



**National Communications Authority**

**NUMBERING REGULATION**

**DRAFT**

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## **Numbering Regulation**

### **1 Citation**

This Regulation may be cited as the Numbering Regulation, 2018.

### **2 Interpretation**

- (1) Terms that are defined in the Communications Act, 2017, take the meanings given to them there.
- (2) In addition:
  - [1] “Allocation” means an authorization for a communications provider to use particular numbers, particularly by assigning them if they are National Significant Numbers. This is not as in ITU-T Recommendation E.101.
  - [2] “Assignment” means an authorization for a user to use particular numbers, typically by making or receiving communications on terminals associated with them. This is not as in ITU-T Recommendation E.101.
  - [3] “Authority” means the National Communications Authority established in accordance with the Communications Act, 2017.
  - [4] “Availability Indicator” means an indication of whether a number is allocated, available for allocation or protected from allocation. It can be ‘Allocated’, ‘Free’ or ‘Protected’.
  - [5] “Country Code” means the sequence of digits at the start of an International Significant Number indicating a country, an international service or an international network. For Somalia it is ‘252’ and the Authority as stated in the Communications Act, 2017, manages its use.
  - [6] “Days” means calendar Days.
  - [7] “Dialling” means the origination of a communication, such as a call or a message, through the input of a number at a terminal.
  - [8] “Geographic Number” means a National Significant Number in which the National Destination Code indicates a geographic usage (such as “Benadir”).
  - [9] “Internal Network Code” means a number that facilitates routing communications without being used in Dialling. In particular, an International Signalling Point Code, a National Signalling Point Code or a Mobile Network Code is an Internal Network Code.
  - [10] “International Prefix” means a sequence of digits that in Dialling is followed by an International Significant Number to route a communication from one country to another country. For Somalia it is ‘00’.
  - [11] “International Significant Number” means a Country Code followed by a National Significant Number.
  - [12] “ITU” means the International Telecommunication Union, which is the specialized agency of the United Nations that is responsible for telecommunications.

- [13] "ITU-T" means the Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the ITU, which develops standards for telecommunications.
- [14] "National Destination Code" means the sequence of digits at the start of a National Significant Number that indicates the usage.
- [15] "National Prefix" means a sequence of digits that in Dialling is followed by a National Significant Number to route a communication inside one country. For Somalia it is '0'.
- [16] "National Significant Number" means a National Destination Code followed by a Subscriber Number.
- [17] "Non-Geographic Number" means a National Significant Number in which the National Destination Code indicates a non-geographic usage (such as "Mobile" or "Freephone").
- [18] "Numbering Register" means the records maintained by the Authority that state the Availability Indicators and other details of the numbers that are identified in the Numbering Plan.
- [19] "Numbering Plan" means the document prepared by the Authority that sets out numbers with their uses for telecommunications services.
- [20] "Number Range" means a series of consecutive numbers. It may be identified by its leading digits (so, for example, '67 xxx' and '67 xxx-69 xxx' are Number Ranges).
- [21] "Short Code" means a number that without being preceded in Dialling by a National Destination Code identifies a special service (such as confidential advice and support to children and young people).
- [22] "Subscriber Number" means a number that when proceeded in Dialling by a National Destination Code identifies a subscriber to a general service (such as mobile access).

### **3 Legal Powers**

In accordance with the Communications Act, 2017, the Authority is responsible for planning the use of numbers and regulating the allocation of numbers.

### **4 Standards for Numbers**

- (1) Every Licensee shall adopt numbering that complies with international standards, which include, but are not limited to, ITU-T Recommendations E.164, E.212 and Q.708. In particular, ITU-T Recommendation E.164 implies that in Somalia:
  - [1] National Significant Numbers shall have at most twelve (12) digits; and
  - [2] Digit analysis outside Somalia shall need at most the first four (4) digits of National Significant Numbers.
- (2) The Authority may supplement the international standards if it considers that doing so is justified.

- (3) Every Licensee shall inform its customers regularly about the need to precede a written National Significant Number by '0' or '+252' and by no other digits.

## **5 The Numbering Plan**

- (1) The Authority shall specify in the Numbering Plan the usages of all of the numbers that are allocated or available for allocation.
- (2) The Authority shall make the Numbering Plan publicly available online.
- (3) The Authority shall review the Numbering Plan annually to consider:
  - [1] The forecast demand for numbers;
  - [2] Any significant developments affecting the services offered by Licensees; and
  - [3] Any likely revisions to this Regulation.
- (4) The Authority shall amend the Numbering Plan only after conducting a public consultation lasting at least Ninety- (90) Days. All of the amendments shall be objectively justifiable in the light of the cost and inconvenience to Licensees and users.
- (5) If the Authority amends the Numbering Plan, it shall:
  - [1] Update the Numbering Register; and
  - [2] Inform the ITU, using the formats provided in ITU-T Recommendation E.129, if possible.

## **6 The Numbering Register**

- (1) The Authority shall maintain in the Numbering Register up-to-date, accurate and comprehensive records about all of the numbers that are allocated or available for allocation. The Numbering Register shall contain:
  - [1] The lengths, usages and Availability Indicators of the numbers; and
  - [2] Identities of any Licensees to whom the numbers are allocated.
- (2) The Authority shall make the Numbering Register publicly available online.
- (3) The Authority shall audit the Numbering Plan annually to correct any discrepancies between the Numbering Register and the information held by the Licensees about the numbers allocated to them.

## **7 Indicating the Availability of Numbers**

- (1) A number shall have one of the following Availability Indicators:
  - [1] 'Allocated', which indicates that the number is allocated to a Licensee that is identified for the number in the Numbering Register;
  - [2] 'Free', which indicates that the number is available for allocation; and
  - [3] 'Protected', which indicates that the number is protected from allocation.

- (2) A number shall have 'Protected' as its Availability Indicator if:
  - [1] it is not identified in the Numbering Plan; and
  - [2] it is not considered by the Authority to be an Internal Network Code.

## **8 Dialling Numbers**

- (1) The National Prefix, '0', followed by a National Significant Number, shall be used inside Somalia in all successful Dialling to destinations inside Somalia, except:
  - [1] Dialling using Subscriber Numbers on their own; and
  - [2] Dialling using Short Codes.
- (2) If a Subscriber Number on its own can be used in successful Dialling the resulting communication shall cost the user making it exactly what it would cost if the user made it by successful Dialling of the National Prefix followed by the corresponding National Destination Code and the Subscriber Number.
- (3) If a Short Code can be used in successful Dialling the resulting communication shall be free of charge to the user making it.
- (4) The International Prefix, '00', followed by an International Significant Number, shall be used inside Somalia in all successful Dialling to destinations outside Somalia.

## **9 Allocating Numbers**

- (1) Every Licensee may apply to the Authority for allocations of numbers. Any other person who needs numbers shall request them from a Licensee.
- (2) When applying to the Authority for an allocation of numbers a Licensee shall submit to the Authority an application in a prescribed format containing information about the numbers requested. For National Significant Numbers the information shall include:
  - [1] Any preferences for the numbers;
  - [2] The forecast demand for the numbers over one (1) year;
  - [3] The actual demand and an earlier forecast demand for numbers already allocated to the Licensee, if possible; and
  - [4] Any other information that the Authority requests and that can be provided without placing an undue burden on the Licensee.
- (3) The Authority may suggest that the Licensee change an application, by, for example, adding further information or splitting it into applications that can be granted or refused separately.
- (4) The Authority shall acknowledge receiving a complete application.
- (5) The Authority shall treat an application as confidential until it is granted or refused.
- (6) The Authority shall grant or refuse an application by taking account of:
  - [1] Any relevant License conditions;

- [2] Whether the lengths and usages of the numbers would be in accordance with the Numbering Plan;
  - [3] Whether numbers that have those lengths and usages are available for allocation;
  - [4] How the forecast demand for the numbers relates to the actual demand and an earlier forecast demand for numbers already allocated to the Licensee;
  - [5] The adequacy of the supply of numbers to other Licensees;
  - [6] The cohesion of the supply of numbers (so, for example, Number Ranges that have the same sizes as each other are allocated next to each other, if possible); and
  - [7] Any other matters that the Authority deems relevant.
- (7) The Authority shall grant or refuse a complete application at most thirty (30) Days after receiving it and before granting or refusing any other application received subsequently, unless the applicant agrees otherwise.
  - (8) If the Authority refuses an application, it shall immediately supply the applicant in writing with objectively justifiable reasons for doing so that are based on the information provided by the applicant and follow the procedures set out in the Communications Act, 2017.
  - (9) If the Authority grants an application:
    - [1] It shall immediately inform the applicant in writing and update the Numbering Register to record that the numbers have become allocated (so their Availability Indicators change from 'Free' to 'Allocated'); and
    - [2] It shall inform the ITU.

## **10 Withdrawing Numbers**

- (1) The Authority may withdraw numbers that are allocated to a Licensee only if:
  - [1] After conducting a public consultation lasting at least ninety (90) Days the Authority considers that the lengths or usages of the numbers are not in accordance with the Numbering Plan; or
  - [2] During the previous one (1) year any users to whom the Licensee has assigned the numbers have not made or received any communications on terminals associated with the numbers and have not recharged any accounts associated with the numbers.
- (2) If the Authority withdraws numbers that are allocated to a Licensee:
  - [1] It shall immediately inform the Licensee in writing and update the Numbering Register to record that the numbers have become available for allocation (so their Availability Indicators change from 'Allocated' to 'Free'); and
  - [2] It shall inform the ITU.

- (3) The Authority shall refund any fees for numbers that have already been paid and that cover periods after the numbers have been withdrawn.
- (4) The Authority shall accept no liability for withdrawing numbers that are allocated to a Licensee.

### **11 Protecting Numbers**

- (1) The Authority shall protect numbers that are available for allocation only after conducting a public consultation lasting at least Ninety- (90) Days.
- (2) If the Authority protects numbers that are available for allocation:
  - [1] It shall amend the Numbering Plan and update the Numbering Register to record that the numbers have become protected from allocation (so their Availability Indicators change from 'Free' to 'Protected'); and
  - [2] It shall inform the ITU.

### **12 Freeing Numbers**

- (1) The Authority shall free numbers that are protected from allocation only after conducting a public consultation lasting at least Ninety- (90) Days.
- (2) If the Authority frees numbers that are protected from allocation:
  - [1] It shall amend the Numbering Plan and update the Numbering Register to record that the numbers have become available for allocation (so their Availability Indicators change from 'Protected' to 'Free'); and
  - [2] It shall inform the ITU.

### **13 Auditing Numbers**

- (1) A Licensee shall maintain, and make available to the Authority on request, up-to-date, accurate and comprehensive information about all of the numbers allocated to it.
- (2) At the end of every calendar year every Licensee to whom the Authority has allocated numbers shall submit to the Authority an inventory in a prescribed format containing information about all of the numbers allocated to the Licensee. For National Significant Numbers the information shall include:
  - [1] The lengths and usages of numbers allocated to the Licensee;
  - [2] The quantities of numbers already assigned to users;
  - [3] The quantities of numbers still assignable to users;
  - [4] The forecast demand for numbers over one (1) year; and
  - [5] Any other information that the Authority requests and that can be provided without placing an undue burden on the Licensee.



#### **14 Fees for Numbers**

- (1) The Authority, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Technology, may determine the collection methods of fees for numbers.
- (2) The Authority shall publish the up-to-date fees for numbers.

#### **15 Operations with Numbers**

- (1) Every Licensee shall use numbers allocated to it only as specified when the relevant application to the Authority was granted. In particular, it shall respect any usage set out in the Numbering Plan.
- (2) Every Licensee shall remain responsible for the numbers allocated to it by the Authority even if it subsequently allocates the numbers to another organization.
- (3) Every Licensee shall notify communications providers inside and outside Somalia about numbers that it brings into service or removes from service and that those communications providers might need to recognise.
- (4) Every Licensee shall inform the Authority of up-to-date contact details that the Authority will make available on request to other communications providers who notify others about numbers that they bring into service or remove from service.
- (5) A Licensee may associate numbers with itself or another Licensee in advertising and other publicity material only to provide contact details. In particular, National Destination Codes shall have national significance and shall not be associated with particular Licensees.
- (6) Every Licensee shall enable a Short Code to be the destination address for communications if:
  - [1] It has already enabled another number to be the destination address for communications that have the purpose associated with the Short Code in the Numbering Plan; or
  - [2] An existing organization is equipped with terminals to receive communications that have the purpose associated with the Short Code in the Numbering Plan and that are free of charge to the Licensee.
- (7) Every Licensee shall avoid inefficient uses of numbers. These include, but are not limited to:
  - [1] Failing to inform the Authority that a Number Range is no longer needed;
  - [2] Scattering assignments of numbers throughout a Number Range, thereby making the unassigned numbers difficult to withdraw;
  - [3] Assigning to corporate customers many more numbers than forecasts justify; and
  - [4] Assigning National Significant Numbers that have lengths less than the maximum allowed in the Numbering Plan for them.

## 16 Assignments of Numbers

- (1) A Licensee may assign a number to a user only if:
  - [1] The number is a National Significant Number;
  - [2] The number is already allocated to the Licensee by the Authority or another Licensee;
  - [3] The Subscriber Number embedded in the number does not match any Short Code even if digits are post fixed to it or the Short Code (but not to both); and
  - [4] The number does not match any number that is already assigned to a different user even if digits are post fixed to it or the other number (but not to both).
- (2) A Licensee may change a number assigned to a user only if:
  - [1] It has been permitted in writing to do so by the Authority and has notified the user, with an explanation, at least thirty (30) Days before the intended date of change; or
  - [2] It has been requested to do so by the user.
- (3) A Licensee shall change a number assigned to a user if the user justifies a request for a change to avoid frequent unwanted calls.
- (4) A Licensee may discontinue the assignment of a number to a user only if:
  - [1] It has been permitted in writing to do so by the Authority and has notified the user, with an explanation, at least thirty (30) Days before the intended date of discontinuation; or
  - [2] During the previous one (1) year the user has not made or received any communications on terminals associated with the number and has not recharged any accounts associated with the number.
- (5) A Licensee shall discontinue the assignment of a number to a user if during the previous three (3) years the user has not made or received any communications on terminals associated with the number and has not recharged any accounts associated with the number.