



## Regulation

### ON INTERCONNECTIVITY, INTEROPERABILITY AND SIGNALLING IN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

Issued in Helsinki on 16 March 2010

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The Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority (FICORA) has, under sections 47 and 129 of the Communications Market Act of 23 May 2003 (393/2003), prescribed as follows:

#### Section 1

##### Scope of application

This Regulation applies to interconnection, interoperability and signalling in public communications networks, including bearer services, communications services and equipment in the networks, and to interconnection, interoperability and signalling in communications networks forming a part of or interconnected to the public communications network. This Regulation also applies to authorities' networks. As regards mass communications networks, this Regulation applies to transmission of targeted communications.

#### Section 2

##### Definitions

*Telephone service* means in this Regulation a communications service enabling a user to make and receive national and international calls and to use emergency services by means of number or numbers specified in the national or international numbering plan.

*Call establishment* means in this Regulation the functions which the network shall perform in order to facilitate a connection between telecommunications terminal equipment connected to user accesses, or a connection between telecommunications terminal equipment and a service node connected to the network.

### Section 3

#### **Application of standards**

Detailed technical characteristics of the requirements of this Regulation are specified in standards. Regulations primarily make use of national standards implementing the standards issued by ETSI, CEN or CENELEC and to which a reference is made in the Official Journal of the European Union; secondary sources are other national standards or standards issued by ETSI, CEN or CENELEC when they exist. If no European standards exist within the specific area, ITU recommendations, ISO or IEC standards or other publicly adopted and available specifications, issued for example by IETF, shall be used.

### Section 4

#### **Call establishment, interconnectivity and interoperability**

It shall be possible to establish a connection and to steer the services provided by the network on the basis of the signalling information specified in standards, such as dial-up addresses, service attributes and requested supplementary services.

It shall be possible to establish a connection between telecommunications terminal equipment connected to distinct networks by means of corresponding bearer and communications services specified in standards.

As appropriate, a connection can also be established between divergent bearer and communications services with interconnection adaptors. The adaptors may be located either in the public communications network or in a communications network connected to the public communications network. The adaptors shall be able to transfer essential information for the proper functioning of the mandatory bearer and communications services through the interfaces.

Interconnection between telecommunications operators shall be arranged so that essential information for the proper functioning of the mandatory bearer and communications services is transferred through the access interface.

Standardised interfaces shall be used in a public communications network for interconnection and interoperability of telecommunications operators' networks and services.

Standardised interfaces shall be used in a public communications network for connecting telecommunications terminal equipment and customer premises communications networks and for transfer of identification information of the access.

## Section 5 **Signalling**

Access and network signalling systems shall facilitate fast and reliable establishment and release of calls and other services provided by the network, reliable charging and reliable transfer of information when connection-oriented and connectionless signalling services are used. Signalling systems shall facilitate establishment of calls between terminal equipment connected to distinct networks and using interoperable bearer and communications services. Networks of different operators are interconnected by means of standardised signalling systems agreed between the operators. The signalling network shall comply with the requirements of section 6 when a national common channel signalling system is used for the interconnection.

## Section 6 **Common channel signalling**

Signalling points and signalling links belonging to the message transfer part of the common channel signalling system and the management functions of the network consisting of these points and links shall be planned and implemented so that they form a uniform signalling network. The

telecommunications operator shall only use signalling point codes assigned to it by FICORA.

The signalling network shall be constructed so that the availability requirements specified in the different user part standards can be met, and so that the total number of consecutive signalling links related to a specific user function does not result in exceeding the delays permitted to a signalling message in standards.

The number of signalling links shall be dimensioned so that the total traffic of all user parts does not on any signalling link exceed the load values specified in standards for a single signalling link in different situations. If the route consists of more than one separate transmission system, at least two signalling links securing each other and selected from different transmission systems shall be used on the route. Time slots used for signalling shall be selected so that in case of fault of one transmission system no more than half of the signalling links of the route become unavailable.

## Section 7

### **Timers for the supervision of subscriber behaviour**

A telephone service provided in public communications networks shall have a timer supervising the call establishment time.

A telephone service provided in public communications networks shall have a timer supervising the answering time of the called party.

The value of the timer and actions at initiation and expiry of the timer shall comply with standards.

A telephone service provided in public communications networks shall have a timer supervising the duration of calls made to separately specified service groups indicated by service numbers.

## Section 8

### **Tones, announcements and ringing signals**

Tones, announcements and ringing signals that are used in a telephone service provided in public communications networks shall comply with standards when the use of the tone, announcement or ringing signal is specified in standards. All tones and announcements used in a telephone service provided in public communications networks shall be explicit, unambiguous and distinguishable.

A telecommunications operator may, however, provide its subscribers a service where the calling subscriber defined by the subscriber of the service hears music or corresponding chosen by the subscriber of the service to be used in addition with the standardized tone specified in subsection 1 for calls made by the calling subscriber to the subscriber of the service. The tone complying with standards must be heard clearly besides the music. The telecommunications operator providing the service shall ensure that the calling subscriber, hearing the tone, is aware of the fact that music is used in parallel with the tone complying with standards.

## Section 9

### **Period of validity**

This Regulation enters into force on 16 March 2010 and will remain in force until further notice. The Regulation repeals FICORA's Regulation 28 F/2005 M of 1 April 2005 on interconnectivity, interoperability and signalling in communications networks.

## Section 10

**Information and publication**

This Regulation is included in the Series of Regulations issued by the Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority and it can be obtained from the FICORA Customer Service Office:

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