

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA



E-Newsletter



MARCH 2020



Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges” held on 03.02.2020

1. Recommendation

1.1 TRAI releases recommendation on Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer/Merger of Telecom Licenses on 21.02.2020

National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP), 2018 envisages simplifying and facilitating compliance obligations by reforming the Guideline for Merger & Acquisitions, 2014 to enable simplification and fast-tracking of approvals. In this context a reference was received from DoT seeking TRAI recommendations on reforms in the said guidelines of 2014.

In this regard, a Consultation Paper on "Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer/Merger of Telecom Licenses" was released providing the background information and seeking inputs of the stakeholders on reforms required to be made in the existing guidelines on Transfer/Merger of Licenses to enable simplification and fast tracking of approvals.

Based on the comments/inputs received from the stakeholders and on its analysis, TRAI has finalized its Recommendations on 'Reforming the Guidelines on Transfer/Mergers of Telecom Licenses'. The Authority recommended changes in relevant clauses of existing guidelines on matters such as time-period allowed for transfer of merger, computing market share of licensees etc.

The full recommendations can be accessed from the following link or QR code

https://traf.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_21022020.pdf



2. Directions

2.1 TRAI has issued Direction on 26th February 2020 partially amending the direction dated 17th October 2019, to facilitate porting of second and subsequent Mobile Numbers in Jammu and Kashmir License Service Area:

In the TRAI direction dated 17th October 2019 it is specified that the Unique Porting Code (UPC) generated in an individual porting request shall be valid for four days in all license service areas except Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and North East service areas.

DoT in its guidelines regarding issue of multiple mobile connections in Jammu & Kashmir licensed service area, has provisioned that at the time of issuing a second or third connection onwards, telecom service provider shall make a reference to the local police for its clearance and in cases where no reply is received from the police within the specified time of ten days, the telecom service provider can activate the second or further multiple connection in Jammu & Kashmir. Due to this condition, in the scenario of inter-circle porting, a subscriber intending to port his second or subsequent mobile connections to J&K service area will face rejection as UPC would become invalid by the time the process of reference to local police completes. To overcome this problem TRAI partially amended its direction dated 17th October 2019 to make the UPC valid for fifteen day in the porting requests where the recipient operator belongs to J&K licensed service area.



https://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/Direction_26022020.pdf

3. Consultation Papers

3.1 TRAI issued draft Telecommunication Tariff (Sixty-Fifth Amendment) Order, 2020 for consultation

In a bid to protect the telecom subscriber from menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communication, for discouraging normal telephone connection to use discounted SMS package available in the market, the Telecom Tariff Order (54th amendment) dated 5th November, 2012 specified SMS rate as fifty paise (Minimum) per SMS per SIM per day.

Considering that the new regulatory framework under Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 is comprehensive, it is felt that there is a need to review the same.

In this context TRAI released draft Telecommunication Tariff (Sixty-Fifth Amendment) Order, 2020 dated 18th February, 2020 for comments. The draft order may be accessed through the following link /QR code



https://tra.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_18022020.pdf

4. Open House Discussion

4.1. Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges”

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 03.02.2020 in TRAI, New Delhi on the Consultation Paper (CP) on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges”.



4.2 Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on “Cloud Services” was conducted on 28.02.2020:

An Open House Discussion (OHD) on Consultation Paper on “Cloud Services” was held on 28.02.2020 at TRAI Headquarter, New Delhi.

5. Other Information

5.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st December 2019.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless + Wireline)
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	643.97	18.47	662.45
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	507.46	2.53	509.99
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	1151.44	21.00	1172.44
Overall Tele-density (%)	86.98	1.69	88.56
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	55.93%	87.95%	56.50%
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	44.07%	12.05%	43.50%
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	642.80	19.14	661.94

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in December 2019 were 982.57 million.

In the month of December 2019, 3.46 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of December 2019, a total of 470.08 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

5.2 TRAI issued an Expression of Interest dated 27th February 2020 for Empanelment of Auditors to Carry out Audit of Digital Addressable System:

TRAI has invited proposals from eligible companies/Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP)/Partnership firms/Proprietorship firms registered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) as audit firm (hereinafter referred to as the “Audit Agency” or “firm” or “Applicant”) for empanelment in the panels of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems in accordance with the regulatory framework for digital addressable systems comprising of the “Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) of Service Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017”, the “Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Standards of Quality of Service and Consumer Protection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017” and the “Telecommunications (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Eighth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2017” dated 3rd March, 2017, including all subsequent amendments made thereto.

6. Events

6.1 The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during the month of February 2020

S.No.	Place	Date
1	Dumka (Jharkhand)	06.02.2020
2	Mahasamund (Chhattisgarh)	13.02.2020
3	Kurukshetra (Haryana)	13.02.2020
4	Paloncha (Telangana)	14.02.2020
5	Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)	19.02.2020
6	Bishnupur, Distt. Bankura (WB)	20.02.2020
7	Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh)	20.02.2020
8	Faridabad (Haryana)	24.02.2020
9	Kapurthala (Punjab)	26.02.2020
10	Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh)	27.02.2020

PHOTO GALLERY



CoP at Dumka (Jharkhand) held on 06.02.2020



CoP at Mahasamund (Chhattisgarh) held on 13.02.2020



CoP at Paloncha (Telangan) held on 14.02.2020



CoP at Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) held on 19.02.2020



CoP at Bishnupur, Distt. Bankura (WB) held on 20.02.2020



CoP at Faridabad (Haryana) held on 24.02.2020



CoP at Kapurthala (Punjab) held on 26.02.2020

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

***MahanagarDoorsancharBhawan, JawaharLal Nehru Marg,
(Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.***

We are also on Facebook! Join us!



<https://www.facebook.com/TRAI/>

We are also on Twitter! follow us!



[@TRAI](https://twitter.com/TRAI)