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ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

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SERIES D: GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES

General tariff principles – Service and privilege
telecommunications

**Time-scale for settlement of accounts for
international telecommunication services**

ITU-T Recommendation D.195

ITU-T D-SERIES RECOMMENDATIONS
GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS	D.0
GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES	
Private leased telecommunication facilities	D.1–D.9
Tariff principles applying to data communication services over dedicated public data networks	D.10–D.39
Charging and accounting in the international public telegram service	D.40–D.44
Charging and accounting in the international telemessage service	D.45–D.49
Principles applicable to GII-Internet	D.50–D.59
Charging and accounting in the international telex service	D.60–D.69
Charging and accounting in the international facsimile service	D.70–D.75
Charging and accounting in the international videotex service	D.76–D.79
Charging and accounting in the international phototelegraph service	D.80–D.89
Charging and accounting in the mobile services	D.90–D.99
Charging and accounting in the international telephone service	D.100–D.159
Drawing up and exchange of international telephone and telex accounts	D.160–D.179
International sound- and television-programme transmissions	D.180–D.184
Charging and accounting for international satellite services	D.185–D.189
Transmission of monthly international accounting information	D.190–D.191
Service and privilege telecommunications	D.192–D.195
Settlement of international telecommunication balances of accounts	D.196–D.209
Charging and accounting principles for international telecommunication services provided over the ISDN	D.210–D.279
Charging and accounting principles for universal personal telecommunication	D.280–D.284
Charging and accounting principles for intelligent network supported services	D.285–D.299
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGIONAL APPLICATION	
Recommendations applicable in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin	D.300–D.399
Recommendations applicable in Latin America	D.400–D.499
Recommendations applicable in Asia and Oceania	D.500–D.599
Recommendations applicable to the African Region	D.600–D.699

For further details, please refer to the list of ITU-T Recommendations.

ITU-T Recommendation D.195

Time-scale for settlement of accounts for international telecommunication services

Summary

This Recommendation sets out the general guideline on the time-scale to be adopted in the settlement of accounts for international telecommunication services.

Source

ITU-T Recommendation D.195 was approved by ITU-T Study Group 3 (2001-2004) under the WTSA Resolution 1 on 21 November 2003.

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

Compliance with this Recommendation is voluntary. However, the Recommendation may contain certain mandatory provisions (to ensure e.g. interoperability or applicability) and compliance with the Recommendation is achieved when all of these mandatory provisions are met. The words "shall" or some other obligatory language such as "must" and the negative equivalents are used to express requirements. The use of such words does not suggest that compliance with the Recommendation is required of any party.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

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As of the date of approval of this Recommendation, ITU had not received notice of intellectual property, protected by patents, which may be required to implement this Recommendation. However, implementors are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information and are therefore strongly urged to consult the TSB patent database.

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ITU-T Recommendation D.195

Time-scale for settlement of accounts for international telecommunication services

The ITU-T,

recognizing

- a) that in today's dynamic commercial environment, the existing settlement period is too long and unrealistic for some parties and that it would be beneficial to many parties to modify the existing settlements process;
- b) that in order to improve the settlements process and shorten the time period for settlements, it would be more efficient and time-saving to establish generally acceptable procedures that can be used as a guideline for bilateral agreement,

considering

- a) that the current settlement period tends to be longer than some commercial transactions;
- b) that a more well-balanced treatment could be brought about between debtor carriers and creditor carriers by shortening the settlement period,

recommends

- a) that Administrations and ROAs establish the provisions for bilateral accounting and settlements by mutual agreement within the framework of this Recommendation (per Article 1 of the ITRs).
- b) Monthly accounts for traffic on direct circuits and direct-settled transit¹ traffic shall be sent within 50 days following the end of the month to which they relate.
- c) Questioning a monthly account shall be made within 50 days after the receipt of the account.
- d) Payment of the balances of account on the undisputed amounts shall normally be paid within 40 days of its arrival of the settlement statement². To ensure prompt delivery, the creditor carrier shall send a statement by facsimile or by electronic means.
- e) When remitting payment, a statement indicating the service period, the type of service, the invoice number, the amount paid, the currency and its conversion factor, the dispute details, and the contact name and contact information shall accompany the payment.
- f) Beyond the period in d) above, the creditor carrier may, subject to prior notification in the form of the final demand for payment, and unless otherwise agreed, charge interest at a rate of 6% per annum on undisputed amounts, commencing from the day following the date of expiry of the said period.

¹ Cascade settlement shall not be included.

² The arrival of the settlement statement can be ascertained by the following ways:

- In case of exchange of the settlement statement by EDI: automatically by the system;
- In case of exchange of the settlement statement by fax: by the request of a confirmation of receipt via return fax;
- In case of exchange of the settlement statement by mail: by return receipt request process.

Study Group 3 should review the time-scale set out in this Recommendation based on contributions.

- g) Any interest applicable for direct-settled transit traffic shall be borne by the originating Administration.
- h) If Administrations require a transitional period for applying this Recommendation, the application date of this Recommendation may be decided by mutual agreement.
- i) Should there be any conflict regarding the time-scale in this Recommendation and those stated in Appendix 1 of the International Telecommunication Regulations, then the latter would prevail.

SERIES OF ITU-T RECOMMENDATIONS

Series A	Organization of the work of ITU-T
Series B	Means of expression: definitions, symbols, classification
Series C	General telecommunication statistics
Series D	General tariff principles
Series E	Overall network operation, telephone service, service operation and human factors
Series F	Non-telephone telecommunication services
Series G	Transmission systems and media, digital systems and networks
Series H	Audiovisual and multimedia systems
Series I	Integrated services digital network
Series J	Cable networks and transmission of television, sound programme and other multimedia signals
Series K	Protection against interference
Series L	Construction, installation and protection of cables and other elements of outside plant
Series M	TMN and network maintenance: international transmission systems, telephone circuits, telegraphy, facsimile and leased circuits
Series N	Maintenance: international sound programme and television transmission circuits
Series O	Specifications of measuring equipment
Series P	Telephone transmission quality, telephone installations, local line networks
Series Q	Switching and signalling
Series R	Telegraph transmission
Series S	Telegraph services terminal equipment
Series T	Terminals for telematic services
Series U	Telegraph switching
Series V	Data communication over the telephone network
Series X	Data networks and open system communications
Series Y	Global information infrastructure, Internet protocol aspects and Next Generation Networks
Series Z	Languages and general software aspects for telecommunication systems

24764