INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU-T Q.118

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

(03/93)

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON TELEPHONE SWITCHING AND SIGNALLING

CLAUSES APPLICABLE TO ITU-T STANDARD SYSTEMS

ABNORMAL CONDITIONS – SPECIAL RELEASE ARRANGEMENTS

ITU-T Recommendation Q.118

(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 Q.118 was revised by the ITU-T Study Group XI (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 Similarly, in this reform process, the CCIR and the IFRB have been replaced by the Radiocommunication Sector.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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ABNORMAL CONDITIONS – SPECIAL RELEASE ARRANGEMENTS

(Geneva, 1964; modified at Helsinki, 1993)

1 Answer signal not received by an outgoing exchange after receiving a number-received signal or number-received information (Systems No. 4 and R2) or after receiving an address complete signal (Systems No. 6 and No. 7) or after transmitting the ST signal (System No. 5)

It is recommended that arrangements should be made either in the national network of the outgoing country or at the outgoing international exchange, for the connection to be released if an answer signal is not received within a delay period of 1,5 to 3 minutes as soon as it is known, or can be assumed, that the called subscriber's line has been reached. In addition, Administrations with ability to discriminate call answers may adopt a shorter interval which may be as low as 1 minute. However, this will require bilateral agreement.

This represents an improvement from earlier values of 2 to 4 minutes. Application of this 1.5 to 3 minute values is left to Administrations.

If an Administration adopts a shorter delay period for this forced release condition, there will be a risk that the international connection will be released prematurely on calls not returning an answer signal. If the maximum delay of 3 minutes is exceeded, it will of course involve an unnecessary occupation of international circuits.

2 Delay in clearing by the calling subscriber in automatic service (arrangements made in the outgoing country)

In automatic working, arrangements must be made to clear the international connection and stop the charging if, between 1 and 2 minutes after receipt of the clear-back signal[1)], the calling subscriber has not cleared. Clearing of the international connection should preferably be controlled from the point where the charging of the calling subscriber is carried out.

Such timed supervision may also be applied in semi-automatic service.

During the establishment of a connection to a PABX extension it is not appropriate to send a clear-back signal. However, if a PABX returns a clear back condition, the duration must be less than 10 seconds, so that it would not uninentionally clear the connection, especially on calls from networks with short time-out.[2)]

3 Clear-forward signal not received by the incoming exchange after sending a clear-back signal[3)]

The incoming circuits at the incoming international exchange should include an arrangement for releasing the national part of the connection if, after sending a clear-back signal, a clear-forward signal is not received within 2 to 3 minutes (provided that a similar arrangement is not already made in the national network of the incoming country). This arrangement avoids indefinite blocking of the national circuits of the country of destination or of the subscriber's line in the case of interruptions of the line or equipment faults.

Since the call may be a semi-automatic call not including the time-out of clause 2 at the outgoing end, the expiry of the 2 to 3 minute time-out should not cause any alarm or blocking actions on the international circuit.

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1) In the North American network the corresponding time-out is 10 to 32 seconds.

2) For call where the charging is applied to called party (e.g. free phone service) the time-out may be reduced. The value to be chosen is for further study.

3) These release arrangements may not be used within some regional networks.