

(b) *Circuit* means a carrier's specific designation of the overall facilities provided between, and including, terminals for furnishing service. When service involves network switching, *circuit* includes those circuits between subscriber premises and switching centers (access lines) and those between switching centers (trunks).

(c) *Station* means transmitting or receiving equipment or combination transmitting and receiving equipment, at any location, or any premise, connected for private line service.

(d) *Private line service* means leased intercity private line service provided by carriers for intercity domestic and international communications over integrated communications pathways, and includes interchange facilities, local channels, and station equipment which may be integral components of such communications service.

(e) *Restoration* means the recommencement of service by patching, rerouting, substitution of component parts, and other means, as determined necessary by a carrier.

(f) *Government* means Federal, foreign, State, county, municipal, and other local government agencies. Specific qualifications will be supplied whenever reference to a particular level of government is intended, e.g., *Federal Government*, *State government*. *Foreign Government* includes coalitions of governments secured by treaty, including NATO, SEATO, OAS, UN, and associations of governments or government agencies, including the Pan American Union, International Postal Union, and International Monetary Fund. *Quasi-government* includes eleemosynary relief organizations, such as the Red Cross organizations.

(g) *National Communications System (NCS)* means that system established by the President's Memorandum of August 21, 1963, "Establishment of a National Communications System" (28 FR 9413, 3 CFR, 1959-1963 Comp., p. 858).

(h) *Executive Agent* means the Executive Agent of the National Communications System.

(i) *Commission* means the Federal Communications Commission.

### §211.3 Scope and coverage.

(a) The priority system and procedures established by this part are applicable to:

(1) U.S. domestic leased intercity private line services, including private line switched network services;

(2) U.S. international leased private line services to the point of foreign entry;

(3) Foreign extensions of U.S. international leased private line services to the extent possible through agreement between U.S. carriers and foreign correspondents;

(4) International leased private line services terminating in or transiting the United States;

(5) Federal Government-owned and leased circuits.

(b) The priority system and procedures established by this part are not applicable to operational circuits or order wires of the carriers needed for circuit reactivation and maintenance purposes, which shall have priority of restoration over all other circuits and shall be exempt from interruption for the purpose of restoring priority services.

### §211.4 Policy.

During the continuance of a war in which the United States is engaged and when the provisions of this part are invoked, all communications common carriers shall comply with the following principles insofar as possible:

(a) Whenever necessary to maintain or restore a service having a designated priority, services having lower priority, lower subpriority, or no priority, will be interrupted in the reverse order of priority starting with nonpriority services.

(b) When services are interrupted to restore priority services, carriers will endeavor if feasible to notify users of the reason for the preemption.

(c) When public correspondence circuits are needed to satisfy requirements for priority services, idle circuits will be selected first. A minimum number of public correspondence circuits shall at all times be kept available so as to provide for the transmission of precedence-type messages and calls.

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(d) Communications common carriers will not interrupt conversations having priority classification except insofar as necessary to restore services of higher priority.

(e) It is recognized that as a practical matter in providing for the maintenance or restoration of a priority service or services operating within a multiple circuit-type facility (such as a carrier band, cable, or multiplex system), lower priority, lower subpriority, or nonpriority services on paralleled channels within a band or system may be restored concurrently with higher priority services. Such reactivation shall not, however, interfere with the expedited restoration of other priority services.

(f) The Executive Agent is authorized to instruct the carriers on the percentage of government-switched network intermachine trunks to be restored to provide capacity for priority access line traffic.

(g) The carriers are authorized to honor NCS-certified priorities from other authorized carriers for leased facilities.

(h) The carriers are authorized to honor restoration priorities certified by the Executive Agent.

(i) To ensure the effectiveness of the system of restoration priorities established by this part it is essential that rigorous standards be applied. Users are requested and directed to examine their private line service requirements in light of the criteria specified in this part and with regard to the availability of alternate communications facilities such as public correspondence message services, and Government-owned emergency communications systems.

### §211.5 Priorities.

There are hereby established four levels of restoration priority. Within each level, subpriorities may be established by the Executive Agent, with the concurrence of the National Security Council, for both government and nongovernment services. The subpriority categories currently in use, which have been established by the Executive Agent will remain in effect until modified. Compatibility of subcategories applicable to government and nongovernment users is essential to achieve the

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objective of a single restoration priority system.

(a) *Priority 1.* Priority 1 shall be the highest level of restoration priority, and shall be afforded only to Federal and Foreign Government private line services, and to Industrial/Commercial services which are designated for prearranged voluntary participation with the Federal Government in a national emergency. Circuit requirements in this level of priority shall be limited to those essential to national survival if nuclear attack occurs for:

(1) Obtaining or disseminating critical intelligence concerning the attack, or immediately necessary to maintain the internal security of the United States;

(2) Conducting diplomatic negotiations critical to the arresting or limiting of hostilities;

(3) Executing military command and control functions essential to defense and retaliation;

(4) Giving warning to the U.S. population;

(5) Maintaining federal Government functions essential to national survival under nuclear attack conditions.

(b) *Priority 2.* Priority 2 shall be the second highest level of restoration priority, and shall be afforded only to Federal and Foreign Government private line services, and to Industrial/Commercial services which are designated for prearranged voluntary participation with the Federal Government in a national emergency. Circuit requirements in this level shall be limited to those essential, at a time when nuclear attack threatens, to maintain an optimum defense posture and to give civil alert to the U.S. population. These are circuit requirements whose unavailability would present serious dangers:

(1) Reducing significantly the preparedness of U.S. defense and retaliatory forces;

(2) Affecting adversely the ability of the United States to conduct critical preattack diplomatic negotiations to reduce or limit the threat of war;

(3) Interfering with the effectual direction of the U.S. population in the interest of civil defense and survival;