

International Telecommunication Union

**ITU-T**

TELECOMMUNICATION  
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR  
OF ITU

**D.99**

(09/2012)

SERIES D: GENERAL TARIFF PRINCIPLES

General tariff principles – Charging and accounting in the  
mobile services

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**Indicative rate for international mobile  
termination**

Recommendation ITU-T D.99



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# Recommendation ITU-T D.99

## Indicative rate for international mobile termination

### Summary

Recommendation ITU-T D.99 discusses the question of an indicative rate for international mobile termination and provides some suggestions for consideration by national regulatory authorities.

### History

Edition	Recommendation	Approval	Study Group
1.0	ITU-T D.99	2008-04-04	3
2.1	ITU-T D.99	2012-09-07	3

## FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications, information and communication technologies (ICTs). 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.

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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, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information and are therefore strongly urged to consult the TSB patent database at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/ipr/>.

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## **Recommendation ITU-T D.99**

### **Indicative rate for international mobile termination**

#### **1 Background**

The high growth rate of mobile networks in recent years in many countries has resulted in mobile telephony networks having been found, in most of the cases, to have significant market power in certain telecommunications markets. A fixed operator can only terminate a call on a particular mobile network after negotiating an interconnection agreement, and a termination rate, with the operator of that particular mobile network.

Elementary economic theory states that, in such a case, market forces will not result in termination rates based on the costs of the mobile network operator, but rather in termination rates based on the marginal utility of the caller. Such rates will result in monopoly profits for the mobile network operator, where the expression "monopoly profits" is used here strictly in the economic sense of profits that are higher than those that would occur if market forces were such that the mobile termination rates were based on the costs of the mobile network operator.

Whether or not such monopoly profits are desirable is a national matter: there may be very valid reasons why a national regulator believes that it is not necessary to intervene to impose cost-based international mobile termination rates.

However, if such monopoly profits are not considered desirable, then the national regulator may wish to impose a ceiling on the international mobile termination rates.

Administrations can use various methods to determine appropriate ceilings on such rates.

#### **2 References**

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published. The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

[ITU-T D.93] Recommendation ITU-T D.93 (2003), *Charging and accounting in the international land mobile telephone service (provided via cellular radio systems)*.

[ITU-T D.140] Recommendation ITU-T D.140 (2002), *Accounting rate principles for the international telephone service*.

#### **3 Considerations for Administrations**

If an Administration wishes to impose ceiling on international mobile termination rates, then it should take into account all relevant factors which, in most cases, would include the cost of building and maintaining the mobile network infrastructure.

Comparison of international mobile termination rates across countries reveals that there are significant differences, and there is no simple explanation for those differences.

When an Administration wishes to establish a basis for negotiation for international mobile termination rate, it may consider the current international fixed termination rate as an initial basis from which to start deliberations taking into account the relevant provisions of [ITU-T D.93] and [ITU-T D.140].







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