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Telegraph and mobile services: Operations and quality of
service – Telex

**OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO
MAILBOX DEVICES CONNECTED TO THE
TELEX NETWORK**

Reedition of CCITT Recommendation F.74 published in
the Blue Book, Fascicle II.4 (1988)

NOTES

1 CCITT Recommendation F.74 was published in Fascicle II.4 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.

Recommendation F.74

OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO MAILBOX DEVICES CONNECTED TO THE TELEX NETWORK

The CCITT,

considering

- (a) that there is an increasing trend for mailbox devices to be connected directly to the Telex network, with the ability to send and receive telex messages;
- (b) that in some instances, such individual mailboxes are allocated telex numbers;
- (c) that the main difference between a dedicated telex terminal and a mailbox device for the purpose of this Recommendation, is that the individual mailbox owner has the responsibility of checking that a message has been received in the mailbox;
- (d) that the message could remain in the mailbox unnoticed for some time;
- (e) that the sender of the message may be unaware that the addressee is a mailbox, and therefore could reasonably assume that, providing the answerback is present and correct at both start and end of the local record, the recipient will receive the message without any positive action on the part of the recipient;
- (f) that such mailbox devices should be required to answer all calls delivered correctly by the telex network, and do so promptly to ensure that ineffective usage of the international telex network is minimised.

unanimously declares

that the general principles, answerback format and time to answer for mailboxes connected to the network should be as described in this Recommendation.

1 Scope

The provisions of this Recommendation apply to mailbox devices connected to the telex network which are identified by a national telex number. This Recommendation recognizes that currently implemented mailbox devices are not required to conform to these provisions. However, where possible there may be advantages if existing equipment comply with the requirements of this Recommendation.

2 Call establishment to a mailbox device

2.1 Incoming telex calls should be answered, provided that the telex number has been correctly selected, and the call passed to the equipment of the customer (the mailbox device).

2.2 The mailbox device shall respond to an incoming call from the telex network by returning the call connected signal in accordance with the relevant U-Series Recommendations, the mailbox answerback being returned in response to the WRU signal in accordance with Recommendation S.6.

2.3 Where the selection information identifies a valid mailbox, an answerback shown in Figure 1/F.74 should be returned together with the code expression CI (Conversation Impossible).

2.4 In order to comply with the requirement of § 2.1, where the call has been passed to the mailbox device but a valid individual mailbox cannot be identified, then an overflow answerback of the form shown in Figure 2/F.74 should be returned. In such circumstances, the call may then be cleared backwards with a message provided by the mailbox device or, if required, routed to an assistance position.

2.5 It should be noted that some Administrations participating in the international telex service use combination 22 in the figure case (=) as the initial printing character of the answerback to indicate a bilingual terminal in its default latin mode.

- Figure-shift or (if required by the network) letter-shift;
- Carriage-return;
- Line-feed;
- National telex number of the individual mailbox or (if letter-shift is fitted in the first position) figure-shift followed by the national telex number of the individual mailbox (see Note);
- “=” Combination No. 22;
- Letter-shift;
- Space (optional);
- Letters indicating as explicitly as possible the name of the individual mailbox user;
- Space;
- One or two letters of the telex network identification code listed in Recommendation F.69;
- Letter-shift (if required by the network).

Note – The individual mailbox telex number will consist of a telex number that identifies the mailbox device. The composition and assignment of the individual mailbox telex number is a national matter.

FIGURE 1/F.74

Individual mailbox answerback

- Figure-shift or (if required by the network) letter-shift;
- Carriage-return;
- Line-feed;
- National telex number of the overflow mailbox or (if letter-shift is fitted in the first position) figure-shift followed by the national telex number of the overflow mailbox (see Note);
- “=” Combination No. 22;
- Letter-shift;
- Space (optional);
- Letters O, combination 15;
- Space;
- One or two letters of the telex network identification code listed in Recommendation F.69;
- Letter-shift (if required by the network).

Note – Where the mailbox device is identified by a telex number with digits assigned to an individual mailbox, the overflow mailbox identify shall be zeros (0s), combination 16.

FIGURE 2/F.74

Overflow mailbox answerback

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