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SERIES D: TARIFF AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES
AND INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT
ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES

General tariff principles – Settlement of international
telecommunication balances of accounts

**Principles for a unified format of
price/tariffs/rates-lists used for exchanging
telephone traffic**

Recommendation ITU-T D.198

ITU-T D-SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS

**TARIFF AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT
ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES**

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS	D.0
GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES	
Private leased telecommunication facilities	D.1–D.9
Tariff principles applying to data communication services over dedicated public data networks	D.10–D.39
Charging and accounting in the international public telegram service	D.40–D.44
Charging and accounting in the international telemesssage service	D.45–D.49
Principles applicable to GII-Internet	D.50–D.59
Charging and accounting in the international telex service	D.60–D.69
Charging and accounting in the international facsimile service	D.70–D.75
Charging and accounting in the international videotex service	D.76–D.79
Charging and accounting in the international phototelegraph service	D.80–D.89
Charging and accounting in the mobile services	D.90–D.99
Charging and accounting in the international telephone service	D.100–D.159
Drawing up and exchange of international telephone and telex accounts	D.160–D.179
International sound- and television-programme transmissions	D.180–D.184
Charging and accounting for international satellite services	D.185–D.189
Transmission of monthly international accounting information	D.190–D.191
Service and privilege telecommunications	D.192–D.195
Settlement of international telecommunication balances of accounts	D.196–D.209
Charging and accounting principles for international telecommunication services provided over the ISDN	D.210–D.260
Economic and policy factors relevant to the efficient provision of international telecommunication services	D.261–D.269
Charging and accounting principles for next generation networks (NGN)	D.270–D.279
Charging and accounting principles for universal personal telecommunication	D.280–D.284
Charging and accounting principles for intelligent network supported services	D.285–D.299
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGIONAL APPLICATION	
Recommendations applicable in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin	D.300–D.399
Recommendations applicable in Latin America	D.400–D.499
Recommendations applicable in Asia and Oceania	D.500–D.599
Recommendations applicable to the African Region	D.600–D.699
Recommendations for ITU-T SG3 regional group for the Arab Region (SG3RG-ARB)	D.700–D.799
Recommendations for ITU-T SG3 regional group for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia (SG3RG-EECAT)	D.800–D.899

For further details, please refer to the list of ITU-T Recommendations.

Recommendation ITU-T D.198

Principles for a unified format of price/tariffs/rates-lists used for exchanging telephone traffic

Summary

Recommendation ITU-T D.198 recognizes the right of any operator to present price/tariffs/rates charged for telecommunication services in any form deemed convenient for the operator. It recommends that telecommunication companies offering international connections/exchange of traffic make use, as far as possible, of the same templates/forms/format of data to represent traffic destinations and offered price/tariffs/rates including if required optional clarifying information or quality of service criteria.

History

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FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. 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 Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 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 expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

Compliance with this Recommendation is voluntary. However, the Recommendation may contain certain mandatory provisions (to ensure, e.g., interoperability or applicability) and compliance with the Recommendation is achieved when all of these mandatory provisions are met. The words "shall" or some other obligatory language such as "must" and the negative equivalents are used to express requirements. The use of such words does not suggest that compliance with the Recommendation is required of any party.

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Table of Contents

	Page
1 Scope.....	1
2 References.....	1
3 Definitions	1
3.1 Terms defined elsewhere	1
3.2 Terms defined in this Recommendation.....	1
4 Abbreviations and acronyms	2
5 Conventions	2
6 Agreements	2
7 Price list structure	2
7.1 Pre-defined conditions.....	2
7.2 Price list electronic spreadsheet.....	3
Annex A – List of possible data formats used for currency symbols (in alphabetical order)..	5
Annex B – Price/tariffs/rates list basic template.....	6
Appendix I – Price/tariffs/rates list extended template.....	7
Appendix II – An extended price/tariffs/rates list example	8

Recommendation ITU-T D.198

Principles for a unified format of price/tariffs/rates lists used for exchanging telephone traffic

1 Scope

This Recommendation describes in detail data formats to be used for price/tariffs/rates list presentation in relation to the exchange of international traffic, and such price list structures.

2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to refer to the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published. The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

[ITU-T E.164] Recommendation ITU-T E.164 (2010), *The international public telecommunication numbering plan*.

[ITU-T E.410] Recommendation ITU-T E.410 (1998), *International network management – General information*.

3 Definitions

3.1 Terms defined elsewhere

This Recommendation uses the following terms defined elsewhere:

3.1.1 destination [ITU-T E.410]: A country, an area, an exchange or other location, or a special service, in which the called subscriber is located and that may be specified within the country. A destination is identified by one or more destination codes.

3.1.2 destination code [ITU-T E.410]: A destination code is identified by the digits used in analysing and processing the call. This may be defined to whatever accuracy necessary.

3.2 Terms defined in this Recommendation

This Recommendation defines the following terms:

3.2.1 price unit: A currency used for the purpose of specifying the price/tariffs/rates in a list. The price unit is subject to negotiation in advance between the corresponding operators.

NOTE – A list of currency and their abbreviations is attached in Annex A.

3.2.2 rate: The value per traffic unit for a service offered by a relevant operator for the given destination.

3.2.3 rate accuracy/precision: Specification of the number of decimal digits to be used in the price/tariffs/rates value.

NOTE – The accuracy should be negotiated in advance between the corresponding operators.

3.2.4 traffic unit: Traffic measurement unit for quoted price/tariff/rate. The traffic unit is subject to negotiation in advance between the corresponding operators and can be measured in either seconds or minutes.

3.2.5 time zone: A time zone used for the purpose of specifying which time zone the corresponding operators use. This should be decided by mutual agreement in advance between the corresponding operators.

3.2.6 effective date: The effective date of the quoted price/tariff/rate.

NOTE – The time zone applicable for the date should be negotiated in advance between the corresponding operators.

3.2.7 price/tariffs/rates-list type: Depending on the information contained in the relevant price/tariffs/rates list, this can be a full A-Z (FAZ) list, single country/destination FAZ list or a partial price/tariffs/rates list.

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

FAZ	Full A-Z price-list
FCD	Full Country Code/Destination price-list
PART	Partial price-list
QoS	Quality-of-Service
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time

5 Conventions

None.

6 Agreements

The parties involved in traffic exchange, for the purpose of saving resources to be spent for price/tariff/rate list evaluation and processing and reducing the risk of making errors resulting in financial losses for operators should aim at:

- using price/tariffs/rates list electronic versions created with the most widely used software applications;
- using full (A-Z) price/tariffs/rates lists.

The parties involved in traffic exchanges will generally be guided by an approach under which destination codes will determine the relevant price/tariffs/rates.

7 Price list structure

The structure of a price/tariffs/rates list that is applicable to exchanging international telephone traffic consists of two principle parts, that is, pre-defined conditions (price/tariffs/rates unit, traffic unit, price/tariffs/rate accuracy/precision) and a spreadsheet containing at least four mandatory columns.

7.1 Pre-defined conditions

Pre-defined conditions in a price/tariffs/rates list are some types of data negotiated between the operators, and represented by a number of fields in text and numeric formats located at the top of the price list.

Mandatory conditions are given below, unless other arrangements are made to meet special circumstances:

Price/tariffs/rates list type: [FAZ/FCD/PART]

NOTE – Possible values are "FAZ" or "FCD" or "PART".

Traffic unit: [minutes/seconds]

NOTE – Possible values are "N minutes" or "N seconds" where N is a natural number from 1 to 59.

Price unit: [Code from Annex A]

NOTE – Possible values in alphabetic format are listed in Annex A. Operators are however not limited to using those values and may negotiate using any other monetary units and relevant abbreviations. Interested parties may want to suggest inclusion in the Annex A of their preferred units.

Price/tariffs/rate accuracy: [N] decimal digits

NOTE – Possible values are from two to four decimal digits.

Optional conditions could be (as example).

Time Zone: [UTC+/-NN:nn]

NOTE – Possible values are UTC or a shift from UTC, e.g., UTC+5, UTC–03:30.

7.2 Price list electronic spreadsheet

A price/tariffs/rates list of an electronic spreadsheet should be either in a format agreed by the parties and compatible with some software designed for spreadsheet processing, or in the .csv format. Scanned documents should not be used as main documents for exchanging price/tariffs/rates lists.

The order of fields/columns is not fixed, however, the titles and formats of cells in the mandatory fields/columns defined in this Recommendation, and optional prescribed fields/columns should be negotiated between the operators in advance and should be fixed.

Mandatory fields/columns

- 1) Destination country/area/service: Alphanumeric format, normally contains the name of the country/area and/or service/networks, a simple description, no commitments.
- 2) Destination code: Digits representing the country/area code/service code and area code/network code [ITU-T E.164]. Depending on the price/tariff/rate there can be codes having different numbers of digits, ranging from 1 digit (i.e., 7 for Russia) up to several digits (e.g., 883 140 71 for some services/areas). A single destination code should only be specified in each line of spreadsheet to reduce the number of possible errors and simplify processing by electronic means.
- 3) Effective date: Effective date should conform to the following format:
 - Option 1: dd.mm.yyyy
 - Option 2: yyyy.mm.dd
 - Option 3: mm/dd/yyyy
- 4) Price/tariffs/rates: Price/tariffs/rates should specify price/tariffs/rates in numerical format using comma as the decimal separator.

Optional fields/columns can contain a more detailed description of a destination (for reference only, not prescribed) and/or quality-of-service (QoS) information (prescribed) and/or price/tariffs/rates change information (for reference only, not prescribed) and/or specific terms and conditions for the price/tariffs/rates (prescribed).

For instance:

- 1) Price/tariffs/rates reduction/increase: If price/tariffs/rates remain unchanged as compared to the previous price/tariffs/rates list/time period, this field should not be filled in. If a price/tariff/rate was reduced the absolute value of the reduction should be specified for the price/tariff/rates with a minus sign ("–") before the value, e.g., –0,002. If a price/tariff/rates increased, the absolute value of the increase should be specified with a plus sign ("+") before the value, example e.g., "+0,001.

- 2) Single rate: The same per minute rate applicable round-the-clock any day.
- 3) Time of the day (also called peak hours/off-peak hours): Two or more per minute price/tariffs/rates values during any day with the same weekly price/tariffs/rates structure.
- 4) Day of the week: The applicable default price/tariffs/rates value per minute, which is different for certain days of the week.
- 5) Time of the week: Different price/tariffs/rates applicable on different days, price/tariffs/rates may differ on different days of a week. Normally, a peak hour rates/off peak hour price/tariffs/rates applicable on working days with single price/tariffs/rates applicable on days-off.
- 6) Volume discounts: Applicable price/tariffs/rates differs taking into account the number of minutes sent within a certain period.

Annex A

List of possible data formats used for currency symbols (in alphabetical order)

(This annex forms an integral part of this Recommendation.)

	Data form/code	Description
1	EUR	Euro
2	SDR	Special drawing rights
3	USD	US dollar

Annex B

Price/tariffs/rates list basic template

(This annex forms an integral part of this Recommendation.)

Price/tariffs/rates list type: [FAZ/FCD/PART]

Traffic unit: [minute/second]

Price/tariffs/rates unit: [a code listed in Annex A]

Price/tariffs/rates accuracy: [N] decimal digits

Destination country/area/service	Destination code	Price/tariffs/rates	Effective date
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Appendix I

Price/tariffs/rates list extended template

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

Price/tariffs/rates list type: [FAZ/FCD/PART]

Traffic unit: [minute/second]

Price/tariffs/rates unit: [a code listed in Annex A]

Price/tariffs/rates accuracy: [N] decimal digits

Time zone: [UTC+/-NN:nn]

Country/area /service of destination	Destination code	Price/tariffs /rates	Reduction/ increase	Effective date	Optional information 1...n	QoS 1...n
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Appendix II

An extended price/tariffs/rates list example

(This appendix does not form an integral part of this Recommendation.)

Price/tariffs/rates list type: FCD
Traffic unit: 60 s
Price/tariffs/rates unit: USD
Price/tariffs/rates accuracy: Four decimal digits
Time zone: UTC

Country/area/service of destination	Destination code	Price/tariffs /rates	Reduction/in crease	Effective date	Destination area
Russia	+7	0.1	0	01.01.2016	Russia
Russia	+7 336	0.0256	0	01.01.2016	Russia 1
Russia	+7 958	0.045	+0.001	01.01.2016	Russia, MTT mobile
Russia	+7 495	0.0226	-0.002	01.01.2016	Russia, fixed Moscow
MTT Global area	+883 140	0.0208	0	01.01.2016	GlobeCEN MTT network

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