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NATIONAL NUMBERING RESOURCE REGULATIONS 2019

**THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
(NATCOM)**

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In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 82 of the Telecommunications Act 2006 (as amended) of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) hereby makes the following Regulations as statutory instrument:

PART 1: PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Title

1. These Regulations may be cited as the **National Numbering Resource Regulation of 2019**.

Definitions

2. The terms and expressions used in these Regulations, which are defined in the Act, shall have the same meaning unless the context requires otherwise.

“Allocation”	means the broad definition of categories of telephone numbers and codes, to be determined by the Commission, according various classifications of services, Resource Users, and applications to which different numbering groups shall be applied
“Called Party”	means the person being contacted by means of a telephone call
“Calling Party”	Person or entity making contact by means of a telephone call
“National Numbering Plan”	means the numbering plan issued by the Commission under this regulation and as shall be amended from time to time
Universal Personal Telecommunications Numbers	mean numbers of the type described in Part 2, and which are intended to be assigned to end users of basic fixed or mobile telecommunications services
“Primary Assignment”	means the specific granting, by the Commission, of designated blocks of numbers within an allocated group, to particular Resource Users
“Resource Users”	mean licensed telecommunications service providers who are eligible to be assigned numbers or codes under this Regulation, as well as certain third-party resellers of numbering-related services, as may be determined by the Commission
“Secondary Assignment”	means the distribution of numbers by a Resource User to its customers or end users to associate with their personal telecommunications services
“Short Codes”	mean access codes in the format xxx or xxxx used to, among other things, access emergency, make inquiries, access value added services as well as other services offered by licensed telecommunications operators or communication network-based value-added service providers
“Toll Numbers”	Free means numbers designated by the Commission as being eligible for receiving or making free calls from and to end users of telecommunication services

Scope of Application

3. These Regulations shall apply to:
 - i. the assignment and use of Universal Personal Telecommunication numbers in the 9-digit National Numbering Plan format administered by the Commission;
 - ii. the assignment and use of short codes for emergency services, public information and other ancillary communication services; and
 - iii. the assignment and use of other individual numbers with different numbers of digits and short codes as described herein.

Objectives of National Numbering Resource Regulations

4. The objectives of these Regulations are to:
 - (1) establish the framework through which the Commission may assign numbering blocks, National Destination Codes (NDC), exchange codes, short codes, and other unique numbering resources to different classes of Resource Users and applications.
 - (2) ensure the administration of definition and assignment of numbering resources in a predictable, competitively neutral, non-discriminatory manner among all participants in the market.

PART 2: NUMBERING SCHEME

Public Communications Network Numbering Scheme

5. Public Communications Network Numbers as referred to in Part 3 shall comprise nine (9) digits (excluding the national prefix or the access code '0') unless otherwise indicated in the National Numbering Scheme.
6. The digit structure for Public Communications Network Numbers is as follows: 'SYXXXXXXXX' where 'S' is the first digit after the country code; Y and X may be any number from zero to nine. The S digit shall be designated by the Commission to enable identification of the type of service, Y shall be designated to identify the primary resource user and the primary resource user shall assign the following seven X digits to their customers.

PART 3: ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATION NUMBERS

Assignment of Public Communication Numbers

7. The Commission shall be responsible for the primary assignment of blocks of Numbers to Resource Users, in accordance with the assignment categories identified in the National Numbering Plan.
8. Numbering resources shall be assigned in proportion to the needs of the applicant and in a transparent and equitable fashion, with priority in the primary assignment of available numbering resources being given based on the order of arrival of applications.
9. Secondary assignments, pursuant to Section 25, shall be the responsibility of the Resource Users to which primary assignment is provided.

Disclosure of Assigned Telecommunication Numbers

10. The Commission shall publish information concerning:
 - i. the Numbers assigned by the Commission, the primary recipients of such numbering resources and the conditions for use of these resources, in so far as confidential or commercially sensitive data is not involved; and
 - ii. the status of each resource indicating whether it is free, reserved, assigned or unavailable and the period of unavailability.
11. The list of public communication numbering resources assigned to primary users in Sierra Leone is included as Schedule 4 to these regulations; and shall be regularly updated on the website of the Commission.

Application for Primary Assignment of Numbers

12. The Commission shall determine eligibility criteria to apply for and obtain primary assignments of Numbers according to these Regulations.
13. Without prejudice to Section 11:
 - i. priority shall be given to licensed telecommunications operators and service providers that have been licensed or authorised to provide communications services that require numbering resources for the business operations; and
 - ii. the amount of resources to be assigned shall be in proportion to their demonstrated needs.
14. The Commission may assign designated commercially valuable numbering blocks to third-party distributors for purposes of resale or packaging of such numbers in conjunction with other retail telecommunications services, subject to reasonable

limitations on the quantity of numbers or blocks of numbers that any one entity or group can be assigned.

15. The Commission shall establish application procedures and criteria for all parties seeking primary assignment of Numbers, and such procedures shall be published on the Commission's website

Terms and Conditions for Primary Assignment of Numbers

16. Primary assignment of Numbers shall be made in fixed blocks of one (1) million numbers in the case of Mobile Network Operators and one hundred thousand (100,000) Numbers in the case of other resource users. The Commission may determine, on a case-by-case basis, the quantity of numbers, which are required for a particular Resource Users, based upon demonstrated end user demand.
17. As far as practicable, numbers in any opened block shall be assigned prior to numbers in any subsequent, unopened block. However, the Commission may assign separate blocks to individual Resource Users upon request, if it deems such assignment would enhance market competition and not unduly diminish the non-discriminatory availability of numbering resources.
18. Resource Users shall use the numbers assigned to them for the purpose specified in the application. Misuse, hoarding, or illicit use of numbers shall be a cause for the Commission to rescind primary assignments, or impose other sanctions as appropriate.
19. Resource Users shall maintain a record of the percentage of assigned numbers in use, reserved, and on request shall, provide the Commission with timely information about any substantial alteration that occurs in relation to the use made of the assigned numbers.
20. Numbers assigned shall remain under the control of the Resource User who applied for the numbers, subject to modifications to this principle that may result from the determination of number portability.
21. A Resource User may make a sub-assignment of numbers from within the assigned numbering block to another person if the sub-assignment is for the same use specified in the application and is consistent with these Regulations.
22. Where fees have been paid for obtaining numbers, Resource Users may also charge equivalent fees for sub-assignments. The originally assigned Resource User shall report all sub-assignments to the Commission.
23. At the time of assigning numbering resources, or at any time thereafter, the Commission may, at its discretion, apply additional specific conditions of the use to those resources where the Commission considers that it is necessary or reasonable to

do so in the interests of the efficient administration of National Numbering Plan. The conditions shall be consistent with these Regulations and relate only to the use and management of the assigned numbering resources.

Fees, Charges and Payment Terms for Primary Assignments

24. The Commission shall determine the appropriate levels of fees that Resource Users shall be required to pay to obtain blocks of Ordinary Numbers, considering the valuable nature of this scarce resource, as well as the legitimate economic interests of the industry.
25. Resource Users shall be required to make full payments for all numbering resources assigned to them, whether or not all of the numbers are utilised at any particular point in time.

Terms and Conditions for Secondary Assignments

26. Primary Resource Users shall be responsible for secondary assignment of numbers either to resellers or to end users. Such assignment shall be made in accordance with the purpose of the National Numbering Plan and these Regulations.
27. Subject to Section 25, a user to whom a number has been legitimately assigned through a secondary assignment may continue to enjoy the use of that number, freely and without hindrance while using a telecommunications service for which the number has been assigned.
28. An end user may not transfer or sell any number assigned to him/her. Upon termination of the telecommunications service for which a number is assigned, ownership and control of the number shall revert to the Primary Resource User to which the primary assignment was originally given, or subject to the results of number portability.
29. Numbers, which have been released by end users due to cancellation of service, shall not be re-assigned to new end users for a period of at least six (6) months.

Application Procedures for Use of Numbering Resources

30. An applicant for the primary assignment or reservation of Numbers pursuant to Section 11, shall provide the following information:
 - i. The name, registered or permanent address and telephone number of the applicant, and if the applicant is not a natural person, the name of a contact person;
 - ii. Applicant's status, whether a licensed operator, a Government Ministry or any other details of entitlement to an assignment or reservation of numbers;

- iii. information about characteristics of network and/or services he/she provides, including, when applicable, the forms of interconnection that will be implemented with other public networks;
 - iv. clear indication of the use for which the requested Ordinary Numbers are intended, and in particular whether they are intended for use in connection with fixed, mobile or voice over internet services, and the date when the applicant expects to start the service for which the numbering resources are requested;
 - v. in the case of numbers intended for use in connection with fixed services, information on any designated telecommunications exchange service area for which the numbers are requested;
 - vi. in the case of numbers intended for resale on a commercial basis, a statement demonstrating the intended market for such numbers, and the affiliation of the applicant with telecommunications service provider(s);
 - vii. a statement that the numbers will be used in accordance with the National Numbering Plan and these Regulations;
 - viii. a forecast of expected utilization over a period of at least one (1) year and at most three (3) years;
 - ix. any preference for a particular resource, including specific numbering blocks and number ranges;
 - x. the date when the service for which the numbers are requested will stop operating, or the date by when the numbers will be vacated, if it is a time bound service;
 - xi. details of use made of previous numbering assignments, including volume of resources assigned to applicant's end users that are in service and not in service;
 - xii. any other information considered necessary by the Commission in relation to the application made.
31. Applications for numbering assignments shall not be made more than 6 months prior to the planned commencement date for utilisation of these numbers, except with the approval of the Commission.
32. Prior to the opening of new blocks of numbers, national destination codes, area codes, exchange codes, or other significant numbering resources under the terms of the National Numbering Plan, the Commission shall publish a notification and set a date for initial receipt of applications from all qualified persons for such new numbers. Prior to this date, no applications will be accepted for such resources.
33. The Commission shall respond to an application for primary assignment of numbering resources within a period of 7 days from receipt of an application containing all the required information, unless such application requires further review or raises issues that cannot reasonably be addressed within that period.
34. Where the Commission considers that an exception to the normal period is required, then it shall inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the exception and of the revised period. This period shall not exceed 30 days from receipt of an application containing all the information required.

35. The Commission may refuse an application for an assignment of numbering resources if it considers that the applicant has used previous assignments of numbers ineffectively or inefficiently or for other sufficient cause, or may not grant the application in full, or may attach specific conditions to the assignment consistent with these Regulations and which relate to the use and management of the numbering resources assigned.
36. When the Commission refuses an application for numbering resources, or does not grant the application in full, or attaches specific conditions to the allocation, then the Commission shall inform the applicant, in writing, of the reasons for doing so. In addition, the Commission in consultation with the applicant, may make an alternative assignment that has the potential to satisfy the applicant's requirements.
37. Where an applicant is dissatisfied with the Commission's refusal of an application for numbering resources, or its decision not to grant the application in full, or its attachment of specific conditions to the allocation, the applicant may write to the Commission disputing the reasons given by the Commission for his decision or providing further information regarding the application. The Commission shall consider the request and respond to the applicant within 30 days.
38. Where the applicant does not accept the final decisions on this matter, the applicant has the right to recourse to judicial appeal in the High Courts of Sierra Leone, according to provisions of the Act.

Reservation of Numbering Resources

39. The Commission may reserve numbering resources upon application. Reservations of numbering resources may be applied for where:
 - i. the applicant is awaiting the award of a licence under the Act;
 - ii. the applicant does not wish to be identified at the time of application;
 - iii. the reason for the application is commercially sensitive at the time of application;or
 - iv. a route for migrating numbers from another block or code needs to be identified.
40. When making number reservations, the Commission shall have regard to the National Numbering Plan, relevant licence conditions and any other matters that it regards as relevant.
41. The reservation of numbering resources does not guarantee that a corresponding primary assignment of the numbers will subsequently be made. A separate request for primary assignment of the numbering resource should be submitted based on the information set out in Section 29. However, once a reservation has been made, such numbering resources shall not be available for primary assignment to other persons except for the purpose for which, and to the person by whom, the reservation was made.

42. The Commission shall respond to an application for a reservation in the same periods provided for in relation to an application for an assignment.
43. Unless a longer reservation is needed for the effective management of the National Numbering Plan, the limit for reservations for fixed and mobile ranges of numbers will be six (6) months. Reservations may be renewed on request to the Commission and at its discretion.
44. The Commission may terminate a reservation awarded to an applicant for a licence under the Act, if that applicant does not meet the criteria for primary assignment of numbers within a time period that the Commission considers reasonable.

Notification of Number Activation

45. It shall be the responsibility of the Resource User to notify the Commission, other relevant operators and service providers of the dates on which assigned numbers and codes are activated within the timelines agreed with other operators.
46. Every Resource User shall notify the Commission of the contact in its organization who is to be notified of the dates for activation of the numbers and codes assigned to other operators or service providers. The Commission will maintain a list of these contacts and shall make it available on request to any operator that requires it.

Withdrawal of Assigned Numbers

47. The assignment of Universal Personal Telecommunications numbers to individual end-users by a primary Resource User is expected to last the lifetime of that end-user. The Commission and licensed operators shall promote this principle and accord the end-user this privilege as long as they continue subscription to the associated number.
48. Notwithstanding Section 46, the Commission may withdraw assigned numbers from Resource Users if there is an overriding national interest in doing so; and such withdrawals shall be done pursuant to these Regulations.
49. Withdrawal of any number already in use may be made only after the Commission has consulted with interested parties, including the end user affected by the withdrawal.

Standard Numbering Blocks

50. The minimum quantum of numbers in a block that can be assigned to an applicant shall be 1 million numbers. An operator that intends to apply for less than 1 million numbers should negotiate a sub-assignment agreement with an operator that has been assigned enough numbers. The parties to a numbering sub-assignment agreement shall negotiate the terms and conditions therein.

Toll Free Numbers

51. The Commission shall designate specific numbering blocks that shall be classified as “toll-free”; and for which regular tariffs shall not apply to calling parties. All toll-free numbers are considered harmonised numbers and shall be activated across all public communications networks on behalf of the resource user to whom the number has been assigned.
52. An applicant for the primary assignment or reservation of resources of Toll-Free Numbers, shall provide the following information:
 - i. The name, registered or permanent address and telephone number of the applicant, and if the applicant is not a natural person, the name of a contact person;
 - ii. Applicant’s status, whether a licensed operator, a Government Ministry or any other details of entitlement to an assignment or reservation of numbers;
 - iii. a statement that the number or numbers will be used in accordance with the National Numbering Plan and these Regulations;
 - iv. the date when the service for which the numbers are requested will stop operating, or the date by when the numbers will be vacated, if it is a time bound service;
 - v. any other information considered necessary by the Commission in relation to the application made.

Numbering Utilisation Reports

53. Each primary Resource User shall submit to the Commission on annual basis a report (hereinafter called the “Annual Numbering Report”). The Annual Numbering Report shall accurately reflect the status of the numbering resources assigned to such Resource User as of the end of the prior calendar year and shall be submitted to the Commission within one (1) month before the calendar year ends.
54. The Annual Numbering Report shall include the following information for all numbers assigned to the resource user:
 - i. the current utilisation of numbers;
 - ii. the percentage of numbers that have been secondarily assigned to users or are, for any reason, unavailable for further assignment, in which case the reasons for unavailability should be specified; and
 - iii. any sub-assignment of blocks of numbers to a third party for purposes other than end use.
55. The Annual Numbering Report shall also provide, in a format specified by the Commission:
 - i. forecasts of future demand for numbers;

- ii. where numbering resources have been reserved for an organization, the justification for continuing reservation of the numbering resources; and
 - iii. any other information reasonably requested by the Commission.
56. Data collected from Annual Numbering Reports may be summarized in a non-commercially sensitive form in the Annual Report produced by the Commission.

Directory of Active Telephone Numbers

57. All telecommunications service providers must maintain complete directories of all telephone numbers assigned to end users who are their subscribers. Full listings of such numbers must be made available to all other service providers, and to independent third parties directory publishers, for a charge that does not exceed the reasonable cost of maintaining and reproducing the directory database.
58. End users may request that their telephone numbers be treated as “unpublished” and, therefore, not be made available for directory publications and inquiries. Service providers and directory publishers must honour these requests, except where law enforcement or other legally authorized inquiries may be involved.

Numbering Re-organisation

59. Where a numbering reorganisation makes provision for a replacement of assigned Telephone Numbers, the primary resource user shall ensure that there is:
- i. an adequate period of advance notification and publicity to End-Users prior to the replacement of the Telephone Number being Adopted or otherwise used;
 - ii. upon Adoption of the replacement of the Telephone Number, a period of Parallel Running when dialling to the original and replaced Telephone Numbers is available wherever technically possible; and
 - iii. immediately following the period of Parallel Running and for a further period of time specified by the Commission, a changed number announcement played to a Calling Party who dials the original Telephone Number.

PART 4: ADMINISTRATION OF SHORT CODES AND OTHER NUMBERS

Designation of Short Codes and Other Numbers

60. The Commission shall, in accordance with the National Numbering Plan, prescribe national uniform Short Codes that must be used by all or any classes of Resource Users in order to: (i) deliver services to their subscribers, (ii) allow their subscribers to

access emergency or inquiry services; and (iii) allow aggregators and value-added service providers to utilise telecommunication channels to deliver such services

61. The Commission shall designate additional short codes within the National Numbering Plan, if necessary. The Commission shall designate specific blocks of short codes that should be used by licensed operators for their own services and other blocks that should be used for other purposes and other Resource Users that are not telecommunication operators
62. Specific Short Codes should apply uniformly across all telecommunications service providers; while network operators may select specific short codes that are unique for their services delivered to their end-users. The National Short Code format and designations is provided in Schedule 1 to these Regulations.

Assignment of Short Code Numbers

63. Licensed operators shall be assigned blocks of Short Codes for their own use.
64. The Government shall be assigned a block of short codes within the National Numbering Plan, to be used for Government communication purposes. The planning and sub-assignment of these numbers to specific Ministries, Departments and Agencies shall be the responsibility of the Ministry of Information and Communications.
65. Other Value-Added service providers and aggregators that are not licensed operators may apply for specific Short Codes for their own individual use. Such applications shall include the information required under Section 51 of these Regulations, as applicable to the Short Code concerned, together with the following information, where applicable:
 - i. an indication of whether the short code will be utilised for voice-based services, SMS data or USSD services; and
 - ii. an assessment of the level of awareness of users about the Short Code numbers proposed to be used and the services that are to be supplied using the numbers, or the way in which awareness shall be created.

Unstructured Supplementary Service Data Service Short Codes

66. The Commission shall assign short codes for non-voice services such as USSD services to licensed operators for the conduct of their licensed commercial businesses
67. The Commission may assign short codes to businesses that are not licensed operators and non-profit organisations in furtherance of their work, as far as the purpose is deemed lawful and consistent with public interest.

68. Pursuant to the terms of regulatory collaboration between the Commission and the Central Bank of Sierra Leone on the regulation of telecommunications based financial services, the Commission shall require authorisations from the Bank of Sierra Leone prior to assigning USSD short codes to providers of financial technology products and services.
69. The Commission may designate and reserve blocks of short codes for the delivery of services that will require some form of authorisation by the supervising sector Ministry or Regulatory body prior to assigning short codes within those blocks for USSD services.

Harmonisation of Short Codes

70. The assignment of a particular short code to a resource user that is not a licensed operator grants the user right to utilise that short code number across all public networks in Sierra Leone.
71. Pursuant to Sections 67, 68 and 69, a resource user to whom a short code number has been assigned shall be required to enter into commercial contracts for network services with one or more licensed operators and provide the Commission with details of the commercial agreements reached with that network service provider.

PART 5: MISCELLANEOUS

Reviews and Amendments

72. (1) The Commission shall amend and modify these Regulations or any part thereof, at any time, if the Commission deems it necessary.
- (2) Amendments to these Regulations shall be made in accordance with:
 - a. the needs and changes in national priorities and Government policies including international treaties, commitments, standards or laws;
 - b. emerging issues of national security; and
 - c. changes and advancement in technology.

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1: National Numbering Plan

Changes to the National Numbering Scheme

The new numbering scheme involves the following aspects:

- a) Increasing the number of non-country code digits in public telephone communication numbers from eight (8) digits to nine (9) digits;
- b) Designating unique UPT indicators (or S Codes) for various categories of telecommunications services such as Fixed Telephone Lines, Mobile Networks, Internet Service Providers, Government of Sierra Leone telecommunications and Commercial Toll-Free lines;
- c) Harmonising certain categories of numbers to be used for public services that are of social value;
- d) Reorganising the non-geographic mobile numbers already allocated and assigned, to fit the regulatory reforms being introduced.

In the case of geographic location-based communications, the 3-Digit NDC shall be the area code, while for non-geographic mobile communications, the 3 Digit NDC shall be the service provider code.

The National Numbering Plan ‘S’ Codes

The following ‘S’ codes have been designed for various categories of communication services that use the full 9-Digit numbers. The ‘S’ code is the first number of any telecommunications-based numbering service, which provides the generic family identification of all numbers starting with that code.

All national numbering resources shall be authorised and assigned following these ‘S’ code designations.

‘S’ Code	Designated Telecommunications Use
1	Unallocated, except for short codes designated for use for harmonised public services and operator-specific services

'S' Code	Designated Telecommunications Use
2	Unavailable and reserved for future use
3	Government telecommunications services, to be used for official Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies
4	For fixed line telecommunications services, and shall be based on geographical locations
5	Unavailable and reserved for future use
6	Voice over internet and machine-based communication services
7	Licensed Mobile Telecommunications Network services
8	Toll-Free Commercial Services
9	Premium and Special Services telecommunications services

Harmonised Numbers for Public Services of Social Value

The following set of numbers have been designated by the Commission as being numbers that are to be used for public services of social value across all public communications networks.

Type of Public Service	Designated 3-Digit Number	Designated 6-Digit Number
Public Safety	112	112xxx
Child Protection	116	116xxx
Public Health	117	117xxx
Disaster Response and Management	119	119xxx

The last three digits of the designated 6-digit numbers may be assigned based on request by the Government Agency in charge of that public service. For example, the Ministry of Social Welfare or any Government Commission or Agency within that sector can apply for and be assigned any number 116001 and 116999 to provide information and education services or general helpline services. In addition, any Department in the Ministry of Health and Sanitation may be assigned 117001 for community-based disease surveillance and reporting, if it decides that the 117 short code shall be used only in cases of emergency.

Designated Harmonised Short Code Uses

The following sets of short codes have been designated by the Commission to be used for the following respective purposes. These numbers shall be used for voice and SMS services.

3-Digit Short Code Designations	
Code Range	Purpose
1xx	Emergency / Security / Government Services (except for 111 used by licensed operator for customer services)
2xx	News / Information / Entertainment Services
3xx	Common Services, Organizations / Companies
4xx	Mobile Network Operator / internal (for MNOs)
5xx	To be used for religious and non-profit community development

	services, but assignment will require authorisation by the Ministry of Information and Communications.
6xx	Unallocated; and reserved for unforeseen future uses
7xx	Utilities / Gaming / Betting / Social Network Services
8xx	For all Government MDA communications services.
9xx	Commercial banking & other financial services (insurance, mobile money, micro finance & e-commerce) , but excluding 911 and 999.
4-Digit Code Designations	
1xxx	Emergency / Security / Government Services
2xxx	News / Information / Entertainment Services
3xxx	Common Services, Organizations / Companies
4xxx	Mobile Network Operator / internal (for MNOs)
5xxx	For religious non-profit community development services, that do not require authorisation by any Government MDA
6xxx	Unallocated; and reserved for unforeseen future uses
7xxx	Utilities / Gaming / Betting / Social Network
8xxx	For all Government MDA communications services.
9xxx	Commercial Banking & other Financial Services (insurance, mobile money, micro finance & e-commerce)

The assignment of actual short code numbers in these blocks shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 63 to 65 of these Regulations

Pricing of Network Services on Short Codes

Short code resource users may enter into commercial contract agreements for voice services related to their services; where such services will include tariffs on voice calls, revenue structures and revenue sharing terms and payment terms. All voice related network service contracts shall be guided by the regulated tariff structure for voice calls in the market.

The Commission shall establish price regulatory regime and tariff structure for non-voice communication services, including USSD and other ancillary services that are based on numbering resources.

The Commission shall assigned a short code, including USSD and other ancillary services, to a Service Provider upon duly authorised by a relevant regulatory such as the Bank of Sierra Leone, for providing such services.

Government Communications Numbering Plan

The Commission has assigned a numbering block that containing 99 million numbers to be used exclusively for Government of Sierra Leone communications and ICT resources. The Ministry of Information and Communications is responsible to develop a numbering plan and assigns numbers to all Government MDA communications and for various uses. The numbering plan provides assigned numbering blocks by Ministry or Sector or Geographical

location, which communicated to the Commission for broadcasting to domestic carriers and the ITU. All reserved or unutilised numbering blocks shall be communicated to the Commission.

Changes to Mobile Network Operator NDCs

The ‘S’ Code of “7” for Mobile Network Operators shall be placed before all existing NDCs, increasing the number of digits in the NDC from 2 to 3. This means that whereas as single NDC of 76 will only allow a maximum of 1 million numbers, the new ‘S’ Code will now allow up to 99.999 million Mobile Numbers to be assigned to customers starting with the number 7. A single assignment block of “7Y” will assign up to 10 million mobile numbers to an operator. The new structure for Mobile Phone Numbers will now be:

+232-7YX-XXXXXX

Where X and Y can range from 0 to 9. The 8 variable digits can enable numbers from 232700000000 to 232799999999. For those numbers that have already been assigned and utilised, they shall not be available for future assignments. All currently unassigned numbers shall be available for users under the current regulations.

The new mobile telephone service numbering assignment plan is defined in Schedule 4.

Schedule 2: Numbers not Available for Assignment

All numbers designated as harmonised numbers for public services of social value are not available for assignment. In addition, the following block ranges are currently not available for assignment.

Public Communication Numbers (9-Digits)

01xx-xxxxxx

02xx-xxxxxx

06xx-xxxxxx

Short Codes (3 Digits)

6xx

Short Codes (4 Digits)

6xxx

Schedule 3: Area Codes for Geographic Fixed Line Communication Services

NDC	Geographical Area	Remarks
222	Freetown Central	These number blocks have been

223	Freetown West	assigned as part of the National Numbering Plan but have not been assigned to any Fixed Line Telephone Operator.
224	Freetown East	
232	Bo	
242	Kenema	
252	Makeni	
243	Koidu	
261	Waterloo Rural	
262	York Rural	
263	Mountain Rural	
271	Tonkolili	
272	Port Loko + Karene	
273	Kambia	
274	Koinadugu +Falaba	
281	Bonthe	
282	Moyamba	
283	Pujehun	
291	Kailahun	
221	Lungi	

Schedule 4: New Mobile Phone Numbering Scheme

General Principle

1. All mobile telephone numbers shall start with the number “7”
2. For local interconnect calls, the Access Code “0” shall no longer apply, and subscribers shall be requested to dial “7” before the current numbers of other subscribers
3. The next digit shall be an operator identification code for the resource user to which the entire block of 10 Million Numbers are assigned
4. The following seven (7) digits shall comprise numbers assigned by the operator to its customers to deliver communications services

Commercial Principle

1. Resource users to whom a block of 10 Million numbers are assigned may draw down on smaller blocks of numbers from this block in minimum amounts of 1 Million numbers
2. Where a resource user draws down less than the total amount of numbers in the numbering block assigned, the Commission shall determine a fee to be paid to reserve these numbers solely for the its use

Assignment of Numbering Blocks

1. The Commission has assigned blocks of numbers to all existing licensed operators, taking into consideration the new numbering assignment principle
2. Where certain sub-blocks of numbers already in use by a licensed operator fall outside those assigned to a particular licensed operator in this Schedule, the operator shall maintain these numbers and continue delivering services to its customers using the numbers
3. Where certain sub-blocks of numbers are already in use by other licensed operators, the numbers shall continue in use by the operator that is already using those numbers for providing services to its subscribers

Numbering Resources Assigned to SIERRATEL

9-Digit Phone number	Remarks
7 2 0 XXXXXX	Available and assigned to SIERRATEL
7 2 1 XXXXXX	Already in use by SIERRATEL as (021)
7 2 2 XXXXXX	Already in use by SIERRATEL as (022)
7 2 3 XXXXXX	Available and assigned to SIERRATEL
7 2 4 XXXXXX	Available and assigned to SIERRATEL
7 2 5 XXXXXX	Already in use by SIERRATEL as (025)
7 2 6 XXXXXX	Available and assigned to SIERRATEL
7 2 7 XXXXXX	Available and assigned to SIERRATEL
7 2 8 XXXXXX	Available and assigned to SIERRATEL
7 2 9 XXXXXX	Available and assigned to SIERRATEL

This assignment plan provides 8 million unused numbers for draw down by SIERRATEL in addition to the 2 million already assigned and in use.

Numbering Resources Assigned to ORANGE

9-Digit Phone Number	Remarks
7 7 0 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Orange
7 7 1 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Orange
7 7 2 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Orange
7 7 3 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Orange
7 7 4 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Orange
7 7 5 XXXXXX	Already used by Orange (075)
7 7 6 XXXXXX	Already used by Orange (076)
7 7 7 XXXXXX	Already in use by Africell (077)
7 7 8 XXXXXX	Already used by Orange (078)
7 7 9 XXXXXX	Already used by Orange (079)

7 8 0 XXXXXX Already used by Orange (080)

This assignment plan provides 5 million unused numbers for draw down by ORANGE in addition to the 5 million already assigned and in use.

Numbering Resources Assigned to AFRICELL

9-Digit Phone Number	Remarks
7 8 0 XXXXXX	Already used by Africell (080)
7 8 1 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Africell
7 8 2 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Africell
7 8 3 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Africell
7 8 4 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Africell
7 8 5 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Africell
7 8 6 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Africell
7 8 7 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Africell
7 8 8 XXXXXX	Already used by Africell (088)
7 8 9 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to Africell

This assignment plan provides 4 million unused numbers for draw down by AFRICELL in addition to the 6 million already assigned and in use

Numbering Resources Assigned to QCELL

9-Digit Phone Number	Remarks
7 3 0 XXXXXX	To be used by QCELL
7 3 1 XXXXXX	Already used by QCELL
7 3 2 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to QCELL
7 3 3 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to QCELL
7 3 4 XXXXXX	Already used by QCELL
7 3 5 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to QCELL
7 3 6 XXXXXX	Available and allocated to QCELL

7	3	7	XXXXXX	Available and allocated to QCELL
7	3	8	XXXXXX	To be used by QCELL
7	3	9	XXXXXX	Available and allocated to QCELL

This assignment plan provides 8 million unused numbers for draw down by QCELL in addition to the 2 million already assigned and in use

Unassigned and Reserved Numbering Resources

Range of Numbers				Remarks
7	0	0	XXXXXX	This block of 10 million is reserved for future assignment
7	0	1	XXXXXX	
7	0	2	XXXXXX	
7	0	3	XXXXXX	
7	0	4	XXXXXX	
7	0	5	XXXXXX	
7	0	6	XXXXXX	
7	0	7	XXXXXX	
7	0	8	XXXXXX	
7	0	9	XXXXXX	
7	1	0	XXXXXX	This block of 10 million is reserved for future assignment
7	1	1	XXXXXX	
7	1	2	XXXXXX	
7	1	3	XXXXXX	
7	1	4	XXXXXX	
7	1	5	XXXXXX	
7	1	6	XXXXXX	
7	1	7	XXXXXX	
7	1	8	XXXXXX	
7	1	9	XXXXXX	
7	5	0	XXXXXX	This block of 10 million is reserved for future assignment
7	5	1	XXXXXX	
7	5	2	XXXXXX	
7	5	3	XXXXXX	
7	5	4	XXXXXX	
7	5	5	XXXXXX	
7	5	6	XXXXXX	
7	5	7	XXXXXX	
7	5	8	XXXXXX	

Range of Numbers				Remarks
7	5	9	XXXXXX	This block of 10 million is reserved for future assignment
7	6	0	XXXXXX	
7	6	1	XXXXXX	
7	6	2	XXXXXX	
7	6	3	XXXXXX	
7	6	4	XXXXXX	
7	6	5	XXXXXX	
7	6	6	XXXXXX	
7	6	7	XXXXXX	
7	6	8	XXXXXX	
7	6	9	XXXXXX	This block of 8 million is reserved for future assignment
7	9	0	XXXXXX	
7	9	1	XXXXXX	
7	9	2	XXXXXX	
7	9	3	XXXXXX	
7	9	4	XXXXXX	
7	9	5	XXXXXX	
7	9	6	XXXXXX	
7	9	7	XXXXXX	
7	9	8	XXXXXX	

The new numbering scheme leads to 48 million numbers reserved for future assignment, excluding assignments already done to cover the future 20-year business needs of all existing telecommunications licensed operators using numbering resources.