SDR Special drawing right