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CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

CHARGING, BILLING, INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING AND SETTLEMENT IN THE MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE

ITU-T Recommendation D.90

(Previously "CCITT Recommendation")

FOREWORD

The ITU-T (Telecommunication Standardization Sector) is a permanent organ of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

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).

ITU-T Recommendation D.90 was revised by ITU-T Study Group 3 (1993-1996) and was approved under the WTSC Resolution No. 1 procedure on the 20th of March 1995.

NOTES

1. In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.
2. Should there be any conflict regarding the time scale in this Recommendation and those stated in Appendix 2 of the International Telecommunication Regulations then the latter would prevail.

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Recommendation D.90**CHARGING, BILLING, INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING AND
SETTLEMENT IN THE MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE***(Revised in 1995)***1 Introduction**

1.1 This Recommendation sets out the principles for charging, billing, international accounting and settlement for the maritime mobile service. It covers:

- the procedures for the rendering of a bill by a service provider in respect of the collection charges payable by a maritime mobile station;
- the payment procedures related to the bill;
- the inter-Administration/ROA (service provider) international accounting procedures when maritime mobile traffic involves a terrestrial international call and, where applicable, the use of a land station in a country other than the one where the call originates/terminates.

1.2 The following provides an explanation of terminology used in this Recommendation.

1.2.1 Maritime mobile service – The term is used in this Recommendation to cover the Maritime Mobile Satellite Service as well as the MF, HF and VHF radio media, unless specifically stated otherwise.

1.2.2 Service provider – The Administration/ROA who provides the communication service to/from maritime mobile stations.

1.2.3 Land Station (LS) – This term is used to cover both fixed Land Earth Station and Coast Station.

1.2.4 Land Station Operator (LSO) – An entity which operates a Land Station in the Maritime Mobile Service. This can be an Administration/ROA or other entity(ies) designated by the Administration to operate the Land Station.

1.2.5 Maritime mobile station – This term is used to include a maritime mobile satellite station, and in the context of billing refers to the Licensee, equating to the use of the term customer in the terrestrial service. It equates to Ship Station used in the Radio Regulations.

1.2.6 Maritime bill – The bill issued by the service provider in respect of collection charges for maritime mobile traffic originated by a maritime mobile station.

1.2.7 Land line charge – The charge relating to the transmission over the terrestrial public switched telecommunications network.

1.2.8 Land station charge – The charge relating to the use of facilities provided by the land station, which will include the space segment costs in the maritime mobile satellite case and which may be presented by the LSO in its component parts.

1.2.9 Accounting Authority/Accounting Authority Identification Code – (See annex A.)

2 Scope

This Recommendation sets out the principles for charging, billing, international accounting and settlement for the maritime mobile service.

It covers the procedures for :

- the rendering of a bill by a service provider in respect of the collection charges payable by a maritime mobile station;
- the payment procedures related to the bill;

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- the inter-Administration/ROA (service provider) international accounting when maritime mobile traffic involves a terrestrial international call and, where applicable, the use of a land station in a country other than where the call originates/terminates.

3 Collection charges

3.1 General principles

See also Annex E – Case studies

3.1.1 The charge structure and level is a national matter.

3.1.2 The collection charges may take account of the following elements:

- a) the national/international (if applicable) link = the landline;
- b) the land station;
- c) the space segment (if applicable);
- d) any special services or facilities.

3.1.3 For communication between a maritime mobile station and a country other than that of the land station (cases 3, 4):

3.1.3.1 The international land line charges shall normally be the collection charges applicable in the international relation concerned for the services used.

3.1.3.2 Service providers may choose to establish a combined collection charge covering both the landline and the land station.

3.1.4 Communications between maritime mobile stations:

3.1.4.1 When a single land station is used as an intermediary between maritime mobile stations, two maritime land station charges are collected. If the land station charge applicable to traffic with the origin maritime mobile station is different from that applicable to traffic with the destination maritime mobile station, the sum of these two charges is collected.

3.1.4.2 When it is necessary to use two land stations in different countries as intermediaries between two maritime mobile stations (case 6), the landline charge for the section between the two land stations (normally the collection charge applicable in the international relation concerned for the service used) is collected in addition to the two land station charges.

3.1.4.3 When it is necessary to use two land stations in the same country as intermediary between two maritime mobile stations a national landline charge between the two land stations is collected in addition to the two land station charges.

3.1.5 If authorised to do so by its licensing Administration, a maritime mobile station may collect on board a fee from users, for the use of facilities provided, in addition to the service provider's collection charges. Such a fee will be retained by the maritime mobile station. The licensing Administration may set an upper limit to these fees.

3.2 Publication of collection charges by the ITU

3.2.1 The landline and land station charges shall be notified by the service provider to the Radiocommunication Bureau in the unit of the IMF, currently the SDR (Special Drawing Right), or in Gold Francs which is the equivalent to 1/3.061 SDR (1 SDR = 3.061 GFcs).

3.2.2 The landline and land station charges notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau will be published in the List of Coast Stations.

3.2.3 For countries that have not introduced banded collection charges for international services, only a limited number of charges, for routes in frequent use, will be published. In such cases, the Radiocommunication Bureau will need to be informed which charges should be published.

3.2.4 Maritime mobile stations must be aware of the collection charges. They are authorized, where necessary, to obtain such information directly from land stations. Charges furnished by land stations should be expressed either in SDRs or in Gold Francs (see 3.2.1 above).

3.3 Changes to collection charges

3.3.1 New or modified collection charges shall not come into effect for international traffic for countries other than the one which establishes the charges until the first day of the month following expiry of the period specified below. The period will be counted from the day after the publication date of the ITU Operational Bulletin which contains this notification. Service providers providing information for publication in the Operational Bulletin should observe the deadlines indicated in the Bulletin in forwarding this information to the Radiocommunication Bureau.

3.3.2 The period to be taken into account is as follows:

- a) for traffic from maritime mobile station to land: 1 month and 15 days;
- b) for traffic from land to maritime mobile station: 15 days, except for changes to bring charges into line with those on competing routes where the period is 10 days.

3.4 Special charging arrangements

3.4.1 Communications of immediate general interest (including safety and distress)

No charge is raised, against the maritime mobile station, for transmission in the maritime mobile service provided that the communications are :

- a) distress calls/messages or replies to such calls/messages;
- b) messages originating in maritime mobile stations requiring shore rescue authority support, e.g. man overboard, oil pollution or piracy attack;
- c) messages originating in maritime mobile stations notifying the presence of dangers to navigation (e.g. icebergs, derelicts, mines) or announcing cyclones, storms or fog;
- d) messages originating in maritime mobile stations notifying sudden changes in the position of buoys, the working of lighthouses, devices connected with buoyage etc.; or
- e) messages originating in maritime mobile stations notifying unexpected phenomena threatening air navigation or the sudden occurrence of obstacles at airports or special landing/berthing places at sea,

Any land station and landline charges for Safety and Distress communications will be billed to the appropriate shore authority.

3.4.2 Communications relating to medical advice

No charge is raised against the originating maritime mobile station for communications using the maritime mobile service which relate to medical advice provided that:

- a) they are exchanged directly between maritime mobile stations and either Land Stations shown in the List of Radiodetermination and Special Service Stations as providing such a service, or Land Earth Stations which offer the service; and
- b) they are addressed in accordance with the conditions published in the above List, or as specified by the satellite service operator.

Any land station and landline charges for medical advice communications will be billed to the appropriate shore authority.

3.4.3 Meteorological communications

Charges for meteorological communications are a national matter.

3.4.4 Communications relating to persons protected in time of war

Radio telegrams concerning persons protected in time of war by the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 (RCT) will be accepted in accordance with Recommendation F.1, and will be charged in accordance with Recommendation D.40.

3.4.5 Service communications in the maritime mobile service

Service telegrams or service telexes relating to the maritime mobile service should be treated in accordance with Recommendation D.192.

3.5 Service specific charging principles

3.5.1 Radiotelegrams (see Recommendation F.110)

3.5.1.1 The land station charge is established on the basis of a word charge – see Recommendation F.1.

3.5.1.2 No additional charge shall be made when acknowledgment of receipt of a radiotelegram is made through another maritime mobile station or land station by service advice, or when an intermediate maritime mobile station assists in the forwarding of a radiotelegram.

3.5.2 Radiomaritime letters (see Recommendation F.110)

3.5.2.1 Except as otherwise provided below, radiomaritime letters may be accepted, taking into account ITU-T Recommendations relating to letter telegrams, if the telegram service is used to convey radiomaritime letters.

3.5.2.2 The total charge shall include the postal charge (by ordinary letter or airmail letter) due for delivery in the land station country.

3.5.2.3 An additional charge may be collected where delivery is to be made to a country other than that of the land station.

3.5.2.4 The following charges are added where applicable:

- a) charges due for special services;
- b) the landline charge when transmission on the land section is exceptionally by telegraph.

3.5.3 Radiotelephone and radiotelex calls (see Recommendation F.110)

3.5.3.1 If no uniform charges apply in respect of the land stations of a country, different land station charges shall be fixed for the MF, HF and VHF bands and for the maritime mobile satellite service.

3.5.3.2 If, due to the lack of technical facilities, no extra charges apart from the normal international landline charges can be levied by the origin Service Providers, no land station charges will be collected for international automatic VHF radiotelephone calls in the to-maritime mobile station direction, if so decided by the land station Service Providers. The *List of Coast Stations* [1] shall indicate which Service Providers accept such calls without levying land station charges.

3.5.3.3 When handled through a land station, the chargeable duration of a manual or single-operator call will be fixed at the end of the call by the land station; if two land stations are participating in the handling of the call, the record of the land station that accepted the call from the originating maritime mobile station will prevail.

3.5.4 Radiotelexograms (see Recommendation F.110)

3.5.4.1 The charge for the landline element shall be that applicable to a telex call.

3.5.4.2 The charge for the landstation element shall be that applicable to a radiotelegram or converted into chargeable duration units.

4 Maritime billing

4.1 Billing responsibilities

4.1.1 Collection charges for calls from shore to maritime mobile stations (cases 2, 4) will be billed by the service provider to the calling customer in the normal customer billing process and are not the subject of this subclause.

4.1.2 Collection charges for communications from maritime mobile stations to shore (cases 1, 3, 5 & 6) shall in principle and subject to national law and practice, be billed by the service provider to :

- a) An accounting authority or other third party agreed between the service provider and the maritime mobile station;
- b) the maritime mobile station; or
- c) a credit/charge card company designated by the service provider.

NOTE – In cases b) and c) above the accounting authority of the maritime mobile station is not responsible for payment of the bills for communications originating from the maritime mobile station.

For cases b) and c) above, 4.2.2, 4.3.2., 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 do not apply, as the billing arrangements are the subject of agreement between the service provider and the maritime mobile station or the credit/charge card company.

4.1.3 The registration, responsibilities and identification of accounting authorities are described in Annex A.

4.2 Billing processes and associated timescales

4.2.1 The processes involved in the billing of maritime mobile stations are described in 4.4, 4.5, and 4.7 below. The timescales associated with the various processes are summarized in Annex D and represent the recommended maximum timescales. Variations to the timescales and processes may be agreed between the service provider and the billed party (as defined in 4.1.2) as part of their commercial arrangements.

4.2.2 In some instances, the International Telecommunications Regulations (ITR - Appendix 2) provide for a longer maximum timescale than that recommended in this Recommendation. The ITR timescales will be regarded as applicable in exceptional cases, for example, where delays in rendering the bill to the correct accounting authority are encountered. The timescales contained in this Recommendation shall be regarded as the normal maximum timescales to be followed.

4.3 Billing procedures

4.3.1 The bills for communications originating in maritime mobile stations should be based on the following data gathered at the Land Station:

- a) the maritime mobile station name, the maritime mobile station identification and/or call sign;
- b) the accounting authority identification code when required by the service provider;
- c) the credit/charge card details if applicable;
- d) the number or identification of the addressee, including, for example, country code and area codes;
- e) the chargeable units;
- f) date communication commenced, and time if appropriate;
- g) traffic category;
- h) type of call (automatic, operator assisted, collect, etc.);
- i) special services/facilities used.

4.3.2 In the case of communications originating in maritime mobile stations, the service provider shall bill, in accordance with the collection charges notified to the ITU in SDRs or Gold Francs (see 3.2):

- a) the land station charges;
- b) the landline charges;
- c) any charges for special services or facilities;
- d) where appropriate, postal charges on radiomaritime letters.