



Regulation

ON THE INTEROPERABILITY OF COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS AND SERVICES

Issued in Helsinki on 24 November 2010

The Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority (FICORA) has, under sections 47, 63 and 129 of the Communications Market Act of 23 May 2003 (393/2003) and section 19 of the Act on the Protection of Privacy in Electronic Communications of 16 June 2004 (516/2004), as laid out in the Act 343/2008 and section 20, as laid out in the Act 125/2009, prescribed as follows:

Section 1

Scope of application

This Regulation applies to public communications networks and communications services as well as to public authority networks. Chapter 2 of the regulation applies to communications services provided by the telephone network.

Chapter 1 of the regulation has provisions on the interconnectivity and interoperability of public communications networks and public authority networks, including the communications services provided therein, as well as on the information security of interconnection and customer interfaces.

Chapter 2 of the regulation has provisions on signalling, timers, tones, announcements and ringing signals, and the transfer of subscriber's number information in communications networks.

Section 2

Definitions

In this regulation, *customer interface* refers to the interface used for connecting the communications network, terminal device or application of a telecommunications operator's customer to the public communications network.

In this regulation, *interconnection interface* refers to the interconnection interface between telecommunications operators' communications networks or services.

In this regulation, *communications service in a telephone network* refers to the communications service that enables the making and reception of calls or messages by using a number or numbers within the national or international numbering plan (including one-way voice services).

In this regulation, *communications network or service component* refers to the network element, device or information system of which a communications network or service is comprised, or which it utilizes.

In this regulation, *calling party number* refers to the number of the subscription where the call or message originates from.

In this regulation, *redirecting number* refers to the number of the subscription from which the call is redirected.

In this regulation, *premium rate service numbers* refer to service numbers in accordance with FICORA's regulation 35 on barring categories in telecommunications which have been grouped according to the content of the service.

Chapter 1

General requirements

Section 3

Interconnectivity, interoperability and information security

Telecommunications operators must define interface descriptions according to which another telecommunications operator can connect its communications network or service to their network.

The telecommunications operator must ensure that its communications network or service components do not disturb other telecommunications operators' communications networks or services. Telecommunications operators must have appropriate mechanisms for preventing such disturbances.

The telecommunications operator must protect its network from malicious traffic originating from interconnection and customer interfaces by implementing the necessary protection mechanisms within its network.

The telecommunications operator must ensure that services or protocols that are unnecessary for the service are shut down with regard to the communications network or service components or their ports at the interconnection or customer interfaces of its network.

Section 4

IP interconnection interface

At interconnection interfaces, a telecommunications operator must prevent such IP traffic that is directed to its communications network where the sender's IP address set in the received IP packet

- belongs to the IP address space managed or advertised by the telecommunications operator itself, or
- belongs to the private IP address space, or
- does not belong to the routes advertised to other telecommunications operators by a telecommunications operator that delivers traffic.

However, traffic can be delivered if telecommunications operators have come to a separate agreement about it.

Of the route advertisements received at interconnection interfaces, a telecommunications operator must reject routes that belong to the operator's own networks or the networks of its customers, unless individual networks have been otherwise agreed upon.

The telecommunications operator must ensure that the IP addresses allocated to it and advertised by it are properly documented into the database of the Internet address register that has granted the address space.

Chapter 2

Special requirements for communications services provided in a telephone network

Section 5

Signalling

The interconnection traffic between telecommunications operators must be arranged so that the information required by functions that are stated as obligatory in the provisions, is transferred over the interconnection interface.

Communications network components connected to the public telephone network by using a common channel signalling system and located within Finland must apply the signalling point codes granted by FICORA.

Section 6

Timers

The telecommunications operator must implement, in an appropriate manner, the timers necessary for call set-up.

In the communications services provided in telephone networks, the telecommunications operator that implements the service must be prepared to implement timers for monitoring calls made to premium rate numbers.

Section 7

Tones, announcements and ringing signals

Tones, announcements and ringing signals in accordance with standards SFS 5876 and SFS 5749 must be used in communications services provided in the telephone network in order to advise the user about different network modes related to call set-up.

Also, other signals and announcements in accordance with subsection 1 related to call set-up must be unambiguous, clear and distinguishable from one another.

The telecommunications operator can offer its subscribers a service where, when calling to the service provider, the calling party hears, in addition to the standard ringing tone, music or something similar selected by the subscriber of the service. The ringing tone, in accordance with the standard must be clearly heard next to other sounds.

Section 8

Transfer of subscription number

Calling party number and in case of a redirected call, the redirecting number must be transferred in communications services provided in a telephone network between telecommunications operators.

The calling party number and in case of a redirected call, the redirecting number must be transferred in an international format at the interconnection interface, unless the signalling can indicate whether the format of the number is a national (significant) number or an international number.

The calling party number and the redirecting number must not, in principle, be changed when it is being transferred via the communications network.

Section 9

Validity of subscription number

The telecommunications operator of the call originating network must ensure that the calling party number it transfers in call origination and in case of a redirected call, the redirecting number is valid and unambiguous.

If the telecommunications operator of the call originating network uses in call origination, a calling party number it has received from a corporate customer interface, and that number is other than the one belonging to the operator's number space, the telecommunications operator must ensure with the corporate customer or the telecommunications operator who administers the number that the number can unambiguously be associated with a certain subscription of the corporate customer in question. However, even in this case, the telecommunications operator must ensure the reliability of charging.

If the calling party numbers received by the telecommunications operator are regularly incorrect, the telecommunications operator must set, in call origination, the presentation of the calling party number restricted in the outgoing signalling irrespective of the default setting received by the exchange. In similar situations concerning text message and multimedia message services, the telecommunications operator of the call originating network must change the calling party number into such a number to which calls cannot be returned and reply messages cannot be sent.

Section 10

Transfer of calling party number at customer interface

In call services, the calling party number must be transferred to the called party in a form that enables call-back.

The presentation of the calling party number of calls originating from premium-rate numbers must be set as restricted in the outgoing signalling of the originating network if the calling party number is a premium-rate number belonging to service groups II-IV.

Section 11

Transitional provisions and entry into force

This regulation enters into force on 1 April 2011 and will remain in force until further notice.

The regulation repeals FICORA's regulation 49 D/2010 M on transfer of subscriber's number information in communications networks of 16 March 2010 and FICORA's regulation 28 G/2010 M on interconnectivity, interoperability and signalling in communications networks of 16 March 2010.

Section 12

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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