



Government Gazette

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Vol. 468 Pretoria 14 June 2004 **No. 26471**



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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 1126 OF 2004

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT, 1996, (ACT 103 OF 1996)

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE REGULATIONS ON THE NUMBERING PLANS IN RESPECT OF TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("ICASA") hereby gives notice that it intends making the following regulations in terms of sections 96(1) and 96(4), read with section 89 of the Telecommunications Act, 1996 (act no. 103 of 1996).

Interested persons are hereby invited to submit written comments or representations, including an electronic version of representations in microsoft word 6.0 or lower, with regard to the proposed regulations to be received no later than 12h00 on 12 July by post, hand delivery or facsimile transmission, for the attention of Mr H Kasseepursad, Manager: Numbering Administration, Licensing, Enforcement and Number Administration, ICASA: Private Bag X10002, Sandton, 2146, Block C, Pin Mill Farm, 164 Katherine Street, Sandton, Tel: (011)321-8311 or 082 903 0492, fax: (011)321-8583.

MANDLA LANGA
CHAIRPERSON
ICASA

Telecommunications Numbering Plan

**NUMBERING PLAN REGULATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 89 READ WITH SECTION 96
OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 103, 1996****ARRANGEMENT OF THE REGULATION**

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Telecommunications Numbering Plan

1 DEFINITIONS, STATUS AND SCOPE

1.1 Definitions

“**Access codes**” are numbers used only as prefixes to other numbers to access telecommunication services;

“**Area code**” means a dialled identification code that identifies a geographic area within the Republic of South Africa, as determined by the Authority;

“**Assignment**” means one or more level of a three-level assignment processes, namely Primary, Secondary or Tertiary assignment of numbers:

“**Primary assignment**” means the issue of numbers or codes directly to a licensed operator under section 89B of the Telecommunications Amendment Act, 2001 by the Authority;

“**Secondary assignment**” means the issue of numbers by a licensed operator to service providers or to end customers;

“**Tertiary assignment**” means the issue of numbers by a service provider to end customers;

“**Central number database**” means a centralised master record-keeping system for capturing details of the assignment of numbers;

“**Closed Numbering**” means that the national number length is fixed for all telecommunication services, geographic or non-geographic (except special services) and the same number is dialled to reach a customer or service regardless of the point of origin of the call;

“**Country Code**” means the combination of one, two or three digits identifying a specific country, countries in an integrated Numbering Plan, or a specific geographic area;

“**Efficient management**” means the use or allocation of numbers and codes in the most economical manner practicable or in a manner that will not precipitate number shortages. For example, efficient management methods include:

- number allocation or issue of a full length number per service, customer or user,
- the use of number pooling (sharing) in preference to block allocation, and
- short code allocation limited to the absolute minimum;

“**Geographic number**” means a number from the Numbering Plan where part of its digit structure contains Geographic significance used for routing

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calls to the physical location of the network termination point of the customer to whom the number has been assigned;

“Geographic significance” means the concept of geographically indicative numbers that give an indication of the geographic location being called;

“International prefix” means the combination of digits to be dialled by a caller making a call to a recipient in another country to obtain access to the automatic outgoing international equipment;

“ITU-T” means the Telecommunications Standardisation Bureau of the International Telecommunications Union;

“Licensed Operator” means the holder of a telecommunications service licence issued under the Act.

“National number” means the number to be dialled following the national trunk prefix 0 to obtain a called party in South Africa

“Non-geographic number” means numbers that are used to identify a type of service rather than a geographical location. A typical example is mobile cellular telecommunications services. Some of these services are referred to as "Specially Tariffed Services" which currently include tollfree (freephone), local rate, national rate and premium rate services. Paging and Personal Number services also use non-geographic numbers;

“Number block” means a series of numbers (usually sequential);

“Numbering conventions” means a set of rules and principles relating to the use and management of numbers from the Numbering Plan;

“Number pooling” means the sharing of number blocks within an area code among multiple operators and service providers serving the same exchange area;

“Service Provider” means any person who is in business of providing service to another and who has a contract with a licensed operator for such purpose:

“Short codes” means any non-geographic number less than 10-digits in length usually one to four digits in length;

“Withdrawal of numbers” means the withdrawal of allocated codes and numbers, whether active or inactive, for return to the spare numbering resource pool.

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1.2 Status

This document is published by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa ("The Authority") as referenced in the Telecommunications Act 103 of 1996 ("The Act"). Words and expressions have the same meanings ascribed to them in this Act, unless the context requires otherwise.

1.3 Scope

In this Regulation, the Authority

- (1) PRESCRIBES the Numbering Plan for use in respect of telecommunication services;
- (2) PUBLISHES the Administration and Management of the Numbering Plan, including Numbering Conventions;
- (3) MAKES KNOWN that it will:
 - (a) Publish a base of data consisting of the status of geographic numbers in use in the Republic of South Africa;
 - (b) Publish a Short Code Strategy for the Republic of South Africa;
 - (c) Publish number relief mechanisms when required;
 - (d) Make the "00" International Direct Dial code available for use

2 OUTLINE OF NUMBERING PLAN

2.1 Use of first dialled digit

0	NATIONAL TRUNK CODE
1	SHORT CODES
2-9	LOCAL (7-DIGIT) NUMBERS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

2.2 Meaning of first digit of national significant number

1-5	GEOGRAPHIC NUMBERING
7,8	NON-GEOGRAPHIC NUMBERING
6,9	RESERVED

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2.3 International Codes

Range Service

27	COUNTRY CODE FOR SOUTH AFRICA
00	INTERNATIONAL DIRECT DIAL PREFIX

2.4 Non-Geographic Codes

Range Service

08	MOBILE CELLULAR SERVICES AND OTHER NON-GEOGRAPHIC SERVICES
080	Tollfree (freephone) services
081	Reserved for future services
082	Mobile cellular services
083	Mobile cellular services
084	Mobile cellular services
085	Reserved for future services
086	Inbound call services
087	Reserved for future services
088	Paging and future services
089	Reserved for future services

07	MOBILE CELLULAR SERVICES AND OTHER NON-GEOGRAPHIC SERVICES
070	Reserved for future services
071	Reserved for future services
072	Mobile cellular services
073	Mobile cellular services
074	Mobile cellular services
075	Reserved for future services
076	Mobile cellular services
077	Reserved for future services
078	Reserved for future services
079	Reserved for future services

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2.5 Geographic Area Codes

Range **Service**

01, 02, 03, 04, 05,	PUBLIC SWITCHED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND OTHER SERVICES WITH GEOGRAPHIC SIGNIFICANCE
01	Gauteng, Northern Province, North West Province and Mpumalanga
02	Parts of Western Cape
03	KwaZulu - Natal and parts of Eastern Cape
04	Eastern Cape and parts of Western Cape
05	Free State and Northern Cape

3 OUTLINE OF NUMBERING CONVENTIONS

3.1 Responsibilities of the Authority

- (a) Numbering conventions (which are contained in Appendices A and B) encompass the whole of
- (i) the Numbering Plan, including the types of usage for designated number ranges,
 - (ii) the rules for numbering administration, and
 - (iii) the rules for numbering management.
- (b) Numbering Administration encompasses the establishment and change of the numbering conventions.
- (c) Numbering Management encompasses the whole of
- (i) the establishment, maintenance and management of a Central Number Database system,
 - (ii) the assignment of numbers from designated ranges,
 - (iii) the surveillance of the usage of assigned numbers,
 - (iv) the withdrawal of assigned numbers.

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- (d) Numbering administration and management shall be carried out by the Authority.
- (e) Assignment encompasses the total process of allocation and possible preceding reservation of numbers.

3.2 Principles

(1) Numbering administration shall

- (a) Seek to establish an initial framework for numbering conventions that will be developed and amended, if necessary, to meet any future demands or requirements for telecommunications services in South Africa.
- (b) Seek to ensure a seamless transition to a new competitive environment in the South African telecommunications sector.
- (c) Seek to facilitate entry into the telecommunications marketplace by making numbering resources available on an efficient and timely basis;
- (d) Seek to enable the assignment of numbers on a basis that is fair, non discriminatory, reasonable and equitable;
- (e) Not unduly favour or disadvantage any particular industry segment or group of consumers;
- (f) Not unduly favour one technology over another.

(2) Numbering Management

- (a) The Numbering Plan and the associated designated number ranges shall:
 - (i) provide sufficient capacity in both the short term (2 - 3 years), the medium term (3 – 10 years) and the long term (10 - 20 years),
 - (ii) enable fair and open competition,
 - (iii) be as consistent as practicable with the relevant ITU-T Recommendations.
- (b) Management of the Numbering Plan shall be controlled by the Authority. The management process may be divided up into a maximum of three (3) stages, viz. Primary, Secondary and Tertiary stages. The Primary stage shall be carried out by the Authority, while the Secondary and Tertiary stages may be handled by licensed operators and service providers.

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(c) Management of the Numbering Plan shall be carried out in an objective, non-discriminatory, equitable, proportionate, timely and transparent manner.

(3) Publicity

Up-to-date information on the following items, if applicable, must be published in an appropriate manner:

- (i) the numbering conventions,
- (ii) the numbers assigned by the Authority,
- (iii) the status of each of these numbers.

(4) Public Education Campaign

The publicity of a change to the Numbering Plan or a substantial part of the active national numbers shall be well co-ordinated and started in good time in order to allow market parties to prepare for the change. The Authority may manage a public education campaign together with the licensed operators for a co-ordinated and timely public awareness programme.

APPENDIX A – GENERAL NUMBERING CONVENTIONS GOVERNING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NUMBERING PLAN

A1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A1.1 General

(1) The Numbering Plan is a national resource and the design, adoption and management of the Plan affects the public interest.

(2) The Authority is responsible for managing the Numbering Plan and makes allocations and reservations of numbering capacity from the Numbering Plan to licensed operators who sub-allocate individual numbers to service providers and end users. Sub-allocated capacity remains part of the national resource managed by the Authority.

(3) The following principles set out below (not necessarily in order of importance) will be taken into account in the management of the Numbering Plan.

A1.2 Flexibility to meet future needs

(1) Numbering arrangements must be able to meet anticipated growth in demand for telecommunications services and cope with the rapidly changing telecommunications

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market place, and to meet demand for new and as yet unknown services as well as a contingency for the growth of existing services.

- (2) The Numbering Plan should be organised and managed in a way that allows for adequate supply of numbers and provides reasonable capacity to be kept as a reserve for new services and future expansion of the Numbering Plan, with some entire ranges kept free for future uses.
- (3) The efficient management of numbers should be encouraged and particularly in areas of number shortage.
- (4) Numbering arrangements should result in efficient utilisation of numbers and facilitate new market and technological developments. They should, if and where possible and in accordance with the Rules of the Numbering Plan, allow customers to move up the value chain from basic voice telephony to higher levels of service without needing a number change.

A1.3 Pro-competition

- (1) Numbering arrangements should support effective competition.
- (2) A licensed operator should receive fair and equal treatment with respect to access to numbers.
- (3) Licensed operators should review their approach to branding of numbers in light of the introduction of number portability.

A1.4 Cost effectiveness

- (1) Developments to, and management of, the Numbering Plan should take into account costs and inconvenience to customers, operators and service providers. These should fall within reasonable bounds and change should be justified. They must also be technically feasible and reasonably practical to implement.
- (2) The Numbering Plan should be reasonably easy to manage and administer.

A1.5 Customer needs

- (1) The organisation and management of the Numbering Plan should ensure that there are sufficient numbers to meet customers' needs.
- (2) The numbering arrangements should ensure, as far as possible, that numbers of different types give a broad indication of service and price. They should also take account of the need to associate particular tariffs with the first few digits of the called numbers to convey meaningful information to callers and to facilitate routing of calls by networks and customer premises equipment.

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- (3) Any changes to the Numbering Plan should be managed in a way that causes minimum disruption, cost and inconvenience for customers.

A1.6 International developments

- (1) The Numbering Plan should take account of international developments and agreements and where appropriate be compatible with relevant international agreements, standards and recommendations.

A1.7 Consultation

- (1) Proposals to change the Numbering Plan shall be subject to normal processes of consultation as provided for in the Act.

A2 APPLICATION CRITERIA

A2.1 Criteria for the eligibility of applicants for number allocations and reservations

- (1) All licensed operators with licences containing a numbering condition are currently eligible to apply for allocations and reservations of numbering capacity.
- (2) At present such allocations apply to codes and blocks of numbers.
- (3) Where a licence has been granted, the licensee will be eligible to apply for reservations of numbering capacity.

A3 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

A3.1 Information to be supplied by an applicant for a numbering allocation or reservation

- (1) For the allocation or reservation of numbering capacity, the applicant shall provide the following information where relevant:
- (a) name and address of applicant;
 - (b) details of the licence under which it operates;
 - (c) purpose or use of numbering allocation;
 - (d) preferred numbering code and block;
 - (e) geographic scope of the service;
 - (f) the date by which the allocation is required;
 - (g) the date the service is planned to be operational;
 - (h) relationship with existing reservations or allocations;
 - (i) utilisation of existing allocations:
 - (i) volume of numbers allocated to end users in service;
 - (ii) volume allocated but not in service; and

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(iii) volume reserved.

- (j) a forecast of expected utilisation over a period of at least three years;
 - (k) statement that the numbers shall be used in accordance with the Numbering conventions;
 - (l) if a new product will be launched and is proposed for use in the application for numbers, provide the estimated product life cycle and total quantity of numbers expected to be used;
 - (m) any other information that the applicant considers necessary or appropriate to justify the application and substantiate the need for the numbers, including any relevant tariff information that shall be subject to a separate application in terms of the relevant regulations;
 - (n) any other information required by the Authority as relevant to the application.
- (2) The applicant must indicate clearly whether any of the information provided to the Authority is considered commercially sensitive and shall have to apply for confidentiality
- (3) The Authority shall determine whether to grant such confidentiality or not. If confidentiality is not granted, the applicant has the option of removing such information and the Authority will not consider information removed.

A3.2 Application forms

- (1) Standard application forms will be made available by the Authority.
- (2) Completed applications forms shall be submitted to the Authority.

A3.3 Timing of applications

- (1) Applications for numbering allocations shall not be made more than nine calendar months prior to the planned in-service date.

A3.4 Routine and complex applications

- (1) An application is a ***routine application*** if the Authority believes that:
 - (a) the allocation would have no adverse implications for competitive service provision; and
 - (b) the allocation would have no adverse implications for the interests of end-users of telecommunication services.
- (2) A ***complex application*** is an application that is not a routine application.

A3.5 Authority may request more information

The Authority may request an applicant, in writing, to provide more information on matters mentioned in the application to allow it to consider an application.

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A3.6 Acknowledgement of applications

The Authority shall, within 7 business days of receiving the application, acknowledge the application and inform the applicant whether it is a routine or a complex application.

A4 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

A4.1 Consideration of numbering allocations

- (1) When making number allocations within the Numbering Plan, the Authority will have regard to:
- (a) the Guiding Principles as contained herein;
 - (b) the provisions of relevant licence conditions;
 - (c) the views of the applicant and other interested parties; and
 - (d) any other matters that the Authority regards as relevant.

A4.2 Consultation on applications

- (1) The Authority has discretion to consult on the relevant details of an application for numbering capacity (or an application either for expansion of an existing allocation or for a change of use of an existing allocation).
- (2) Such consultation may take place in dealing with a complex application, or in the case where, in the Authority's judgement, the allocation of numbering capacity while consistent with the structure of the Numbering Plan and with the Rules would be unusual or might set a precedent in such a way that the views of interested parties should be sought.
- (3) If undertaken, such consultation should commence within one calendar month of receipt of the application.
- (4) Where such a consultation has commenced, any comments on the application shall be sent to the Authority within one calendar month of the date of publication, or any other period notified at the time of consultation. The Authority will consider the responses and advise the applicant and respondents of its decision.

A4.3 Timescale for handling applications for numbering capacity

- (1) The Authority shall use all reasonable endeavours to make an allocation in accordance with the Rules herein in response to routine applications for numbering capacity within a maximum period of 28 business days from receipt of the application containing all the information required by these Rules.

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(2) Exceptions to this period may be:

- (a) where additional information is required from the applicant;
- (b) where a period of consultation is required, to be initiated by the Authority;
- (c) where there are significant issues relating to the application that cannot be reasonably handled within that period; or
- (d) where the Authority determines that an alternative period of time is justified.

(3) Where the Authority determines that an exception to the normal period is required, then the Authority shall inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the exception and of the revised period. This period may generally not exceed three calendar months from receipt of the application containing all the information required by these Rules.

A4.4 Refusal of applications for numbering capacity

- (1) The Authority may refuse an application for an allocation of numbering capacity, or may not grant the application in full, or may attach specific conditions to the allocation which are consistent with these Rules.
- (2) When the Authority refuses an application for numbering capacity, or does not grant the application in full, or attaches specific conditions to the allocation then the Authority shall inform the applicant, in writing, of its reasons.
- (3) Within one calendar month of a decision by the Authority, the applicant may query that decision, disputing the reasons given by the Authority for its decision. The Authority shall reconsider the decision and respond to the applicant within one calendar month.

A5 HANDLING OF APPLICATIONS

A5.1 More than one request for the same allocation

- (1) This SECTION applies to more than one person applying for the allocation of a particular number.
- (2) The Authority will normally allocate the number to the person whose application was received first by the Authority. However, in certain cases the Authority may at its discretion use such other fair allocation mechanism as it sees fit.

A5.2 Conditional allocation

- (1) The Authority may allocate a number subject to conditions about the use of the number.
- (2) Before allocating a number to an applicant which is subject to conditions, the Authority must inform the applicant, in writing:

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- (a) that the Authority intends to allocate the number subject to conditions; and
- (b) the general content of the conditions.

A6 RESERVATIONS

A6.1 Reservation of numbering capacity

- (1) As well as making allocations of numbering capacity, the Authority may also make reservations of numbering capacity.
- (2) A reservation may be made:
 - (a) in anticipation of an application being made for numbering capacity in accordance with a three-year rolling forecast provided by licensees entitled to apply for allocation; or
 - (b) against a specific request submitted by an eligible applicant (for example for the expansion or growth of existing services or for the introduction of new services).
- (3) An application for a reservation should be made to the Authority. The applicant shall provide to the Authority the information listed in the Application Procedures.
- (4) In evaluating applications for the reservation of numbering capacity, the Authority will take into account:
 - (a) the Guiding Principles;
 - (b) the provisions of relevant licence conditions;
 - (c) the public interest; and
 - (d) any other matters the Authority regards as relevant.
- (5) A reservation does **not** entitle operators to activate the capacity. Where numbering capacity is reserved, this does not guarantee that a corresponding allocation will subsequently be made. A subsequent request for allocation for the capacity will be considered by the Authority on the basis of the criteria set out under the Application Procedures.
- (6) The time period for the Authority to respond to an application for a reservation shall be the same as for responding to an application for an allocation.
- (7) Reservations may be time-limited. Unless a longer reservation is needed for the effective management of the Numbering Plan, the limit for reservations for geographic number ranges shall not exceed six calendar months; for other ranges the period shall not exceed nine calendar months. Reservations may be renewable on request to the Authority.
- (8) Once a reservation has been made then that numbering capacity is unavailable for allocation except for the purpose and/or to the organisation for whom the reservation was made. However, the reservation may be cancelled or changed by the Authority if:

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- (a) the time-limit has expired;
- (b) the applicant withdraws the reservation;
- (c) the Authority and the applicant agree on a substitution; or
- (d) taking into account A6.1.(5) above.

A7 NOTIFICATIONS OF BRINGING INTO SERVICE

- (1) It shall be the responsibility of the licensed operators to negotiate with and to notify service providers and, where appropriate, foreign authorities regarding the implementation of allocations within the timescales agreed between the licensed operators and service providers concerned.
- (2) Operators and others to whom allocations of numbering capacity have been made are required to advise the Authority of the contact persons in their organisations who are to receive notifications of the dates for activation of the allocated codes and number blocks when bringing into service. The Authority may maintain a list of such contacts and may make it available on request.

A8 CONDITIONS OF USE OF AN ALLOCATION OF THE NUMBERING RESOURCE

A8.1 Ownership and rights of use

- (1) Numbers are a national resource and are not owned by a person to whom they are allocated or issued.
- (2) A customer to whom a telephone number has been issued may enjoy the beneficial use of the number, freely and without hindrance.

A8.2 General conditions

- (1) The following general conditions relating to the use and management of numbering capacity apply to all allocations made by the Authority:
 - (a) the allocation must be used for the purpose specified in the application;
 - (b) the allocation must be controlled by the original applicant. This does not however prevent the recipient making sub-allocation to others from within the numbering range provided that the sub-allocation is for the use specified in the application and in line with the Rules;
 - (c) the holder of the allocation must maintain a record of the percentage of numbers in use and reserved;
 - (d) numbering capacity must not be traded; and
 - (e) the allocation must be used in accordance with any specific conditions made by the Authority including any classification by type or tariff.

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A8.3 Specific conditions

At the time of allocating numbering capacity or at any time thereafter the Authority may, at its discretion, apply a number of specific conditions of use to that allocation where the Authority considers that it is in the interest of the Numbering Plan to impose such conditions. The conditions shall be consistent with the Rules and relate to the use and management of numbering capacity allocated.

A9 WITHDRAWAL OF NUMBERING ALLOCATIONS

- (1) The Authority may only withdraw allocated capacity, or part of such capacity, if the continued allocation is not in line with:
 - (a) the Rules governing the management of the prescribed Numbering Plan; or
 - (b) the Numbering Plan; or
 - (c) any specific conditions applied to that numbering allocation; or
 - (d) where there are overriding public interests.
- (2) Withdrawal of an in-service numbering allocation must only be made after the Authority has consulted with interested parties affected by the withdrawal and will be subject to a period of notice of not less than three months following the consultation.
- (3) If an allocation, or part of an allocation, is not brought into service within a reasonable time, it may be withdrawn.

A10 CHANGES TO ALLOCATIONS

- (1) Operators and others to whom allocations of numbering capacity have been made are required to apply to the Authority to make any changes:
 - (a) to the allocation of the block or code;
 - (b) to the purpose or use of numbering allocation; or
 - (c) which relate to conditions of use placed on the allocation.
-

A11 AUDIT PROCESS DATA

- (1) The Authority shall specify information that is required for an Annual Audit of allocated numbers. Each holder of an allocation of numbers shall submit to the Authority, each year, the information as required by the Authority from time to time. The Annual Audit information shall specify the following for each allocation:
 - (a) the current use of the allocation;
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- (b) the utilisation percentage of numbers which have been allocated to end users or which for other reasons are unavailable for further allocation - the reasons for unavailability should be specified;
 - (c) the allocation of blocks of numbers to any person for purposes other than end use;
 - (d) the overall percentage utilisation of all assigned numbers;
 - (e) forecasts of demand within significant ranges specified by the Authority;
 - (f) where numbering capacity has been reserved for an organisation, the justification for continuing reservation of the numbering capacity; and
 - (g) any other information requested by the Authority. (The Authority may not require information where the collection or analysis of the information would place an undue burden on the organisation submitting the data.)
- (2) The information shall be supplied in a format prescribed by the Authority.
- (3) The data collected will be summarised in a non-commercially sensitive form in the Annual Report produced by the Authority.

A12 NUMBERING PLAN RECORDS

- (1) The Authority shall maintain comprehensive records of the states of all number ranges, codes and blocks of numbers comprising the Numbering Plan. The Numbering Plan records shall be described in a list kept by the Authority and made available by the Authority for public inspection. In addition, the Authority will publish and periodically update a simplified table of allocated codes.
- (2) The following states will be recorded in the Numbering Plan records:

ALLOCATED codes and number blocks that have been allocated (together with the operator/service to which they have been allocated).

RESERVED Provisionally allocated, subject to confirmation by the applicant and/or the Authority.

PROTECTED (DATE) On changed number announcement following recovery, or otherwise not available for use before the date shown (if known).

UNUSABLE, at least for the time being, because of system constraints or the risks of human error.

FREE available for allocation.

UNAVAILABLE - Code and blocks not available for allocation, reservation or protection, e.g. because a range has not been **DESIGNATED** for use.

APPLIED FOR The subject of an application for the allocation of a specific code or block of numbers.

OFFERED On offer in response to an application.

TO BE WITHDRAWN (DATE) To be recovered from an existing allocation by the date shown.

DESIGNATED certain code ranges and number ranges identified to be used for particular future purposes

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A13 ANNUAL REPORTING ON NUMBERING

The Authority shall include in its annual report an overview of numbering activities.

A14 REVIEW PROCEDURE

- (1) The Authority will undertake reviews from time to time as appropriate. Requests to undertake a review may be submitted at any time by any operator, service provider, user or other, and these requests will be considered by the Authority.
 - (2) The Authority may from time to time amend or withdraw a Rule already published or publish additional Rules, after consultation with interested parties in accordance with the Act. The Authority shall give reasonable notice, not being less than three calendar months, to operators to comply with any such amendment or withdrawal of a Rule.
 - (3) In deciding the details of and any subsequent change to Rules, the Authority will have regard to:
 - (a) the Guiding Principles in Appendix A1;
 - (b) the provisions of relevant licence conditions;
 - (c) the views of the applicant and other interested parties; and
 - (d) any other matters that the Authority regards as relevant.
 - (4) Requests for amendments to Rules and for new Rules may be made at any time to the Authority.
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A15 STANDARDS

- (1) To the maximum practical extent, the Numbering Plan shall conform with the relevant and applicable international standards. Particular attention is drawn to the following Recommendations of the ITU-T.
 - E.161, Arrangements of figures, letters and symbols on telephones and other devices that can be used for gaining access to a telephone network
 - E.164, Numbering plans for the ISDN (integrated services digital network) Era
 - E.166, Numbering plan interworking for the E.164 and X.121 numbering plans
 - E.167, ISDN network identification codes
 - E.168, Application of E.164 numbering plan for UPT (universal personal telecommunications)
 - E.169, Numbering plan for UIFN (universal international freephone number) service
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- E.212, Identification plan for land mobile stations
 - E.213, Telephone and ISDN numbering plan for land mobile stations in public land mobile networks (PLMN)
 - X.121, International numbering plan for public data networks (including Data Network Identification Codes (DNIC))
 - X.122, same text as E.166
 - F.69, The international telex service - Service and operational provisions of telex destination codes and telex network identification codes (TNIC)
- (2) The country code allocated by the ITU-T to South Africa is 27. This code follows the international dialling prefix on calls made from outside South Africa, and should be followed by the national significant number of the South African destination.
- (3) Particular attention is drawn to E.164 which states that the maximum number of digits that a national system is expected to handle on an outgoing international call is currently 15 (excluding the international dialling prefix).
- (4) The Numbering Plan shall use the decimal character set 0-9 for all number allocations. Letters and other non-decimal characters shall not be allocated to form any part of the national significant number.
- (5) The prefix "0" followed by the nine digits of a national significant number shall be used for all South African national calls and for local calls after the introduction of a closed numbering plan as contemplated in SECTION 1.3
- (6) The prefix "09" shall be used for international dialing until it is superseded by "00".
- (7) Considerable benefit can be obtained from consistent forms of number presentation. For the Numbering Plan, the Authority generally recommends a "three-three-four" number format for ten-digit numbers, for example

(a) Geographic number format

012 345 6789

(b) Non-geographic format

080 345 6789

082 345 6789

(c) International number format

+27 12 345 6789

- (8) Numbers that do not belong to the numbering plan shall not be used in a way that may cause interference with numbers that do belong to the numbering plan.

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A16 STRUCTURE OF THE NUMBERING PLAN

- (1) The national number format shall be ten (10) digits, notated by "0NN ABC XXXX". The national significant number shall be nine digits, notated by the alphabetical sequence "NN ABC XXXX", for example '123456789' represents a geographic number in the Pretoria area.
- (2) The structure of the Numbering Plan is as follows (with the national dialing prefix "0" and initial (N) digit identifying the range):
 - (a) "00" Designated for the international dialling prefix, used to escape from national to international dialling.
 - (b) "01" to "05" The Geographic Area Code Ranges, digits 1-5 indicating the five primary numbering areas in South Africa.
 - (c) "07" Designated for mobile cellular services and future non-geographic services.
 - (d) "08" Designated for mobile cellular, paging, Inbound Call Services and future non-geographic services.
 - (e) the "06" and "09" ranges shall be kept in reserve for potential future use.

A17 GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODE RANGES

- (1) In the Numbering Plan the "01" to "05" ranges have been designated for Geographic Numbering;
- (2) In the Numbering Plan, it must be noted that the use of all number blocks within an area code must be authorised by the Authority. This includes those starting with A digits = 1 and 0 in the national format 0NN ABC XXXX
- (3) The Authority shall monitor the supply and demand for numbering capacity within the geographic area numbering range and make proposals for overcoming any shortages that may be foreseen.

APPENDIX B – SPECIFIC NUMBERING CONVENTIONS APPLICABLE TO NUMBER ALLOCATION

B1 NUMBERING EFFICIENCY

- (1) Numbers shall be used at all times in the most economical manner practicable.

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- (2) A practical utilisation level of 50% shall be required for existing number blocks that are not pooled numbers, prior to any subsequent allocation of additional number blocks. For geographic numbers, the degree of usage shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{degree of usage} = \frac{\text{total quantity of numbers used by customers within an area of local geographic significance}}{\text{total quantity of numbers issued in the same geographic area}} \times 100$$

For mobile cellular numbers, the degree of usage shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{degree of usage} = \frac{\text{total quantity of numbers used by customers or used for internal network purposes}}{\text{total quantity of numbers issued by primary assignment}} \times 100$$

B2 UNIT SIZE

- (1) The unit size in which number blocks may be allocated to operators are:

Mobile cellular codes	2 blocks each of a million numbers
Geographic codes where number pooling does not apply	A block of 10,000 numbers
Geographic codes where number pooling applies	A block of 1,000 numbers
Short codes, including access codes	Individually
Non-geographic codes other than mobile cellular	A block of 10,000 numbers

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- (2) If a unit size has not been mentioned in subsection (1) for the allocation of a type of number, the Authority may determine, in writing:
- (a) a unit size for the number; or
 - (b) a unit size that is appropriate for the number in circumstances mentioned in the determination.
- (3) A unit size determined under subsection (2) for a number must be consistent with the number analysis capabilities of telecommunications networks operated in South Africa.
- (4) Assignment of an amount of numbers greater than the unit size
- (a) Assignment greater than the unit size shall be justified by market need or other special factors.
- (3) Factors to be considered by the Authority
- (a) In any application for an additional number range the Authority shall consider:
 - (i) Projected customer demand for numbers. In particular, demand projections over the next 12 to 18 months should be taken into account together with any seasonal patterns of demand that argue for assignment of a quantity greater than the unit size.
 - (ii) Degree of utilisation as contemplated in Rule B1(2)
 - (iii) Reasonable inventory of numbers in secondary and tertiary stages of management. This takes account of applicants' need to maintain a reasonable inventory of numbers in order to meet fluctuations in customer demand, and the market structure for the particular service. The more vertical levels there are in the management process before a number is issued to an end user, for example operator -to- service provider -to- dealer -to- customer, the more inventories of numbers that may be needed and the greater may be the need for numbers by the applicant. The number of vertical levels in the numbering assignment process should be kept to a minimum and the direct assignment to end-users should be encouraged.
 - (iv) International trends and benchmarks.
 - (v) Convergence of fixed and mobile networks.
- (4) Withholding Assignment of Additional Numbers
- (a) The Authority may reserve the right to withhold the assignment of additional numbers if the utilisation degree for numbers held by primary assignment is less than the specified threshold specified in Rule B1(2).

B3 NEWLY LICENSED OPERATORS

The Authority shall assign an initial supply of numbers to newly licensed operators. This may be on the basis of the normal predicted growth of new customers for a period of two years from the commencement date of the licence.
