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CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING IN INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

INTRODUCTION OF REDUCED RATES DURING PERIODS OF LIGHT TRAFFIC IN THE INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SERVICE

ITU-T Recommendation D.106

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation D.106 was published in Fascicle II.1 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.

**INTRODUCTION OF REDUCED RATES DURING PERIODS OF
LIGHT TRAFFIC IN THE INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE SERVICE**

(Geneva, 1972)

1 It is desirable for Administrations to have uniform guide lines for applying reduced rates during periods of light traffic in the international telephone service. Observance of the following rules should lead to some degree of uniformity in this sphere.

2 Subject to the agreement of the Administrations concerned and with due regard to § 5 below, a reduced rate may be charged during light traffic periods both for fully automatic calls and for semi-automatic or manual calls.

3 According to the reasons for which the reduced rate is introduced, Administrations may choose a percentage reduction ranging from a minimum of 10 per cent to a maximum of 50 per cent. In selecting the percentage, Administrations should take into account the following:

- the necessity of informing the customers, by some means, of the hours and level of reduction;
- the need to determine the effects on distribution of traffic during the various hours and on revenues obtained from the service. In order to determine such effects, it may be well to introduce a series of small reductions rather than one large reduction.

3.1 The percentage reduction should be fixed by agreement between the terminal Administrations concerned to avoid dissymmetry between the charges at the two extremities of a relation.

3.2 Within regions, Administrations should agree to apply, as far as possible, the same percentage reduction.

3.3 For charging and accounting purposes, calls should be considered in principle to fall entirely within the charge period in which they start, regardless of the fact that they may end in another charge period.

4 The reduced rate periods and the date of introduction must be fixed by bilateral agreement or possibly by multilateral agreement for a region in the light of the following considerations.

4.1 The days and times during which reduced rates are offered may not be the same in both directions of the same relation, in particular as regards:

- public holidays, which vary from country to country;
- hours, owing to the difference in local times, especially in intercontinental relations. It is recommended, however, that the duration of the period in which the reduced rates apply should be the same in both directions.

4.2 The reduced rate period should begin and end on the hour (and not at subdivisions of an hour).

4.3 When there is a time difference between the two ends of the same relation, the period of application of the reduced tariff shall be determined on the basis of local time in the country of origin.

However, calls paid for in the country of destination may be charged:

- i) according to the tariff provisions in force in the country of destination;
- ii) taking into account, where appropriate, the charging period in effect at the start of the call in the country of origin.

4.4 Since business hours do not generally extend beyond 1900 hours (local time) in the evening and do not start in the morning before 0800 hours (local time), it is recommended that the intervening period be adopted for charging reduced rates on working days (see also § 4.6 below) in relations where the end-to-end time difference is not more than 3 hours.

4.5 In relations where the time difference is greater than 3 hours, the night reduced rate shall not be applied in the country of origin as long as the busy period has not yet ended in the country of destination.

4.6 The reduced rate shall normally be charged on Saturdays in countries where this is a rest day and on Sundays in countries where this is not a working day.

5 It is recommended that the application of reduced rates to the automatic service (see also § 2 above) be delayed until all or nearly all subscribers are able to dial their own calls in the relation concerned or until nearly all traffic can be routed automatically.

6 If the introduction of reduced rates is made before full dial capability exists, in the interest of fairness to subscribers who still must pass their traffic by semi-automatic or manual means, the reduced rate should be granted to these subscribers also.