INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

CCITT

E.151

THE INTERNATIONAL
TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(08/92)

TELEPHONE NETWORK AND ISDN

OPERATION, NUMBERING, ROUTING AND MOBILE SERVICE

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALLS

Recommendation E.151

Geneva, 1992

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.151 was revised by Study Group I and was approved under the Resolution No. 2 procedure on the 4th of August 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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TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALLS

(revised 1992)

1 Scope

A conference call is one in which three or more locations are connected through a bridging arrangement. Conference calls may be accepted in the international public telephone service by agreement between the Administrations concerned.

2 Types of conference calls

Conference calls are normally of two types:

– bidirectional calls in which each participant can listen and speak;

– unidirectional calls in which only one of the participants can speak, the other participants being able only to listen.

However, a conference call may consist of both types of call defined above.

3 Operating conditions

3.1 The technical equipment shall in every case be such that good quality of service is guaranteed for conference calls.

3.2 Conference calls may be set up by automatic, semi-automatic or manual working, according to the facilities available in the Administrations concerned.

4 Setting up a call by automatic working

4.1 Where the assistance of an operator is not required to establish the conference,

4.1.1 the conference originator accesses the conference bridge and dials the conference participants directly, or

4.1.2 the conference participants dial into the conference bridge facility at a predetermined time.

5 Setting up a call by semi-automatic or manual working

5.1 In setting up a conference call, one of two configurations may be used:

a) The operator of the country in which the originator is located connects all the called subscribers to the appropriate equipment. Each foreign participant will therefore be connected by an international circuit and the connection configuration will thus take the form of a single-star network.

b) The operator in the country in which the originator is located asks the operator in one or more foreign international exchanges with the appropriate equipment to call and connect the called subscribers, through that equipment, to the equipment of the international exchange of the Administration in the country of origin. In this way, several interconnected star networks will be created.

The choice of the configuration to be used for setting up each conference call shall be left to the operator in the controlling exchange (that is, the operator in the international outgoing exchange which has the appropriate equipment).

It should be noted that there are significant operating advantages in the single star network, in terms of setting-up, charging and supervision of the call.

5.2 All or some of the communications making up conference calls may be set up either with specified stations or individuals (or with additional stations).

5.3 Conference calls may be granted priorities in each relation concerned for all or some of the calls involved, in accordance with the provisions cited in Recommendation E.141[1]. These calls shall normally take their turn, depending on their class and the priority with which they were requested. Nevertheless, in view of their special nature, efforts should be made to set them up as near as possible to the time specified by the originator due regard being paid to the availability of circuits and special equipment.

5.4 Administrations which accept collect charge card or credit card facilities for telephone calls may extend these facilities to conference calls.

6 Charging and accounting for conference calls

6.1 In determining the chargeable duration of an international conference call, the basic principles outlined in Recommendation E.230 [2] shall be applied.

6.2 The tariff and accounting provisions applicable to conference calls are contained in Recommendation D.110 [3].

Note – Some Administrations offer the facility of setting up conference calls, treated as personal calls or stations calls, with the introduction or withdrawal of participants, on request, during the call. The introduction of such a service is a national affair and is not contrary to the provisions of the present Recommendation, provided that the bridging equipment for conference calls is used solely in the country of origin and that the call with each of the participants situated outside the country of origin appears in the international accounts as a separate international call of the appropriate type between the country of origin and the country of each of the participants.

References

[1] CCITT Recommendation *Instructions for the International Telephone Service*, Blue Book, Rec. E.141, ITU, Geneva 1988.

[2] CCITT Recommendation *Chargeable duration of calls*, Rec. E.230, ITU, Geneva 1992.

[3] CCITT Recommendation *Charging and accounting for conference calls*, Rec. D.110, ITU, Geneva 1992.