

## Federal Communications Commission

## § 51.5

### Subpart A—General Information

#### § 51.1 Basis and purpose.

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

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of these rules is to implement sections 251 and 252 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 251 and 252.

#### § 51.3 Applicability to negotiated agreements.

To the extent provided in section 252(e)(2)(A) of the Act, a state commission shall have authority to approve an interconnection agreement adopted by negotiation even if the terms of the agreement do not comply with the requirements of this part.

#### § 51.5 Terms and definitions.

Terms used in this part have the following meanings:

*Act.* The Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

*Advanced intelligent network.* *Advanced intelligent network* is a telecommunications network architecture in which call processing, call routing, and network management are provided by means of centralized databases located at points in an incumbent local exchange carrier's network.

*Advanced services.* The term "advanced services" is defined as high speed, switched, broadband, wireline telecommunications capability that enables users to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics or video telecommunications using any technology.

*Arbitration, final offer.* *Final offer arbitration* is a procedure under which each party submits a final offer concerning the issues subject to arbitration, and the arbitrator selects, without modification, one of the final offers by the parties to the arbitration or portions of both such offers. "Entire package final offer arbitration," is a procedure under which the arbitrator must select, without modification, the entire proposal submitted by one of the parties to the arbitration. "Issue-by-issue final offer arbitration," is a procedure under which the arbitrator must select, without modification, on an issue-by-issue

basis, one of the proposals submitted by the parties to the arbitration.

*Billing.* *Billing* involves the provision of appropriate usage data by one telecommunications carrier to another to facilitate customer billing with attendant acknowledgements and status reports. It also involves the exchange of information between telecommunications carriers to process claims and adjustments.

*Binder or binder group.* Copper pairs bundled together, generally in groups of 25, 50 or 100.

*Business line.* A business line is an incumbent LEC-owned switched access line used to serve a business customer, whether by the incumbent LEC itself or by a competitive LEC that leases the line from the incumbent LEC. The number of business lines in a wire center shall equal the sum of all incumbent LEC business switched access lines, plus the sum of all UNE loops connected to that wire center, including UNE loops provisioned in combination with other unbundled elements. Among these requirements, business line tallies:

(1) Shall include only those access lines connecting end-user customers with incumbent LEC end-offices for switched services,

(2) Shall not include non-switched special access lines,

(3) Shall account for ISDN and other digital access lines by counting each 64 kbps-equivalent as one line. For example, a DS1 line corresponds to 24 64 kbps-equivalents, and therefore to 24 "business lines."

*Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS).* *CMRS* has the same meaning as that term is defined in § 20.3 of this chapter.

*Commingling.* *Commingling* means the connecting, attaching, or otherwise linking of an unbundled network element, or a combination of unbundled network elements, to one or more facilities or services that a requesting telecommunications carrier has obtained at wholesale from an incumbent LEC, or the combining of an unbundled network element, or a combination of unbundled network elements, with one or more such facilities or services. *Commingling* means the act of commingling.

*Commission.* *Commission* refers to the Federal Communications Commission.

*Day.* *Day* means calendar day.

*Dialing parity.* The term *dialing parity* means that a person that is not an affiliate of a local exchange carrier is able to provide telecommunications services in such a manner that customers have the ability to route automatically, without the use of any access code, their telecommunications to the telecommunications service provider of the customer's designation from among 2 or more telecommunications service providers (including such local exchange carrier).

*Directory assistance service.* *Directory assistance service* includes, but is not limited to, making available to customers, upon request, information contained in directory listings.

*Directory listings.* *Directory listings* are any information:

(1) Identifying the listed names of subscribers of a telecommunications carrier and such subscriber's telephone numbers, addresses, or primary advertising classifications (as such classifications are assigned at the time of the establishment of such service), or any combination of such listed names, numbers, addresses or classifications; and

(2) That the telecommunications carrier or an affiliate has published, caused to be published, or accepted for publication in any directory format.

*Downstream database.* A *downstream database* is a database owned and operated by an individual carrier for the purpose of providing number portability in conjunction with other functions and services.

*Enhanced extended link.* An *enhanced extended link* or *EEL* consists of a combination of an unbundled loop and unbundled dedicated transport, together with any facilities, equipment, or functions necessary to combine those network elements.

*Equipment necessary for interconnection or access to unbundled network elements.* For purposes of section 251(c)(2) of the Act, the equipment used to interconnect with an incumbent local exchange carrier's network for the transmission and routing of telephone exchange service, exchange access service, or both. For the purposes of sec-

tion 251(c)(3) of the Act, the equipment used to gain access to an incumbent local exchange carrier's unbundled network elements for the provision of a telecommunications service.

*Fiber-based collocater.* A fiber-based collocater is any carrier, unaffiliated with the incumbent LEC, that maintains a collocation arrangement in an incumbent LEC wire center, with active electrical power supply, and operates a fiber-optic cable or comparable transmission facility that

(1) Terminates at a collocation arrangement within the wire center;

(2) Leaves the incumbent LEC wire center premises; and

(3) Is owned by a party other than the incumbent LEC or any affiliate of the incumbent LEC, except as set forth in this paragraph. Dark fiber obtained from an incumbent LEC on an indefeasible right of use basis shall be treated as non-incumbent LEC fiber-optic cable. Two or more affiliated fiber-based collocaters in a single wire center shall collectively be counted as a single fiber-based collocater. For purposes of this paragraph, the term affiliate is defined by 47 U.S.C. 153(1) and any relevant interpretation in this Title.

*Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier* (Incumbent LEC). With respect to an area, the local exchange carrier that:

(1) On February 8, 1996, provided telephone exchange service in such area; and

(2)(i) On February 8, 1996, was deemed to be a member of the exchange carrier association pursuant to §69.601(b) of this chapter; or

(ii) Is a person or entity that, on or after February 8, 1996, became a successor or assign of a member described in paragraph (2)(i) of this section.

*Information services.* The term *information services* means the offering of a capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, utilizing, or making available information via telecommunications, and includes electronic publishing, but does not include any use of any such capability for the management, control, or operation of a telecommunications system or the management of a telecommunications service.

*Interconnection.* *Interconnection* is the linking of two networks for the mutual exchange of traffic. This term does not include the transport and termination of traffic.

*Known disturber.* An advanced services technology that is prone to cause significant interference with other services deployed in the network.

*Intermodal.* The term intermodal refers to facilities or technologies other than those found in traditional telephone networks, but that are utilized to provide competing services. Intermodal facilities or technologies include, but are not limited to, traditional or new cable plant, wireless technologies, and power line technologies.

*Local Access and Transport Area (LATA).* A *Local Access and Transport Area* is a contiguous geographic area—

(1) Established before February 8, 1996 by a Bell operating company such that no exchange area includes points within more than 1 metropolitan statistical area, consolidated metropolitan statistical area, or State, except as expressly permitted under the AT&T Consent Decree; or

(2) Established or modified by a Bell operating company after February 8, 1996 and approved by the Commission.

*Local Exchange Carrier (LEC).* A *LEC* is any person that is engaged in the provision of telephone exchange service or exchange access. Such term does not include a person insofar as such person is engaged in the provision of a commercial mobile service under section 332(c) of the Act, except to the extent that the Commission finds that such service should be included in the definition of the such term.

*Maintenance and repair.* *Maintenance and repair* involves the exchange of information between telecommunications carriers where one initiates a request for maintenance or repair of existing products and services or unbundled network elements or combination thereof from the other with attendant acknowledgements and status reports.

*Meet point.* A *meet point* is a point of interconnection between two networks, designated by two telecommunications carriers, at which one carrier's respon-

sibility for service begins and the other carrier's responsibility ends.

*Meet point interconnection arrangement.* A *meet point interconnection arrangement* is an arrangement by which each telecommunications carrier builds and maintains its network to a meet point.

*Mobile wireless service.* A mobile wireless service is any mobile wireless telecommunications service, including any commercial mobile radio service.

*Multi-functional equipment.* Multi-functional equipment is equipment that combines one or more functions that are necessary for interconnection or access to unbundled network elements with one or more functions that would not meet that standard as stand-alone functions.

*Network element.* A *network element* is a facility or equipment used in the provision of a telecommunications service. Such term also includes, but is not limited to, features, functions, and capabilities that are provided by means of such facility or equipment, including but not limited to, subscriber numbers, databases, signaling systems, and information sufficient for billing and collection or used in the transmission, routing, or other provision of a telecommunications service.

*Operator services.* *Operator services* are any automatic or live assistance to a consumer to arrange for billing or completion of a telephone call. Such services include, but are not limited to, busy line verification, emergency interrupt, and operator-assisted directory assistance services.

*Physical collocation.* *Physical collocation* is an offering by an incumbent LEC that enables a requesting telecommunications carrier to:

(1) Place its own equipment to be used for interconnection or access to unbundled network elements within or upon an incumbent LEC's premises;

(2) Use such equipment to interconnect with an incumbent LEC's network facilities for the transmission and routing of telephone exchange service, exchange access service, or both, or to gain access to an incumbent LEC's unbundled network elements for the provision of a telecommunications service;

(3) Enter those premises, subject to reasonable terms and conditions, to install, maintain, and repair equipment necessary for interconnection or access to unbundled elements; and

(4) Obtain reasonable amounts of space in an incumbent LEC's premises, as provided in this part, for the equipment necessary for interconnection or access to unbundled elements, allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Premises.* *Premises* refers to an incumbent LEC's central offices and serving wire centers; all buildings or similar structures owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by an incumbent LEC that house its network facilities; all structures that house incumbent LEC facilities on public rights-of-way, including but not limited to vaults containing loop concentrators or similar structures; and all land owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by an incumbent LEC that is adjacent to these central offices, wire centers, buildings, and structures.

*Pre-ordering and ordering.* Pre-ordering and ordering includes the exchange of information between telecommunications carriers about: current or proposed customer products and services; or unbundled network elements, or some combination thereof. This information includes loop qualification information, such as the composition of the loop material, including but not limited to: fiber optics or copper; the existence, location and type of any electronic or other equipment on the loop, including but not limited to, digital loop carrier or other remote concentration devices, feeder/distribution interfaces, bridge taps, load coils, pair-gain devices, disturbers in the same or adjacent binder groups; the loop length, including the length and location of each type of transmission media; the wire gauge(s) of the loop; and the electrical parameters of the loop, which may determine the suitability of the loop for various technologies.

*Provisioning.* *Provisioning* involves the exchange of information between telecommunications carriers where one executes a request for a set of products and services or unbundled network elements or combination thereof from the

other with attendant acknowledgements and status reports.

*Rural telephone company.* A *rural telephone company* is a LEC operating entity to the extent that such entity:

(1) Provides common carrier service to any local exchange carrier study area that does not include either:

(i) Any incorporated place of 10,000 inhabitants or more, or any part thereof, based on the most recently available population statistics of the Bureau of the Census; or

(ii) Any territory, incorporated or unincorporated, included in an urbanized area, as defined by the Bureau of the Census as of August 10, 1993;

(2) Provides telephone exchange service, including exchange access, to fewer than 50,000 access lines;

(3) Provides telephone exchange service to any local exchange carrier study area with fewer than 100,000 access lines; or

(4) Has less than 15 percent of its access lines in communities of more than 50,000 on February 8, 1996.

*Service control point.* A *service control point* is a computer database in the public switched network which contains information and call processing instructions needed to process and complete a telephone call.

*Service creation environment.* A *service creation environment* is a computer containing generic call processing software that can be programmed to create new advanced intelligent network call processing services.

*Service provider.* A *service provider* is a provider of telecommunications services or a provider of information services.

*Signal transfer point.* A *signal transfer point* is a packet switch that acts as a routing hub for a signaling network and transfers messages between various points in and among signaling networks.

*State.* The term *state* includes the District of Columbia and the Territories and possessions.

*State commission.* A *state commission* means the commission, board, or official (by whatever name designated) which under the laws of any state has regulatory jurisdiction with respect to intrastate operations of carriers. As referenced in this part, this term may

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include the Commission if it assumes responsibility for a proceeding or matter, pursuant to section 252(e)(5) of the Act or §51.320. This term shall also include any person or persons to whom the state commission has delegated its authority under sections 251 and 252 of the Act and this part.

*State proceeding.* A *state proceeding* is any administrative proceeding in which a state commission may approve or prescribe rates, terms, and conditions including, but not limited to, compulsory arbitration pursuant to section 252(b) of the Act, review of a Bell operating company statement of generally available terms pursuant to section 252(f) of the Act, and a proceeding to determine whether to approve or reject an agreement adopted by arbitration pursuant to section 252(e) of the Act.

*Technically feasible.* Interconnection, access to unbundled network elements, collocation, and other methods of achieving interconnection or access to unbundled network elements at a point in the network shall be deemed technically feasible absent technical or operational concerns that prevent the fulfillment of a request by a telecommunications carrier for such interconnection, access, or methods. A determination of technical feasibility does not include consideration of economic, accounting, billing, space, or site concerns, except that space and site concerns may be considered in circumstances where there is no possibility of expanding the space available. The fact that an incumbent LEC must modify its facilities or equipment to respond to such request does not determine whether satisfying such request is technically feasible. An incumbent LEC that claims that it cannot satisfy such request because of adverse network reliability impacts must prove to the state commission by clear and convincing evidence that such interconnection, access, or methods would result in specific and significant adverse network reliability impacts.

*Telecommunications carrier.* A *telecommunications carrier* is any provider of telecommunications services, except that such term does not include aggregators of telecommunications services (as defined in section 226 of the

Act). A telecommunications carrier shall be treated as a common carrier under the Act only to the extent that it is engaged in providing telecommunications services, except that the Commission shall determine whether the provision of fixed and mobile satellite service shall be treated as common carriage. This definition includes CMRS providers, interexchange carriers (IXCs) and, to the extent they are acting as telecommunications carriers, companies that provide both telecommunications and information services. Private Mobile Radio Service providers are telecommunications carriers to the extent they provide domestic or international telecommunications for a fee directly to the public.

*Telecommunications service.* The term *telecommunications service* refers to the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used.

*Telephone exchange service.* A *telephone exchange service* is:

(1) A service within a telephone exchange, or within a connected system of telephone exchanges within the same exchange area operated to furnish to subscribers intercommunicating service of the character ordinarily furnished by a single exchange, and which is covered by the exchange service charge, or

(2) A comparable service provided through a system of switches, transmission equipment, or other facilities (or combination thereof) by which a subscriber can originate and terminate a telecommunications service.

*Telephone toll service.* The term *telephone toll service* refers to telephone service between stations in different exchange areas for which there is made a separate charge not included in contracts with subscribers for exchange service.

*Unreasonable dialing delay.* For the same type of calls, dialing delay is “unreasonable” when the dialing delay experienced by the customer of a competing provider is greater than that experienced by a customer of the LEC providing dialing parity, or non-discriminatory access to operator services or directory assistance.

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*Triennial Review Order.* The *Triennial Review Order* means the Commission's Report and Order and Order on Remand and Further Notice of Proposed Rule-making in CC Docket Nos. 01-338, 96-98, and 98-147.

*Triennial Review Remand Order.* The Triennial Review Remand Order is the Commission's Order on Remand in CC Docket Nos. 01-338 and 04-313 (released February 4, 2005).

*Virtual collocation.* *Virtual collocation* is an offering by an incumbent LEC that enables a requesting telecommunications carrier to:

(1) Designate or specify equipment to be used for interconnection or access to unbundled network elements to be located within or upon an incumbent LEC's premises, and dedicated to such telecommunications carrier's use;

(2) Use such equipment to interconnect with an incumbent LEC's network facilities for the transmission and routing of telephone exchange service, exchange access service, or both, or for access to an incumbent LEC's unbundled network elements for the provision of a telecommunications service; and

(3) Electronically monitor and control its communications channels terminating in such equipment.

*Wire center.* A wire center is the location of an incumbent LEC local switching facility containing one or more central offices, as defined in the Appendix to part 36 of this chapter. The wire center boundaries define the area in which all customers served by a given wire center are located.

[61 FR 45619, Aug. 29, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 47348, Sept. 6, 1996; 64 FR 23241, Apr. 30, 1999; 65 FR 1344, Jan. 10, 2000; 65 FR 2550, Jan. 18, 2000; 65 FR 54438, Sept. 8, 2000; 66 FR 43521, Aug. 20, 2001; 68 FR 52293, Sept. 2, 2003; 70 FR 8952, Feb. 24, 2005]

## Subpart B—Telecommunications Carriers

### § 51.100 General duty.

(a) Each telecommunications carrier has the duty:

(1) To interconnect directly or indirectly with the facilities and equipment of other telecommunications carriers; and

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(2) To not install network features, functions, or capabilities that do not comply with the guidelines and standards as provided in the Commission's rules or section 255 or 256 of the Act.

(b) A telecommunication carrier that has interconnected or gained access under sections 251(a)(1), 251(c)(2), or 251(c)(3) of the Act, may offer information services through the same arrangement, so long as it is offering telecommunications services through the same arrangement as well.

## Subpart C—Obligations of All Local Exchange Carriers

### § 51.201 Resale.

The rules governing resale of services by an incumbent LEC are set forth in subpart G of this part.

### § 51.203 Number portability.

The rules governing number portability are set forth in part 52, subpart C of this chapter.

### § 51.205 Dialing parity: General.

A local exchange carrier (LEC) shall provide local dialing parity to competing providers of telephone exchange service, with no unreasonable dialing delays. Dialing parity shall be provided for originating telecommunications services that require dialing to route a call.

[83 FR 42052, Aug. 20, 2018]

### § 51.207 Local dialing parity.

A LEC shall permit telephone exchange service customers within a local calling area to dial the same number of digits to make a local telephone call notwithstanding the identity of the customer's or the called party's telecommunications service provider.

[61 FR 47349, Sept. 6, 1996]

### § 51.217 Nondiscriminatory access: Telephone numbers, operator services, directory assistance services, and directory listings.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Competing provider.* A "competing provider" is a provider of telephone exchange or telephone toll services that