

**TELEPHONE NUMBER PORTABILITY
BETWEEN A FIXED NETWORK AND
A MOBILE NETWORK**

FICORA's recommendations

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| <p>Abstract</p> <p>Current legislation does not require telephone number portability between fixed and mobile networks, but on the other hand, it is neither prohibited if telecommunications operators come to a mutual agreement on the matter. This recommendation gives telecommunications operators guidelines on how to operate if they decide to implement the described portability in their networks or parts of networks.</p> <p>The recommendation, numbered 314/2008 S, has been published in the FICORA series of recommendations and is available on the FICORA website at www.ficora.fi and from the FICORA customer service.</p> | | | |
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1 SUMMARY

As telecommunications networks converge and VoIP services become more common, it is likely that some services will use both fixed network numbers and mobile network numbers. In such cases, telecommunications operators may need to carry out telephone number portability between a fixed network and a mobile network.

Current legislation does not require telephone number portability between fixed and mobile networks, but on the other hand, it is neither prohibited if telecommunications operators come to a mutual agreement on the matter.

This recommendation gives telecommunications operators guidelines on how to operate if they decide to implement the described portability in their networks or parts of networks.

2 REGULATORY BACKGROUND

According to section 51(1) of the Communications Market Act,

a telecommunications operator in a telephone network shall ensure without delay that a user who has entered into a subscriber connection agreement with it may, if he or she wishes, retain his or her telephone number when changing his or her fixed-connection telecommunications operator in the same telecommunications area or his or her mobile connection telecommunications operator.

According to section 51(3),

The telephone number portability obligation referred to in subsection 1 does not apply to the telecommunications operator when the user changes his subscriber connection from a fixed telephone network to a mobile network subscriber connection or from a mobile network to a fixed telephone network subscriber connection.

According to section 5(1) of the explanatory memorandum of the Regulation on telephone number portability (FICORA 46 F/2007 M),

A subscriber may retain his or her mobile number to which traffic is directed with a national mobile area code regardless of the operator providing the subscriber connection.

The reasons for section 5 of the Portability Regulation state that

According to subsection 1, portability concerns mobile network numbers which use mobile area codes. A mobile network using a subscriber number of a telecommunications area is subject to fixed network number portability based on section 2.

Based on the above, it depends on the type of the number whether the number is subject to fixed network or mobile network telephone number portability. Number portability between these networks is not required, but on the other hand, the legislation does not prohibit portability between the networks in question if telecommunications operators agree on the matter.

The European Commission has proposed a new legislative package regulating telecommunications on 13 November 2007. According to

Article 30 of the Universal Service Directive included in the package, the Commission could make decisions on telephone number portability between fixed and mobile networks taking into consideration technological development and market conditions.

3 MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN TELEPHONE NUMBER PORTABILITY BETWEEN A FIXED AND A MOBILE NETWORK

Telecommunications operators must follow the following guidelines based on current legislation when implementing telephone number portability between a fixed network and a mobile network.

a) Customer prices of phone calls

Telecommunications operators must ensure that a subscriber making a call is able to find out the cost of the call based on the number the subscriber is calling to. Call charges are neither allowed to vary according to the network that the call receiving subscriber is logged onto at the time of the call, even if the subscription type in question may operate in different networks depending on the situation.

b) Emergency traffic and location

Telecommunications operators must see to that emergency response centres have up-to-date data on the telephone numbers that are located in fixed addresses and telephone numbers that are connected to a mobile network and can be located.

c) Telecommunications interception and monitoring

Telecommunications operators must ensure that authorities have access to up-to-date information on which network the subscriber/number intercepted or monitored is logged onto.

In addition, telecommunications operators must consider the following:

d) Wholesale pricing of call origination (access pricing)

Telephone number portability between fixed and mobile networks does not affect wholesale pricing of call origination. The pricing is determined based on the actual network that the call uses.

e) Termination pricing

At present, termination pricing is in practice based on the type of the number in both domestic traffic and incoming traffic from abroad. This principle can be applied as long as number portability between fixed and mobile networks is low.

4 MATTERS REQUIRING CASE-SPECIFIC DECISIONS FROM TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS IN TELEPHONE NUMBER PORTABILITY BETWEEN A FIXED AND A MOBILE NETWORK

The following lists matters that require solutions before wider portability between fixed and mobile networks can be realized. Telecommunications operators must agree on case-specific solutions to these matters if they are to implement telephone number portability between a fixed network and a mobile network:

a) Direct routing

Direct routing requires the call originating network to make a number portability query. At present, the number portability query in long-distance calls is made by the trunk exchange of the target telecommunications area. In addition, possible changes required by portability systems must be attended to.

b) Master system

At present, the master system includes different processes for number portability in the fixed network and mobile network. The combination or shared use of the processes must be investigated in order to realize portability between fixed and mobile networks.

c) Length of numbers

The length of fixed network telephone numbers varies widely. The effect the variation has on portability processes, systems, centres and registers must be investigated. The effect of the varying number lengths on SMS, MMS and roaming traffic as well as on GT analyses must also be investigated.