



ATIS-0300070

Guidelines for the Administration of Telephone Numbers

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1.0 TELEPHONE NUMBER ADMINISTRATION

Telephone numbers are North American Numbering Plan (NANP) resources that 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. 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”¹ should be reported to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA)².

These guidelines identify Service Provider (SP) responsibilities with respect to individual telephone numbers in the 10-digit NANP number format (NPA-NXX-XXXX) within existing geographic central office (NXX) codes administered by the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and thousands-blocks administered by the Pooling Administrator (PA).

The Federal Communications Commission requires carriers to maintain internal records of their numbering resources so as to be able to report on the following categories: 1) assigned, 2) intermediate, 3) reserved, 4) aging, 5) administrative, and 6) available.³ Carriers must also track the following subcategories of numbers: 1) soft dial tone numbers, 2) ported-out numbers, 3) dealer number pools, 4) test numbers, 5) employee official numbers, 6) location routing numbers, 7) temporary local directory numbers, and 8) Pseudo-Automatic Number Identification (p-ANI) numbers. All service providers shall maintain records of numbers used for intermittent purposes, or retained per the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act as separate additional subcategories as well.⁴ Records must be retained for five years.⁵

This document contains guidelines for the administration of Aging Numbers, Reserved Numbers, Sequential Number Assignment, and Audits. See the CO Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines and the North American Numbering Plan Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecast (NRUF) Reporting Guidelines for further information concerning NRUF reporting requirements.

It is assumed from a wireline perspective that CO Codes/blocks allocated to a wireline Service Provider are to be utilized to provide service to a customer’s premise located in the same rate center that the CO Codes/blocks are assigned. Exceptions exist, for example tariffed services such as foreign exchange service.

¹ < <http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.156/en> >.

² < <http://www.nanpa.com> >.

³ 47 CFR § 52.15 (f).

⁴ See the North American Numbering Plan Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecast (NRUF) Reporting Guidelines (ATIS-0300068).

⁵ FCC 00-104, ¶ 36 and 62.

2.0 AGING NUMBERS

2.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This section identifies the SP's administrative duties for the aging of disconnected telephone numbers.

The use of standardized aging processes and intervals promotes the efficient management of disconnected telephone numbers. Several issues were considered during the development of these guidelines, including providing subscribers specific announcement treatment⁶, local/state government regulations, numbers with higher call volumes (time/temperature, ticket agents, etc.), and SPs' administrative requirements.

Because of the potential negative impact on subscribers who may be reassigned telephone numbers that are not adequately aged, as well as the potentially inefficient use of numbering resources if numbers are aged too long, the promulgation of rules and determination of appropriate penalties might be warranted to ensure SP compliance with these aging guidelines.

The telephone numbers to which the definition of aging will apply are those numbers in the 10-digit NANP number format (NPA-NXX-XXXX) within existing geographic central office (NXX) codes that are available for assignment to subscriber access lines or their equivalents within a switching entity/point of interconnection (POI).

2.2 Definition of Aging and Aging Numbers

Aging is the process of making a disconnected telephone number unavailable for reassignment to another subscriber for a specified period of time.⁷ Aging numbers are disconnected numbers that are not available for assignment to another end user or customer for a specified period of time. Numbers previously assigned to residential customers may be aged for no more than 90 days. Numbers previously assigned to business customers may be aged for no more than 365 days.⁸ An aging interval includes any specific announcement treatment period as well as the vacant telephone number intercept period. A number is disconnected when it is no longer used to route calls to equipment owned or leased by the disconnecting subscriber of record.

2.3 Purpose of Aging

The primary purposes of aging are:

⁶ Specific announcement treatment included transfer of calls, subscriber intercept, etc.

⁷ FCC 00-104, ¶ 28.

⁸ 47 CFR § 52.15 (f) (1) (ii).