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**ITU-T**

**F.31**

TELECOMMUNICATION  
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR  
OF ITU

## **OPERATIONS AND QUALITY OF SERVICE TELEGRAPH SERVICES**

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## **TELEGRAM RETRANSMISSION SYSTEM**

### **ITU-T Recommendation F.31**

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

## NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation F.31 was published in Fascicle II.4 of the *Blue Book*. This file is an extract from the *Blue Book*. While the presentation and layout of the text might be slightly different from the *Blue Book* version, the contents of the file are identical to the *Blue Book* version and copyright conditions remain unchanged (see below).

2 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.31

### TELEGRAM RETRANSMISSION SYSTEM

(a) For the routing of telegram traffic, Administrations can use the *Telegram Retransmission System*. This system comprises a network of interconnected telegram retransmission centres, which carry out the switching and retransmission functions. The indications needed to route the telegram are included with the telegram when it enters the system and are retransmitted with the telegram from one centre to another.

(b) The offices where telegrams enter or leave the telegram retransmission system are linked to at least one retransmission centre; such offices are described as *linked offices*. In the case of a particular telegram, the linked office through which the telegram enters the system is known as the linked entry office; the linked office through which the telegram leaves the system is known as the linked exit office.

(c) The present Recommendation has been drawn up for fully automatic working, but may be used for semi-automatic and manual working.

(d) To facilitate world-wide operation of the telegram retransmission system, to simplify the transfer of telegrams between the retransmission network and other networks and to enable the switching and accounting equipment needed for the retransmission centres to be designed, the CCITT,

*unanimously declares that*

**1** Each telegram must be treated independently, even if several telegrams for the same destination arrive in series at a linked entry office.

**2** The format to be used in preparing the telegram for transmission shall be as follows:

**2.1** The heading of the telegram shall start with the *numbering line* preceded by a carriage-return, a line-feed and a letter-shift. The numbering line consists of:

**2.1.1** *The start-of-message signal (SOM)*

In accordance with Recommendation F.30 the start-of-message signal (SOM) is made up by the sequence of combinations Nos. 26, 3, 26, 3 of International Telegraph Alphabet No. 2 (**ZCZC**) followed by:

**2.1.2** *The channel sequence number*

Telegrams transmitted over a channel shall be numbered according to a series of numbers for each channel. The channel sequence number will therefore be composed of three letters characteristic of the channel used (channel indicator) followed by a number showing the order of this telegram in the series sent over this channel. The channel sequence numbers shall be in sequence from **001** to **999** and change automatically from **999** to **001** at the end of a numbering cycle.

When the telegram passes from one channel to another in a network, each new channel sequence number shall be inserted immediately after the start-of-message signal. The channel sequence numbers will appear in the numbering line of the telegram in the opposite order to that in which the telegram passed through the network.

The channel sequence number shall be transmitted as:

- space;
- three letters constituting the channel indicator;
- figure-shift;
- three figures constituting the number in the series on the channel.

Service advices will be numbered in the channel series unless agreed otherwise by the Administrations concerned. The channel sequence number(s) is followed by:

### 2.1.3 The telegram identification group (TIG)

The telegram identification group enables the office of origin to recognize the telegram. This group must not exceed 15 printing characters, which may be composed of any combination of letters and/or figures. In the special case of a telegram from the gentex network to the telegram retransmission system, the telegram identification group will be the only reference in the numbering line and will consist of two letters identifying the originating country or a particular network therein (in accordance with Recommendation F.96), the call number of the gentex office followed by one or two letters identifying the gentex position and the serial number of the telegram which that position sends.

The telegram identification group shall be transmitted as:

- space;
- letter-shift (if necessary);
- not more than 15 printing characters;

followed by:

### 2.1.4 End of line

- carriage-return;
- line-feed;

which will mark the end of the numbering line, followed by:

## 2.2 The second line of the heading, the *pilot line*, which consists of:

### 2.2.1 The destination indicator

This indicator is extracted from the *List of Destination Indicators and Telex Network Identification Codes* [1], and consists of four letters; the first two characterize the destination country (or a particular network in the destination country) and the following two letters characterize an office of that country (see also § 4 below).

The destination indicator shall be transmitted as:

- letter-shift;
- four letters;

followed by:

### 2.2.2 The priority and tariff indicator

This indicator consists of two letters chosen in such a way that the priority letters of the indicator differ from each other by at least two unit elements and the same letter does not appear twice in the same indicator, thus reducing the possibilities of error.

#### 2.2.2.1 The first letter will designate the priority of transmission according to the following table:

- A** – Telegrams relating to safety of life (**SVH**)
- B** – Telegrams relating to the application of the United Nations Charter (**ETATPRIORITE**)
  - Government telegrams with priority (**ETATPRIORITE**)
  - Meteorological telegrams (**OBS**)
  - Ordinary private telegrams with urgent transmission and delivery (**URGENT**)
  - **RCT** telegrams with urgent transmission and delivery (**URGENT RCT**)
  - Money orders and postal cheque telegrams with urgent transmission and delivery (**URGENT POSTFIN**)
- C** – Government telegrams (**ETAT**)
  - Service telegrams (**A**)
  - Service advices (**A**)

- Ordinary private telegrams
- **RCT** telegrams (**RCT**)
- Money orders and postal cheque telegrams (**POSTFIN**)
- Telemesssage
- H** – Letter telegrams (including government letter telegrams) (**LT, LTF**)

This table takes account of the order of transmission given in Recommendation F.1, A136 to A144.

2.2.2.2 A telegram that has been abnormally delayed can be upgraded to a higher priority group. Such promotion can be effected only in the linked entry office; in this case, a category **H** telegram could be marked **C** and a category **C** telegram marked **B**, but a telegram with lower priority than **A** can never be promoted to category **A**.

2.2.2.3 The *second letter* will designate the tariff class to be used according to the following table:

- F** Radiotelegrams routed via a foreign land station;
- J**<sup>2</sup> **POSTFIN** telegrams<sup>1)</sup>;
- K** Government telegrams where preferential rate is to be charged;
- L** Letter telegrams;
- M** Meteorological telegrams;
- N** Non-chargeable telegrams;
- O** Ordinary private telegrams;
- Q**<sup>2</sup> Telegrams involving special accounting features<sup>1)</sup>;
- R** **RCT** telegrams;
- T** Telemessages
- U** Telegrams (other than **RCT** telegrams) with urgent transmission and delivery;
- V**<sup>2</sup> Divided telegrams<sup>1)</sup>;
- X** For use by transit offices when inserting the pilot line on transit telegrams;
- Y** Government full-rate telegrams;
- Z** Government letter-rate telegrams.

2.2.2.4 Letters **D, E, G, I, P, S** and **W** are available for assignment when required.<sup>2)</sup>

The priority and tariff indicator shall be transmitted as:

- space;
- two letters;

followed by:

2.2.3 *The origin indicator*

The origin indicator consists of four letters; the first two will be the same as those used in the destination indicators for the originating Administration or network; the third and fourth will represent:

- a) a particular city or town within that country or network; or
- b) the office or department to which service correspondence regarding the telegram should be addressed.

1) Where there is a choice tariff indicator the one marked with a <sup>2</sup> takes precedence.

2) Administrations may agree mutually to accept additional tariff indicators.