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April 13, 2004  
Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket 01-92

Dear Ms. Dortch:

During a recent ex parte meeting with the staff of the Wireline Competition Bureau, BellSouth was asked to provide documentation of certain MECAB and OBF guidelines relating to 1101 records. The attached documentation is being filed in response to that request. Please include this letter and attachment in the record of the proceeding identified above.

Sincerely,



Glenn T. Reynolds

Attachment

**MULTIPLE EXCHANGE  
CARRIER  
ACCESS BILLING  
(MECAB)**

**Issue 8**

**January, 2003**

**1. PREFACE**

This document contains the recommended guidelines for the billing of access and interconnection services provided to a customer by two or more providers or by one provider in two or more states within a single LATA. Access and interconnection services may be billed as usage-sensitive and flat rated charges, which may include intraLATA non-subscribed toll, wireless and local services. Examples of Usage-Sensitive Services are Feature Group B (FGB), Feature Group C (FGC), Feature Group D (FGD), Wireless Services [Type 1 (Line Side Service), Type 2A (Trunk Side Tandem Service) and Type 2B (Trunk Side End Office Service)], trunk side connections (e.g., BSA), and Directory Assistance (DA) Transport. Examples of Flat-Rated Services are WATS Access Lines (WALs), Dedicated Access Lines (DALs), Hicap, two-point, multi-point services, direct/local transport and DA transport. This document also addresses the billing of jointly provided Feature Group A (FGA) line side BSA services in Section 9 of this document.

Types of customers and providers are as follows but are not limited to those below.

- **End User:** A customer who occupies premises that utilizes retail telephone services provided by telecommunications carriers. They may order other services such as access.
- **IXC:** Interexchange Carrier (Also referred to as IC). A long distance company that carries traffic between local exchange carriers.
- **LEC:** Local Exchange Carrier. A Company providing local telephone service. This term could include the following entities:
  1. **CLEC:** Competitive Local Exchange Carrier. A Company, which competes by providing it's own switching and/or network, or by purchasing unbundled network elements from an established local telephone provider. This term is meant to distinguish a new or potential competitor from the established local exchange provider.
  2. **ILEC:** Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier. A Company providing the connection to the end user's premise and access to the long distance network prior to the

introduction of local competition. It is the established Regional Bell Operating Company or Independent Company.

3. ULEC: Unbundled Local Exchange Carrier. A Company that provides local, intraLATA toll and access service by purchasing one or more unbundled network elements from another company. This includes only buying dial tone (port) or the entire platform of elements (UNE-P).
4. USP: Unbundled Service Provider. A Company (CLEC or ILEC) that has sold one or more network elements to another company in order for them to provide local, intraLATA toll and access services.
5. WSP: Wireless Service Provider (which includes CMRS (Commercial Mobile Radio Service), PCS (Personal Communication Services), etc.). A company whose network provides service to an end user through the use of airwave signals.

## **2. GENERAL**

### **2.1 Scope**

These guidelines are for billing access and interconnection services provided by two or more providers or by one provider in two or more states within a single LATA. It is to the mutual benefit of both customers (customers and end users) and providers that bills be accurate and auditable. This document addresses the concept of MPB and revenue sharing as detailed in the December 8, 1988 Report. As stated previously, access and interconnection services include Usage Sensitive and Flat Rates Services. Where intrastate tariffs and contracts permit, these guidelines are used for access and interconnection services. The determination of implementing a meet-point Billing arrangement between providers, which operate in the same territory, is based upon Provider-to-Provider negotiations where the regulatory environment permits. When all involved providers agree to a meet-point Billing arrangement, these guidelines are used.

#### **4.4.1 Basic Implementation Considerations**

The following are basic implementation considerations between providers to establish meet-point billing relationships for switched, dedicated and local interconnection services. MPB and non-MPB services may be included on the same account. These considerations apply regardless of the billing option agreed upon:

1. For all MPB services:
  - a. All billing company's bills will include the applicable data elements listed in the CABS BOS or SECAB; whichever is appropriate, for the billing company. In addition, the CABS BOS or SECAB format is recommended.
  - b. The terms and conditions of the providers' tariffs or contracts should be reviewed to determine that there are no practical or regulatory prohibitions associated with implementing an option. In particular, review the general regulations and ordering sections of each provider's tariff or contract.
  - c. Each provider is responsible for filing tariffs or price lists where appropriate.

- d. Provider-to-provider exchange of administrative data is required. Where proprietary restrictions do not exist, whenever a new provider establishes a switched point of interface directly subtending a tandem, the tandem company owner will provide the following information about interconnecting IXCs to the new provider:
  - billing company name
  - billing company address
  - billing company telephone number
  - ACTL location
  - industry assigned Carrier Identification Code(s) (CICs)

The tandem company owner will provide the following information about local/intraLATA interconnectors to the new provider:

- contact name
- contact address
- contact telephone number or fax
- type of company
- NECA assigned Operating Company Number (OCN) and/or industry assigned Carrier Identification Code(s) (CICs)

Each time a new interconnecting company establishes a presence at a tandem, the tandem company will provide this information to the new interconnecting company and the existing directly interconnected companies on a one-time basis. Companies directly interconnected to the tandem have the responsibility to pass notification information to companies directly interconnected behind them.

- e. In order to establish a billing relationship, providers that do not have a direct interconnection with each other, may need to exchange the following information:
  - billing company name
  - billing company address
  - billing company telephone number
  - Point of Interface (POI)
  - billing percentages, if applicable
- f. Review current OBF Multiple Exchange Carrier Ordering and Design (MECOD) Guidelines, particularly with respect to order intervals and access service coordination.
- g. Meet-point bills will contain a MPB identification.
- h. Identify what is Meet-point billed, e.g., End Office, Traffic Type, or circuit.
- i. In a single bill arrangement, provide detail of adjustments and charges for each provider identified on the bill.
- j. Provide billing percent when applied to rates.
- k. In a single bill arrangement, include a summary totaling the charges for each provider identified on the bill.
- l. During the ordering process, communicate billing account information in accordance with the Access Services Ordering Guidelines (ASOG) and Local Services Ordering Guidelines (LSOG).

- m. The Combination of Meet-point and non-Meet-point on a single bill with all options (e.g., Single Bill, Multiple Bill) is accepted. When mutually agreed upon by customer and provider, a single bill will be rendered for meet-point and non-meet-point access and interconnection services. This is applicable for both paper and BDT. At the account level, the bill should be identified as a Meet-point bill. Current requirements for usage billing displays at end office and summary levels remain unchanged.
2. For Usage-Sensitive Service:
- a. End Office detail must be provided by COMMON LANGUAGE· Location Identification (CLLI) code. This must be an industry-recognized code. This information may be provided via LSR, ASR or other media.
  - b. When the billing company is not the recording company, a relationship may need to be established between providers in order to exchange detailed usage records.
  - c. If any or all Traffic Types within an End Office for a given customer are jointly provided, the entire End Office is billed on a MPB account.

The following guidelines establish the level of Traffic Type display on multiple meet-point bills:

- 1. If the provider displays usage by traffic type on its regular bills, it should do so on meet-point bills.
  - 2. If the provider does not render regular bills and only has meet-point bills, they should display usage by traffic type on its bills.
- d. When an account contains meet-point Billing, each meet-point billed End Office should be displayed on the bill with its appropriate MPB option or combination of options. If the end office is not owned by the billing company, the OCN of the end office owner should be listed on the bill. In effect, the Single Bill Option or Multiple Bill Option can be combined for usage-sensitive service on the same account, with:
- Any Single Bill Option
  - Any Multiple Bill Option/Alternative Implementation Method
  - Non-meet-point Billing

#### **4.4.4 Implementation Considerations for the Multiple Bill**

In addition to the basic implementation considerations in 4.4.1, the following also apply to the Multiple Bill option:

- 1. Where a contractual relationship exists between providers, data exchange and process coordination is required.
- 2. If a CSR is provided, a state level company code, as filed in NECA Tariff FCC. No. 4 should be associated with data elements.
- 3. For Usage-Sensitive Services:

- a. Exchange of usage records (e.g. 11-0X-XX) occurs when a contractual relationship exists between providers, for FGB, FGC, FGD, trunk side BSA, DA Transport, wireless and local usage.
  - b. The jurisdiction of usage must be determined by each provider. This may require the use of factors such as PIU, PLU, etc.
  - c. Exchange the Office Tape Identification (OTID), Trunk Group Number (TGN), Percent Traffic Routed (PTR), and Percent Direct Routed (PDR) if applicable.
  - d. Identify the Provider-to-Provider usage exchange procedures. The record layouts and pack requirements are defined in the ATIS/OBF EMI document.
4. For Usage-Sensitive Multiple Bills reflecting multiple tariffs, the following additional considerations apply:
- a. Company check indicator.
  - b. Provider State Level Company codes (Single Bill/Multiple Tariff rules apply).
  - c. Summary of charges by provider (Single Bill/Multiple Tariff rules apply).
  - d. Detail of charges by provider code (Single Bill/Multiple Tariff rules apply).
  - e. Rates per each provider

# Ordering and Billing Forum Issue Identification Form

OBF Issue Number	2056
Date Submitted	11/15/99
Date Accepted	11/16/99at OBF # 68
Initial Closure	09/21/00at OBF # 71
Final Closure	11/08/00at OBF # 72

2.1.1.0.1 Issue Category

RESOLVED

3. DOCUMENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

4. INDUSTRY SEGMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Part A, Page 6

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Issue Title: For facility-based LECs/CLECs and CMRS, enhance the Meetpoint/Meetpoint-like record exchange to be consistent with Unbundled processes.

Resolution Statement:

UNE Issues 1548, 1667 & 1690 did not allow for common minutes of use. As a result, the existing process for meetpoint/meetpoint-like record exchange & billing processes for facility based LEC/CLEC/CMRS has been changed to be consistent with the UNE process by eliminating common minutes of use and the exchange of summary usage records.

Currently there is an exchange of detail (11-0X-XX EMI) and summary (11-50-XX) records between most companies for non-unbundled services. There is a need to maintain consistent methods for billing, which would eliminate the need for companies to maintain two different processes for IXC switched access, wireless, local/IntraLATA and toll interconnection services that are meet point billed.

It is recognized that many companies will have to convert their processes from creating/receiving summary usage records to detail usage records. Therefore, beginning January 1, 2001, a dual process may exist which will allow companies to continue to send summary usage records until they can change their processes. As companies convert to

non-common minutes of use, coordination and negotiation may be needed between providers to allow for a smooth transition of the processes and reduced impact to the customers. In addition, the receiving company will no longer use the summary usage records for billing. Companies may bill from their own recordings or arrange for the receipt of detail usage records from the recording company.

The EMI document is being updated to remove the 11-50-01 through 04 and 11-50-21 through 24 summary usage records effective August 31, 2002. Companies are discouraged from implementing new process for utilizing these record types with the resolution of this issue.

The MECAB document has been updated to incorporate these changes which will be released in Issue 7.

This issue should be referred to the CABS BOS TRG per issue 190 and to SECAB per issue 788.