INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU-T

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

F.18

(03/98)

SERIES F: NON-TELEPHONE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

Telegraph service – Operating methods for the international public telegram service

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Guidelines on harmonization of international public bureau services

ITU-T Recommendation F.18

(Previously CCITT Recommendation)

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ITU-T RECOMMENDATION F.18

GUIDELINES ON HARMONIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC BUREAU SERVICES

Summary

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

Source

ITU-T Recommendation F.18 was revised by ITU-T Study Group 2 (1997-2000) and was approved under the WTSC Resolution No. 1 procedure on the 9th of March 1998.

FOREWORD

ITU (International Telecommunication Union) is the United Nations Specialized Agency in the field of telecommunications. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of the 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.

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.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The ITU draws attention to the possibility that the practice or implementation of this Recommendation may involve the use of a claimed Intellectual Property Right. The ITU takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of claimed Intellectual Property Rights, whether asserted by ITU members or others outside of the Recommendation development process.

As of the date of approval of this Recommendation, the 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.

CONTENTS

Recommendation F.18

GUIDELINES ON HARMONIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC BUREAU SERVICES

(revised in 1998)

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 1998 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/ROAs 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.

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 telemessage offices (see Recommendation F.40);

e) between telegram and bureaufax offices (see Recommendations F.1, F.31 and 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 telemessage 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 of 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 details will be found in the individual service Recommendations.

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

Annex A

Harmonization of international public bureau services – Detailed guidelines

A.1 Introduction

This annex represents a more detailed approach for possible solutions for a harmonization of bureau services, taking into account the different situations in the various countries. Different steps or phases seem to be necessary and/or possible to introduce improvements in the area of bureau services.

A number of problems/solutions depend on national organization/structure of bureau services.

The following subclauses propose arrangements where facsimile transmission is used to carry telegrams nationally and/or internationally.

Specific operational provisions applying to facsimile transmissions can be found in Recommendations F.1, Part E, and F.170.

If specific provisions do not exist in Recommendation F.1, a number of problems could be solved by bilateral agreements.

A.2 Possible solutions for a harmonization of bureau services

A.2.1 Possible first approach (Domestic telegram and bureaufax services; see Figure A.1)

The harmonization of both services could start nationally simply by common use of telegram and bureaufax facilities. No technical changes are necessary.

The way this services are named, charged and marketed is a national matter.

National innovation should not be restrained. Which organization (postal authority, telecommunication ROA, etc.) operates any bureau service is also a national matter.

At this stage, at the international interface, a clear distinction should be made between telegrams and bureaufax.

Internationally the character-coded telegram service could be replaced by a fax-based bureau service.

Where suitable replacements exist, the international telegram will gradually disappear. Abolition in low-volume relations should be encouraged.

This stage could be characterised by:

– The existing technical facilities will be used further, only necessary improvements will be implemented.

– The transmission via facsimile will be preferred.

– Reasonable access to the national service for the input of messages will be provided.

– Domestic messages handed in over the counter will be transmitted via facsimile to the appropriate public bureau. Messages can contain written matter or printed matter, drawings or any other graphics.

– Telegrams and bureaufax for abroad will be transmitted, by the accepting public bureau, to the appropriate national gateway for further transmission (character-coded or image-coded).

– Where agreed, the office of origin may route telegrams directly to a telefax subscriber in another country.

A.2.2 Possible next step (International telegram and bureaufax service; see Figure A.2)

All aspects under A.2.1 should be considered.

The domestic Telegram Retransmission System will be improved (character-coded/image-coded interface to a fax store-and-forward system).

Direct transmission and delivery to fax machines nationwide and abroad will be possible.

By bilateral agreement it becomes possible to transmit (F.1) telegrams from the origin country to a public bureau abroad by fax.

The character set (ITA2) used for telegrams remains unchanged.

Direct international transmission via point-to-point (p.t.p.) and gentex will no longer be the sole means of international transmission.

Some countries may need to continue an F.1-type service nationally for longer. In this case a gateway to the international bureaufax service would facilitate these international transmission.

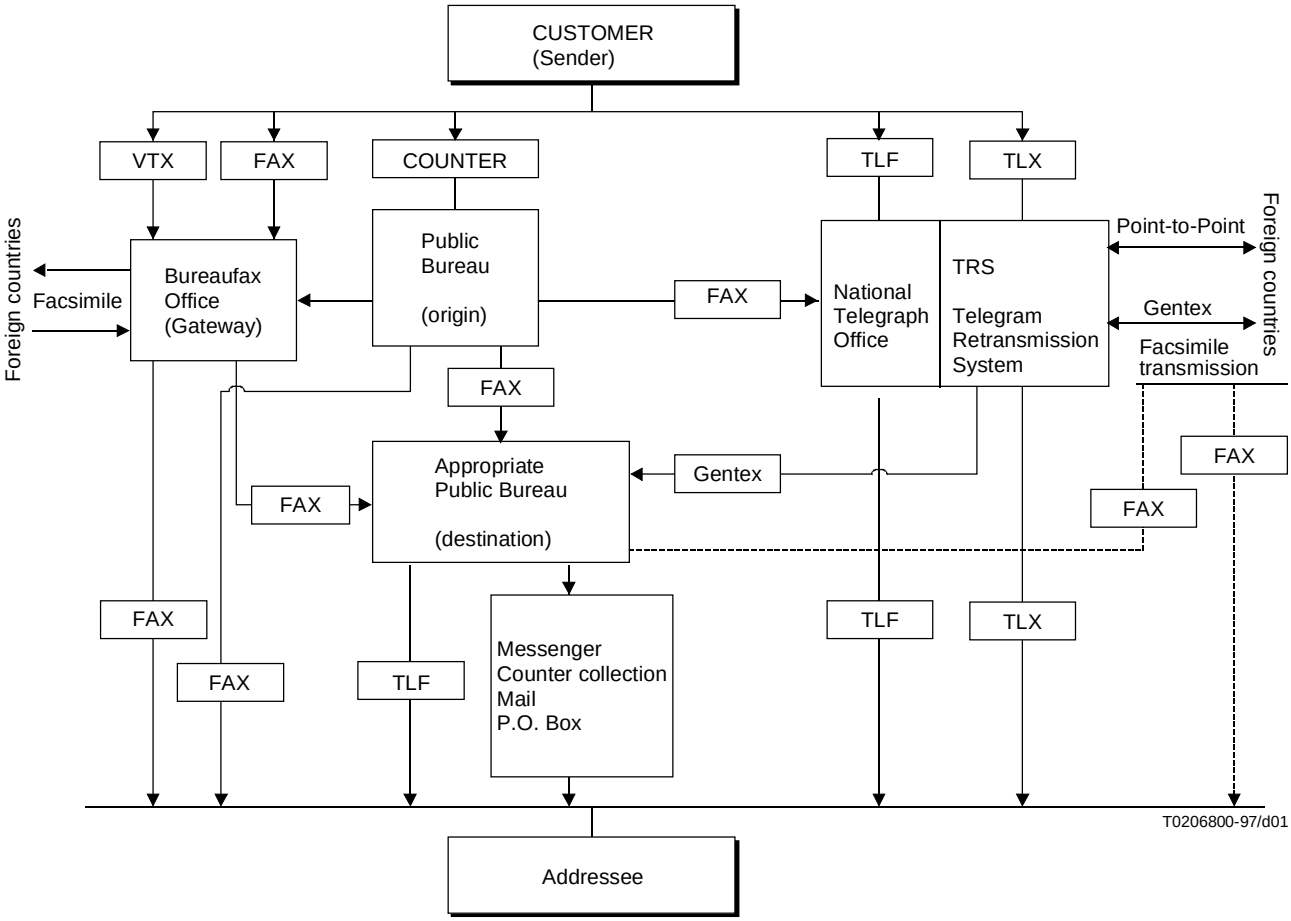


Figure A.1/F.18 – Possible solutions for a harmonization of bureaux services

The number of fax machines in public bureaux will be increased, gentex transmission to teleprinters (domestic) will be substituted by facsimile transmission.

Advantages: Cost reduction (fax machines and transmission over the pubic telephone network is cheaper than the costs of teleprinters and the use of the national gentex network).

The handling of messages takes less time (no word count necessary, easy transmission by facsimile etc.).

In the absence of new international accounting provisions, accounting could be solved by bilateral agreements.

A.2.3 Possible second approach (International telegram and bureaufax services; see Figure A.3)

All aspects under A.2.1 and A.2.2 should be considered.

Implementation of a domestic fax store-and-forward-system with automatic routing capabilities and centralised accounting and statistics.

In addition, where bilaterally agreed, the form accepted from the originator can be transmitted by facsimile internationally. Where agreed, characters outside ITA2 may be used.

The treatment of such messages, including international accounting, can be agreed bilaterally.

A.2.4 Possible final solution; see Figure A.4

The aim is to replace the classical telegram transmission technique completely by another transport mechanism.

A.3 Routing and retransmission of messages (Selection modes)

It should be noted that the choice of international transmission mode is not necessarily the same in each direction. For example, in any international relation it may be agreed that facsimile be used in one direction and printing telegraph in the other.

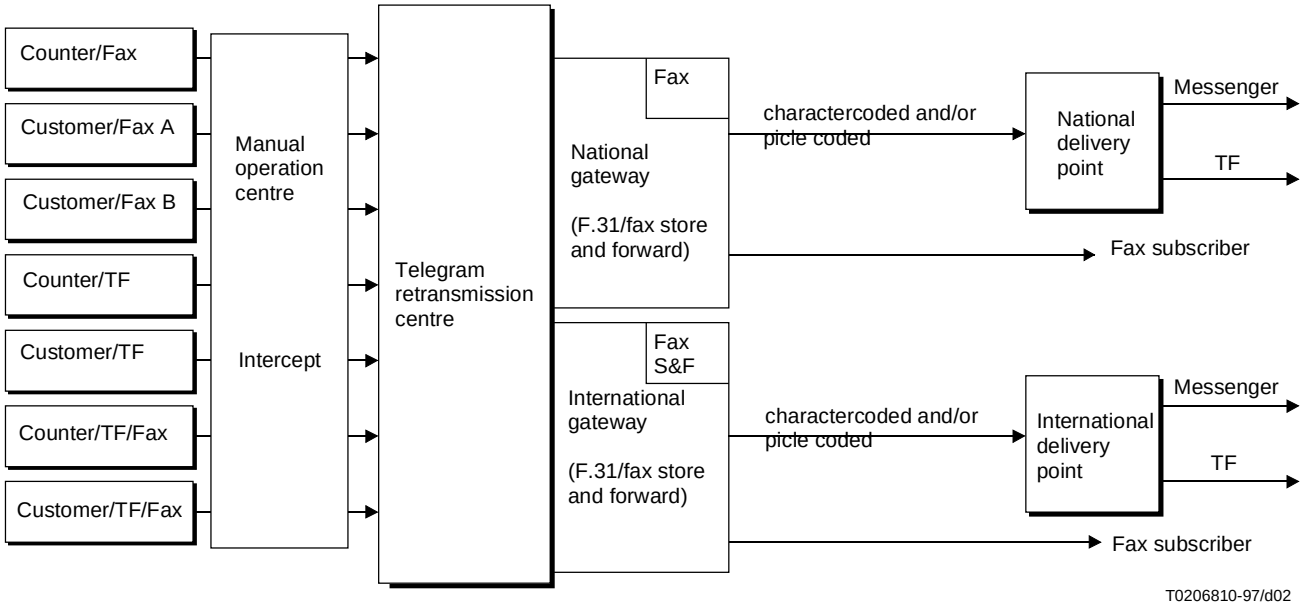


Figure A.2/F.18 – Possible next step (International telegram and bureaufax service)

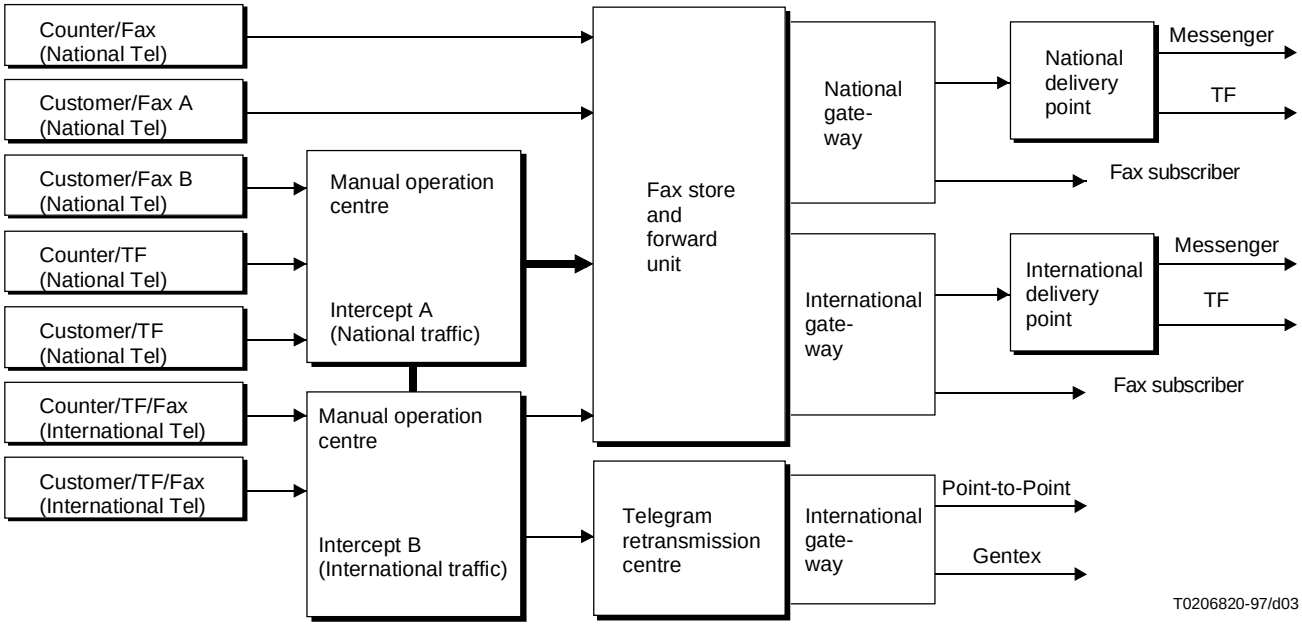


Figure A.3/F.18 – Possible second approach (International telegram and bureaufax services)

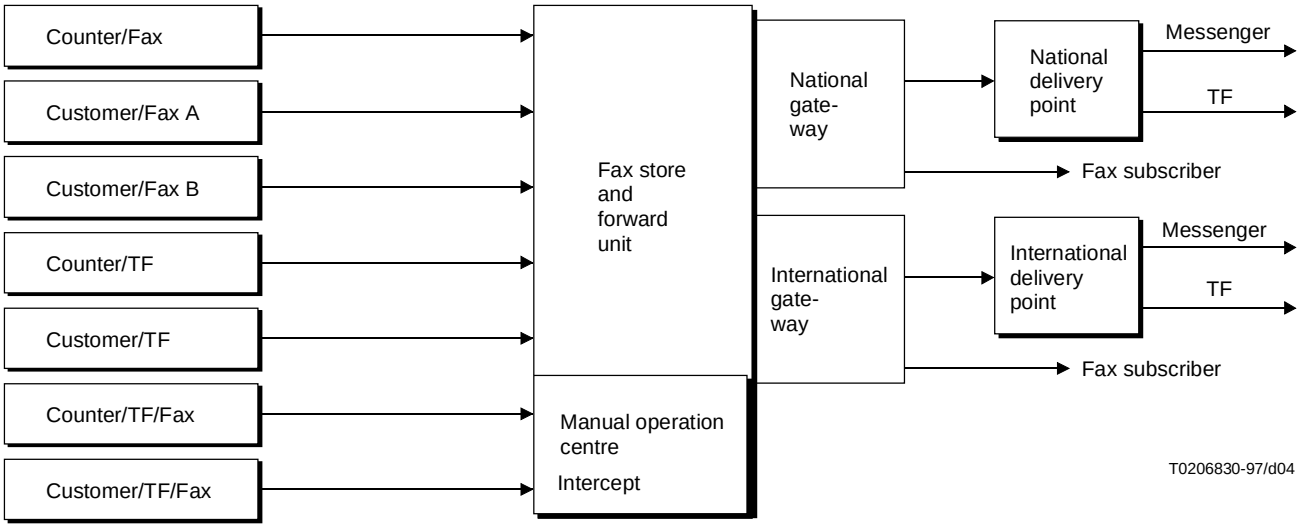
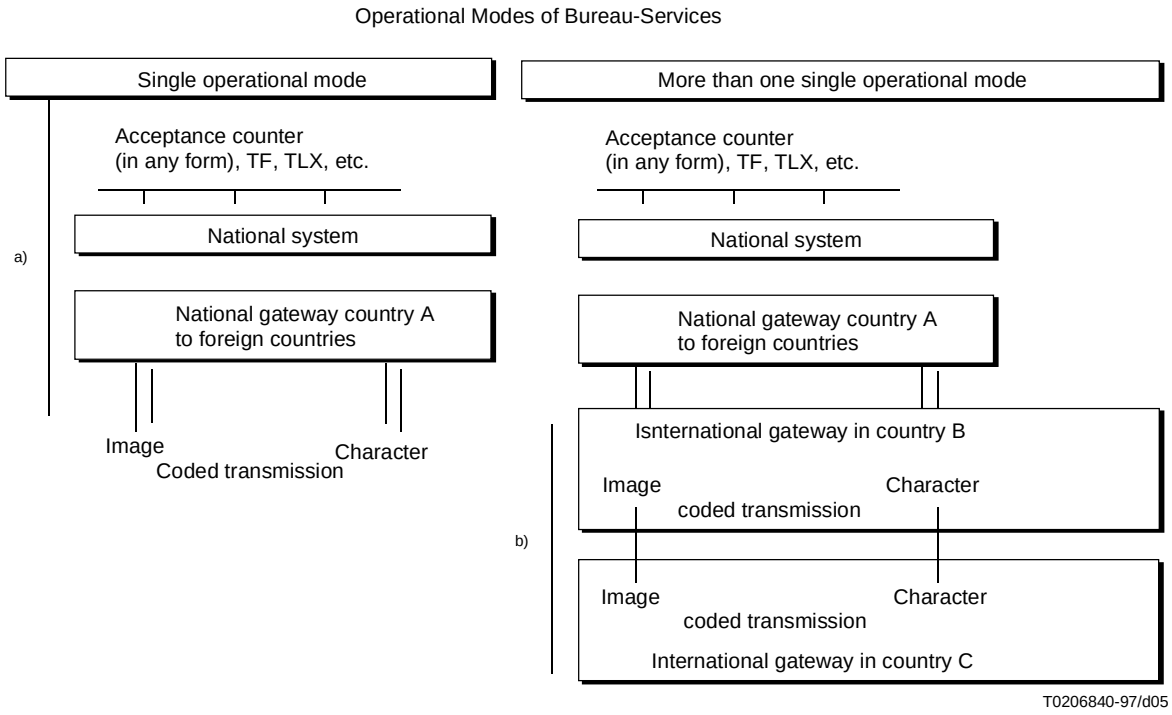


Figure A.4/F.18 – Possible final solution



a) Conversion is in all parts a national matter.

b) International conversion between gateways B and C.

Figure A.5/F.18 – Routing and retransmission of messages (selection modes)

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Series A	Organization of the work of the 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
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