



**DECEMBER 2019**

**HIGHLIGHTS**



**Dr. R.S. Sharma, Chairman, TRAI in Keynote conversations on Broadcasting Regulations in India & its Challenges at Singapore**

# 1. Recommendations

## 1.1 TRAI has issued a Recommendation on Platform Services offered by DTH operators on 13.11.2019

The salient features of the recommendations are:

- a) The Authority reiterates the definition of PS as recommended in 'Regulatory Framework for Platform Services' dated 19th November 2014. The definition of platform services (PS) for DTH operators shall be: «Platform services (PS) are programs transmitted by Distribution Platform Operators (DPOs) exclusively to their own subscribers and does not include Doordarshan channels and registered TV channels. PS shall not include foreign TV channels that are not registered in India." Registered TV channels or television channels means a channel, which has been granted downlinking permission by the Central Government under the policy guidelines issued or amended by it from time to time and reference to the term "channel" shall be constructed as a reference to "television channel".
- b) The programme transmitted by the DTH operator as a platform service shall be exclusive and the same shall not be permitted to be shared directly or indirectly with any other Distribution Platform Operator (DPO).
- c) Programme transmitted by the DTH operator as a platform service shall not directly or indirectly include any registered TV channel or Doordarshan channel or foreign TV channel. Time-shift feed of registered TV channels (such as +1 services) shall not be allowed as a platform service.
- d) DTH operator shall ensure and provide an undertaking to the Ministry in the format prescribed by the Ministry that the programme transmitted is exclusive to their platform and not shared directly or indirectly with any other DPO.
- e) In case the same programme is found available on the PS of any other DPO, MIB/TRAI may issue direction to immediately stop the transmission of such programme. MIB also reserves the right for cancellation of registration of such PS of the DTH operator.
- f) The total number of permitted PS for a DTH operator shall be capped to 3% of the total channel carrying capacity of the DTH operator platform and' subject to a maximum of 15 platform services channels.
- g) A one-time non-refundable registration fee of ~10,000 per PS channel shall be charged from a DTH operator.
- h) The platform services channels shall be categorised under the genre 'Platform Services' in the Electronic Programmable Guide (EPG) subject to orders / directions / regulations issued by TRAI from time- to-time.

i) The respective maximum retail price (MRP) of the platform service shall be displayed In the EPG against each platform service subject to orders/ directions/regulations issued by TRAI from time-to-time.

j) A provision for putting a caption as 'Platform Services' may be required to distinguish the platform services from the linear channels. Government may decide the caption in a size which is visually readable by the consumers.



[https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation\\_13112019.pdf](https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Recommendation_13112019.pdf)

## 2. Regulations

### **2.1 Notifications extending the date of implementation of Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018 dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (9 of 2018) on 13th December 2018. As per these regulations, the revised Mobile Number Portability (MNP) process was scheduled to be in force w.e.f. 13.06.2019.

2. TRAI on 29.04.2019 issued a letter to all the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Mobile Number Portability Service Providers (MNPSPs) to furnish status of readiness of process developments and specifications so that adequate time is available for testing before the implementation.

3. In response to the TRAI's letter, most of the stakeholders (TSPs and MNPSPs) cited various reasons including significant changes in their network and IT elements. These stakeholders, therefore, requested to extend the timeline for implementation of Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (9 of 2018).

4. The responses provided by TSPs and MNPSPs were examined and upon considering the requests of stakeholders by the Authority, the timeline for implementation of Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018, was extended from 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 by a notification dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

5. Subsequently, the MNPSPs and TSPs informed that they still have to offer the Acceptance Testing to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in some of the Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) and; therefore requested that additional time of 2 weeks is required for robust internal and Inter-Operator Testing (IOT) and additional 2-3 weeks will be required for the testing to be carried by respective TERM Cells of DoT. Further, an email received from TERM Cell, DoT Maharashtra LSA had indicated paucity of time to complete the testing before the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

6. Keeping in view the submissions of MNPSPs and TSPs, the date of implementation was extended to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 through notification dated 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019. As the testing was not complete, the date of implementation was further extended through notification dated 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

7. The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations 2018 dated 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and the Notification dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019; 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019; and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 extending the time line for implementation of the said Regulations are available in the TRAI's website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in).



[https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Memorandum\\_08112019.pdf](https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Memorandum_08112019.pdf)

## **2.2 Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2019 dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (5 of 2019) on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and is scheduled to be in force w.e.f. 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

2. The Authority while issuing the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (9 of 2018) on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 had mentioned that on the aspects of the associated costs, review of Per Port Transaction Charges shall be taken up separately and these charges shall include the cost of generating Unique Porting Codes by Mobile Number Portability Service Providers and sending SMSs at various stages.

3. TRAI issued a Consultation Paper (CP) on 'Review of Per Port Transaction Charge and Other Related Charges for Mobile Number Portability' dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 (subsequently updated on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019). Through the CP, TRAI had inter-alia sought comments on whether the total number of MNP requests received by MNPSP or successfully ported numbers be considered while calculating 'Per Port Transaction Charge'?

4. Upon examination of the data it has been observed that the gap between total porting requests and successful porting has been reducing over the years and is likely to reduce further after the 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment comes into force. Besides, the MNPSPs have to incur costs even on unsuccessful porting requests. Further, in many cases, the failure of a porting request could be due to reasons beyond the control of the MNPSPs. Through the comments received in response, most of the stakeholders have also suggested to consider total number of port requests. Accordingly, the Authority decided to take each porting request into consideration for determining the Per Port Transaction Charge.

5. Through this amendment, besides other minor changes, the provision of Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Regulations, 2009 has been aligned with the Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge (Second amendment) Regulations, 2019.

6. The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Eight Amendment) Regulation, 2019 is available in the TRAI's website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in).

### **2.3 TRAI on 01.11.2019 notified The Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, to specify duration of alert for the called.**

The details are as given below:

- Access Provider would have to maintain the time duration of alert for an incoming voice call, which is neither answered nor rejected by the called party, to thirty seconds for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and sixty seconds for Basic Telephone Service.
- The terminating network shall, on expiry of thirty seconds in case of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and sixty seconds in case of Basic Telephone Service, release the incoming voice call and transmit the call release message to the originating network. However, originating network may release an unanswered call after ninety seconds in case the call release message is not received from the terminating network.
- They shall come into force after fifteen days from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.



[https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation\\_01112019.pdf](https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation_01112019.pdf)

## 3. Directions

### 3.1. TRAI has issued a direction to M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (M/s RJIL) on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 for contravention of “The Reporting System on Accounting Separation Regulations, 2016”.

M/s RJIL submitted the accounting separation reports for the accounting year 2017-18 whereby clubbing the products viz, voice, non-voice, VAS and data etc. of proforma B for Access Services, as defined in Schedule I of these regulations, into Data+VVM and thereby M/s RJIL failed to submit to the Authority, the audited accounting separation reports, for the accounting year 2017-18, in the prescribed format, and thus, contravened the provisions of the regulations.

Thus, the Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under section 13, read with sub clause (i), of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 11, sub-section (3) of section 12 of the TRAI Act, 1997 and regulation 4 of the Reporting System on Accounting Separation Regulations, 2016, directed M/s RJIL to comply with the provisions of the sub-regulation (1) of regulation 4 of the Reporting System on Accounting Separation Regulations, 2016 (5 of 2016) dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 and submit the revised accounting separation report, as per the formats prescribed in the regulations.

## 4. Consultation Papers

### 4.1. TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on “Transparency in Publishing of Tariff Offers” on 27.11.2019.

This Consultation Paper has been uploaded on TRAI’s website (www.trai.gov.in) and the written comments on the issues raised in the consultation paper were invited from the stakeholders by 26.12.2019 and counter comments by 09.01.2020.

[https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_27112019.pdf](https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_27112019.pdf)



#### **4.2 TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges” on 08.11.2019.**

This Consultation Paper embarks on the review of the existing regulatory regime for International Termination Charges (ITC).



[https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_IUC\\_08112019.pdf](https://main.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/CP_IUC_08112019.pdf)

#### **4.3 TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on “Developing a unified numbering plan for fixed line and mobile services” on 20.09.2019.**

Department of Telecommunications vide letter dated 08.05.2019 has sought recommendations of TRAI on strategies of National Digital Communications Policy, 2018. Accordingly, TRAI has issued a Consultation Paper on “Developing a unified numbering plan for fixed line and mobile services” on 20.09.2019.

2. Telecommunications sector has been undergoing a transformation triggered by emergence of new network architectures and services. Advancement in telecommunications technology has brought better, faster and cheaper services for the consumer and at same time it is possible to deliver any service on any device, anytime, anywhere. To achieve this ubiquity, the number resource is used to uniquely identify and differentiate among the end users. The numbering plan is one of the important 'fundamental plans' along with Switching, Routing, Transmission, Charging and Synchronization Plans that govern the functioning of telecommunications networks.

3. DoT administers numbers for fixed line and the mobile networks based on the series E.164 of ITU's Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) Recommendations. This ITU-T Recommendations describes “The International Public Telecommunication Numbering Plan” and provides the number structure and functionality of numbers used for international public telecommunication.

4. This consultation process has been initiated to analyse the changes that affect the national numbering plan and to identify the ways in which numbering resource management and allocation policy might be managed for ensuring adequate numbering resources. This issue covered are the long term suitability of numbering plan, unified numbering plan, efficient utilization of the numbers and an efficient allocation criterion.

5. The said Consultation Paper was placed on the TRAI's website on 20.09.2019 and the closing date for receipt of comments and counter-comments from stakeholders were 21.10.2019 and 4.11.2019 respectively, which was extended on the request of stakeholders upto 13.11.2019 and 27.11.2019 respectively.

6. 15 Stakeholders have submitted their comments and 5 have submitted their counter-comments, which are uploaded on TRAI's website.

#### **4.4 TRAI issued Consultation Paper on Cloud Services on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 for seeking the comments of the stakeholders**

This consultation paper deliberates on the following issues:

- to analyse and discuss the matters relevant for prescribing a framework for registration of Industry bod(y)(ies) for cloud service providers.
- Eligibility criteria for registration of CSP's industry body, Obligations of CSPs' industry body
- Membership policy and other policy issues related to Governance Structure.

The last date for written comments by stakeholders is 20.11.2019 and counter comments, if any, by 4.12.2019.

#### **4.5 TRAI has issued a Consultation paper on Interoperability of Set Top Box on 11.11.2019**

The digital TV broadcasting services are received by subscriber using a SetTop Box (STB), connected with the TV set. The STB receives TV signals from distribution network and decodes them into viewable form for TV set. STB enables the subscriber to view only those TV channels which he has subscribed.

Presently the STBs deployed in the network are non-interoperable, i.e. the same STB cannot be used interchangeably across the different service providers. As far as STBs deployed by Direct to Home (DTH) players are concerned, STBs comply with the license conditions to support Common Interface (CI) module-based interoperability. The lack of interoperability of STBs between different service providers has not only compromised the competition in the Pay-TV market but also a major hindrance to technological innovation, improvement in service quality, and sector growth.

TRAI has been taking various measures to achieve the set top box interoperability including the stakeholders' meetings/ discussions. The Authority also engaged with various technology companies in the broadcasting technology space for information exchange.

TRAI has issued this consultation paper with a view to elicit response from all the stakeholders for suggesting the best solution to implement the interoperability of STB. The consultation paper provides brief overview of various available options and technical solutions for achieving interoperability of STB. The paper seeks response with detailed justifications for suggesting most optimal and cost-effective solution.

[https://main.traigov.in/sites/default/files/CP\\_STB\\_Interoperable\\_11112019.pdf](https://main.traigov.in/sites/default/files/CP_STB_Interoperable_11112019.pdf)





## 5. Open House Discussion

### 5.1. Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Charges”

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 15.11.2019 in SCOPE Minar Convention Centre, Laxmi Nagar District Centre, New Delhi on the Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges” dated 18.09.2019. This CP is for reviewing the applicable date of Bill and Keep (BAK) regime for domestic Wireless to Wireless termination charges. The OHD was attended by various entities including Telecom Service Providers, Service Providers Associations, Companies, Organisations, Firms, Societies, Consultants, Academicians, Experts and Individuals.



**Open House Discussion (OHD) on the Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Charges” on 15.11.19 at New Delhi**

## **5.2. Open House Discussion on Consultation paper on “Review of Scope of Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) Registration”**

TRAI conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on 14.11.2019 in TRAI Headquarter, New Delhi on the Consultation Paper on “Review of Scope of Infrastructure Providers Category-I (IP-I) Registration” on 16.08.2019. This consultation process has been initiated suo-motu by the Authority to make recommendations to the Government for the encouragement and facilitation of sharing of passive as well as active infrastructure as envisaged in the National Digital Communications Policy-2018.



## **5.3 Open House Discussion on Consultation Paper on issues related to Interconnection Regulation 2017**

TRAI conducted an Open House Discussion (OHD) on “Consultation Paper on Issues related to Interconnection Regulation 2017” on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at TRAI Headquarter, New Delhi.

## 6. Seminar

### 6.1 Seminar on “Smart Phone, Privacy and Security” at Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat) held on 09.11.2019



**Seminar on “Smart Phone, Privacy and Security” at Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat) held on 09.11.2019**

## 7. Other Information

### 6.1 Order dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to all Telecom Service Providers regarding 'Publication of Mobile Number Revocation List'

Most of the public and private systems in India use mobile numbers as a means for identifying the customers and also to authenticate and authorize various services via one-time password sent on their mobile numbers.

A mobile number, when surrendered or permanently disconnected, after a certain time period gets re-allocated to some other customer, but many service delivery platforms/ systems are not updated by the earlier customer, who may either not be using the service regularly and hence do not find a reason to update his mobile number, or due to lack of awareness of potential danger due to mobile number reuse, thus creating huge potential of an identity/profile take over on re-allocation of a mobile number.

Currently there is no platform/system available by which banks and other stakeholders can get the information about permanently disconnected and de-register them as per the procedures stipulated by the law, therefore, in order to make available the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) to the stakeholders for transparency and efficiency and to enable the interested parties to clean up their databases thereby not sending one time password to someone other than their customer.

MNRL is digitally signed list of permanently disconnected mobile numbers, which shall be published on the Authority's website every month in public domain, allowing various agencies to independently download and easily clean up their database using their own workflows (for example, a bank could download the list, check each number and if it is one of their customers', then can flag it, and let the customer update it with his new number).

TRAI will devise an automated process requiring no manual intervention, wherein a link would be provided, where telecom service providers shall upload the latest MNRL on a monthly basis and banks and other stakeholders may download the same in a convenient way.

While using the MNRL, the respective user agencies should follow the rules, regulations, guidelines, instructions or directions issued by the respective regulators and Govt Departments etc. in respect of their service provisioning and the Authority shall be merely publishing MNRL on its website and shall in no way market, promote or justify its use by any user agency.

The interested agencies may download the published MNRL from the Authority's website for their internal use through a simple online sign up/ registration process, seeking inputs for essential fields like name of the organization, address, email ID, etc.

Through this order, the Authority issued broad framework for the MNRL.

## **6.2 TRAI has issued Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Digital Addressable Systems Audit Manual on 08.11.2019**

This manual is the result of the synthesis of all comments, suggestions of BECIL and final analysis by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The Audit Manual will be a guidance document for the audit process as it specifies step-by-step process in simple language. The manual does not supersede any provision of the extant regulations.

## **8. Events**

### **7.1 The following Consumer Outreach Programmes were organised during the month of November 2019**

| <b>S.No.</b> | <b>Place</b>                 | <b>Date</b> |
|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1            | Kottayam (Kerala)            | 13.11.2019  |
| 2            | Bahraich (U.P.)              | 14.11.2019  |
| 3            | Kangra (HP)                  | 15.11.2019  |
| 4            | Alwar (Rajasthan)            | 18.11.2019  |
| 5            | Roorkee (Uttarakhand)        | 20.11.2019  |
| 6            | Tirupati (AndhraPradesh)     | 20.11.2019  |
| 7            | Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh) | 21.11.2019  |
| 8            | Malappuram (Kerala)          | 25.11.2019  |
| 9            | Katihar (Bihar)              | 26.11.2019  |
| 10           | Gurgaon (Haryana)            | 29.11.2019  |

# PHOTO GALLERY



**CoP at Kottayam (Kerala) held on 13.11.2019**



**CoP at Behraich (U.P.) held on 14.11.2019**



**CoP at Kangra (HP) held on 15.11.2019**



**CoP at Alwar (Rajasthan) held on 18.11.2019**



**CoP at Roorkee (Uttarakhand) held on 20.11.2019**



**CoP at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) held on 20.11.2019**





**CoP at Pasighat (Arunachal Pradesh) held on 21.11.2019**



**CoP at Malappuram (Kerala) held on 25.11.2019**



### CoP at Katihar (Bihar) held on 26.11.2019



### CoP at Gurgaon (Haryana) held on 29.11.2019

**Full details of the Directions/Orders/Consultation Paper/Report, Subscription Data, etc mentioned in this newsletter are available on TRAI website [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in) MahanagarDoorsancharBhawan, JawaharLal Nehru Marg, (Old Minto Road), New Delhi-110 002.**

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