

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

New Delhi 10th December 2001

[File No. 1-12/2001-TRAI(CN)]. In exercise of the powers conferred upon it under sub-clause (b) (v) of sub section (1) of section 11 of TRAI (Amendment) Act 2000 in regard to laying down the standards of quality of service to be provided by the service providers, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India hereby makes the following Regulation:

REGULATION ON QUALITY OF SERVICE OF DIAL-UP AND LEASED LINE INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE, 2001

(4 of 2001)

Section-I Title, Extent and Commencement

Short title, extent and commencement

1.i) The title of this regulation shall be '**Regulation on Quality of Service of Dial-up and Leased Line Internet Access Service, 2001**'

ii) This regulation shall be applicable to all the Basic Service Operators and Internet Service Providers including the incumbent operators viz. BSNL, MTNL and VSNL.

iii) This regulation shall come into effect from the date of its notification in the Official Gazette.

Section-II

Definitions

2. In this Regulation, unless the context otherwise requires:

i) '**Act**' means the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, as amended by, TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000 and as amended from time to time.

ii) '**Authority**' means the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

iii) '**Grade Of Service (GOS)**' means the ratio of blocked calls and calls offered on a circuit group link connecting two nodes in a public switched network. It is measured during Time Consistent Busy Hour (TCBH). Busy Hour is defined as the 60 minutes period during the day when the traffic is the highest for a given number of days. For this purpose, ITU recommends taking traffic (Erlangs) measurements at 15 minutes interval by suitable man-machine commands, to establish the Busy Hour. For establishing the time consistency of the Busy Hour, the measurements are to be taken over a period of 90 days.

iv) '**Regulation**' means the Regulation on Quality of Service of Dial-up and Leased Line Internet Access Service notified by the Authority under the 'Act'.

v) '**Service Provider**' in the context of this regulation means a legal entity holding an ISP licence.

vi) '**Quality of Service (QOS)**' means the indicator of performance of a network and of the degree to which the network conforms to the stipulated norms. The subscriber's perception of the Quality of Service is determined by a number of performance parameters, some of which have been specified in this regulation.

Section-III

Purpose of laying down Quality of Service Parameters:

3. The purpose of laying down Quality of Service Parameters is to:

i) Ensure customer satisfaction by laying down norms of network performance, which the service provider is required to achieve by proper dimensioning of his network.

ii) Measure the Quality of Service from time to time and to compare that with the specified norms so as to monitor the level of performance, provided by various service providers.

iii) To generally protect the interests of subscribers of the Internet services.

Section-IV

4. Quality Of Service Benchmarks for Dial-up access to the ISP Node:

	Parameters / Service Indicators of dial up access	Benchmarks (to be achieved within 6 months)
A	Service Activation Time	6 hrs
B	Service Accessibility	
	I) Time to access	30 sec
	II) Probability of accessing the ISP node in the:	
	a) First attempt	80%
	b) Second attempt	90%
	c) Third attempt	99%
	III) ISP node unavailability in a month not to exceed	30 min
C	Grade of Service (GOS) on the link connecting PSTN node to the ISP node	1 in 100

While for A and B the ISP will be responsible, for C, both ISP and BSO will be responsible. Where necessary both these parties will address the problem jointly.

Details regarding measurement of the above parameters and other engineering details are indicated in Section A of the explanatory memorandum annexed.

Section-V

5. Quality of Service Benchmarks for Leased Line Access Service

Leased line access services are generally offered by Internet Gateway Service Providers (IGSPs) holding an ISP licence. These services are offered either to Enterprises to connect their Local Area Networks (LANs) to the Internet by point-to-point leased lines, or to ISPs who do not have their own International gateway facilities, so as to provide them access to International Internet Backbone abroad. The Authority mandates that the parties concerned enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA), guaranteeing some minimum level of performance in regard to Latency, Packet Loss and Service Availability.

The leased line service provider should offer suitable rebate to his customer for the period the service was unavailable during a month. The quantum of rebate may be mutually negotiated and incorporated in the SLA, by a suitable 'Rebate Clause'. A copy of the SLA signed by the parties may be filed with the Authority.

While at this stage the Authority is making only a recommendation in respect of the performance parameters to be embedded in the SLA, at a later date, based on its experience in this regard, the Authority would consider making these mandatory. The Authority would recommend the following indicative values in regard to these parameters:

S.No.	Parameters	Benchmarks
1	Latency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not to exceed 300 msec on Optical Fibre Communication (OFC) links between India and farthest node abroad.• Not to exceed 800 msec on satellite links between India and farthest node abroad.
2	Packet loss	Not to exceed 1%
3	Availability	Not less than 99%

Details regarding measurement of the above parameters and other engineering details are indicated in Section B of the explanatory memorandum annexed.

Section-VI

6. Review:

i) The QOS parameters given in Section IV and V may be reviewed by the Authority from time to time.

ii) The Authority, on reference from any affected party, and for good and sufficient reasons, may review and modify this regulation.

Section-VII

7. Explanatory Memorandum:

This regulation contains an explanatory memorandum, as Annexure, which gives various engineering details as well as basis for setting the performance norms.

Section-VIII
Residuary Clauses

8. Over-riding Effect:

Wherever higher quality parameter has been stipulated as a condition of license, the QOS as required by the license will over-ride the parameters given herein.

9. Interpretation:

In case of disputes regarding interpretation of any of the provisions of this Regulation, the decision of the Authority shall be final and binding.

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