INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

CCITT

THE INTERNATIONAL
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

E.118

(08/92)

TELEPHONE NETWORK AND ISDN – OPERATION, NUMBERING, ROUTING AND MOBILE SERVICE

THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION CHARGE CARD

Recommendation E.118

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 E.118 was revised by Study Group I and was approved under the Resolution No. 2 procedure on the 4th of August 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 B.

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Recommendation E.118[1)]

THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION CHARGE CARD

(revised 1992)

1 Preamble

Telecommunication charge cards may be issued by Administrations to allow customers to use their card in connection with various international services at the appropriate charges for each transaction and have the charges billed to his account in the country which issued the charge card. Cards issued by Administrations in accordance with this Recommendation conform to the appropriate ISO standards.

2 Numbering system

2.1 *Card number structure*

The numbering of the card to be issued by Administrations shall be as follows based on International Standard ISO 7812 [1] (Identification cards – Numbering system and registration procedure for issuer identifiers).

The maximum length of the visible card number (primary account number) should be 19 characters and is composed of the following subparts (see Figure 1/F.118):

- major industry identifier (MII);
- country code;
- issuer identifier;
- individual account identification number;
- parity check digit computed according to the Luhn formula (see International Standard ISO 7812 [1], Annex B). In addition to the parity check digit, Administrations may incorporate a validation check device in some location on the card which could be changed when new cards are issued.

Note – Major industry and issuer identifier numbers of the form 66xxxx have already been assigned to some Administrations as a transitional measure. Charge cards of this type are also fully compatible with ISO standards.

2.2 *Issuer identifier number assignment and registration procedure*

a) The assignment of specific issuer identifier numbers should be the responsibility of a country or group of countries as appropriate. These numbers should only be assigned to Administrations.

b) These issuer identifier numbers are normally used to distinguish among multiple issuers within a country. However, these numbers may also be used to distinguish individual countries sharing the same country code (as defined in Recommendation E.164 [2]) or, if appropriate, to distinguish both countries and issuers.

c) ITU headquarters is responsible for the registration and/or cancellation of issuer identifier numbers for telecommunication administrations. An illustrative registration form is contained in Figure 2/E.118.

d) A one time fee shall be collected in order for an issuer identifier number (IIN) to be assigned and registered by the ITU. The ITU will notify Administrations of the amount of the fee in the current Operational Bulletin of the ITU. Applications shall be accompanied by evidence of payment to the ITU of the one time fee.

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1) This Recommendation replaces existing Recommendation E.116 and E.118 in Fascicle II.2, *Blue Book.*

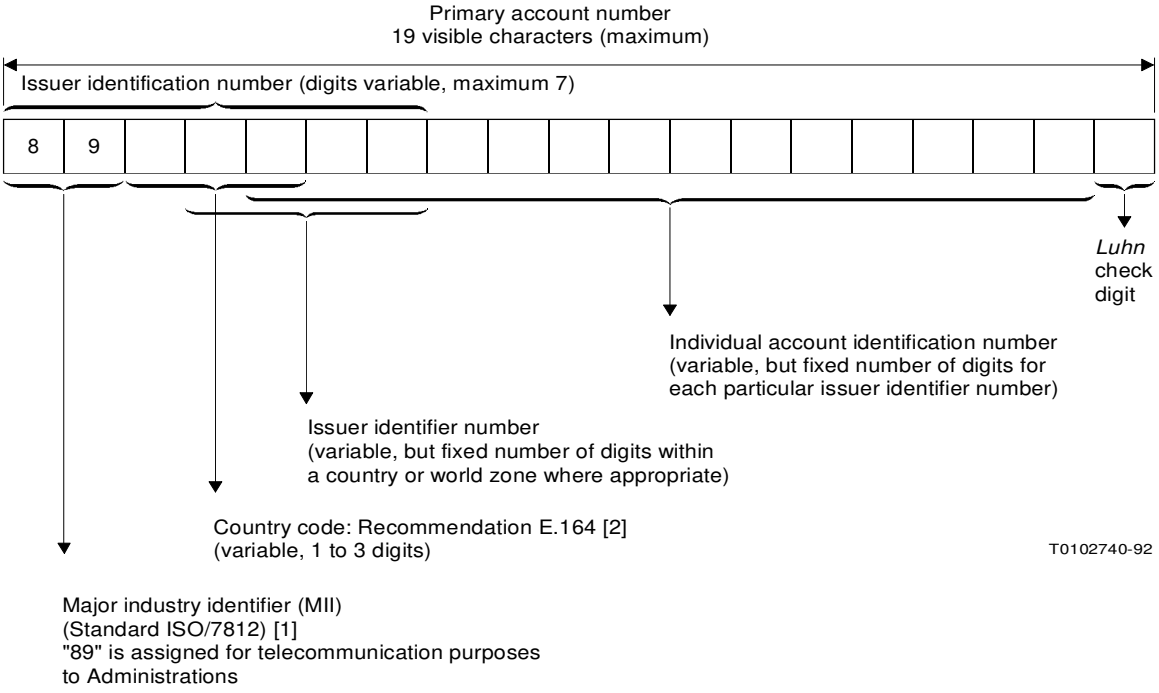

FIGURE 1/E.118
Charge card numbering system

2.3 *Transition process*

Guidelines for Administrations to make the transition from the old to the new numbering scheme are contained in Annex A.

2.4 *Information content*

The information on an international telecommunication charge card should clearly include:

1) the card number (on a combined national/international card; the national number, if different, should be appropriately designated),

and optionally includes:

2) the name of the issuing Administration[2)] and, where appropriate, the country of issue;

3) the card holder's name and signature;

4) the date of expiry;

5) instructions on how the card should be used. (Some Administrations may prefer to issue instructions separately.)

In addition, the logo of the ITU may, at the card issuer's option, appear somewhere on the card to facilitate recognition of the card by card acceptors where presentation of the card is required as a part of the service (i.e. bureau services).

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2) Although optional, card issuer Administrations are encouraged to include their name, where possible, to avoid problems when the card is presented to an operator.

3 Printed cards

The charge card should be designed to be carried conveniently on one's person. Current ISO standards define the dimensions of financial transaction cards to be 85.60 mm × 53.98 mm (3.370 × 2.125 inches) and the CCITT considers that telephone charge cards issued by Administrations should have similar dimensions.

4 Magnetic stripe cards

For maximum flexibility, convenience of use and economic benefits, the magnetic stripe cards to be issued by Administrations should conform to the relevant ISO standards concerning materials, recording techniques, physical dimensions and the type and format of embossed information.

These are:

ISO 7810:1985 *Identification cards – Physical characteristics.*

ISO 7811-1:1985 *Identification cards – Recording technique – Part 1: Embossing.*

ISO 7811-2:1985 *Identification cards – Recording technique – Part 2: Magnetic stripe.*

ISO 7811-3:1985 *Identification cards – Recording technique – Part 3: Location of embossed characters on ID-1 cards.*

ISO 7811-4:1985 *Identification cards – Recording technique – Part 4: Location of read-only magnetic tracks – Tracks 1 and 2.*

ISO 7811-5:1985 *Identification cards – Recording technique – Part 5: Location of read-write magnetic track – Track 3.*

ISO 7813:1990 *Identification cards – Financial transaction cards.*

5 Integrated circuit (IC) cards

The standard for the IC card is to be established by ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 17.

Registration form
to be returned to:

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

PLACE DES NATIONS
1211 GENÈVE 20
SUISSE

Registration for issuer identification number for the international telephone change card system issued by the telecommunications Administrations

This registration is submitted in accordance with International Standard ISO 7812. *Identification cards – Numbering system and registration procedure for issuer identifiers.*

A. TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT (Card Issuer)

Name or organization		
Address to be registred (maximum two lines, 30 characters per line)		
Principal contact in organization		
Telephone number +	Telex number	Telefax number + GR . . . .
Address for correspondence		
Effective date of usage or cancellation		
Date	Signature	

Payment of the one time registration fee may be made:

1) Switzerland: to the postal cheque account of the ITU, Geneva 12-50-3;
2) All other countries:
   – by international postal order, or
   – by bank transfer to the Swiss Bank Corporation, Geneva, Account No. C8-765,565.0

   (Payment may also be effected by a cheque made out in another currency freely convertible into Swiss francs provided that the cheque, when cashed and converted, will cover the amount of the registration fee in Swiss francs.)
3) The ITU does not accept Letters of Credit nor does it accept Credit Cards.

   The current amount of the registration fee is contained in the current Operational Bulletin of the ITU. Evidence of such payment must accompany the application. Orders and cheques should be sent to the following address:

   International Telecommunication Union
   General Secretariat – Finance Department
   Place des Nations
   CH-1211 Geneva 20 (Switzerland)

B. TO BE COMPLETED AND APPROVED BY THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION [a] OR DULY AUTHORIZED COORDINATING ORGANIZATION

1) Action Requested (check appropriate box)
   Registration ☐ or Cancellation ☐
2) Major industry identifier (MII): 89
3) Country code (CC): _____
   (according to CCITT Recommendation E.164, Annex A)
4) Issuer identifier number: _____
   (according to CCITT Recommendation E.118)

Name of approving organization	
Date	Signature

C. TO BE COMPLETED BY ITU (CENTRAL REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)

Issuer Identification Number registered or canceled 8 9	
Date	Signature

[a] and/or recognized private operating agency (RPOA).

FIGURE 2/E.118

Illustrative registration form

ANNEX A

(to Recommendation E.118)

Transition process to the new account number structure

A.1 *Background*

Generally, in today's environment, telephone charge card systems are implemented in a non-automated fashion with the customer typically presenting an international account number verbally to an operator.

This Recommendation, pertaining to the automated operation of the international telecommunication charge card service, requires a change in the structure of the account number.

It is not expected that all Administrations, or even a majority of them, will implement automated telecommunication charge card systems in the near future. Those Administrations planning to implement automated systems will need to continue to accept paper cards. Conversely, Administrations continuing to provide non-automated card service will need to accept the new card numbering structure.

Therefore, to facilitate both needs, a change in the account number structure for paper cards is necessary; the account number structure contained in this Recommendation is usable in both automated and non-automated environments.

Because of the cost of issuing international telecommunication charge cards, Administrations will continue to use the current validity code until transitioning to the account number structure as identifier in this Recommendation.

For background information, the old numbering system, as extracted from Recommendation E.116 from the VIIIth Plenary Assembly *Red Book*, is shown below:

"Numbering system

For international purposes the credit card will be composed of two parts:

– the first part will consist of a code to indicate the country of issue followed by a letter denoting the 5-year period of validity;

– the second part will consist of the credit card number assigned by the issuing Administration,

Administrations may incorporate a simple validation check within the credit card number which could be changed when new cards are issued."

A.2 *The Plan*

The following transition plan will accomodate a range of implementation schedules by Administrations: the use of the current validity code will be extended until 31 December 1993 to allow all Administrations to make the transition to the new account number structure without requiring an interim reissue of charge cards.

Pending appropriate service agreements, Administrations should be prepared to accept the new account number format as early as 1 January 1989.

The transition to the new account number structure shall be completed by 31 December 1993. During the transition period, Administrations should expect to accept charge cards containing account numbers conforming to both numbering schemes. At this time all Administrations will be expected to have reissued cards using the new account number structure. See Figure A-1/E.118.

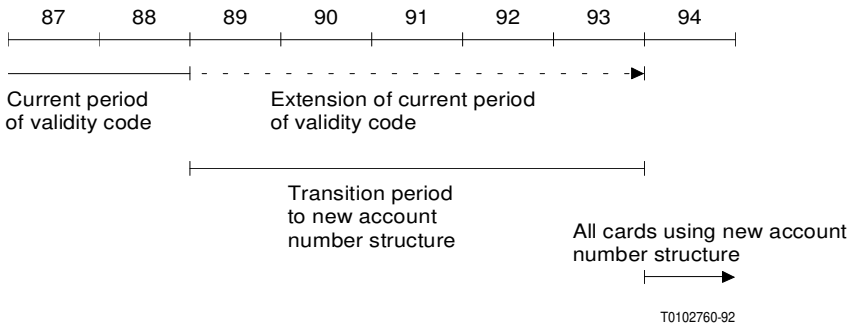

FIGURE A-1/E.118

Transition plan for account number structure defined in the present Recommendation

ANNEX B

(to Recommendation E.118)

Alphabetical list of abbreviations used in this Recommendation

IC Integrated circuit

IIN Issuer identifier number

MII Major industry identifier

References

[1] ISO 7812:1987 *Identification cards – Numbering system and registration procedure for issuer identifiers* (Technical Corrigendum 1: 1988 to ISO 7812: 1987).

[2] CCITT Recommendation *Numbering plan for the ISDN era,* Rec. E.164, ITU, Geneva, 1991.