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INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU-T

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STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

F.18

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**OPERATIONS AND QUALITY OF SERVICE
TELEGRAPH SERVICES**

**GUIDELINES ON HARMONIZATION
OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC BUREAU
SERVICES**

ITU-T Recommendation F.18
Superseded by a more recent version

(Previously "CCITT Recommendation")

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FOREWORD

The ITU-T (Telecommunication Standardization Sector) is a permanent organ of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The 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 Conference (WTSC), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T Study Groups which, in their turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of Recommendations by the Members of the ITU-T is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSC Resolution No. 1 (Helsinki, March 1-12, 1993).

ITU-T Recommendation F.18 was prepared by ITU-T Study Group 1 (1993-1996) and was approved under the WTSC Resolution No. 1 procedure on the 21st of February 1995.

NOTE

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

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SUMMARY

This Recommendation contains the general concept for the harmonized application of international public bureau services. It is intended to guide Administrations/ROA in implementing Recommendation F.11 (Continued availability of traditional services).

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Recommendation F.18

GUIDELINES ON HARMONIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC BUREAU SERVICES

(Geneva, 1994)

1 Introduction

considering

- (a) the reasonable needs of customers for a service of last resort;
- (b) ITU-T Study Group 1's work on harmonization of the telegram, telemessage and bureaufax services;
- (c) Resolution No. 6 (World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference, WATTC, Melbourne 1988) and Recommendation F.11 on continued availability of traditional services in accordance with which the classical telegram service is no longer obligatory for international relations where a reasonable alternative such as bureaufax or telemessage exists;
- (d) the moral obligation on ITU Members to provide at least a form of international service of last resort;
- (e) the possibilities of newly introduced transport mechanisms or services which could play an important role for efficient operation of traditional services;
- (f) that there is no basis in the Regulations of the ITU to require any particular form of transmission for bureau services;
- (g) that a harmonization and utilization of positive elements of the individual bureau services could improve flexibility, simplify operation, and increase cost-effectiveness;
- (h) that bureaufax in view of its much greater flexibility, simple operation and cost-effectiveness might be encouraged in other countries to allow a transfer from telegram transmitted in accordance with the 1992 version of Recommendation F.1 to facsimile applications over a wide area;
- (i) that other technical solutions may be developed,

this Recommendation provides broad guidelines on the minimum requirements for a harmonized operation of existing bureau services.

2 Terminology

For the purpose of this Recommendation, a **bureau service** is a message service for those who are permanently or temporarily not subscribers to other services or who wish to use this service for any other reason whereby it will be perceived as simply transporting a message regardless of the mechanism used.

3 Scope

3.1 This Recommendation contains the general concept for the harmonized application of international public bureau services. It is intended to guide Administrations/ROA in implementing Recommendation F.11.

3.2 The international public bureau services should provide the capability of operation in conjunction with each other to the extent practicable.

3.3 The tariff principles for the international public bureau services are laid down in the relevant D-Series Recommendations.

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3.4 The provisions set out below shall apply to the operation of public bureau services via telecommunication networks:

- a) between public facsimile bureaux (bureaufax: see Recommendations F.170 and F.171);
- b) between public facsimile bureaux and subscribers' facsimile stations, and vice versa (see Recommendation F.190);
- c) between telegram offices (see Recommendations F.1 and F.31);
- d) between telemesssage offices (see Recommendation F.40);
- e) between telegram and bureaufax offices (see Recommendations F.1, F.31, F.170);
- f) between telegram offices and subscriber facsimile stations (see Recommendation F.1);
- g) between telegram offices and telex subscribers (see Recommendation F.1);
- h) between telegram and telemesssage offices and vice versa (see Recommendation F.41).

3.5 Classes of service

Classes of service in each category mentioned in 3.4 are handled in the relevant F-Series Recommendations.

4 Basic requirements

4.1 The basic requirements for international public bureau services are:

- a) reasonable access to the national service in the country of origin for lodging messages (e.g. over a counter, by telephone and perhaps by other telecommunication links to a public office, which may need to include format conversion);
- b) international transmission (e.g. by facsimile, telegram retransmission, gentex, telex, MHS, ...);
- c) format conversion, store-and-forward at a gateway if required;
- d) national transmission and/or format conversion as necessary;
- e) delivery by mail, or electronically as an option where practicable.

4.2 The more likely and preferred harmonized applications will be identified in the appropriate service Recommendations as necessary, including the operational procedures, and service parameters.

4.3 Any effects on charging and accounting will be covered in the D-Series Recommendations with the objective of operational simplicity.

5 Mode operation

5.1 The mode of operation should be in accordance with the mechanism used for transporting the message [see 4.1, b)].

5.2 Specific detail will be found in the individual service Recommendations.

5.3 The quality of service aspects are also handled in the relevant F-Series Recommendations.