

INFORMATION and COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AUTHORITY



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Ref. ICTA/NUM/TD/1/2013

11 February 2013

THE TELECOMMUNICATION DIRECTIVE 1 OF 2013

The Information & Communication Technologies Authority (hereinafter referred to as the **Authority**) in the exercise of its statutory functions under the Information & Communication Technologies Act 2001 (as amended) and hereinafter referred to as the Act, and notwithstanding the obligations already specified in the PSTN, PLMN and ILD Licences respectively, hereby issues this Directive, pursuant to sections 17(3), 16(c), 18(1)(a), 18(1)(c), 18(1)(g), 26(a) and 26(e) of the Act.

1. Short title and Commencement

- (i) This Directive shall be called “The Telecommunication Directive 1 of 2013 – (TD 1 of 2013)”.
- (ii) The Telecommunication Directive 1 of 2013 shall come into effect on 11 February 2013.

2. Scope and Objective

This Directive provides for additional obligations on all public operators and service providers with respect to the migration from seven to eight digits of non-geographic E.164 telephone numbers assigned for mobile networks, as per the ICT Authority’s Decisions of 31 October 2012 (**ICTA/DEC/2/2012**) and of 11 February 2013 (**ICTA/DEC/1/2013**) respectively.

3. Interpretation

“PLMN licensee” means a holder of a Public Land Mobile Network Licence issued under section 24 of the Act;

“PSTN licensee” means a holder of a Public Switched (fixed) Telephone Network Licence issued under section 24 of the Act;

“ILD licensee” means a holder of an International Long Distance Licence issued under section 24 of the Act;

“Public operators” has the same meaning as defined in the Act;

“Service provider” has the same meaning as defined in the Act;

“Subscriber” means any individual person or body corporate contracting with a Public operator or Service provider to receive an Information and Communication service;

“MSRN” means Mobile Station Roaming Number and has the same meaning as defined in ITU-T Recommendation Q.9;


“Global Title” has the same meaning as defined in ITU-T Recommendation Q.1400.

4. Obligations regarding migration from seven to eight digits of non-geographic E.164 telephone numbers assigned for mobile networks

- 4.1. PLMN licensees and all other relevant Public operators and Service providers shall take all necessary steps to make their respective systems ready on 1st September 2013 00:00 hrs (local time) to implement the numbering plan change in accordance with ICTA/DEC/1/2013;
- 4.2. PLMN licensees shall ensure that on 1st September 2013 00:00 hrs (local time), all Mobile Station Roaming Numbers (MSRN) be migrated to 8-digits in accordance with ICTA/DEC/1/2013;
- 4.3. PLMN licensees may keep the Global Titles (GT) used on their respective networks at 7-digits where same has no impact on the new 8-digit numbering plan;
- 4.4. PLMN, PSTN and ILD licensees shall, on 1st September 2013 00:00 hrs (local time), implement such announcements for voice calls as may be necessary on their respective networks and as decided in ICTA/DEC/1/2013;
- 4.5. Announcements referred to in the directive 4.4 above, shall be implemented as per Table 1 below;
- 4.6. The period of announcement shall be one month for local calls and three months for international calls. Subject to prior approval from the Authority, a licensee may extend the announcement period where such an extension is considered to be necessary for the effective transition to the 8-digit numbering plan;
- 4.7. PLMN, PSTN and ILD licensees shall not bill their Subscribers for any announcement implemented under this Directive;
- 4.8. All Public operators and Service providers to whom this Directive applies, shall take all necessary steps to inform in advance their respective subscribers and international partners of the numbering plan change;
- 4.9. All Public operators and Service providers using telephone numbers to offer a service shall bear the cost of bringing all the changes required on their system due to the numbering plan change;
- 4.10. Notwithstanding the provisions of the ICTA/DEC/1/2013, the above-mentioned Public operators and Service providers may launch and maintain an information campaign, for the purpose of explaining, the numbering plan change to their Subscribers, before and after 1st September 2013 and shall bear the costs of such campaign;
- 4.11. Notwithstanding the provisions of the ICTA/DEC/1/2013 and of this Directive, Public operators and Service providers may, subject to the approval of the Authority, take additional measures that are in line with the said provisions so as to ensure an effective transition towards the 8-digit numbering plan.

Table 1: Implementation of Announcement

Situation	Licensee to play Announcement	Announcement
Local subscriber on either PLMN or PSTN dials 7-digit number during announcement phase	Call Originating PLMN or PSTN operator	Announcement wording in accordance with ICTA/DEC/1/2013
International incoming call reaches ILD network with a 7-digit called number during announcement phase	ILD operator terminating the international call	Announcement wording in accordance with ICTA/DEC/1/2013


Mr T. Dwarka
 Chairman




Dr M. K. Oolun
 Executive Director

To: All public operators and service providers