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SERIES D: GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES

General tariff principles – Charging and accounting in the
international telephone service

**Charging and accounting principles for the
international premium rate service (IPRS)**

ITU-T Recommendation D.117

(Previously CCITT Recommendation)

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ITU-T RECOMMENDATION D.117

CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PREMIUM RATE SERVICE (IPRS)

Summary

This Recommendation sets out the general principles for charging and international accounting to be applied by recognized operating agencies (ROAs) for the provision of the International Premium Rate Service which is described in Recommendation E.155.

Although this Recommendation covers premium rate services provided using the international telephone service (Recommendation E.105), it does not preclude the same principles being applied or adapted in the future for services based on other transport mechanisms, networks or systems.

Source

ITU-T Recommendation D.117 was prepared by ITU-T Study Group 3 (1997-2000) and was approved under the WTSC Resolution No. 1 procedure on the 11th of June 1999.

FOREWORD

ITU (International Telecommunication Union) is the United Nations Specialized Agency in the field of telecommunications. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of the ITU. 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, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T Study Groups which, in their turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of Recommendations by the Members of the ITU-T is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSC Resolution No. 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

NOTE

In this Recommendation the term *recognized operating agency (ROA)* includes any individual, company, corporation or governmental organization that operates a public correspondence service. The terms *Administration*, *ROA* and *public correspondence* are defined in the *Constitution of the ITU (Geneva, 1992)*.

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The ITU draws attention to the possibility that the practice or implementation of this Recommendation may involve the use of a claimed Intellectual Property Right. The ITU takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of claimed Intellectual Property Rights, whether asserted by ITU members or others outside of the Recommendation development process.

As of the date of approval of this Recommendation, the ITU had not received notice of intellectual property, protected by patents, which may be required to implement this Recommendation. However, implementors are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information and are therefore strongly urged to consult the TSB patent database.

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Recommendation D.117

CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PREMIUM RATE SERVICE (IPRS)

(Geneva, 1999)

1 Scope

- i) This Recommendation sets out the general principles for charging and international accounting to be applied by ROAs for the provision of the International Premium Rate Service which is described in Recommendation E.155.
- ii) Recommendation E.155 also describes the conditions under which IPRS may be accessed, and, in the case of non-compliance by the ISP with codes of practice in the country of IPRS call origin, the rights of the originating ROA to withhold or withdraw access to the information service program of the ISP.
- iii) While this Recommendation covers premium rate services provided using the International Telephone Service (Recommendation E.105) as the underlying transport mechanism, this does not preclude the same principles being applied or adapted in the future to services based on other transport mechanisms or networks.

2 Terminology

This Recommendation defines the following terms:

2.1 IPRS originating ROA: The recognized operating agency (ROA) in the country of origin of the call, which is responsible for ensuring the establishment of access to international premium rate numbers in that country. This operator is also responsible for billing and ensuring collection charges for IPRS calls from IPRS callers.

2.2 IPRS terminating ROA: The recognized operating agency (ROA) in the country of termination of the IPRS calls which has the responsibility of terminating IPRS calls to the IPRS information service provider.

2.3 IPRS information service provider (ISP): The individual or entity offering information services via the IPRS.

2.4 IPRS caller: The person who places a call to an IPRS number.

2.5 premium rate charge: A charge to the caller over and above the standard international direct dialling (IDD) call charge for access to the service.

3 Charges

Charges are a national matter. However, the following principles are designed to provide a harmonized approach to encourage the international development of the service.

3.1 Service access charge

3.1.1 The service access charge, intended to cover the cost of making the service available, is not dependent on service utilization. The service access charge may be levied by the originating ROA to the IPRS caller, and by the terminating ROA to the IPRS ISP.

3.1.2 The service access charge may be levied for each subscription and should be independent of service utilization. It may consist of:

- a) an initial fee (non-recurring); and/or
- b) a recurring charge.

3.1.3 The service access charge is not included in international accounting between ROAs.

3.2 Service utilization charge

3.2.1 The service utilization charge is established by the originating ROA and should cover the costs which are dependent on service utilization.

3.2.2 The charge will be higher than the standard IDD charge to reflect the premium rate service element as defined in Recommendation E.155 as well as the IDD component.

3.2.3 It is a national matter whether the charge is presented as a single charge or in its standard IDD and premium rate service components.

3.2.4 Collection charges should be established based on the unit used by the IPRS originating ROA for billing the IPRS caller (e.g. minutes, seconds or pulses). Final collection charge for service utilization component is the responsibility of the IPRS originating ROA.

3.2.5 Chargeable time for calls begins and ends on the same basis as for the automatic international telephone service, as set forth in relevant E-series Recommendations.

4 International accounting

4.1 The settlement rate for this service shall be bilaterally agreed between the IPRS originating and IPRS terminating ROAs, and should cover the following components:

- i) the underlying IDD component;
- ii) the premium rate component.

4.2 The underlying IDD service component should be in accordance with Recommendation D.140.

4.3 The premium rate component will be the product of agreements among the IPRS originating ROA and the IPRS terminating ROA. If both ROAs agree, the IPRS ISP may also be involved in the agreement.

4.4 The IPRS originating ROA, having the responsibility for IPRS call charges, is also responsible for the establishment of international accounts.

4.5 For accounting purposes, IPRS traffic should be identified separately from IDD. This is also useful to identify, for example, IPRS traffic relating to uncollectible bills or non-compliance with codes of practice.

4.6 IPRS traffic should be declared as soon as practicable. Reporting and settlement time frames are for bilateral negotiation at the time of establishing the service.

5 Accounting for uncollectibles

Uncollectibles are calls which remain unpaid by the caller after a defined period from the date of the bill rendered by the IPRS originating ROA (period to be bilaterally agreed between the IPRS originating and the IPRS terminating ROAs).

5.1 Accounting arrangements in the case of uncollectibles should be bilaterally agreed between the IPRS originating and IPRS terminating ROAs.

5.2 Options include:

- i) by contractual arrangement between the IPRS terminating ROA and the ISP, withholding of payments due to ISP associated with uncollectibles for IPRS;
- ii) by contractual arrangement, the retention by the originating ROA of a portion of the settlement payments associated with the service utilization component, for use as contingency to cover the costs associated with uncollectible bills for IPRS.

5.3 Settlement payments for uncollectibles for IPRS may not be withheld unless the agreement on IPRS service includes a provision to do so.

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