

# TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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## TRAI ASKED THE CURRENT STATUS ON READINESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CARRIER ACCESS CODE/ CARRIER PRE SELECTION FROM ALL SERVICE PROVIDERS

On 24th July 2002, TRAI had issued Direction regarding the implementation of Call by Call and Carrier-Pre Selection. At that time BSNL did not have capability of CDR based billing and hence DOT gave a relaxation for the implementation of call by call selection or pre-selection in BSNL network for a period of 12 months. DOT's letter had also stated that this relaxation will stand withdrawn in case Bureau Model Interconnect Settlement or upgraded CDR Billing System is put in place earlier. For level playing considerations, it was not correct for the Authority to force Carrier Selection implementation by all others with the exception of BSNL.

MTNL had informed TRAI vide their letter dated 20.03.2003, that they need the payment of set up cost for the system modification in the Switches of MTNL to enable them to implement Carrier Selection for NLD and ILD Services in their networks, in accordance with the Direction and NLDO were not coming forward towards the payment of their contribution of up gradation costs. TRAI referred the matter to High Level Technical committee, which had representation from DOT, BSNL, MTNL, ABTO, COAI, C-DOT, TEC.

DOT had also appointed a Committee consisting of officers from DOT and TEC to determine the cost implication of the required up-gradation of BSNL's switches to be able to introduce carrier selection by means of CAC and carrier pre-selection.

In the meeting of High level committee it was informed by BSNL and MTNL representatives that a committee has been formed by DOT also for examination of cost of setup / upgradation of the network in order to provide the facility of carrier selection. The Authority had obtained a copy of the Report but since it was confidential, it could not be placed before the High Level Technical Committee. The Authority had noted that actual setup cost component was about 25% of the projected cost, while rest was for replacement of certain type of Switches or for implementation of CDR based billing system. The Authority had noted that these components had no direct relationship with Carrier Selection. TRAI had further noted that the scheme would not be implemented with level playing conditions unless CDR based billing was available in BSNL Network.

TRAI issued Interconnection Usage Charges Regulation on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2003 wherein TRAI specified cost based carriage charges ranging from Rs 0.20 to Rs. 1.10. It was also mentioned that "*Forbearance for carriage charge for long distance calls will be introduced once carrier selection by customer is implemented.*"

Since DOT's relaxation period is already being over and BSNL's CDR based billing system is in final stages of implementation, it was also noted that most of the Access Providers are having Unified Access Service License and license condition of UASL mandates that the equipment shall support the carrier selection facilities as per the prevailing regulation, direction, order or determination issued by LICENSOR or TRAI on the subject.

Therefore to review the current status on readiness of implementation of Carrier Access Code/ Carrier Pre Selection and to decide further necessary course of action, TRAI has issued letter to all service providers regarding status of implementation of carrier selection in their respective network.

The letter is available on TRAI's Web Site [www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in).

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