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GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES

**IMPLEMENTATION OF REVERSE CHARGING
ON INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC DATA
COMMUNICATION SERVICES**

ITU-T Recommendation D.30

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation D.30 was published in Fascicle II.1 of the *Blue Book*. This file is an extract from the *Blue Book*. While the presentation and layout of the text might be slightly different from the *Blue Book* version, the contents of the file are identical to the *Blue Book* version and copyright conditions remain unchanged (see below).

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

Recommendation D.30

IMPLEMENTATION OF REVERSE CHARGING ON INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC DATA COMMUNICATION SERVICES¹⁾

(Malaga-Torremolinos, 1984)

1 Preamble

This Recommendation sets out some preliminary guidelines for Administrations wishing to offer the optional reverse charging facility over international public data networks. It is recognized that this is a rapidly developing field at the present time and that the principle of offering such a facility should be pursued in the most flexible way possible in order to secure the interests of both users and Administrations. For this reason, this Recommendation outlines alternatives for accommodating reverse charging. The choice and application of a reverse charging facility is subject to bilateral agreement.

2 General

2.1 Reverse charging on international data networks is an optional facility that allows Administrations offering international data transmission on the public data networks to bill a party other than the calling party.

In order to provide guidelines to Administrations wishing to offer this facility, the following options are offered. The first two options apply to packet-switched data networks, while the other two options are applicable to both packet- and circuit-switched networks.

2.2 These alternatives are:

- charges to be billed to the destination station by the destination Administration at the tariff charged by the destination Administration;
- charges to be billed to an account number which is different from the calling number and is assigned to a guarantor;
- charges to be billed to the called party by the Administration of the country of origin, by means of a guarantor arrangement made by the called party;
- charges to be billed to the destination station by the originating Administration at the tariff charged by the originating Administration by means of the transferred account arrangement.

3 **ALTERNATIVE No. 1 – Technical procedure to accommodate reverse charging using Recommendation X.75 [1]**

3.1 *Preamble*

3.1.1 This alternative sets out a procedure whereby the variable component charge associated with a virtual call may be billed by the destination Administration to the called party at the rate charged by the destination Administration.

3.1.2 This procedure uses the reverse charging request facility and the reverse charging acceptance facility as specified in Recommendations X.25 [2] and X.75 [1].

3.1.3 All the details relative to this variable components which affect charging, consistent with the requirements of this solution, shall be transmitted from the Administration of origin to the Administration of destination by such methods and formats as may be agreed bilaterally. Such information shall include as a minimum the following elements:

- a) date of establishment of successful call;
- b) time at which call was established (hour, minute, second);
- c) chargeable duration;

¹⁾ Spain, France and Iran (Islamic Republic of) have expressed reservations concerning the application of this Recommendation.

- d) volume of chargeable information transmitted;
- e) address of calling data terminal equipment;
- f) address of called data terminal equipment;
- g) identity of Administrations which have set up the call.

3.1.4 There will normally be no requirement for the destination country to record or to receive information regarding the fixed component charge of the country of origin.

3.1.5 Accounting will be performed in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation D.10.

4 ALTERNATIVE No. 2 – Technical procedure to accommodate reverse charging through the assignment of a number identifying the user to be billed

4.1 Preamble

It would be necessary to define a technical procedure whereby the network usage charges associated with an international public packet-switched data service are billed to a user other than the calling party by the Administration of origin at the rate charged by that Administration.

4.2 Characteristics of this procedure

This procedure should:

- 4.2.1 ensure optional implementation on a per call basis,
- 4.2.2 assume an agreement with the called subscriber for a given period of time,
- 4.2.3 allow billing at the rate charged by the Administration of origin,
- 4.2.4 ensure a precise identification by appropriate technical means of the guarantor (or account) representing the called subscriber in the country of origin and to whom the charges are to be billed.

On the other hand, this procedure should not complicate the call data processing for billing purposes.

The implementation of this alternative may require an extension of network utilities or the specification of other fields of optional user facilities, e.g. “tariffs”.

4.3 Principle of realization

The realization may rely on the optional network user identification (NUI) facility as defined in the Series X Recommendations for billing purposes, among others.

The called subscriber's guarantor (or account) to whom the charges of the country of origin are to be applied is designated by this optional network user identification (NUI) facility.

The NUI is used by the calling party, on a per call basis.

5 ALTERNATIVE No. 3 – Administrative procedures to accommodate reverse charging facility using the guarantor service

5.1 Preamble

5.1.1 This alternative sets out the procedure whereby the variable component charge and a relevant part of the fixed component charge (if applicable), associated with public data communication services, may be billed to the called party by the Administration of origin, at the rate charged by that Administration, by means of a guarantor arrangement made by the called party.

5.1.2 The **guarantor service** is one in which all variable charges for calls are charged to a guarantor residing in the country of origin and not the called subscribers in the destination country. The subscriber in the destination country indicates the network address to which the procedure is to be applied. Moreover, the customer names the guarantor in the country of origin. This guarantor settles accounts with the subscriber in the destination country on a private basis.

5.2 *Application procedure*

- a) The subscriber in the destination country who wishes to pay the charges for calls made to him from the country of origin notifies the Administration in the country of origin.
- b) The notification is made either via the Administration of the destination country or via a branch of the subscriber or other authorized agent of the subscriber, in the country of origin.
- c) The notification must contain:
 - the call number (or call numbers) in the destination country to which the reverse charging is to be applied (full indication of the international data number according to Recommendation X.121) [3];
 - the desired period for which the procedure is to be applied;
 - the name of a guarantor residing in the country of origin to whom the charges are to be charged (e.g. a branch, a bank or a similar institution).
- d) The guarantor mentioned under § 5.2 c) must make a legally binding statement to the Administration in the country of origin indicating that he is willing to pay the accruing telecommunications charges.
- e) The Administration in the country of origin is entitled to reject a named guarantor without giving reasons. But in that case it should name guarantors that would be acceptable.

5.3 *Recovery of the collection charges*

The Administration in the country of origin identifies all calls made by subscribers in its own service area to the agreed call numbers of the customer in the destination country. The variable collection charges payable for these calls are not billed to the calling subscribers in the country of origin but to the guarantor in the country of origin. The details of the telecommunication bill and the interval between the bills depend on the regulations in force in the country of origin.

5.4 *International accounting*

As the collection charges are collected in the country of origin, the Administration of the country of origin is responsible for international accounting.

5.5 *Termination of the agreement*

The termination of the agreement occurs:

- when the agreed period expires; or
- after notice has been given by the subscriber in the destination country; or
- after notice has been given by the guarantor; or
- after notice has been given by the Administration in the country of origin.

5.6 *Time limits*

- a) A notice given by the subscriber or the guarantor must be received by the Administration of the country of origin at least five working days before the planned termination of the procedure;
- b) a notice given by the Administration of the country of origin must be received by the subscriber in the country of destination at least five working days before the planned termination of the procedure;
- c) if the procedure is to be continued beyond the period originally agreed upon, the guarantee concerning payment, which is required according to § 5.2 d), must be received by the Administration of the country of origin at least five working days before the beginning of the new period;
- d) Administrations reserve the right to fix time limits other than those specified under §§ 5.6 a) to 5.6 c).

6 ALTERNATIVE No. 4 – An administrative procedure to accommodate reverse charging using the transferred account service

6.1 Preamble

6.1.1 The **international transferred account (TA) service** is a service in which the Administrations concerned agree that the charges for calls set up via the international packet-switched data communication service may be paid by a third party that has accepted responsibility for payment rather than being charged to the caller. It is an optional facility and depends on mutual agreement between Administrations.

6.1.2 The term “Guarantor Administration” as used herein refers to the Administration responsible for the collection of transferred account (TA) charges and for the payment of such charges to the Administration of origin.

6.2 Requests for the TA service

6.2.1 Upon receipt of a request from the customer which agrees to pay the charges, that customer's Administration (Guarantor Administration) shall send a message to the Administration of origin, supplying the following information:

- 1) name and address of the customer that has undertaken to pay the charges;
- 2) name and address of the customer in the origin country authorized to use the TA service;
- 3) date of entry into force and expiry of the authorization;
- 4) destination country of the calls and, if necessary, name, address and national number of the destination TA service user;
- 5) any other information considered necessary.

6.2.2 The Guarantor Administration may request the customer responsible for payment of the charges to put down a deposit as a guarantee, the amount being fixed by the Administration.

6.3 Treatment of TA traffic

6.3.1 Except for surcharges and special charges (see § 6.4 below), TA traffic shall be accepted, routed and delivered under the same conditions as normal traffic.

6.4 Surcharges and special charges

6.4.1 The origin Administration and the Guarantor Administration may levy a surcharge for each TA call. This surcharge shall accrue to the Administration which levies it.

6.5 Accounting

Traffic of the TA service shall not be treated differently from other traffic in the international accounts exchanged between Administrations. In particular, the TA indication shall not be mentioned in the monthly traffic accounts.

6.6 Establishment and exchange of TA accounts

6.6.1 The origin Administration shall prepare a monthly transferred account for each customer responsible for the payment of charges. Such statements shall include the following information:

- 1) name and address of origin Administration;
- 2) month of acceptance of TA service;
- 3) name and address of the Administration responsible for collecting the charges;
- 4) name and address of the customer who has undertaken to pay the charges;
- 5) date and reference number of the Guarantor Administration authorization;

- 6) called national number;
- 7) a call-by-call breakdown, with the total corresponding durations and traffic volume units agreed between the Administrations involved and the respective amounts;
- 8) fixed costs, if applicable;
- 9) any other charge or surcharge levied by the origin Administration;
- 10) total charges, including surcharges (if applicable);
- 11) all charges should be presented in the currency of the origin country;
- 12) total charges expressed in SDR or gold-franc (or other agreed currency), together with the relevant exchange rate.

6.6.2 Any TA accounts failing to give these details may be returned to the origin Administration and the credit due shall be reduced by the total of the rejected accounts.

6.6.3 A monthly recapitulatory statement of TA accounts shall be prepared by the origin Administration for the Guarantor Administration. This statement shall recapitulate the individual accounts of the customers responsible for the payment of TA data charges.

6.6.4 The recapitulatory statement and the individual accounts may be mailed or sent by data transmission to the Guarantor Administration, according to the procedure agreed between Administrations. When sending the statement and the accounts by post, the origin Administration shall furnish at least two copies of these accounting documents.

6.6.5 A period of up to two months following the acceptance of the traffic may be allowed for the preparation and dispatch of these accounting documents to the Administration concerned.

6.6.6 Any additional information required regarding monthly TA statements shall be requested by the Guarantor Administration from the Administration that has prepared the TA accounts within one month of their receipt. When this period expires, the amount concerned shall be included in the quarterly TA service accounts for settlement.

6.6.7 Any adjustments arising from discrepancies still not resolved on expiry of the month referred to in § 6.6.6 shall be settled in subsequent accounts, as agreed between the Administrations concerned.

6.7 *Settlement of accounts*

6.7.1 Unless any alternative settlement procedures are adopted by the Administrations concerned, quarterly TA balances shall be settled in accordance with the settlement provisions set out in the International Telecommunication Convention and the Telegraph and Telephone Regulations [4].

6.8 *Liability for collection of charges*

The Administration that has accepted responsibility for the collection of charges guarantees payment of the TA charges to the other Administrations.

References

- [1] CCITT Recommendation *Terminal and transit call control procedures and data transfer system on international circuits between packet-switched data networks*, Rec. X.75.
- [2] CCITT Recommendation *Interface between data terminal equipment (DTE) and data circuit terminating equipment (DCE) for terminals operating in the packet mode on public data networks*, Rec. X.25.
- [3] CCITT Recommendation *International numbering plan for public data networks*, Rec. X.121.
- [4] *Final Acts of the World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference, Telegraph Regulations, Telephone Regulations*, ITU, Geneva, 1973 (see also the Preliminary Note No. 3, page XIV).