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Information notice on the allocation of carrier selection codes (CSC)

1 Introduction

The present document provides information on the procedure for allocation of carrier selection codes (hereinafter designated "CSC") to telecommunications service providers (hereinafter designated "TSP") and the regulations applicable in connection with their use. It is based in particular on the following statutory provisions:

- Telecommunications Act of 30 April 1997 (TCA; CC 784.10)
- Ordinance of 6 October 1997 on addressing resources in the telecommunications sector (ORAT; CC 784.104)
- Technical and administrative regulations concerning the free choice of the provider for national and international connections (TAR 1.11; SR 784.101.113/1.11)

With their entry into force, amendments or addenda to the applicable law shall apply immediately to the holder of the CSC.

2 Carrier Selection Codes (CSC)

CSC are the short, five-digit numbers used exclusively as prefixes which identify the TSPs to which they are allocated.

For their national and/or international calls, users of the public telephone service are thus able to place a specific CSC in front of the called user's number and thereby select the holder of the CSC as the provider for this call (call by call).

3 Conditions of allocation

3.1 General

The number of available CSCs is limited. OFCOM therefore allocates multiple CSCs to one TSP only if it provides evidence that the resulting possibilities of use are distributed over the different CSCs.

Anyone wishing to submit an application for allocation of a CSC must be registered with OFCOM as a provider in the «telephone service» category (cf. Registration form for the provision of telecommunication services and the corresponding guidelines).

3.2 Content of the allocation application

3.2.1 Administrative information

- Name and address of the applicant

- Contact person and correspondence address in Switzerland (Art. 4 para. 4 ORAT)
- Address for billing purposes (optional, by default the applicant's correspondence address)
- Description of the infrastructure used to offer the services
- In the case of a leased infrastructure (a switchless reseller), name and address of the company making the infrastructure available

3.2.2 Description of services

The services which are to be provided by the CSC must be described in full and in detail, attaching all useful documentation (webpage, advertising, general terms and conditions, etc.) and the date from which these are expected to be made publicly available must be indicated.

4 Special arrangements for service resellers (switchless resellers)

In accordance with TAR 1.11, only the holder of the CSC is authorised to offer telecommunications services by means of the codes which he has been allocated.

Companies without their own infrastructure (identified by the term «switchless resellers») who wish to enter the market under their own name and maintain a commercial relationship with their customers (billing, customer service, etc...), are obliged to offer their services via their own CSC(s).

To do this, they must first register themselves with OFCOM as TSPs and, once registered, they may submit an application for allocation of CSC. They can then implement this code as part of an existing interconnection agreement with a TSP or as part of an existing commercial agreement with the partner TSP/infrastructure provider and another TSP.

5 Principle of non-transferability of CSC

CSC cannot in principle be transferred. On request, OFCOM may, in the case of a take-over including liabilities and assets or for other important reasons, approve the transfer of the CSC from the existing holder to another TSP. In this case, any risk of confusion for users between the old and new holder of the CSC must be excluded.

6 Transfer of CSC in the event of company mergers

In the event of company mergers, the addressing resources are transferred automatically to the company resulting from the merger

7 Quarantine

If the right to use a CSC expires, either because of revocation or for other reasons, the corresponding CSC cannot in principle be re-allocated before 6 months have expired (Art. 7 para. 2 ORAT)