

Vol. 452

Pretoria, 26 February 2003 No. 24979



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#### **GENERAL NOTICE**

Independent Communications Authority of South Africa

General Notice

Telecommunications Act (103/1996): Notice to prescribe supplementary interconnection guidelines for underserviced area licences (USALs)......

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# GENERAL NOTICE

#### **NOTICE 565 OF 2003**



#### INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

NOTICE TO PRESCRIBE SUPPLEMENTARY INTERCONNECTION GUIDELINES FOR UNDER-SERVICED AREA LICENCES (USALs) IN TERMS OF SECTIONS 40A (6), 43 AND 96 OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT NO. 103 OF 1996, AS AMENDED ("THE ACT").

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("the Authority") hereby gives notice that it has prescribed Supplementary Interconnection Guidelines for the purpose of interconnection for licensees who are granted licences, pursuant to section 40A of the Act to the networks of public switched telecommunication service licensees and mobile cellular telecommunications service licensees.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2002 and the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2002, in Government Gazette Notices 23771 and 23914 respectively, the Authority published Supplementary Interconnection Guidelines inviting comments on the proposed regulations.

Subsequent to the receipt of such written comments the Authority held hearings on these proposed regulations on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2003.

The Authority, having considered the written and oral submissions, attaches hereto the proposed Supplementary Interconnection Guidelines for USALs headed Schedule "A."

Interested persons are invited to submit written representations in relation to the proposed guidelines, to the Authority by no later than 16h00 on 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2003.

Please note that the Authority will not be holding further public hearings on this draft regulation, so all written representations are required to be detailed and complete.

Written representations may be e-mailed, faxed, posted or hand-delivered for the attention of:

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#### SCHEDULE "A"

# SUPPLEMENTARY INTERCONNECTION GUIDELINES FOR USALs IN TERMS OF SECTIONS 40A (6), 43 AND 96 OF THE ACT.

These Supplementary Interconnection Guidelines shall apply in so far as they are amending or supplementing the Existing Interconnection Guidelines (Gazette No. 20993, Notice 1259 of 2000 and Gazette No. 24203, Notice 3457 of 2002). In any other case where these Supplementary Interconnection Guidelines may conflict with the Existing Interconnection Guidelines, the Existing Interconnection Guidelines shall prevail.

#### 1. Definitions

In these regulations words used shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Act read in conjunction with the Existing Interconnection Guidelines:

- 1.1 "Public Operator"- shall mean a licensed provider of a public switched telecommunications service or a mobile cellular telecommunications service or an Under-Serviced Area Licensee.
- 1.2 "Termination charge"- shall mean the fee charged for terminating a call on a network other than the network from which the call originated.
- 1.3 "USAL"- shall mean an Under-Serviced Area Licensee referred to in section 40A of the Act.
- 1.4 "PSTN" shall mean a public switched telecommunication network.
- 1.5 "the highest prevailing termination charge on a PSTN" shall mean the termination charge of a PSTS operator whose charge is the highest of all termination charges in the PSTS market

# 2. Application and scope of these guidelines

- 2.1 These guidelines apply to interconnection between USALs and other telecommunication licensees in terms of section 43 and 40A (6) of the Act.
- 2.2 These guidelines set out additional rights and obligations applicable to such licensees when entering into Interconnection Agreements.
- 3. Obligations on Interconnecting Parties
- 3.1 Termination charges on a USAL network
- 3.1.1 The USAL is entitled to a termination charge based on the following formula:

 $Y \ge 1.15M$ 

Where

M = the highest prevailing termination charge on a PSTN.

Y = the termination charge on the USALs network.

# 3.2 Charges for termination of USAL calls on other networks

MCTS licensees and PSTS licensees shall each charge the USAL licensee no more than their best prevailing termination charge.

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