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**SERIES F: NON-TELEPHONE TELECOMMUNICATION
SERVICES**

Telematic services – Public facsimile service

**Service and operational requirements of
store-and-forward facsimile service**

ITU-T Recommendation F.162

(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 F.162 was revised by ITU-T Study Group 1 (1993-1996) and was approved under the WTSC Resolution No. 1 procedure on the 19th of July 1996.

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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Recommendation F.162

SERVICE AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF STORE-AND-FORWARD FACSIMILE SERVICE

(revised in 1992 and in 1996)

1 Introduction

1.1 The development and growth of store-and-forward equipment and the potential for the international interconnection of such equipment requires a common set of facilities and operational procedures to meet the needs of users. The COMFAX service may be accessed by a variety of terminals which can employ a variety of networks for access purposes. Access to a COMFAX service will be predominantly from facsimile terminals connected to its associated national public networks. However, there are advantages in defining features and procedures for the service to promote and assist the provision of such services in many countries.

2 Scope

2.1 This Recommendation defines the general principles and basic operational requirements of the COMFAX service provided by Administrations using computer-controlled facsimile store-and-forward units (Fax SFU). Although customer access will be, predominantly, from within the same country in which the Fax SFU is situated, this Recommendation sets out the minimum service requirements that should be provided to allow extension of the service, by the interconnection with one or more other Fax SFUs, across national boundaries, for message delivery purposes.

2.2 Technical requirements of the service are covered in the relevant T- and X-Series Recommendations.

2.3 Tariff and accounting aspects are covered in the D-Series Recommendations. Fax SFUs must record and store sufficient information for charging and settlement of accounts.

2.4 The operational aspects of the interconnection of Fax SFUs are covered in Recommendation F.163.

2.5 The interworking between COMFAX and other services using the Message Handling System (MHS) is a requirement; details are for further study. The interworking between the COMFAX service and other UIT-T defined services is for further study.

3 Definitions

This Recommendation uses the terms listed below.

NOTE – Use of the terms “delivery”, “submission”, “transfer”, does not imply any specific protocol implementation regarding the X.400-Series Recommendations.

3.1 **Fax SFU:** A Fax SFU refers to the boundary within which the facsimile store-and-forward service is provided by one or more facsimile store-and-forward units under the control of one Administration. A Fax SFU must provide the functions of message submission, message delivery and, in the case of interconnection, message transfer.

3.2 **message delivery:** Message delivery is defined as the transfer of message data and responsibility for the message from a Fax SFU to a recipient address.

3.3 **recipient address:** A recipient address is defined as the ultimate destination of a message. A recipient address may designate a facsimile terminal or a storage device empowered to receive messages for a FAX recipient.

3.4 **message submission:** Message submission is defined as the transfer of message data and responsibility for the message from the originator to the COMFAX service (e.g. typically indicated by the successful completion of the T.30 protocol).

3.5 **message transfer:** Message transfer is defined as the transfer of message data and responsibility for the message from one Fax SFU (or transfer system) to another Fax SFU (or transfer system).



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