

(6) The tri-partite panel must choose, from the five options outlined above, the option that they believe provides the most technically sound solution and base its recommendation upon the substantive evidence presented to the panel. The panel is not precluded from taking into account complexity of implementation and other practical considerations in deciding which option is most technically sound. Neither of the disputants (i.e., the NASDO and the funding party which invokes the dispute resolution process) will be permitted to participate in any decision to reject the mediation panel's recommendation.

(b) The tri-partite panel's recommendation(s) must be included in the final industry-wide standard or industry-wide generic requirement, unless three-fourths of the funding parties who vote decide within thirty (30) days of the filing of the dispute to reject the recommendation and accept one of the options specified in paragraphs (a)(5) (i) through (v) of this section. Each funding party shall have one vote.

(c) All costs sustained by the tri-partite panel will be incorporated into the cost of producing the industry-wide standard or industry-wide generic requirement.

**§ 64.1704 Frivolous disputes/penalties.**

(a) No person shall willfully refer a dispute to the dispute resolution process under this subpart unless to the best of his knowledge, information and belief there is good ground to support the dispute and the dispute is not interposed for delay.

(b) Any person who fails to comply with the requirements in paragraph (a) of this section, may be subject to forfeiture pursuant to section 503(b) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 503(b).

**Subpart R—Geographic Rate Averaging and Rate Integration**

AUTHORITY: 47 U.S.C. §§151, 154(i), 201-205, 214(e), 215 and 254(g).

**§ 64.1801 Geographic rate averaging and rate integration.**

(a) The rates charged by providers of interexchange telecommunications

services to subscribers in rural and high-cost areas shall be no higher than the rates charged by each such provider to its subscribers in urban areas.

(b) A provider of interstate interexchange telecommunications services shall provide such services to its subscribers in each U.S. state at rates no higher than the rates charged to its subscribers in any other state.

[61 FR 42564, Aug. 16, 1996]

**Subpart S—Nondominant Interexchange Carrier Certifications Regarding Geographic Rate Averaging and Rate Integration Requirements**

**§ 64.1900 Nondominant interexchange carrier certifications regarding geographic rate averaging and rate integration requirements.**

(a) A nondominant provider of interexchange telecommunications services, which provides detariffed interstate, domestic, interexchange services, shall file with the Commission, on an annual basis, a certification that it is providing such services in compliance with its geographic rate averaging and rate integration obligations pursuant to section 254(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

(b) The certification filed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall be signed by an officer of the company under oath.

[61 FR 59366, Nov. 22, 1996]

**Subpart T—Separate Affiliate Requirements for Incumbent Independent Local Exchange Carriers That Provide In-Region, Interstate Domestic Interexchange Services or In-Region International Interexchange Services**

SOURCE: 62 FR 36017, July 3, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 64.1901 Basis and purpose.**

(a) *Basis.* These rules are issued pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.