

ACCESS SERVICE

TARIFF USERS GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The Tariff Users Guide is meant to assist both experienced and inexperienced users of this tariff in understanding the following:

- tariff content, structure, format and organization,
- effective dates and numbering schemes,
- tariff maintenance procedures,
- symbols and abbreviations, and
- references to other documents/tariffs.

For the experienced user, this Guide contains information which will assist in further understanding the tariff and explains procedures related to tariff filings. For the inexperienced user, this Guide should be the starting point of tariff familiarization. It acts as a "road map" to the tariff and should be reviewed first, followed by an examination of the Table of Contents.

Immediately preceding this Introduction is a Table of Contents relating strictly to this Guide. This Table of Contents exists in order to provide an overview of the entire Tariff Users Guide, and to assist in quickly finding topics of interest.

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ACCESS SERVICE
TARIFF USERS GUIDEGENERAL

This tariff contains rates and regulations applicable to Access Services.

TARIFF PAGE FORMATPage Numbering

Page numbers are located in the upper right corner of each tariff page. Pages for each tariff section are numbered sequentially. The page number shows the tariff section and its location in that section. For example, page 15-2 is the second page of Section 15. When a new page must be added between existing pages, a decimal and number is added to the previous page number, to sequentially number the new page. For example a new page between existing pages 6-20 and 6-21 would be numbered 6-20.1. A new page added between pages 7-18.1 and 7-18.2 would be numbered 7-18.1.1.

An exception to this numbering plan will be found in Section 17. Section 17 contains company-specific rate sheets for the Issuing Carriers. Each company's rate sheets include a company-specific number which has been incorporated into the page numbering plan for this section only.

This first page following 17-2, is 17-2.1.1. This page is the first rate sheet page for company number 1. Each company has four rate sheet pages; therefore, the page following 17-2.1.4 will be 17-2.2.1, which is the first rate sheet for company number 2.

Page Revision Numbering

Page Revision Numbers are located in the upper right corner of each tariff page. This number is the most recent page revision on file with the PUC. Due to Notice Periods and changed Effective Dates, consult the page Effective Date on a specific page to determine if that page is in effect.

Page Effective Date

The Page Effective Date in the lower right corner is the date the page is scheduled to go into effect (at 12:01 AM on that date). This date may be changed on the Tariff Administrator's own initiative or due to a PUC directive. The page Effective Date may then be changed by reissuing the page to change the effective date.

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TARIFF PAGE FORMAT

Page Issuing Date

The Issue Date in the lower left corner of each tariff page is the date that page was filed with the PUC.

Tariff Section Numbering

An alpha-numeric numbering plan is used to number tariff regulations and rates. Each level is subordinate to and dependent on its next higher level. An example of the numbering sequence follows:

- 6
- 6.1
- 6.1.1
- 6.1.1(A)
- 6.1.1(A)(1)
- 6.1.1(A)(1)(a)
- 6.1.1(A)(1)(a)(i)

Tariff Revision Coding

Revisions to this tariff are coded through the use of symbols. These symbols are upper case letters of the alphabet and appear in the right margin of the page. The symbols and their meanings are set forth on page 33 following.

TARIFF STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

Title Pages

Title Page 1 provides information regarding the PUC number of the tariff, the class of service provided, the geographical application of the tariff, and the type of facilities used to provide service. This page also provides information related to the origination of the tariff.

Title Pages 2 through 5 list, in alphabetical order, Issuing Carriers. Issuing Carriers are these exchange telephone companies whose authority to provide and bill for Access Service is this tariff. Additionally, Issuing Carriers have not filed their own tariffs for any element of Access Service.

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Check Sheets

When new or revised tariff pages are filed with the PUC, revised and updated Check Sheets are also filed with the PUC.

The Check Sheets list all pages in the tariff as well as the most recent revision number of each page. When pages are changed, or added, the Check Sheets are changed to reflect the change or addition. An asterisk (*) is placed next to revised or added pages to highlight the pages changed.

The Check Sheets list the most recent page revision filed with the PUC. They do not indicate that the latest revision is effective. The effective date on the tariff page itself must be examined to determine page effectiveness.

Table of Contents

The Table of Contents lists the Sections and paragraphs of the Tariff and provides a page number at which that Section or paragraph begins.

Other Carriers

In addition to Issuing Carriers, all Concurring, Connecting and Other Participating Carriers, are listed in the tariff. There are none in this tariff.

Symbols and Abbreviations

A listing and explanation of tariff coding symbols and abbreviations used in the tariff is provided.

Technical Publications

The status and availability of technical publications required for the provision of Access Service is provided. These technical publications are referenced throughout the tariff.

Section 1 - Application of Tariff

States the application of the Access Service Tariff.

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Section 2 - General Regulations

States the general regulations that apply to the access services offered by this tariff.

Section 3 - Carrier Common Line

States the regulations concerning Carrier Common Line.

Section 4 - Reserved for Future Use

Section 5 – Access Ordering

States the requirements of and regulations governing Access Orders and also the regulations concerning Access Orders when service is provided by multiple exchange carriers.

Section 6 - Switched Access Service

States the regulations governing the provision of Switched Access Service. This section is subdivided into General, Undertaking of Telephone Company, Obligations of the Customer and Rate Regulations which relate to all Switched Access Services. In addition, this section contains subdivisions for the Description and Provision of each Switched Access Feature Group Service (i.e., FGA, FGB, FGC, and FGD).

Section 7 - Special Access Service

States the regulations for Special Access Service. This section is subdivided into General, Rate Regulations and Surcharge For Special Access Service which relate to Special Access Services. In addition, there are subdivisions describing each of the Special Access classes of service (i.e., Narrowband, Voice Grade, Program Audio, Digital Data, and High Capacity).

Section 8 - Billing and Collection Service

States the regulations for Billing and Collection Services. This section is subdivided into General, Undertaking of the Telephone Company, Liability of the Telephone Company, Obligations of the Customer, Payment Arrangements and Audit Provisions, and Rate Regulations for access services offered by this tariff.

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TARIFF USERS GUIDETARIFF STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATIONSection 9 - Directory Assistance Service

States the regulations governing Directory Assistance (DA) Service. This section is subdivided into General, Undertaking of the Telephone Company, Obligations of the Customer and Rate Regulations. Additionally, it explains and illustrates DA service when directly trunked and when provided in combination with Switched Access Service.

Section 10 - Special Federal Government Access Service

States the Special Access Services that are provided to a customer for use only by agencies or branches of the Federal Government and other users authorized by the Federal Government. Services provided to state emergency operations are included.

Section 11 - Special Facilities Routing of Access Services

States the Special Facilities Routing which involves access services which may be routed (1) via diverse routes in order to effect an added margin of protection and reliability in the event of facility outages (2) via routes avoiding specified geographical locations or (3) via cable only facilities.

Section 12 - Specialized Service or Arrangements

States the service or arrangements not offered under other sections of this tariff. When service or arrangements are furnished via this section they are provided on an individual case basis (ICB).

Section 13 - Additional Engineering, Additional Labor and Miscellaneous Services

States the regulations governing Additional Engineering, Additional Labor, Miscellaneous Services, and Presubscription.

Section 14 - Exceptions to Access Service Offerings

This section is provided to identify those Issuing Carriers who do not provide certain categories of Access Service offered by this tariff.

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Section 15 - Access Service Interfaces and Transmission Specifications

States the technical specifications and service parameters of Access Service. Explains and lists Network Channel (NC) codes, Network Channel Interface (NCI) codes and Service Designator (SD) codes. Displays the technical specifications packages available with Special Access Service.

Section 16 - Special Construction

States the terms and conditions for Special Construction.

Section 17 - Rates and Charges

States all the rates and charges for the Access Services contained in this tariff. It is organized by Common Line Access Service, Switched Access Service, Special Access Service, Billing and Collection Service, and Directory Assistance Service.

MAINTAINING THE TARIFF

Filings Made with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC)

Whenever changes are required to any tariffs, a filing, containing new or revised tariff pages, must be made with the PUC. A copy of this filing is generally referred to as a "filing package".

Interest Rate Order

The interest rate for deposits, overcharges and certain undercharges is as set forth in the order issued annually by the Public Utility Commission of Texas, which will be retained herein.

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MAINTAINING THE TARIFF

Each PUC tariff filing package will usually consist of at least three parts:

- A transmittal letter from the Tariff Administrator to the PUC. This is usually a one or two page letter constructed to comply with PUC Rules. It provides a brief summary of the filings and is provided for information.
- One or more "Check Sheets". These check sheets, which are pages of the tariff, show the current revision number of all pages in the tariff. On each tariff page, the revision number is located in the upper right hand corner, for example, "13th Revised Page 6-6".
- One or more revised tariff pages. These revised pages will carry the revision number listed on the enclosed check sheets, and will have an Effective date in the lower right corner of the page. The Issued date in the lower left corner is the date the revision was filed with the PUC.

Check Sheets and other tariff pages are part of the tariff and must be filed in the tariff to keep it current. Check Sheets and other numbered pages should be inserted into the tariff in their proper places.

Keeping the Tariff Current

- It is recommended that one filing package (transmittal letter, Check Sheets or tariff pages) be handled at a time.
- For each filing package, compare the revised Tariff Check Sheets with each enclosed Tariff Page to determine that it is the most recent page revision given on the Check Sheet. The Check Sheets include the latest revision number of all subsequent tariff pages. An asterisk (*), indicating a new or revised page, next to page numbers/revision numbers on the Check Sheets indicates which tariff pages are included with each transmittal.

For example, if the Check Sheet indicates that Tariff Page 6-7 is the 5th Revision, it should be in the package received.

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Keeping the Tariff Current (Cont'd)

- Examine the Effective date in the lower right corner of the most recently revised tariff pages. If the Effective date is in the future, that tariff page is pending and not yet effective.

For example, if 5th Revised Page 6-7 shows an Effective date of February 1, 1989, and it is January 15, 1989, that page is not yet effective. This is not the case with Check Sheets. The Check Sheet revision number is the important thing, since each succeeding Check Sheet supersedes the previous page one, regardless of its Effective date.

- If the Effective date of a revised tariff page is in the future, examine the Effective date of the previous revised tariff page to determine if the date of the previous revised tariff page is in effect or pending. If the Effective date has passed and notification has not been received to the contrary, it is in effect. If this is the case, discard any other previous revisions which may exist in the tariff since they have been superseded.

For example, if 4th Revised Page 6-6 has an Effective date of January 1, 1989, and it is January 15, 1989, it is not necessary to retain copies of 3rd, 2nd, 1st revisions of Page 6-6.

- Pending tariff pages need not be filed in the tariff until they become effective. A way to keep pending (not yet effective) pages segregated but still a part of the tariff, is to punch holes in the right margin and file them in the tariff, backwards, facing the effective page they will replace. This also provides a convenient way to see what pages are pending.

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What To Do When Everything Else Fails

- If a tariff has become outdated and doesn't contain all of the current effective or pending pages, there is a method to make it current.
- Make sure you have the latest revision to Tariff Page 1, the first Check Sheet. Issuing Carriers can determine the number of the latest revision by calling the Tariff Administrator at (512) 343-2544.
- If you have the latest revision of Check Sheet, Page 1, examine the other Check Sheets to determine that they are the latest revisions. The latest revision number of all the other Check Sheets is given on Check Sheet, Page 1. If the latest revision of one or more of the subsequent Check Sheets is missing, call for them as in Step 2 preceding.
- Working from the latest revision of the Check Sheets, go through the tariff, page by page, to determine that you have each page, and that each page has the same revision number as that given on the Check Sheets. If there exists several revisions of the same page, don't discard any of them, yet.
- If the latest revision is there, examine the Effective date in the lower right corner. Verify that the material has not been deferred or rejected by issuance of a more recent page revision. If the date has passed, and notification has not been received to the contrary, that page is effective and all previous revisions may be discarded.

If that Effective date has not been reached, the page is pending and not yet effective, a previous revision is effective or it is pending. It may be necessary to examine several previously revised pages, since there may be more than one page pending. Upon reaching the currently effective page, all previous revisions may be discarded.

- Upon arriving at this point, all effective and pending pages should be in the tariff, and it should be current.

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EXPLANATION OF ABBREVIATIONS (Cont'd)

HC	-	High Capacity
Hz	-	Hertz
IC	-	Interexchange Carrier
ICB	-	Individual Case Basis
ICL	-	Inserted Connection Loss
kbps	-	kilobits per second
kHz	-	kilohertz
LATA	-	Local Access and Transport Area
ma	-	milliamperes
Mbps	-	Megabits per second
mcs	-	Microsecond
Mhz	-	Megahertz
MRC	-	Monthly Recurring Charge
MT	-	Metallic
MTS	-	Message Telecommunications Service(s)
NB	-	Narrowband
NPA	-	Numbering Plan Area
NRC	-	Nonrecurring Charge
NXX	-	Three-Digit Central Office Prefix
PBX	-	Private Branch Exchange
PIC	-	Presubscribed Interexchange Carrier
POT	-	Point of Termination
PUC	-	Public Utility Commission of Texas
SAC	-	Service Access Code
SP	-	Signaling Point
SRL	-	Singing Return Loss
SSP	-	Service Switching Point
SS7	-	Signaling System 7
STP	-	Signal Transfer Point
SWC	-	Serving Wire Center
TDM	-	Time Division Multiplexing
TG	-	Telegraph Grade
TLP	-	Transmission Level Point
TV	-	Television
VG	-	Voice Grade
V&H	-	Vertical & Horizontal
WATS	-	Wide Area Telecommunications Service(s)
WSC	-	Wireless Switching Center
WSO	-	WATS Serving Office

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REFERENCE TO OTHER TARIFFS

Whenever reference is made in this tariff to other tariffs of the Telephone Company, the reference is to the tariffs in force as of the Effective date of this tariff, and to amendments thereto and successive issues thereof.

The following tariffs are referenced in this tariff:

National Exchange Carrier
Association, Inc.
Wire Center Information
Tariff F.C.C. No. 4

REFERENCE TO TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

The following technical publications are referenced in this tariff and may be obtained from Telcordia Technologies, Inc. (formerly Bell Communications Research, Inc.) One Telcordia Drive, Piscataway, NJ 08854-4151 (www.telcordia.com).

Technical Reference:

PUB 41004 (MDP-326-584) Data Communications Using Voiceband Private Line Channels
Issued: October 1973

PUB 62310 (MDP-326-726) Digital Data System Channel Interface Specification
Issued: September 1983

TR-NPL-000258 Compatibility Information for FGD Switched Access Service Issued:
October 1985

GR-334-CORE Issue 1 Switched Access Service & Transmission Parameter Limits and Interface Combinations
Issued: June 1994

TR-NWT-000335, Issue 3 Voice Grade Special Access Service - Transmission Parameter Limits and Interface Combinations
Issued: May 1993

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REFERENCE TO TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS (Cont'd)

TR-NPL-000336 Metallic and Telegraph Grade Special Access Service – Transmission Parameter Limits and Interface Combinations
Issued: October, 1987

GR-337-CORE Issue 1 Program Audio Special Access Service and Local Channel Services
Issued: December, 1995

GR-338-CORE Issue 1 Television Special Access and Local Channel Services – Transmission Parameter Limits and Interface Combinations
Issued: December, 1995

TR-NWT-000341, Issue 2 Digital Data Special Access Service - Transmission Parameter Limits and Interface Combinations
Issued: February, 1993

GR-342-CORE Issue 1 High Capacity Digital Special Access Service – Transmission Parameter Limits and Interface Combinations
Issued: December, 1995

SR-STDS-000307 NC/NCI Code Dictionary
Issued: December, 1990

GR-506-CORE LATA Switching Systems Generic Requirements (LSSGR)
Issue 2 Signaling for Analog Interfaces
Issued: December, 2006

GR-905-CORE Issue 13 Common Channel Signaling Network Interface Specification
Available: December, 2010

ST-TEC-000053 Telecommunications Transmission Engineering
Volume 3 - Networks and Services (Chapters 6 and 7)
Third Edition
Issued: August, 1989

The following technical publication is referenced in this tariff and may be obtained from the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., Director –Access Tariffs, 80 So. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981 and the Federal Communications Commission's commercial contractor.

PUB AS No. 1, Issue II Access Service Issued:
May, 1984
Addendum: March, 1987

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REFERENCE TO TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS (Cont'd)

The following technical publications are referenced in this tariff and may be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Document Control Branch, 732 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20401-0001, or from the Telecommunications Service Priority Program Office (www.tsp.ncs.gov).

Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) System for National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP) Service Vendor Handbook, National Communications System (NCSH 3-1-2).
Issued: July, 1990
Revised: December 10, 2000

Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) System for National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP) Service User Manual, National Communications System (NCSM 3-1-1).
Issued: July, 1990
Revised: May 5, 2000

The following technical publications are referenced in this tariff and may be obtained from the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS), 1200 G Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005 (www.atis.org).

Multiple Exchange Carrier Access Billing (MECAB) Guidelines Issued: September, 2010

Multiple Exchange Carrier Ordering and Design (MECOD) Guidelines Issued: September, 2009

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