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CCITT

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TELEGRAPH AND MOBILE SERVICES
OPERATIONS AND QUALITY OF SERVICE

STATUS ENQUIRY FUNCTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL TELEX SERVICE

Recommendation F.89

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 F.89 was prepared 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 A.

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Recommendation F.89

STATUS ENQUIRY FUNCTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL TELEX SERVICE

(1992)

1 Introduction

This Recommendation describes the facilities and operational requirements of a status enquiry function (SEF) within the international telex service which enables a subscriber of the international telex service to seek and be provided with information concerning the status of a message previously deposited into an interworking function (IWF) for the purpose of transmission to a user of another service on either a store-and-forward basis or store-and-retrieve basis. In some interworking cases, the SEF may also provide a message cancellation facility.

2 Scope

The provisions of this Recommendation are limited to enquiries concerning messages handled by an IWF in accordance with the relevant F.80-Series Recommendations. Status enquiry in respect of messages deposited into a telex store and forward unit (SFU) for delivery to the international telex service are handled in accordance with Recommendation F.72. The provisions of this Recommendation should be applied to future implementations and, as far as possible, to existing implementations of IWF and SFU, in the latter case as an alternative to the provisions of Recommendation F.72 in respect of status enquiry.

3 Area of application

3.1 A status enquiry function is relevant in those interworking configurations which implement message delivery on a store-and-forward basis or store-and-retrieve basis, namely:

- telex to telex (see Recommendations F.72/U.80/U.81);
- telex to teletex (see Recommendations F.81/F.201/U.201);
- telex to facsimile Group 3 (see Recommendations F.87/U.207);
- telex to interpersonal messaging (IPM) (see Recommendations F.85/F.421/U.204);
- telex to videotex (see Recommendations F.86/U.206);
- telex to INMARSAT C (see Recommendations F.127/U.208).

3.2 In the context of this Recommendation, “DELIVERED” should be interpreted in accordance with Table 1/F.89.

4 Service provided by SEF

4.1 *Information about message status*

4.1.1 The SEF should provide information about the status of messages for which message reference information had been provided at the time of message deposit in accordance with the relevant F-series Recommendations. The receipt of message reference information generally will have been effected by the use of a two-stage access, using either the input transaction accepted for delivery (ITD) or input message acknowledgement (IMA) procedure. It should be noted that message reference information is also provided in the particular case of single-stage access from the international telex service to the INMARSAT Standard-C system in accordance with Recommendation F.127.

Message status information may also be provided through the use of a journal facility, which may also be applied in the single-stage access case where there may be an absence of supporting message reference information.

TABLE 1/F.89

Definition of message "delivery"

International Telex Service to:	Relevant Recommendation	Message delivered to:
Teletex	F.81 (F.201)/U.201	Memory of addressed teletex terminal
Interpersonal messaging	F.85[a] (F.421)/U.204	User Agent of IPM service user
Videotex	F.86/U.206	Mailbox of videotex user
Group 3 Fax	F.87/U.207	Group 3 facsimile terminal
INMARSAT "C"	F.127/U.208	MES terminal equipment
International telex service	F.72/U.80/U.81	Destination telex terminal

a) Blue Book Recommendation F.75 has been renumbered to F.85.

4.1.2 Notwithstanding the fact that the IWF may delete the text of a message after successful delivery, or after all delivery attempts have been completed, the status of a message should be available to the SEF for at least 72 hours after message acceptance.

4.1.3 The protocol to be followed between the calling telex subscriber and the SEF is described in Recommendation U.220.

4.2 *Outline of status enquiry function*

4.2.1 In the case of two-stage IWF, a status enquiry capability can be provided when a message reference has been provided by the IWF. Such a reference should be provided on a per-message, per-address basis.

4.2.2 Message status information may also be provided in the absence of message reference information through the use of the JOURNAL or LOG facility, in both the single- and two-stage cases.

4.3 For security reasons, status information should only be provided to the originator of the message, based on an analysis of the received answerback plus the message reference, independent of whether the answerback is processable or not (in accordance with Recommendation U.74).

4.4 The basic service features to be provided should allow for the provision of information on the stage reached in the message delivery process, as well as the ability to cancel a message. Other features may be provided on a national basis.

4.5 Access to an SEF may be provided in one or both of the following ways:

– by use of an access number different to that used for message deposit;

– by use of an access number similar to that used for message deposit.

In the case of access to the IWF/SEF using a number similar to that for message deposit, provision should be made to accept the input of an address and message, for subsequent forward transmission to the addressee in the normal way, as part of a follow-on call subsequent to or in advance of a status enquiry/cancel session.

4.6 Access to the SEF should follow normal telex procedures and the calling telex answerback should be retrieved in accordance with Recommendation S.23. The provision of additional information by the SEF at this stage of the call should be done in accordance with the relevant U-Series signalling Recommendations.

4.7 The SEF should compare the received telex answerback and message reference with that provided at message deposit. The procedures to be used are described in Recommendation U.220. See also § 4.8.

4.8 The SEF should not process a service request from the telex subscriber which did not follow the format prescribed in §§ 4.10 and 4.11 and would return the code format error (**FMT**) and clear the connection.

4.9 Where no status information is on file for the caller, or the caller is not the originator of the message, the SEF should reply with the text NO MESSAGE and clear the connection.

4.10 *Enquiry concerning message delivery*

4.10.1 The calling telex subscriber should request the information by inputting the following sequence:

ENQ <message reference information> + or
ENQUIRY <message reference information> +

where ENQ (or ENQUIRY) is the service request identifier for status information, and <message reference information> is the message reference assigned by the IWF at message deposit, both fields being separated by a space character.

Message reference information may contain both alpha and numeric parts. Where the message reference information provided at message deposit consists of a date/time sequence coupled with a reference number, the input of the message reference number alone should be tolerated by the SEF.

4.10.2 If a valid request has been received, the SEF should respond within three seconds with one of the following replies:

a) <message reference information> DELIVERED if message has already been successfully delivered;

b <message reference information> NOT YET DELIVERED if message delivery has not yet commenced, or is still in the retry cycle, or is in the process of being delivered;

c) <message reference information> NOT DELIVERED if all delivery attempts have been unsuccessful;

d) <message reference information> CANCELLED if the message has already been cancelled.

This reply should also contain, where relevant, the following details:

– called address;

– time of message deposit;

– number of delivery attempts made;

– latest reason for non-delivery (e.g. **NC**, **OCC**, etc.);

– time of last delivery attempt (optional);

– time of next delivery attempt (optional);

– terminal identification (e.g. answerback) of the addressed terminal.

The format of this information is a national matter.

4.11 Message cancellation procedure

4.11.1 The calling telex subscriber should request message cancellation by inputting the following sequence:

CAN <message reference information> + or
CANCEL <message reference information> +

where CANCEL or CAN, is the service request identifier and <message reference information> is the message reference assigned by the IWF at message deposit.

4.11.2 If a valid request has been received, the SEF should respond within three seconds with one of the following replies:

a) <message reference information> CANCELLED to indicate successful cancellation;

b) <message reference information> UNABLE TO CANCEL if the message is contemporaneously in the process of being delivered;

c) <message reference information> DELIVERED if the message has already been successfully delivered.

4.11.3 It should be noted that it is only possible to cancel a message if it has not been delivered, or is not in the process of being delivered.

4.12 *Status enquiry or cancel in respect of several messages*

4.12.1 The procedures to be followed shall be in accordance with §§ 4.10 and 4.11 in respect of each message.

4.13 *Provision of journal information*

4.13.1 Having established a connection to the SEF, a calling telex subscriber may input any one of the following:

JOURNAL +

JOU +

LOG +

ENQUIRY +

ENQ +

In each case, the SEF should provide full information, in accordance with §§ 4.10 and 4.11, on all messages proper to the calling subscriber received within the previous 72 hours. Such information should be provided on a single line (69 spacing characters) per-message, per-address commencing with the latest message received. A pause of three seconds should be inserted in the text stream after every five lines of status information to facilitate clearing of the connection by the originating telex subscriber.

ANNEX A

(to Recommendation F.89)

Alphabetical list of abbreviations used in this Recommendation

FMT Format error

IMA Input message acknowledgement

IPM Interpersonal messaging

ITD Input transaction accepted for delivery

IWF Interworking function

SEF Status enquiry function

SFU Store and forward unit