INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU-T F.160

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

(03/93)

OPERATIONS AND QUALITY OF SERVICE

TELEMATIC SERVICE

GENERAL OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FACSIMILE SERVICES

ITU-T Recommendation F.160

(Previously "CCITT Recommendation")

FOREWORD

The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of the International Telecommunication Union. The ITU-T 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 World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (WTSC), which meets every four years, established the topics for study by the ITU-T Study Groups which, in their turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

ITU-T Recommendation F.160 was revised by the ITU-T Study Group I (1988-1993) and was approved by the WTSC (Helsinki, March 1-12, 1993).

NOTES

1 As a consequence of a reform process within the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the CCITT ceased to exist as of 28 February 1993. In its place, the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) was created as of 1 March 1993. Similarly, in this reform process, the CCIR and the IFRB have been replaced by the Radiocommunication Sector.

In order not to delay publication of this Recommendation, no change has been made in the text to references containing the acronyms "CCITT, CCIR or IFRB" or their associated entities such as Plenary Assembly, Secretariat, etc. Future editions of this Recommendation will contain the proper terminology related to the new ITU structure.

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

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Recommendation F.160

GENERAL OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FACSIMILE SERVICES[1)]

(Melbourne, 1988; revised Helsinki, 1993)

1 General considerations

Considering

(a) the growing importance of facsimile (see 2.1) as a means of communication in international relations;

(b) the need of users to have facsimile services (see 2.5) available at international level for the exchange of documents, whether between subscriber stations or through the intermediary of public stations;

(c) that facsimile services cover a part of the needs not met by other methods of telecommunication;

(d) that, in accordance with the T-Series Recommendations, facsimile services may be operated using various methods of transmission and switching;

(e) that the characteristics specified in the relevant T-Series Recommendations in respect of standardization of equipment for operating facsimile services promote these services and simplify operational questions;

(f) that the use of universal terms to regulate operating procedures for facsimile services between manual terminals would avoid difficulties of understanding that could arise in relations between users speaking different languages;

(g) that universal terminology would be desirable at international level with regard to facsimile services,

it is important that the Administrations be requested to observe common provisions in respect of the operation of facsimile services in all relations.

2 Terminology

2.1 facsimile

F: télécopie
S: facsímil

Reproduction of all forms of graphical, handwritten or printed material, at a distant location of the original material, within the limits and characteristics specified by the relevant CCITT Recommendations.

2.2 facsimile on private networks

F: télécopie sur réseaux privés
S: facsímil por redes privadas

With regard to facsimile communications on private networks, circuits leased must be used in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation T.10 and the D-Series Recommendations.

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1) See Resolution No. 13, Fascicle I.2, *Blue book*.

2.3 facsimile service

F: service de télécopie
S: servicio facsímil

Telecommunication service offered for the purpose of transmitting documents between facsimile terminals.

2.4 facsimile terminal

F: télécopieur
S: terminal facsímil

Equipment used for the transmission and/or receipt of documents in facsimile services.

2.5 international public facsimile service

F: service public international de télécopie
S: servicio facsímil público internacional

A telecommunication service between facsimile terminals in different countries. These services may be classified in three categories:

a) public facsimile service between subscribers' stations (use of a public telecommunication network);

b) public facsimile service between Administrations' public bureaux (see 2.6) (use of a public telecommunication network or dedicated circuits);

c) public facsimile service between Administrations' public bureaux and subscribers' stations, and vice versa (use of a public telecommunication network or dedicated circuits).

2.6 public facsimile bureau

F: bureau public de télécopie
S: oficina facsímil pública

An Administration's public bureau responsible for accepting, transmitting, receiving and delivering facsimile documents.

2.7 subscriber's facsimile station

F: poste d'abonné de télécopie
S: estación facsímil de abonado

Installation available to a facsimile service subscriber, including a facsimile terminal, access to the appropriate public telecommunication networks as well as connecting and possible additional equipment.

2.8 public facsimile station

F: poste public de télécopie
S: estación facsímil pública

Equipment operated by an Administration in a facsimile bureau open to the public, including a facsimile terminal, access to the telecommunication networks (with possible use of dedicated circuits) as well as connecting and possible additional equipment.

3 General characteristics of the facsimile service

3.1 Terminals

3.1.1 Specification and classification of compatible terminals shall be in accordance with:

a) the relevant T-Series Recommendations;

b) current national legislation.

3.2 Network

3.2.1 The facsimile service may utilize:

a) the public switched telephone network (PSTN);

b) the integrated services digital network (ISDN);

c) the circuit switched public data network (CSPDN);

d) the packet switched public data network (PSPDN);

e) dedicated circuits between public facsimile bureaux (Bureaufax service).

4. Restrictions on the use of a facsimile service

4.1 Pursuant to Articles 23 and 24 of the Constitution (Nice, 1989), Members may exercise their rights concerning stoppage of telecommunications and suspension of services in certain exceptional circumstances.

5 Scope

5.1 The provisions set out below shall apply to the operation of public facsimile services via the public telecommunication networks in international relations:

a) between subscribers' (Telefax) facsimile stations (see Recommendations F.180, F.182 and F.184);

b) between subscribers' facsimile stations via a store and forward service (COMFAX – see Recommendation F.162);

b) between public facsimile bureaux (Bureaufax: see Recommendations F.170 and F.171);

c) between public fascimile bureaux and subscribers' facsimile stations, and vice versa (see Recommendation F.190).

5.2 Classes of service

Two classes of facsimile service in each category mentioned in 5.1 are handled by the Administration. They are:

a) ordinary private facsimile correspondence;

b) service facsimile correspondence, including franking privilege telecommunications using facsimile, which, in accordance with Recommendation D.193, may be offered during conferences and meetings of the ITU.

5.3 Service facsimile correspondence is exchanged between the Administrations concerned (see Recommendations F.170, F.180 and the relevant D-Series Recommendations).

5.4 Where agreement is reached between Administrations, similar arrangements may be made to those described in D.14/F.1 and D.15/F.1 (service telegrams), and 2.2.2/F.60 and 2.2.3/F.60 (service telex calls).

5.5 Service facsimile correspondence may be requested only by persons authorized to do so by their respective Administrations.

5.6 Service facsimile correspondence relating to the official business of the ITU may be exchanged between Administrations and recognized operating agencies on the one hand and the Chairman of the Administrative Council of the ITU, the Secretary-General of the ITU, the Director of the CCITT, the Director of the CCIR and the Chairman of the IFRB on the other hand.

5.7 Franking privilege facsimile correspondence is considered as service facsimile correspondence and is admitted on a reciprocal and optional basis where consistent with national law.

5.8 Service facsimile correspondence should be made, as far as possible, outside the busiest hours.

6 Quality of service

6.1 The quality of service depends on the normal characteristics of the network used and of the facsimile terminals, in particular their scanning and reproduction parts.

6.2 Quality between terminals, or between a terminal and a store and forward facility shall be checked by various measurements. In particular, the quality of the scanning and reproduction functions may be checked:

a) between manually operated terminals;

b) between a terminal operated manually and an automatic terminal;

c) between automatic terminals;

by:

i) automatic transmission of a test chart to check the reproduction system of the destination terminal;

ii) transmission of a chart on paper to check the scanning system on the transmitting terminal or the reproduction system of the destination terminal.

The standardized CCITT test chart shall be used for this purpose.

6.3 Administrations shall perform test and measurement services:

a) to locate faults and to restore service on the public network excluding terminal equipment; or

b) to locate and to clear faults, including those involving the terminals.

NOTE – For the Telefax 4 service, see also 6/F.184.

6.4 For store and forward services, quality of service objectives should be established to specify the permissible delays involved from the time of message acceptance by the originating node, to the time of delivery to the destination terminal, including delays in any intermediate nodes.

6.5 For the facsimile service involving public bureaux, the quality of service objectives shall be established to specify the permissible delays between the acceptance time by the public bureau and the delivery time to the addressee.

7 Terminal identification

7.1 Identification of terminals is effected following the procedures laid down in the relevant T-Series Recommendations. (See also 4/F.182 and 5.3/F.184.)

8 Terminal implementation

If the transmitted document is not generated from a physical scanner, then the signals appearing across the network interface should be identical to those which would be generated if a hard copy of the document had been physically scanned (see relevant T-Series Recommendations).

Terminals which do not include a physical scanner shall have the ability to accept input from such a scanner.

If the received document is not displayed on paper then the signals appearing across the network interface should be identical to those which would be generated if the received document was being displayed on paper.

Terminals which display documents in "soft" form shall have the ability to output the document to a device which will produce a paper copy of it.

If the received document is displayed in "soft" form e.g. on a visual display unit, it is not necessary for the whole document to be displayed at one time; however, the user must be able to display the other parts of the document e.g. by scrolling. (Technical requirements for the display of documents in "soft" copy form are for further study.)

9 Enquiries and complaints

9.1 Enquiries and complaints services shall be provided by Administrations.

Reference

[1] *International Telecommunication Convention*, Nairobi, 1982.