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CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

PRINCIPLES FOR CHARGING AND BILLING, ACCOUNTING AND REIMBURSEMENTS FOR UNIVERSAL PERSONAL TELECOMMUNICATION

ITU-T Recommendation D.280

(Previously "CCITT Recommendation")

FOREWORD

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The World Telecommunication Standardization Conference (WTSC), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T Study Groups which, in their turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of Recommendations by the Members of the ITU-T is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSC Resolution No. 1 (Helsinki, March 1-12, 1993).

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NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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CONTENTS

	Page
1 Scope.....	1
2 Terms and Definitions.....	1
3 General considerations.....	1
4 Principles for charging.....	2
4.1 General.....	2
4.2 Service provider charging.....	2
4.3 Visited network charging.....	2
4.4 Charges for calls To UPT users.....	3
4.5 Charges for calls made by a roamed UPT user.....	3
5 Principles for international traffic accounting.....	3
6 Billing and reimbursement.....	4
6.1 Outgoing calls made by a roamed UPT user.....	4
6.2 Outgoing calls made by a non-roamed UPT user.....	4
6.3 Calls to a roamed UPT user.....	4
7 Further study.....	5
Annex A.....	6
Annex B.....	10
Annex C.....	14

Recommendation D.280

PRINCIPLES FOR CHARGING AND BILLING, ACCOUNTING AND REIMBURSEMENTS FOR UNIVERSAL PERSONAL TELECOMMUNICATION

(Geneva, 1995)

1 Scope

This Recommendation covers the principles for charging and the associated billing, as well as the accounting and reimbursements for Universal Personal Telecommunication service (UPT), which is described in the F.850-Series Recommendations.

Included in this Recommendation is guidance on:

- 1) the charging principles and options;
- 2) the traffic accounting principles;
- 3) the principles for the billing of UPT calls; and
- 4) the requirements for reimbursements among service providers, which are applicable to the various call types which may be encountered in UPT.

Charging principles related to UPT service profile management functions are also provided.

2 Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this Recommendation, the following definitions apply:

2.1 UPT Customer: The individual or entity who or which obtains, by having specifically subscribed to a UPT service provider, UPT services to be used by one or more UPT users. The customer is responsible for payment of all charges and rentals due to that UPT service provider. The UPT customer may also be the UPT user.

Other terms and definitions applicable to UPT may be found in Recommendation F.851.

3 General considerations

3.1 The Universal Personal Telecommunication (UPT) service is defined in the appropriate F.850-Series Recommendations.

3.2 UPT customers will register with (a) UPT service Provider(s) for national and/or international personal mobility.

3.3 UPT users may roam (Note) within their UPT service provider's area or to other service areas nationally and/or internationally. The range of capabilities available to UPT users may be subject to bilateral agreements between their UPT service provider(s) and other service providers.

NOTE – The term “roam” is used in this Recommendation to denote personal mobility.

3.4 The UPT service provider will know the location of its roamed UPT users based on the information provided by those users.

3.5 Networks will be able to identify and record the necessary details of calls made and received by the UPT user for billing and settlement purposes.

3.6 UPT customers are billed by their service provider(s).

3.7 As part of a bilateral agreement, a UPT service provider will undertake to reimburse other service provider(s) for the charges incurred by its roamed UPT user.

3.8 Charging implications in a number of charging scenarios make it necessary that a UPT number is uniquely identifiable to callers and to service providers.

[Previous page](#)

4 Principles for charging

4.1 General

4.1.1 The charges in any country are a national matter.

4.1.2 Arrangements for charging and collection of charges may be flexible according to the service option(s) offered by the UPT service provider and selected by the UPT customer.

4.1.3 The UPT service provider is responsible for billing its UPT customer for all applicable charges, and charging structures should be understandable by the calling party and the UPT customer.

4.2 Service provider charging

The charges billed to the UPT subscriber should be such as to cover the payment due to other networks providers or service providers plus any handling charges which may be applicable.

The charges applied by a UPT service provider would normally consist of:

4.2.1 Subscription charges (service access component)

- Registration (non-recurring);
- Periodic charge or rental (recurring).

These charges are independent of utilisation.

4.2.2 Call charges (utilisation component)

- Utilisation charges (national and/or international as appropriate);
- Any supplementary service charges.

4.2.3 Charges for call related signalling network usage (for further study)

Such signalling network charges may be covered in the subscription charges and/or the call charges described above. Charging requirements for other possible call related usage of the signalling network for UPT-related service features are for further study.

In addition, the UPT service provider may apply:

4.2.4 Service profile management charges

- Service profile establishment;
- Service profile maintenance;
- Service profile updating by service provider;
- Service profile updating by customer.

Service profile management charges may, for example, be periodic and/or per update, which may be based on function, duration and/or volume.

Alternatively, they may be covered by the subscription charges and/or the call charges described above.

4.3 Visited network charging (for further study)

The charges applied by other service providers to the visiting UPT user will normally include one or more of the following:

- Roaming registration charges (recurring and/or non-recurring);
- Charges to update the service profile;
- Utilisation charges (i.e. call charges);
- Any supplementary service charges.

4.4 Charges for calls To UPT users

4.4.1 The charge for an international call to a non-roamed UPT user should be based on the appropriate charge for a call to any non-UPT user in the same relation (see Annex A, Case A1, and Annex B, Case B 1), but also see 4.4.3 and 4.4.4 below.

4.4.2 In cases where the called UPT user has roamed internationally, a number of charging options may be possible and these are indicated below. Initially only option i) may be possible in some cases, as options ii) – iv) involve direct routing of the call to the roamed location, which requires more advanced network capabilities:

- i) The caller pays for the call to the “home” or non-roamed location of the called UPT user (via which the call is routed). The called roamed UPT user pays for the onward routed call from the non-roamed location to the roamed location (see Annex A, case A2 and A5, and Annex B, case B2).
- ii) The caller pays the appropriate charge for the call to the location to which the UPT user has roamed. (See Annex A, case A3, option a) and case 5, option a), and Annex B, case B3, option a) – *the caller paid charge option.*)
- iii) The caller pays the charges for a call to the non-roamed location in principle irrespective of where the called UPT user has roamed; any residual balance of charges which may be applicable due to the called UPT user having roamed are paid by the called UPT user (*the split charge option*). [For further details, see Annex A, case A3, option b) and Annex B, case B3, option b)]. This option will require special arrangements (see 6.3).
- iv) The called roamed UPT user pays for the call based on the charges applicable in the country of origin for the outgoing call (see Annex A, case A3, option c) and Annex B, case B3, option c) – *the called number billed option*). The called number billed option must be registered by the called roamed UPT user, and would be applicable to all calls.

4.4.3 Charges for calls to UPT users may be postalised; e.g. they may be distance or destination independent.

4.4.4 In cases where the called UPT user has roamed to the country of the caller (Annex A, case A4), or where both the calling and called UPT users have roamed to the same country (Annex B, case B4), and the call is routed as a national call, the charge should be based on a national call. Initially, however, two international calls may be involved. This should be handled according to Annex A, case A2.

4.4.5 Where bilaterally agreed between service providers, and the call details for the established call can be identified, operator handled reverse charged calls may be available as follows:

- a) when the call terminates at the called UPT user’s non-roamed location;
- b) when the called UPT user has roamed, and the call is made to the non-roamed location.

The call to the non-roamed location will be charged as if the call was made in the reverse direction.

Additional reversed charge applications require more advanced network capabilities, and are for further study.

4.5 Charges for calls made by a roamed UPT user

Other than where a reversed charge facility has been agreed and made available between service providers, the utilization charges for outgoing calls made by a roamed UPT user should be based on those of the visited service provider. See clause 6 for billing and reimbursement aspects. (Also see Annex B, cases B 1, B2 and B3).

5 Principles for international traffic accounting

5.1 International traffic accounting will be in accordance with the connection established, using the normal accounting rate applicable to that call, and be effected through normal traffic accounts.