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Legal basis:

Act on Electronic Communications Services (917/2014), Section 99, Regulation of Finnish Transport and Communications Agency regarding numbering and Section 135, Right to restrict the use of a subscriber connection for purposes other than the receipt of a communications service

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Implemented EU legislation:

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Modification details:

Repeals Regulation 35 S/2021 M of 15 June 2021

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## **REGULATION ON BARRING SERVICES FOR SUBSCRIBER CONNECTIONS – 35 T/2023 M**

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# **REGULATION ON BARRING SERVICES FOR SUBSCRIBER CONNECTIONS – 35 T/2023 M**

## **1 Objective of the Regulation**

The purpose of this Regulation of the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency is to make such barring services available for a subscriber that enable barring calls, text messages and data services to premium rate services where the expenses involved are charged on a telecommunications bill (telephone bill).

This Regulation includes provisions on the minimum barring services for subscriber connections in a public telephone network that telecommunications operators must provide in accordance with the Act on Electronic Communications Services. The required barring functions are based on certain service types ("other than communications services") on the basis of the service content, on traffic types of which the barring regulation only applies to international calls, or on connection mode, such as data services used over mobile subscriptions.

Technical feasibility has been considered in determining the minimum selection included in the Regulation so that at least all the barring services required in the Regulation comply with the Act, are provided without compensation and are technically easy to implement.

This Regulation does not prevent using free-of-charge services over mobile phones or other terminals or accessing the content of such services.

## **2 Scope of Application**

The Regulation applies to subscriber connections in a public telephone network on which a subscription agreement has been made in writing.

The Regulation covers the provision of barring services for the telephone traffic and short message traffic of the subscription.

Furthermore, the Regulation applies to the buying of services or goods over the subscriber data connection that are charged on a telecommunications bill.

## **3 Definitions**

For the purposes of this Regulation:

- 1) short message (SMS message) means a message of limited length which may be sent between mobile stations that support the short message service, or between such mobile stations and email systems, computers or voice frequency phones;
- 2) short message service (SMS) means a telecommunications service for sending and receiving short messages. In addition to mobile stations, a short message service may also be used, for example, by voice frequency phones, in which case a standard message is chosen by dialling a certain number, or

by computers, in which case short messages may be sent via a service available specifically for this purpose;

- 3) text message means a short message comprised only of alphanumeric and special characters;
- 4) picture message means a short message comprised of a picture or pictures;
- 5) multimedia message means a message that combines different formats to represent information. A multimedia message may consist of, for example, text, sound, still pictures and moving images;
- 6) public telephone network means a mobile network or a fixed telephone network intended for a set of users not subject to any prior restriction and in which the numbering in accordance with Recommendation E.164 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is used.

#### **4 Categorisation of services in a subscription**

For barring purposes, outgoing traffic (telephone traffic) from a subscriber connection must be categorised as telecommunications to:

- 1) international telecommunications networks;
- 2) freephone numbers;
- 3) premium rate service numbers referred to in section 5;
- 4) service numbers with international call connection function;
- 5) service numbers based on customer agreements.

For barring purposes, short message traffic from a subscriber connection must be categorised as telecommunications to

- 1) freephone numbers;
- 2) premium rate service numbers referred to in section 5.

The barring service for short message traffic must also prevent access to services, or part of services, that are used over a data connection and where the use or expenses involved are charged on a telecommunications bill.

#### **5 Categorisation of service numbers by service content**

Services indicated with premium rate service numbers are categorised by their content as follows:

- 1) service group I: non-profit services;
- 2) service group II: consulting and ordering;
- 3) service group III: entertainment services;
- 4) service group IV: adult entertainment services.

If services of different categories are provided on one specific service number, this service must be placed in a service group that corresponds to the highest service of group I, II, III or IV.

The services in each of the service groups must use the numbers reserved for voice telephony services specified in Annex 1, section 3, and the numbers reserved for short message services specified in Annex 2, section 2.

In addition to the number ranges specified in Annex 1, section 3, premium rate voice telephony services may be provided only in the number ranges indicated in Annex 1, section 4. Premium rate short message services may be provided only in the number ranges specified in Annex 2, section 2, and in the nationwide voice telephony service numbers specified in Annex 1, section 3 in such mobile networks that have barring services for these numbers in accordance with section 7.

Services that belong to service groups III and IV must not be provided on free-phone numbers and telecommunications operator-specific service numbers.

Short message services of service group IV must not be provided on telecommunications operator-specific short message service numbers.

## **6 Categorisation of services used over a data connection**

Services used over a data connection are categorised into the service groups specified in section 5, subsection 1 by service content (not by service number).

## **7 Barring services for a subscriber connection**

Telecommunications operators must provide subscribers with at least the barring services specified in this section. Other barring services may also be provided.

If there are barring services related to telecommunications (telephone traffic) or short message traffic connected to the subscription, the telecommunications operator must prevent the subscription's access to service numbers covered by these barring services.

Barring services for short message traffic also require the telecommunications operator to prevent the buying of services or goods over data connection if such services or goods are charged on a telecommunications bill.

Barring services for outgoing traffic (telephone traffic) from a subscriber connection are the following:

### Barring service U

Barring service U bars outgoing traffic to international telephone networks and service numbers with international call connection function included in service group I.

### Barring service P1

Barring service P1 bars outgoing traffic to service groups I, II, III and IV.

### Barring service P2

Barring service P2 bars outgoing traffic to service groups II, III and IV.

Barring service P3

Barring service P3 bars outgoing traffic to service groups III and IV.

Barring service P4

Barring service P4 bars outgoing traffic to service group IV.

In addition to providing the above-mentioned barring services, telecommunications operators must also provide the following combinations of barring services to subscribers: (U+P1), (U+P2) and (U+P3).

The barring services do not apply to services based on customer agreements and the control of calling line number, which are assigned with numbers specified in Annex 1, section 4.

Barring service P2 does not bar calls made through service numbers with national or international call connection function to favourably priced numbers of service group II, which have been granted a permission referred to in section 9, subsection 2.

Barring services for outgoing and incoming short message traffic and barring services based on the use of a data connection are as follows:

Barring service T1

Barring service T1 bars sending of short messages to and receiving of short messages from service groups I, II, III and IV.

Barring service T1 prevents the buying of services or goods over a data connection and paying for them on a telecommunications bill in service groups I, II, III and IV in accordance with section 6.

Barring service T2

Barring service T2 bars sending of short messages to and receiving of short messages from service groups II, III and IV.

Barring service T2 prevents the buying of services or goods over a data connection and paying for them on a telecommunications bill in service groups II, III and IV in accordance with section 6.

Barring service T3

Barring service T3 bars sending of short messages to and receiving of short messages from service groups III and IV.

Barring service T3 prevents the buying of services or goods over a data connection and paying for them on a telecommunications bill in service groups III and IV in accordance with section 6.

Barring service T4

Barring service T4 bars sending of short messages to and receiving of short messages from service group IV.

Barring service T4 prevents the buying of services or goods over a data connection and paying for them on a telecommunications bill in service group IV in accordance with section 6.

The telecommunications operator must completely disable the possibility of sending short messages at the request of the subscriber.

## **8 Restrictions on barring services**

It must not be possible to bypass a barring service connected with a subscriber connection by some selection or setting unless the subscriber has agreed with the telecommunications operator that the barring service can be disabled, enabled or modified, for example, by using a password or an interface provided for customers for managing their subscriptions.

Traffic to the universal emergency call number 112 must not be barred with any barring service. Traffic must not be barred, either, if an area code is dialled before the emergency call number 112.

Traffic to freephone numbers referred to in this Regulation and the telecommunications operator's own number for fault reports must not be barred with any barring service defined in section 6.

## **9 Service numbers with call connection function**

Traffic to service groups II, III and IV must not be connected via service numbers with call connection function. Traffic to international telecommunications networks must not be connected via service numbers with national call connection function.

A telecommunications operator may be granted permission to connect a call also to a favourably priced number in service group II. The permissions contribute to self-regulation in the sector.

The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency may grant an exceptional permit for call connection function also from some other number than a number assigned to the services belonging to service group I in accordance with section 5, subsection 1 of this Regulation. Further provisions on the exceptional permit and the prerequisites for granting it are available in section 20 of the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency's Regulation on public telephone network numbering 32 U/2023 M.

## **10 Transitional provisions and entry into force**

This regulation enters into force on 5 September 2023 and will remain in force until further notice.

This Regulation repeals The Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority's (FICORA) regulation 35 S/2021 M of 15 June 2021.

## **11 Information and publication**

This Regulation is included in the Series of Regulations issued by the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency and can be obtained from the Agency's customer service.

The Regulation and the accompanying explanatory memorandum are also published online on the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency's website and in Finlex, the Electronic Statutes of Finland.

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## **ANNEXES**

1. Categorisation of telecommunications (telephone traffic) in accordance with the national numbering plan
2. Categorisation of short message services in accordance with the numbering plan for short message services

## ANNEX 1

### Categorisation of telecommunications (telephone traffic) in accordance with the national numbering plan

Barring services P1-P4 are implemented according to the first digits of the telephone number. These digits are specified below.

#### 1. International traffic

Traffic to the following prefixes is international traffic:

00	international prefix which can be preceded by a general carrier access code
99X(Y[Z])	(X, Y, Z = 0 - 9) international carrier access code
+	the plus sign (hereinafter referred to as '+') that is available and used at the beginning of a number in certain services that use telephone network numbering is treated as the international prefix 00

#### 2. Freephone numbers

National freephone numbers are indicated with:

0800	
112	universal emergency call number
116	Pan-European service numbers

International freephone numbers are indicated with

800	preceded by international prefix 00, or international carrier access code, or + (the plus sign that is available and used at the beginning of a number in certain services that use telephone network numbering is treated as the international prefix 00)
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#### 3. Service groups

Services indicated with a service number are categorised into service groups according to the first digits of the number as follows:

##### Service group I: non-profit services

0100	0200	02020	02022
02023	0300	0601	0900

Service group I also contains the following directory enquiry service numbers and service numbers with national call connection function:

118

and the following directory inquiry numbers and service numbers with international call connection function:

020208

Service group II: consulting and ordering

0600	0602		
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Service group III: entertainment services

0700 0	0700 5	0700 7	0700 8
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Service group IV: adult entertainment services

0700 1	0700 3	0700 4	0700 9
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**4. Service numbers separately issued by the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency that are based on customer agreements and not covered by any of the barring services**

010 999	020 10	0426	044 00
0701X (X = 2 - 6)			

