



OCTOBER, 2019

H I G H L I G H T S



Dr. R. S. Sharma, Chairman, TRAI having a bilateral meeting with Ms. Gisa Fuatai Purcell, Acting Secretary General, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) at the sidelines of ITU Telecom World 2019 at Budapest, Hungary held on 12.09.2019

1. Regulations

1.1 The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Register of Interconnection Agreements and All Such Other Matters Regulations, 2019 issued on 04.09.2019

Through this Regulation, TRAI has detailed the following:-

- i. Reporting of information relating to reference interconnection offers and interconnection agreements by broadcaster and distributor.
- ii. Consequences for failure to report or verify the reported information by the broadcaster or distributor
- iii. Procedure for maintenance of register and its inspection.
- iv. Designation of compliance officer and his/her obligations.
- v. Removal of Difficulties, Repeal and Saving.

1.2 Notification dated 27.09.2019 extending the date of implementation of Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (9 of 2018) on 13.12.2018. As per these regulations, the revised Mobile Number Portability (MNP) process is scheduled to be in force w.e.f. 30.09.2019.

As per the discussion with the service providers, additional time is required to robust testing before migrating to new process. According the Authority vide notification dated 27.09.2019 extended the timeline for implementation of Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018, from 30.09.2019 to 11.11.2019.

1.3 Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2019 dated 30.09.2019

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (5 of 2019) on 30.09.2019 and is scheduled to be in force w.e.f. 11.11.2019.

The Authority while issuing the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (9 of 2018) on 13.12.2018 had mentioned that on the aspects of the associated costs, review of Per Port Transaction Charges shall be taken up separately and these charges shall include the cost of generating Unique Porting Codes by Mobile Number Portability Service Providers and sending SMSs at various stages.

TRAI issued a Consultation Paper (CP) on 'Review of Per Port Transaction Charge and Other Related Charges for Mobile Number Portability' dated 22.02.2019 (subsequently updated on 1st April 2019). Through the CP, TRAI had inter-alia sought comments on whether the total number of MNP requests received by MNPS or successfully ported numbers be considered while calculating 'Per Port Transaction Charge'?

Upon examination of the data it has been observed that the gap between total porting requests and successful porting has been reducing over the years and is likely to reduce further after the 7th Amendment comes into force. Besides, the MNPSs have to incur costs even on unsuccessful porting requests. Further, in many cases, the failure of a porting request could be due to reasons beyond the control of the MNPSs. Through the comments received in response, most of the stakeholders have also suggested to consider total number of port requests. Accordingly, the Authority decided to take each porting request into consideration for determining the Per Port Transaction Charge.

Through this amendment, besides other minor changes, the provision of Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Regulations, 2009 has been aligned with the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Second amendment) Regulations, 2019.

1.4 "Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (04 of 2019)" on 30.09.2019

TRAI issued "Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (04 of 2019)" on 30.09.2019.

TRAI notified "Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge Regulations, 2009 (9 of 2009)" on 20.11.2019. As per these principal regulations, TRAI had fixed Rs. 19/- as 'Per Port Transaction Charge (PPTC)' for mobile number portability services offered by mobile number portability service providers (MNPSs).

The Authority revised the mobile number portability (MNP) process by issuing the "Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018" on 13.12.2018 (7th Amendment) following a detailed public consultation. Subsequently, the Authority initiated a public consultation for review of the per port transaction charge and other related charges for mobile number portability by issuing a consultation paper on 22nd February 2019 (subsequently updated on 1st April 2019).

Based on the comments and counter comments received during the consultation process, the Authority issued draft "Telecommunication Mobile Number

Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2019” and invited comments from the stakeholders till 28.08.2019.

After considering all the comments and other information available on record, the Authority has issued “Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (04 of 2019)” prescribing the Per Post Transaction Charges (PPTC) of Rs. 6.46 for each port request. These regulations would come into effect when the 7th Amendment comes into force.

The Telecommunication Tariff (Forty-Ninth Amendment) Order, 2009 prescribed the Per Port Transaction Charge, as provided under the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge Regulations, 2009 (9 of 2009) (as amended from time to time), as ceiling for the tariff that could be charged from subscriber by the recipient operator for availing MNP services. Now, with notification of this amendment to the aforesaid regulations, the ceiling for the tariff that could be charged from subscriber by the recipient operator stands automatically reduced. However, the recipient operators are free to charge a lesser amount from the subscribers availing mobile number portability services.

2. Consultation Papers

2.1. TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on “Duration of alert for the called party” on 16.09.2019.

TRAI issued consultation paper on “Duration of alert for the called party” on 16.09.2019 for seeking the comments of the stakeholders.

This consultation paper deliberates following issues:

- Discover values for duration of ringing which should be configured by all the TSPs to forced release calls in case no answer condition persists beyond the given duration and the appropriate measures to be taken.
- Impact of duration of ringing tone on customer experience and network resources.
- Customisation of ringing duration by the customer.
- The last date for written comments by stakeholders was 30.09.2019 and counter comments, if any, was 07.10.2019.



https://main.traigov.in/sites/default/files/CP_16092019.pdf

2.2. TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on “Developing a unified numbering plan for fixed line and mobile services” on 20.09.2019.

Department of Telecommunications vide letter dated 08.05.2019 has sought recommendations of TRAI on strategies of National Digital Communications Policy, 2018. Accordingly, TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on “Developing a unified numbering plan for fixed line and mobile services” on 20.09.2019.

Telecommunications sector has been undergoing a transformation triggered by emergence of new network architectures and services. Advancement in telecommunications technology has brought better, faster and cheaper services for the consumer and at same time it is possible to deliver any service on any device, anytime, anywhere. To achieve this ubiquity, the number resource is used to uniquely identify and differentiate among the end users. The numbering plan is one of the important 'fundamental plans' along with Switching, Routing, Transmission, Charging and Synchronization Plans that govern the functioning of telecommunications networks.

DoT administers numbers for fixed line and the mobile networks based on the series E.164 of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) Recommendations. This ITU-T Recommendations describes “The International Public Telecommunication Numbering Plan” and provides the number structure and functionality of numbers used for international public telecommunication.

This consultation process has been initiated to analyse the changes that affect the national numbering plan and to identify the ways in which numbering resource management and allocation policy might be managed for ensuring adequate numbering resources. This issues covered are the long term suitability of numbering plan, unified numbering plan, efficient utilization of the numbers and an efficient allocation criterion.

https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_20092019.pdf

More details ↓

https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_No.97of2019_0.pdf



2.3. TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges” on 18.09.2019.

TRAI issued consultation paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges” on 18.09.2019.

Through the Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (13th Amendment) Regulations, 2017 dated 19.09.2017, wireless to wireless domestic call termination charges were prescribed as below:

- a) Re. 0.06 (paise six only) per minute with effect from the 01.10.2017 to the 31.12.2019; and
- b) 0 (Zero) with effect from the 01.01.2020.

This consultation paper embarks on the review of the date of applicability of BAK regime i.e. Zero Termination charge in respect of wireless to wireless termination calls.

https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_25092019.pdf



2.4. TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on “Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer/Merger of Telecom Licenses dated 19.09.2019

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) through its letter dated 8th May 2019, inter-alia, informed that the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP), 2018 envisages simplifying and facilitating compliance obligations as one of the strategies and reforming the Guidelines for Mergers & Acquisitions, 2014 to enable simplification and fast-tracking of approval as one of the action plan for fulfilling the strategy. Through the said letter, DoT has sought the recommendations of TRAI on ‘Reforming the Guidelines on Mergers & Acquisitions, 2014’.

Accordingly, a Consultation Paper on “Reforming the Guidelines for Transfer /Merger of Telecom Licenses” was released on 19.09.2019 providing the background information and seeking inputs of the stakeholders on reforms required to be made in the existing guidelines on Transfer/Merger of Licenses to enable simplification and fast tracking of approvals.

https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_19092019.pdf



More details ↓

https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_No.89of2019_0.pdf



2.5. TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on Issues related to Interconnection Regulation, 2017 on 25.09.2019

This Consultation Paper is issued to solicit the comments/views of all the stakeholders on the issues related to Interconnection Regulation so that a proper regulatory framework can be put in place.

TRAI has received representations from quite a few regional broadcasters wherein they have highlighted their concerns regarding the declaration of the target market by Distributors of television channels (DPOs). The existing regulations provide freedom to the DPOs to declare their target market for the purpose of ascertaining the carriage fee. Some of the distribution platform operators have declared multiple states (or entire country in some cases) as their target market. In such cases these regional broadcasters are required to pay very high carriage fee. Not only does this put undesired financial burden on regional broadcasters, it makes them prone to undue arm twisting by the distributors, as their subscription continues to remain lower than the minimum prescribed threshold of five percent (5%), which is the limit under which a DPO is not mandated to carry any channel.

Further, the placement agreement, marketing agreements or any other technical or commercial arrangements between broadcasters and Distributors (apart from RIO based agreements) are in forbearance. But now, quite a few complaints have been received from various broadcasters whereby it is being alleged that some DPOs are resorting to pushing for marketing/promotion agreement, by exploiting the available forbearance. In summary, the objective of this consultation process is to review the provisions of the existing Interconnection Regulation 2017 and consult all the stakeholders on the following issues:

- i. Issues related to Target Market
- ii. Issues related to Placement and other agreements between broadcasters and Distributors.

https://main.traigov.in/sites/default/files/CP_25092019.pdf



More details ↓

https://main.traigov.in/sites/default/files/PR_No.104of2019_0.pdf



3. Seminar

3.1 TRAI conducted seminar on “Cyber Frauds, General Awareness and Cyber Security Measures” at Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) held on 26.09.2019.



Seminar on “Cyber Frauds, General Awareness and Cyber Security Measures” at Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) held on 26.09.2019

4. Workshop

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India organised Regional Workshop on Capacity Building of Consumer Advocacy Groups (CAGs) at Varanasi on 20th Sep, 2019 for capacity development of CAGs, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and other stakeholders. The Regional Workshop has been attended by the representatives of Telecom Service Providers and Consumer Advocacy Groups of northern regions viz, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and J&K. During the workshop the participants discussed various initiatives taken by TRAI in recent times to protect the interest of telecom Consumer Advocacy Groups at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) on 20.09.2019.



In this workshop CAGs have shared information about their organisational efforts in creating awareness of telecom consumers, participation in various consumer educational activities and resolution of appeals. Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have explained the participants about the steps taken by them towards consumer protection and grievance redressal, measures taken towards enhancing consumer education, various mobile apps developed for increased accessibility.



5. Open House Discussions

5.1 OHD on Consultation Paper on KYC of DTH Set Top Boxes.

An Open House Discussion (OHD) on “OHD on Consultation Paper on KYC of the DTH Set Top Boxes” which was held on 26.09.2019 at TRAI Headquarter, New Delhi.



OHD on Consultation Paper on KYC of DTH Set Top Boxes on 26.09.2019

5.2 OHD on Draft the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019

An Open House Discussion (OHD) on “OHD on Draft the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 which was held on 26.09.2019 at TRAI Headquarter, New Delhi.

5.3 OHD on Draft Regulation (Second Amendment) to the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Standards of Quality of Service and Consumer Protection (Addressable Systems) Regulations 2017

An Open House Discussion (OHD) on “Draft Regulation (Second Amendment) to the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Standards of Quality of Service and Consumer Protection (Addressable Systems) Regulations 2017” which was held on 16.09.2019 at TRAI Headquarter, New Delhi.

6. Other Information

6.1 Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st August, 2019.

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless + Wireline)
Urban Telephone subscribers (Millions)	662.74	18.05	680.80
Rural Telephone subscribers (Millions)	508.25	2.76	511.02
Total Telephone subscribers (Millions)	1171.00	20.82	1191.81
Overall Tele-density (%)	88.77	1.58	90.34
Share of Urban Subscription (%)	56.60%	86.73%	57.12%
Share of Rural Subscription (%)	43.40%	13.27%	42.88%
No. of Broadband Subscribers (Million)	597.11	18.32	615.43

Active wireless subscribers on the date of Peak VLR in August 2019 were 970.23 million.

In the month of August, 2019, 4.86 million subscriber requests were made for MNP. Till the end of August, 2019, a total of 452.26 million consumers have availed MNP facility since its implementation.

6.2 Panel of Auditors to carry out audit of Digital Addressable Systems (DAS) on 24.09.2019.

Updated List of Panel of Auditors of DAS is available on TRAI website.

7. Events

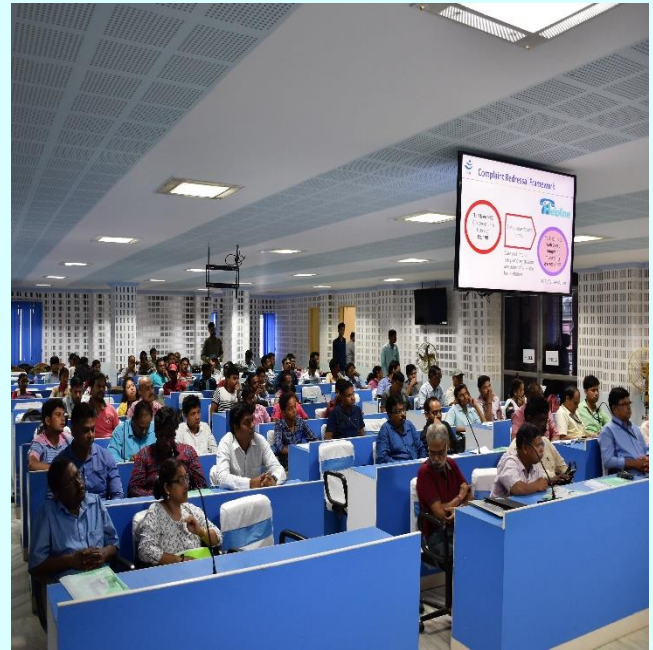
7.1 The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during the month of September 2019

S.No.	Place	Date
1	Malout, Muktsar Sahib (Punjab)	04.09.2019
2	Medinipur (West Bengal)	04.09.2019
3	Fatehpur (Uttar Pradesh)	05.09.2019
4	Tumkur (Karnataka)	13.09.2019
5	Bhubaneswar (Odisha)	19.09.2019
6	Junagarh (Gujarat)	20.09.2019
7	SangaReddy (Telangana State)	26.09.2019
8	Katni (Madhya Pradesh)	26.09.2019
9	Kozhikode (Kerala)	26.09.2019

PHOTO GALLERY



CoP at Malout, Muktsar Sahib (Punjab) held on 04.09.2019



CoP at Medinipur (West Bengal) held on 04.09.2019



CoP at Fatehpur (Uttar Pradesh) held on 05.09.2019



CoP at Bhubaneswar (Odisha) held on 19.09.2019



CoP at Tumkur (Karnataka) held on 13.09.2019



CoP at Junagarh (Gujarat) held on 20.09.2019



CoP at SangaReddy (Telangana State) held on 26.09.2019



CoP at Katni (Madhya Pradesh) held on 26.09.2019



CoP at Kozhikode (Kerala) held on 26.09.2019

Full details of the Directions/Orders/Consultation Paper/Report, Subscription Data, etc mentioned in this newsletter are available on TRAI website www.trai.gov.in

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