

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY BAHRAIN



هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

A public consultation document issued by the
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the
Kingdom of Bahrain

Bahrain Number Portability Implementation

11 January 2009

TOD/ICT/0110/002

The address for response to this document is:

The General Director

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)

PO Box 10353, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Alternatively, e-mail responses may be sent to the

Authority's email address at consult@tra.org.bh

The deadline for responses is **4pm on 11 February 2010**

Purpose: To consult on the set of process specifications concerning number portability.

Instructions for submitting a response

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (“TRA”) invites comments on this consultation document from all interested parties.

Comments should be submitted by 11 February 2010.

Responses to this document should be sent to:

The General Director
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
P.O. Box 10353, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Alternatively, responses may be sent to TRA for the attention of the General Director by email to consult@tra.org.bh.

Responses should include:

- the name of the responding entity;
- the name of the principal contact person;
- full contact details (physical address, telephone number, fax number and email address);

In the interest of transparency, TRA will make all submissions received available to the public, subject to the confidentiality of the information received. TRA will evaluate requests for confidentiality in line with relevant legal provisions and TRA’s published guidance on the treatment of confidential and non-confidential information.¹

Respondents are required to clearly mark any information included in their submission which is considered confidential. Where such confidential information is included respondents are required to provide both a **confidential** and **non-confidential** version of their submission. If a submission is marked confidential in its entirety, reasons for this should be provided. TRA may publish or refrain from publishing any document or submission at its sole discretion.

Once TRA has received and considered responses to this consultative document, TRA will issue final versions of the specifications, together with the report on the consultation.

¹ http://www.tra.org.bh/en/pdf/Confidentiality_Guidelines_Final.pdf

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. This Consultation is issued pursuant to the Authority's Consultation Process Regulation issued by the Authority on 10 August 2003².
2. This consultation concerns the specifications for the implementation of Number Portability ("NP"), as required by article 3.5 of the NP Regulation³.
3. On the 14th of October 2008, TRA published a consultation paper on a proposed regulation on NP for fixed and mobile telecommunications services. The consultation paper proposed that NP will be implemented using uniform technical specifications via a Central System to be established by TRA.
4. TRA received a number of responses to the NP consultation document, and having taken all of those into account, a final version of the NP regulation has been submitted for publication into the Official Gazette. A complete report on the responses received will be made available on TRA's website once the final regulation is published.
5. Article 3.5 of the draft NP Regulation dictates that NP shall be implemented in accordance with specifications to be developed by TRA in cooperation with interested parties. To this end TRA, working with its assigned consultant, has produced initial draft specification documents.
6. These initial drafts have been discussed with interested parties in the form of working groups in meetings that took place during the months of September, October and November 2009. The working groups were satisfied that the draft specifications were ready for public consultation and as such TRA is now consulting with the public on these draft specifications.

² Arabic and English versions of the Consultation Process Regulation can be found at <http://www.tra.org.bh/en/LegalRegulations.asp> . Note that only the Arabic version of Consultation Process Regulation may be relied upon for legal purposes. The English translation is published for information purposes only.

³ The final NP Regulation is pending publication in the official gazette.

NUMBER PORTABILITY SPECIFICATIONS

7. The NP Regulation places the obligation on all operators providing Fixed and/or Mobile services pursuant to an individual license granted by TRA to provide Number Portability services.
8. In order to effect the implementation of NP services it is necessary for appropriate common processes to be specified, developed and implemented. This public consultation is intended to seek comment from all interested stakeholders with regard to the processes specification of NP processes and procedures pursuant to Article 3.5 of the NP Regulation. Specifically this consultation seeks comment on the following processes and procedures contained in Annexes 1 through 5 to this consultation:
 - Annex 1 - The Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Process Specification;
 - Annex 2 - The Fixed Number Portability (FNP) Process Specification;
 - Annex 3 - The Routing and Charging (RC) Process Specification;
 - Annex 4 - The Central Database (CDB) Process Specification; and
 - Annex 5 - The Resolution Procedure Specification for Bad Debt Subscribers

SCOPE OF SPECIFICATIONS

9. The scope of each Specification document is as follows:

Annex 1 - MNP Process Specification

10. This document describes the specifications on how to conduct the following processes and procedures for mobile number porting operations:

- a. Preparation;
- b. Execution;
- c. Deactivation;
- d. Query; and
- e. Billing Notification.

11. This document also describes the specifications for:

- a. message exchange;
- b. message formatting;
- c. reject reasons;
- d. error notifications;
- e. time windows;
- f. key performance indicators; and
- g. porting conditions.

Question 1: *TRA invites comments from interested parties regarding whether or not the specifications for MNP contained in Annex 1 to this consultation are of a sufficiently comprehensive and detailed nature to allow operators to develop and implement the necessary processes and procedures to effect the implementation of MNP. Should interested parties consider the specification to be deficient or lack specificity, interested parties are requested to state why the specification is deficient, what is missing and how the specifications should be amended*

Annex 2 - FNP Process Specification

12. This document describes the specifications on how to conduct the following processes and procedures for fixed number portability operations:

- a. Preparation;
- b. Execution;
- c. Deactivation;
- d. Query; and
- e. Billing Notification.

13. This document also describes the specifications for:

- a. message exchange;
- b. message formatting;
- c. reject reasons;
- d. error notifications;
- e. time windows;
- f. key performance indicators; and
- g. porting conditions.

Question 2: *TRA invites comments from interested parties regarding whether or not the specifications for FNP contained in Annex 1 to this consultation are of a sufficiently comprehensive and detailed nature to allow operators to develop and implement the necessary processes and procedures to effect the implementation of FNP. Should interested parties consider the specification to be deficient or lack specificity interested parties are requested to state why the specification is deficient, what is missing and how the specifications should be amended*

Annex 3 - Routing and Charging Specification

14. This document describes the specifications for processes and procedures required to be adopted for the successful routing of calls to ported numbers. It further describes the charging principles and key messages to be exchanged between operators.

Question 3: *TRA invites comments from interested parties regarding whether or not the specifications Routing and Charging contained in Annex 3 to this consultation are of a sufficiently comprehensive and detailed nature to allow operators to develop and implement the necessary processes and procedures to effect the implementation of NP. Should interested parties consider the specification to be deficient or lack specificity interested parties are requested to state why the specification is deficient, what is missing and how the specifications should be amended*

Annex 4 - Central Database Specification

15. In order to initiate and execute number portability under the ACQ scenario all Operators are obliged to connect to the NP Central System in order to centralize communications with other Operators. This document describes, in detail, the specifications of the Central System to be implemented by TRA.

Question 4: *TRA invites comments from interested parties regarding whether or not the specifications for Central Database contained in Annex 4 to this consultation are of a sufficiently comprehensive and detailed nature to allow operators to develop and implement the necessary processes and procedures to effect the implementation of NP. Should interested parties consider the specification to be deficient or lack specificity interested parties are requested to state why the specification is deficient, what is missing and how the specifications should be amended*

Annex 5 - Resolution Procedure Specification

16. Article 6.4.4 of the NP Regulation states that one of the valid reasons an operator can reject a porting request relates to the failure of the subscriber to clear outstanding debt with respect to the donor network. Article 6.4.4 further identifies that subject to Article 3.5 of the NP Regulation appropriate procedures should be developed through consultation. This Resolution Procedure Specification identifies the steps that all Operators are required to take in order to satisfy the requirements to be able to cite Article 6.4.4 as a valid reason for rejecting a Porting Request

Question 5: *TRA invites comments from interested parties regarding whether or not the specifications for the Resolution Procedure contained in Annex 5 to this consultation are of a sufficiently comprehensive and detailed nature to allow operators to develop and implement the necessary processes and procedures to effect the implementation of MNP. Should interested parties consider the specification to be deficient or lack specificity interested parties are requested to state why the specification is deficient, what is missing and how the specifications should be amended*