

# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



## E-Newsletter



**JANUARY 2020**

### HIGHLIGHTS



**Inaugural Address by Dr. R.S. Sharma Chairman, TRAI at the SATRC Workshop on Spectrum Management from 18-21<sup>st</sup> December 2019 at Goa, India**

# 1. Recommendations

## 1.1 TRAI has issued Recommendations on Licensing framework for Audio Conferencing Audiotex/ Voice Mail Services dated 24.12.2019 (Response to back reference dated 10.10.2019 received from DoT on TRAI's recommendations dated 16.12.2016)

Department of Telecommunication sought recommendations of TRAI for review of terms and conditions for issue of licenses for Audiotex/ Voice Mail/ Unified Messaging Services (UMS) in the year 2016. In this regard, TRAI after due consultation process issued recommendations on 'Licensing framework for Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail Services' on 16.12.2016.

2. Recently, DoT has noted that to give effect to these recommendations some additional information is required in reference to TRAI's recommendations dated 16.12.2016. DoT has solicited TRAI's recommendations on the points related to (i) Financial Bank Guarantee (ii) Penal Provision and (iii) TEC Specification in the existing Audiotex/ Voice Mail/ UMS license agreement/license.

3. The Authority after deliberations, approved the proposed response to the reference back TRAI's Recommendations on "Licensing framework for Audio Conferencing/ Audiotex/ Voice Mail Services".

4. The above recommendations has been sent to DoT along with TRAI's letter No. 406-1/ 2016-NSL-I dated 24.12.2019 to Secretary (T), DoT for its consideration.

[https://main.traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations\\_24122019.pdf](https://main.traigov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendations_24122019.pdf)



## 2. Regulations

### 2.1 TRAI issued “The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Fifteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2019” dated 17.12.2019.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued “The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Fifteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2019” on 17th December, 2019 which prescribes revision in the date of applicability of Bill and Keep (BAK) regime in respect of wireless to wireless domestic call termination charges.

2. Key features of the Regulations are as follows:

- a) For wireless to wireless domestic calls, termination charge would continue to remain as Re.0.06 (paise six only) per minute up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.
- b) From 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 onwards the termination charge for wireless to wireless domestic calls shall be zero.



[https://main.traigov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation\\_IUC\\_17122019.pdf](https://main.traigov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation_IUC_17122019.pdf)

## 3. Consultation Papers

### 3.1. TRAI issued a Consultation on Draft Recommendations on Network Testing before Commercial Launch of Services for Wireline Access Services on 31.12.2019

The Licensees are bound by roll-out obligations and other license conditions to provide access services. It is important that all applicable systems are tested before the commencement of commercial services as the licensee has to ensure that its service meets the Quality of Service (QoS) standards and other conditions prescribed by the Licensor or Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

2. DoT, through its letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016, communicated that network testing is being carried out by licensees on the basis of erstwhile practices followed by DoT/BSNL; and test SIM Cards are issued by such licensees to check the quality of network before the commercial launch of services. The present licences for various services issued by DoT do not prescribe any time period for network testing before commercial launch of services by the licensees. Therefore, DoT requested the Authority to provide its recommendations on testing of network before commercial launch of services including enrolment of customers for testing purposes before commercial launch, duration of testing period etc. After a due consultation process, TRAI has issued its recommendations on 04.12.2017. The same have been accepted by the DoT and norms were made applicable for mobile services. Now DoT sought similar recommendations for wireline services.

3. Accordingly, the draft Recommendations on “Network testing before Commercial Launch of Services for Wireline Access Services” has been issued on 31.12.2019 seeking written comments and counter-comments from stakeholders by 30.01.2020 and 13.02.2020 respectively.



[https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_31122019.pdf](https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_31122019.pdf)

### **3.2 Pre-Consultation Paper on “Enabling Unbundling of Different Layers Through Differential Licensing”**

National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP), 2018, under its ‘Propel India’ mission, envisages one of the strategies as ‘reforming the licensing and regulatory regime to catalyse Investments and Innovations and promote Ease of Doing Business’. Enabling unbundling of different layers (e.g. infrastructure, network, services and application layer) through differential licensing is one of the action plans for fulfilling the strategy. In this regard, DoT in its letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 requested TRAI to furnish recommendations on enabling unbundling of different layers through differential licensing.

2. In this regard, a Pre-Consultation Paper on “**Enabling Unbundling of Different Layers Through Differential Licensing**” was released on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 seeking inputs from the stakeholders. The Pre-Consultation Paper is available in the official website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in)

## 4. Open House Discussion

### 4.1. Open House Discussion (OHD) on Consultation Paper on “Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer/Merger of Telecom Licenses” held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conducted an Open House Discussion was held on 23.12.2019 on the Consultation Paper on “Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer / Merger of Telecom Licenses”.



**Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on “Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer/Merger of Telecom Licenses” on 23.12.19 at New Delhi**

## 5. Workshop

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India organised Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs) at Visakhapatnam for capacity development of CAGs, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and other stakeholders. The Regional Workshop has been attended by the representatives of Telecom Service Providers and Consumer Advocacy Groups of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana. During the workshop the participants discussed various initiatives taken by TRAI in recent times to protect the interest of telecom Consumers.



In this workshop CAGs have shared information about their organisational efforts in creating awareness of telecom consumers, participation in various consumer educational activities and resolution of appeals. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have explained the participants about the steps taken by them towards consumer protection and grievance redressal, measures taken towards enhancing consumer education, various mobile apps developed for increased accessibility.



## 6. Other Information

### 6.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless + Wireline)
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	662.92	18.76	681.69
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	520.48	2.68	523.16
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	1183.40	21.45	1204.85
Overall Tele-density (%)	89.55	1.62	91.17
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	56.02%	87.49%	56.58%
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	43.98%	12.51%	43.42%
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	625.00	19.08	644.08

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in October 2019 were 981.19 million.

In the month of October 2019, 4.08 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of October 2019, a total of 461.73 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

### 6.2 Press Release on Extension of time to receive comments on Consultation paper on Interoperable Set Box on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

A consultation paper on 'Interoperable Set Box' for digital TV broadcasting services was issued on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019. It has been decided to extend the last date for submission of written comments upto 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and Counter comments by 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The stakeholders have sought extension of time for sending their comments.

### 6.3 Press Release dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 regarding implementation of Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (9 of 2018)

TRAI had earlier issued the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018, on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018, amending the principal Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Regulations 2009 (8 of 2009). The revised MNP process came into force w.e.f. 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

Keeping in view that through the Seventh Amendment Regulations a major shift in the mechanism for generating Unique Porting Code (UPC) has been provisioned a Press Release was issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 to, inter-alia, highlight the provisions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the consequent related issues:

- (i) Pre-validation of eligibility conditions for porting will determine generation of UPC by the Mobile Number Portability Service Provider (MNPSP) to ensure smooth porting in new framework, thus making the porting process faster and convenient to the mobile subscribers.
  - (ii) Validity of UPC as per new process will be 4 days for all Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) barring the LSAs of Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and North East, where validity of UPC will still be 30 days.
  - (iii) Individual porting requests of Intra-Licensed Service Area (Intra-LSA) nature will be completed in 3 working days; whereas the porting requests of Inter-License Service Area (Inter-LSA) nature and all porting requests under corporate category (including Intra-LSA and Inter-LSA) will be completed in 5 working days.
  - (iv) The cut-over to the new regulations became effective from 00:00:00 hours of 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 and the mobile subscribers could generate the UPC and submit their port request to the Recipient Operator of their choice through the earlier MNP process till 17:59:59 hours of 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.
  - (v) The facility of MNP was not available for the mobile subscribers during 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 due to technical reasons.
6. In view of the proposed migration to new process, necessary steps were taken by the telecom service providers in creating awareness and sensitising the mobile subscribers through their websites, call centres, point of sales and their social media platforms such as Facebook page, Twitter handle etc. so that mobile subscribers intending to port their numbers do not face inconvenience.



## 7. Events

### 7.1 The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during the month of December 2019

S.No.	Place	Date
1	Hassan (Karnataka)	02.12.2019
2	Dibrugarh (Assam)	03.12.2019
3	Mansa (Punjab)	04.12.2019
4	Kolar (Karnataka)	04.12.2019
5	Baikunthpur, Dist.- Koriya (C.G.)	05.12.2019
6	Palghar (Maharashtra)	12.12.2019
7	Chengalpattu (Tamilnadu)	20.12.2019
8	Gir Somnath (Gujarat)	20.12.2019
9	Howrah (West Bengal)	26.12.2019

## PHOTO GALLERY



**CoP at Hassan (Karnataka) held on 02.12.2019**



**CoP at Dibrugarh (Assam) held on 03.12.2019**



**CoP at Mansa (Punjab) held on 04.12.2019**



**CoP at Kolar (Karnataka) held on 04.12.2019**



**CoP at Baikunthpur, Dist.- Koriya (C.G.) held on 05.12.2019**



**CoP at Palghar (Maharashtra) held on 12.12.2019**



**CoP at Chengalpattu (Tamilnadu) held on 20.12.2019**



**CoP at Gir Somnath (Gujarat) held on 20.12.2019**



## CoP at Howrah (West Bengal) held on 26.12.2019

**Full details of the Directions/Orders/Consultation Paper/Report, Subscription Data, etc mentioned in this newsletter are available on TRAI website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in) MahanagarDoorsancharBhawan, JawaharLal Nehru Marg, (Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.**

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