



ATIS-0300061

**NPA CODE RELIEF PLANNING AND NOTIFICATION
GUIDELINES**

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for NPA code relief planning activities. This includes the relief planning process, industry notification process and NANPA's responsibilities to Affected Parties and applicable regulatory authorities within the North American Numbering Plan area. It also provides relief planning principles, administrative responsibilities and industry notification requirements. The steps of the NPA code relief planning process are listed and the alternative methods of providing relief and their various attributes are described.

2.0 Assumptions and Constraints

The development of these guidelines includes the following assumptions and constraints:

- 2.1 These guidelines were developed by the INC to apply to geographic NPA relief planning.
- 2.2 Section 14 has been added to incorporate NANPA's responsibility for Toll Free Service relief planning.
- 2.3 Relief activities will be undertaken to provide relief to an exhausting NPA. For the purpose of NPA relief planning, it is assumed that the capacity of an NPA is 792 CO codes (NXXs). However, in overlay NPA situations, the CO code exhaust capacity will be the number of NPA codes assigned to that geographic area times 792. It may not be possible to assign all 792 NXXs as CO codes for a variety of reasons.
- 2.4 The relief plan chosen will seek to minimize end user confusion while balancing multiple objectives including cost effectiveness, minimum customer impact, and long-lasting relief.
- 2.5 For each relief activity proposed in the plan, it is recommended that customers who undergo number changes shall not be required to change again for a period of 8-10 years. However, the ultimate decision as to which geographic area is assigned a new NPA in an NPA split is usually in the hands of local regulatory authorities instead of the industry. In addition, an extended permissive dialing period for certain specific NXX codes, e.g., wireless or NXX codes containing numbers utilized by alarm companies, especially where local number portability (LNP) and/or thousands-block number pooling have been implemented, shall be avoided.
- 2.6 The ATIS consensus process will be employed in selecting an industry relief recommendation.
- 2.7 NANPA will moderate industry relief planning meetings and is required to do so in a fair and impartial manner, ensuring that all participants have any opportunity to express their opinions.
- 2.8 These relief planning guidelines were developed without making any assumption as to who will fill the role of CO Code Administrator or NANP Administrator.

- 2.9 CO codes and NPA codes are public resources and administrative assignment of these codes does not imply ownership of the resource by the entity performing the administrative function, nor does it imply ownership by the entity to which the resource is assigned.
- 2.10 The appropriate regulatory authority (e.g., state or country) has the ultimate authority to approve or reject a relief plan.
- 2.11 In the United States, geographic NPA code boundaries typically do not extend across state lines. Geographic NPA boundaries must follow rate center boundaries.
- 2.12 Once there is an approved relief plan, all code holders, block holders, and the Pooling Administrator (PA) in the exhausting NPA shall take the appropriate steps to facilitate the implementation of the plan.
- 2.13 These guidelines and all related documents and guidelines¹ referenced herein will be made available to all Affected Parties by the NANPA upon request.
- 2.14 Service Providers (SPs) and numbering resource administrators are responsible for managing numbering resources in accordance with these guidelines and the orders of applicable regulatory authorities. Both SPs and numbering resource administrators are subject to audits. Further information may be found in FCC 00-104 ¶62, FCC 00-429 ¶81-99, and 47 CFR §52.15(k).

3.0 NPA Relief Planning Principles

The following principles should be followed during NPA Code Relief Planning:

- 3.1 NANPA should facilitate the selection of an NPA code relief alternative based upon industry consensus and the NPA Code Relief Planning Process as outlined in Section 5 below.
- 3.2 NANPA should establish communication with all Affected Parties, industry members and appropriate regulatory bodies immediately after the need for NPA code relief has been determined.
- 3.3 Every SP should provide NANPA a contact for notification of NPA relief planning activities. These contacts shall maintain an active NANP Administration System (NAS) log-in and password to ensure notification of, and full participation in, any NPA relief planning activities in which they are assigned numbering resources in the affected NPA(s). A Service Provider Consultant (SPC) participating in an NPA relief planning activity on behalf of a particular SP shall identify the SP it is representing for the purposes of determining consensus.

¹ ATIS-0300051, *Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines*; ATIS-0300046, *Recommended Notification Procedures to Industry for Changes in Access Network Architecture*.