ATIS-0300051

Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines (COCAG)

Reissued with the resolution of Issue 850.

April 20, 2018

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A complete listing of INC Documents is available on the ATIS Web Site at: http://www.atis.org/inc/incguides.asp.

Trademark Acknowledgments

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The Industry Numbering Committee (INC) provides an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues associated with planning, administration, allocation, assignment and use of North American Numbering Plan (NANP) numbering resources within the NANP area.

This document is maintained under the direction of ATIS and the INC. Suggestions for improvement of this document are welcome. They should be sent to the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, INC Staff, 1200 G Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005. All changes to this document shall be made through the INC issue resolution process and adopted by the INC as set forth in the *ATIS Operating Procedures*.

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Note: Previous Appendices E, G, and H have been deleted.

Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Request and Confirmation Forms

Part 1 - Request for NXX Code Assignment
Part 2 - Routing and Rating Information (Forms 1-8)
Part 3 - Administrator's Response/Confirmation
Part 4 - Confirmation of CO Code in Service
Part 4 PA - Confirmation of Code In Service (Submitted by the Pooling Administrator)

Note: Previous Part 2, Forms 3, 4, and 5 have been deleted.

1.0 Purpose and Scope of This Document

This document specifies guidelines for the assignment of central office codes (also referred to as CO codes in this document). The term CO code or NXX refers to sub-NPA destination codes for addressing. Sub-NPA refers to digits D-E-F of a 10-digit NANP area address, e.g., 740 is the CO code (NXX) in (201) 740-1111. Examples of uses for CO codes (NXX) for which these guidelines apply include plain old telephone service (POTS), Centrex, Direct Inward Dialing (DID), Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS), data lines, facsimile, coin phones, and customer owned pay phones. While these guidelines were developed at the direction of the FCC,[1] they do not supersede controlling appropriate NANP area governmental or regulatory principles, guidelines and requirements. These industry consensus guidelines are expected to apply throughout the NANP area subject to guidelines and constraints of the NANP area administrations unless the affected administrations direct otherwise.[2]

These guidelines apply only to the assignment of CO codes (NXX) within geographic numbering plan areas (NPAs). This does not preclude a future effort to address non-geographic NPAs in the same guidelines.[3] CO codes (NXXs) are assigned for use at a Switching Entity or Point of Interconnection they own or control. Entities assigned CO Codes are termed “code holders.” While the ultimate delivery of any call to a CO code (NXX) need not be geographically identified, by necessity initial routing is geographically defined. Therefore, for assignment and routing purposes, the CO code (NXX) is normally associated with a specific geographic location within an NPA, from which it is assigned. For some companies this is also used for billing purposes.

2.0 Assumptions and Constraints

The development of the assignment guidelines includes the following assumptions and constraints.

2.1 NANP resources, including those covered in these guidelines, are collectively managed by the North American Telecommunications industry with oversight of the North American regulatory authorities. The NANP is the basic numbering scheme for the public switched telecommunications networks in the Countries[4] that are participants in the North American

[1] This effort has been undertaken at the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in a letter to NANPA dated June 21, 1991, in an attempt to develop procedures that can be applied uniformly while using a finite numbering resource in the most efficient and effective manner possible and subsequently changed per the FCC’s Numbering Resource Optimization orders under Dockets 99-200, 96-98 and 95-116.

[2] The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has approved the Canadian Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines for the administration of Central Office Codes within Canadian Numbering Plan Areas (NPAs) by the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA). See www.cnac.ca.

[3] Separate procedures apply to the assignment of NXX codes within currently assigned Service Access Codes (SACs), and others will be developed, as appropriate, as new SACs are assigned by NANPA. For example, NXX assignment guidelines for the 900 SACs are available. Separate guidelines also will be prepared to address the assignment of numbering resources reserved for non-geographic applications.

[4] The term Country(ies) is used herein to mean a sovereign state or its geopolitical subdivision (e.g., Territory, Commonwealth or Possession). A listing of sovereign states can be found at the United Nations and/or the International Telecommunications Union websites.

Numbering Plan (NANP).[5] The NANP and the NANP resources are developed in conformance with the International Telecommunication Union Telecommunications Standardization Sector (ITU-T) recommendations including E.164 "The international public telecommunication numbering plan."[6] NANP resources are used to route calls to subscriber terminals, and may be included in the call record for the purpose of rating calls.

The NANP resources are considered a public resource and are not owned by the assignees. Consequently, the resources cannot be sold, brokered, bartered, or leased by the assignee for a fee or other consideration. Transfer of code(s) due to merger/acquisition is permitted.

If a resource is sold, brokered, bartered, or leased for a fee, the resource is subject to reclamation.[7] Unused numbers may also be subject to reclamation for reassignment to other carriers.[8]

The NANP Resources assigned in this guideline are expected to be used in conformance with this guideline and the related ITU-T recommendations. Misuse of a resource either as defined in this guideline or as defined in ITU-T E.156 "Guidelines for ITU-T action on reported misuse of E.164 number resources" should be reported to the NANPA.[9] See Section 10 for contact information.

2.2 NANP numbering resources shall be assigned to permit the most effective and efficient use of a finite numbering resource in order to prevent premature exhaust of the NANP and delay the need to develop and implement costly new numbering plans. Efficient resource management and code conservation are necessary due to the industry impacts of expanding the numbering resource (e.g., expansion from 10 to 11 digits). Impacts to the industry include:

- Customer impacts (e.g., dialing, changes to advertising and stationery, etc.)
- Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) modifications
- Domestic and international switching hardware and software modifications
- Operational support systems modifications
- Reprogramming of non-telecommunications databases that contain telephone numbers.

2.3 These guidelines treat the assignment of central office codes (NXX), including submission of new assignments for inclusion in the iconectiv® Business Integrated Routing and Rating Database System (BIRRDS) and LIDB Access Support System (LASS) so that notification to the industry can take place through BIRRDS outputs. Examples of these outputs are the iconectiv® LERG™ Routing Guide, the iconectiv® NPA/NXX Activity Guide (NNAG), the iconectiv® TPM™ Data Source, and the iconectiv® NPA/NXX Vertical and Horizontal Coordinates Data (VHCD), and LASS outputs such as the iconectiv® LIDB Access Routing

[5] See NANP in the Glossary for a current list of participants.
[6] http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.164/en
[7] Supported by the NANC in letter dated 7/30/97 from the NANC Chairman to the INC Moderator.
[8] FCC 00-104, ¶ 5. See also 47 CFR § 52.15 (i) (1).
[9] http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.156/en