



Press Release

TRA Releases a Revised National Numbering Plan

-- The Key feature of the updated plan is users friendly --

Sunday, 22 June 2008

Following a series of consultations and workshops with the Industry, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) issued today a revised national numbering plan for public comment

Commenting on issuing the revised national numbering plan, TRA's General Director Alan Horne said: "The technological changes that are taking place in telecommunications and evolution of new telecommunications services, have initiated the need to review the way numbers are used and allocated to operators. New number ranges will be opened up for use by operators offering services over fixed or wireless networks. This will enable a progressive introduction of converged services where, for example, a mobile customer could move into an office or home location whilst making a call and be seamlessly transferred to the fixed line at lower tariffs".

Further with the introduction of Voice over the Internet, making or receiving voice calls can be from anywhere in the world without differentiating the physical location of the subscriber. This capability demands the introduction of a new range of numbers for services which could be delivered by fixed, wireless or mobile technologies.

Mr. Horne went on to say: "The basic requirement of any national numbering plan is to ensure that consumers of one operator can access customers connected to any other telecommunications networks. Further it is important to maintain an indication of the type of call charge which will be incurred e.g. free phone, national call costs or premium call charge for information type services".

Further the revised Plan introduces a series of short codes for freephone, special services and premium charge serves e.g for taxi, restaurants and information services. Short Codes (e.g. Emergency Services) are also extended to incorporate new government initiatives to enable direct emergency calls to specialist agencies such as the Coast Guard.

Along with the revised national numbering plan released today, TRA published a report explaining the additions and changes covered in the revised Plan. All related documents can be found on TRA website www.tra.org.bh

Interested parties can submit their comments on the revised National Numbering Plan to TRA by no later than 4:00 pm on 17 July 2008.

About TRA

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) was established by Legislative Decree No. 48 of 2002 promulgating the Telecommunications Law. TRA is an independent body and its duties and powers include, among other things, protecting the interests of subscribers and users and promoting operators effective and fair competition among existing and new licensed operators. More information regarding TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

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