ATIS-0300055

NPA ALLOCATION PLAN AND ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

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http://www.atis.org/inc/incguides.asp.

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The Industry Numbering Committee (INC) provides an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues associated with planning, administration, allocation, assignment and use of North American Numbering Plan (NANP) numbering resources within the NANP area.

This document is maintained under the direction of ATIS and the INC. Suggestions for improvement of this document are welcome. They should be sent to the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, INC Staff, 1200 G Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005. All changes to this document shall be made through the INC issue resolution process and adopted by the INC as set forth in the *ATIS Operating Procedures*.

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1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document specifies guidelines for the assignment of Numbering Plan Area (NPA) codes. NPA codes are the first three digits of the 10-digit North American Numbering Plan (NANP) format (the format is made up of 10 digits in the form of NXX-NXX-XXXX[1], Section 14.0 provides details of the format). NPA codes have traditionally been used to identify distinct exclusive geographic areas, commonly referred to as area codes. NPAs have also been assigned to services provided on a non-geographic basis (e.g., 800 NPA is assigned to a service for which the called party, rather than the calling party, is charged for the call).

1.1 These guidelines apply only to the assignment of NPA codes.

1.2 These guidelines were developed by the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) using the industry consensus process.

1.3 These guidelines are expected to apply throughout the area served by the NANP unless the affected regulatory administrations direct otherwise.

1.4 These guidelines do not supersede applicable governmental or regulatory principles, procedures and requirements.

1.5 The assignment of an entire NPA code to an entity for its exclusive use will not be permitted (excluding those situations referenced in Section 10).

2.0 ASSUMPTIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

The development of these guidelines includes the following assumptions and constraints:

2.1 NANP resources, including those covered in these guidelines, are collectively managed by the North American Telecommunications industry with oversight of the North American federal regulatory authorities. The NANP and the NANP resources are developed in conformance with the International Telecommunication Union Telecommunications Standardization Sector (ITU-T) recommendations including E.164 “The international public telecommunication numbering plan.”[2]

The NANP resources are considered a public resource and are not owned by the assignees. Consequently, the resources cannot be sold, brokered, bartered or leased by the assignee for a fee or other consideration.

If a resource is sold, brokered, bartered, or leased for a fee, the resource is subject to reclamation by the Administrator.

[1] N = digits 2-9 and X = digits 0-9

[2] < http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.164/en >

2.2 These guidelines are intended to apply to NPA codes which are assigned from the time of completion of these guidelines.

2.3 The allocation and assignment of NPA codes, as set forth in these guidelines, remains in effect until there is industry consensus and/or policy direction to change these assignment guidelines.

2.4 NPA numbering resources shall be assigned to permit the most efficient and effective use of a finite numbering resource in order to maximize the existing resource pool and delay the need to develop and implement an expanded numbering/ dialing plan. To promote the efficient and effective use of NPA resources, audits should be performed to ensure the consistent application of, and compliance with, these guidelines.

2.5 The 3-digit numbers 000 through 199 are unavailable for assignment as NPAs. The use of 0/1 for dialing prefixes currently prohibits assigning the above numbers as NPAs. In addition, these 3-digit numbers are used in some cases for operational functions (e.g., 1XX test and routing codes). Other specific 3-digit numbers considered unavailable for assignment are indicated in Section 4.2.

2.6 These guidelines were developed by the industry without any assumption regarding who should be the NPA Code Administrator.

2.7 The applicant/user of the NPA code must have authorization, if required, from the appropriate regulatory authority(s) to operate in the area in which it intends to provide the service for which the NPA code has been obtained.

2.8 The guidelines should provide the greatest latitude in the provision of public telecommunications services while effectively managing a finite resource.

2.9 NPA codes are a public resource and administrative assignment of the NPA code does not imply ownership of the resource by the administrator(s) performing the assignment function, nor does it imply ownership by the service providers utilizing the resource. The assignment of an NPA code by the NPA Code Administrator implies that NPA code will be used for the expressed and exclusive purpose for which it was assigned.

2.10 Implementation of these code assignments is beyond the scope of these guidelines. These guidelines treat only the allocation and assignment of NPA codes.

2.11 The INC will provide formal notification to the NANPA through its meeting notes of any recommendation by the INC to assign, change or withdraw an NPA(s).

2.12 Service Providers (SPs) and numbering resource administrators are responsible for managing numbering resources in accordance with these guidelines and the orders of applicable regulatory authorities. Both SPs and numbering resource

administrators are subject to audits. Further information may be found in FCC 00-104 ¶62, FCC 00-429 ¶81-99, FCC 01-362 ¶95-111, and 47CFR§52.15(k).

The NANP Resources assigned in this guideline are expected to be used in conformance with this guideline and the related ITU-T recommendations. Misuse of a resource either as defined in this guideline or as defined in ITU-T E.156 "Guidelines for ITU-T action on reported misuse of E.164 number resources" should be reported to the NANPA.[3] See Section 7 for contact information.

3.0 ASSIGNMENT PRINCIPLES

To allow the greatest possible latitude in providing services, the following assignment principles apply to all aspects of these guidelines:

3.1 NPA codes shall be assigned in a fair and impartial manner.

3.2 NPA codes will be used in accordance with the application(s) for which they are assigned.

3.3 NPA codes are a finite resource. For this reason, these guidelines were developed to promote the efficient and effective use of a finite numbering resource, minimizing the cost and need to expand its availability while at the same time allowing for maximum flexibility in the introduction of new services, capabilities, and features. Therefore, the concern for the need to conserve this resource will not be permitted to inhibit or impede the ability to offer new telecommunications capabilities or services.

3.4 NPA resources will continue to be administered for the overall good and utilization by the user public and the telecommunications sector and, as such, are not to be considered "owned" by the service providers or users utilizing the resource.

3.5 NPA resources are available for assignment subject to the requirements of these guidelines. The final determination of the use of the NPA resource rests with the appropriate public policy body.

3.6 The assignment of NPA code numbers will be in accordance with federal, provincial, state, and local regulations, and industry-approved assignment guidelines, as appropriate.

3.7 NPA resources are centrally administered within the area served by the NANP. Therefore, all requests for NPA assignment shall routinely be submitted to the administrator (whether the request is for a reserved code or a new code) accompanied by the appropriate information specified in the guidelines. The administrator will be responsible to process the NPA application in accordance with these guidelines (see Section 5.0). However, any potential

[3] < http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-E.156/en >

telecommunications service provider may bring requests for NPA resources directly to the INC, providing the application contains all appropriate information outlined in these guidelines.

3.8 Any potential telecommunications service provider can request NPA resources.

3.9 The assignment of NPA resources must consider and encourage efficient operation of the public switched telecommunications network.

3.10 NPA resources should be assigned in a manner that minimizes user confusion.

4.0 NPA ALLOCATION PLAN

4.1 NPA codes are divided into four categories or partitions: Specific Geographic NPA Relief Codes, NANP Expansion NPA Codes, Easily Recognizable NPA Codes and General Purpose NPA Codes[4]. Sections 9 - 13 provide additional detail about each of these partitions.

4.1.1 Specific Geographic NPA Relief Codes are NPA codes reserved in anticipation of assignment to relieve specific geographic NPA codes that are exhausting within the next 10 years as identified in the most recent North American Numbering Plan Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecast (NRUF)[5]. A list of these NPA codes is maintained by the NPA Administrator.

4.1.2 NANP Expansion NPA codes are codes that will be used to facilitate expansion of the current NANP 10-digit format (i.e., codes of the format N9X are reserved for this purpose).

4.1.3 Easily Recognizable NPA Codes (ERCs) are codes that, due to their unique digit pattern (e.g., N22, N33...N88), are used to convey to customers certain unique knowledge regarding a call to the telephone number being dialed. N00 NPA codes (formerly known as Service Access Codes, or SACs) are included in this partition. As was the case for SACs, ERCs are typically reserved for use as non-geographic codes, and have been used to identify services rather than geographic areas.

4.1.4 General Purpose NPA Codes (GPCs) are codes available for assignment for growth in the existing partitions or for new services or uses. Any NPA code not included in the other three above partitions is a General Purpose NPA code.

4.2 The following NPA codes are not available for assignment:

4.2.1 N11 format codes because these codes will remain reserved for special service functions. (e.g., emergency - 911, hearing or speech impaired access - 711, non-emergency public access - 311).

[4] Unique NPA codes for countries (see Section 10.0) will be assigned from the GPC partition.

[5] See North American Numbering Plan Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecast Reporting (NRUF) Guidelines, ATIS-0300068.

4.2.2 950 because of potential conflict with Feature Group B service (i.e., 950-XXXX where XXXX is the Carrier Identification Code).

4.2.3 555 because of potential conflict with Directory Assistance Services or other information services.

4.2.4 988 because of potential conflict with reaching the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis lifeline[6] in the United States and its territories.

4.3 At the time these guidelines were developed, the industry believed it might prove beneficial to set aside, where possible, blocks of NPA codes to meet some unanticipated need sometime in the future. The industry also agreed that if an NPA assignment was required from one of these blocks of NPA codes, then that assignment should be made. Codes presently set aside are the 37X and 96X series.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF NPA CODE ADMINISTRATOR

The code administrator shall:

5.1 Upon receipt of a written request for an NPA assignment, the administrator will review the nature of the request and determine the next steps:

5.1.1 If the request is for a specific geographic relief code, or a reserved code for geographic relief, or a reserved code to supplement an existing assigned ERC or GPC, the administrator shall have discretionary authority to assign the code(s) consistent with the appropriate guidelines. The INC will be notified of the request and subsequent assignment.

5.1.2 If the request is for a code for a country the administrator will refer to Section 10 for instructions on how to assign the code. The administrator may reserve an NPA code(s) for a country for a period of 12 months under the following circumstances: a) an existing NANP country (or on behalf of a Territory, Commonwealth or Possession) has requested or intends to request the assignment of an NPA code, or b) a country outside the NANP has requested to be included in the NANP and assigned an NPA. The reservation is subject to review upon a request for assignment of the reserved code. The INC will be notified of the reservation and a request for assignment.

5.1.3 If the request is for a code other than specified in Section 5.1.1 or 5.1.2, (i.e., new ERC or GPC) the administrator shall prepare a new issue to be introduced at the next scheduled INC. The administrator, in preparing the issue statement, shall ensure that all criteria for assignment has been met (see Sections 12 and 13).

[6] See FCC Order 20-100, adopted July 16, 2020.

5.2 Respond in writing of the disposition within 30 working days from receipt of the assignment request form (see Part 2 of the "NPA Code Assignment" forms). There are *four* possible dispositions: assigned, denied, requires further information, or referred to INC.

The response will include one of the following:

a) When assigned: the NPA code assigned.

b) When denied: the reason(s) for denial and instructions on how and where to make an appeal of the decision.

c) Requires additional information: the specific additional information required.

d) Referred to INC: the reason the request was referred to INC for further action.

5.3 If the code request is approved in accordance with Section 5.1.1 for geographic relief or supplementary reserved codes, the administrator will issue a Planning Letter (PL) for industry notification of the assignment. The PL will serve to notify the TelecomRouting Administration (TRA) of the assigned NPA code for publication in the iconectiv® LERG™ Routing Guide.

5.4 In addition, if the INC has made an assignment of either an ERC or a General Purpose Code (other than as assigned per Section 10.0) the Administrator will publish notification (PL) to the industry of such assignment no later than 60 days following the assignment of the code.

5.5 Notify INC if the ERC or General Purpose Code is not activated by the INC established activation date. INC will review and determine the disposition.

5.6 Maintain records on NPA code assignments and update NPA resource availability.

5.7 Maintain a list of the reserved Specific Geographic NPA Relief Codes and, in coordination with the individual geographic NPA code Central Office Code Administrators, update this list per the results of the semi-annual NRUF, and provide periodic reports to INC (see Section 5.9).

5.8 Monitor the rate and level of NPA code assignments, predict the potential for exhaust, and report findings on an annual basis or as required to the industry (see Section 6.0).

5.9 Provide a report on the current status of NPA assignments to the INC on a quarterly basis.

5.10 Provide copies of the "NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guidelines" when requested by applicants, including timely notification of changes. Provide an

Internet web site address where the latest approved version of the NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guidelines may be obtained.

6.0 NPA CODE CONSERVATION AND PLANNING

Assignment of NPA codes is undertaken with the following objectives:

- To efficiently and effectively administer/manage a limited NANP resource through code conservation while providing the numbering resource necessary to support the provision of telecommunications services and,

- To delay the exhaust of NPA codes which will require the development and implementation of an expanded numbering/dialing plan.

6.1 Ongoing practices which foster conservation shall include the following:

6.1.1 The NPA Code Administrator, with input from the Pooling Administrator, as appropriate, may conduct an audit (e.g., when an additional NPA code is requested for an existing service/application). The purpose of this audit is to verify compliance with the provisions set forth in these guidelines.

6.1.2 The NPA Code Administrator, together with the industry, may also conduct surveys to determine and/or substantiate the demand for the proposed new service/application for which an NPA code is being requested.

6.1.3 The NPA Code Administrator, together with the industry, may investigate alternative NPA resources currently available that may be used for the purpose for which an NPA code is being requested.

6.2 NANP Expansion:

In 2001, the INC developed and submitted to NANP area regulatory authorities a report titled “Recommended Plan for Expanding the capacity of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP)” dated December 13, 2001. INC recommended to add a fourth digit to the end of the NPA field and an additional digit to the beginning of the Central Office code field, resulting in a twelve-digit numbering plan. The expanded format would then be as follows: NXX(X) + (X)NXX + XXXX where N = 2 to 9 and X = 0 to 9 and the parentheses indicate the additional digits. The INC also identified the major activities essential for implementation (including implementation of the INC Uniform Dialing Plan) and estimated that a ten-year lead-time is necessary. As any NANP expansion plan entails major impacts on and expenditures by telecommunications service providers and users, the report indicated that the national regulatory authorities in the NANP participating countries have a vested interest in creating policy directives required to ensure the timely implementation of NANP expansion for the benefit of all telecommunication users. The intention of the INC was to enable adequate planning, execution, and seamless transition to NANP expansion when it is required. See http://www.atis.org/inc/increp.asp to obtain a

copy of the recommended expansion plan and http://www.atis.org/INC/incref.asp to obtain a copy of the Uniform Dialing Plan.

To facilitate NANP expansion when it becomes necessary, the following actions shall be taken:

6.2.1 The NANPA shall comply with appropriate regulatory requirements to track and monitor NPA code assignments, and use this information to project NANP exhaust. The NANPA shall make a projection of NANP exhaust twice annually and publish its results.

6.2.2 When the NANP is forecast to exhaust within a 15 year time period (5 years for NANP-wide Uniform Dialing Plan implementation, and other activities and the 10 years for NANP expansion implementation), the NANPA shall advise the INC and the national regulatory authorities of all NANP countries of this projection and the necessity for NANP expansion planning and implementation activities to commence.

6.2.3 The INC shall take whatever actions it deems appropriate to address the need to expand the NANP before it exhausts.

7.0 MAINTENANCE OF GUIDELINES

It may be necessary to modify these assignment guidelines periodically to meet changing circumstances. Questions regarding the maintenance of the guidelines may be directed to the North American Numbering Plan Administration at https://www.nationalnanpa.com/contact_us/index.html.

Requests for changes to these guidelines should be directed to the appropriate industry forum, currently the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS)-sponsored Industry Numbering Committee (INC).

8.0 APPEAL PROCESS

8.1 Disagreements may arise between the NPA Code Administrator and code applicant(s) in the context of the administration of these guidelines. In all cases, the NPA Code Administrator and the code applicant(s) will make reasonable, good faith efforts to resolve such disagreements among themselves consistent with the guidelines prior to pursuing any appeal. Appeals may include but are not limited to one or more of the following options:

• The code applicant(s) will have the opportunity to resubmit the matter to the administrator for reconsideration with or without additional input.

• Guidelines interpretation/clarification questions may be referred to the body responsible (INC) for maintenance of the guidelines. Unless otherwise mutually

agreed to by the parties, these questions will be submitted in a generic manner protecting the identity of the appellant.

• The NPA Code Administrator and/or the code applicant(s) may pursue the disagreement with the appropriate governmental/regulatory authority.

8.2 Reports on any resolution resulting from the above options, the content which will be mutually agreed upon by the involved parties, will be kept on file by the NPA Code Administrator. At a minimum, the report will contain the final disposition of the appeal, e.g., whether or not an NPA code was assigned.

8.3 Subsequent to the Code Administrators notification to the industry (see Section 5.4), members of the industry may appeal to the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) the assignment of an ERC or General Purpose Code. The appellant and the applicant (or service provider supporting the assignment) shall be given the opportunity to explain their rationale to the INC. If INC consensus reaffirms the assignment, the assignment will stand, or in the event INC concurs with the appeal, the NANPA will be notified to withdraw the assignment. (Note: Any industry member may refer their objection of the assignment to the appropriate government/regulatory body.)

9.0 SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC NPA RELIEF CODES

9.1 Definition

9.1.1 Specific Geographic NPA Relief Codes are NPA codes reserved in anticipation of assignment to relieve specific geographic NPA codes that are identified in the most recent NRUF as exhausting in the next 10 years. Geographic NPA codes are defined as NPAs which correspond to discrete geographic areas within the area served by the NANP.

At the time when NRUF results predict that an NPA will exhaust within the next 10 years, NANPA uses the following criteria when reserving an available general purpose NPA code that will eventually serve as a relief code. Only one code is reserved for each exhausting NPA.

1) The code should be significantly different from NPA codes already in use in the local area.
2) Whenever possible, the code should not be in use as a central office code in the exhausting NPA.
3) The code should not be already reserved for any other purpose.

When an NPA code has been selected, it is marked as unavailable to prevent downstream assignment as a central office code within the exhausting NPA. The identity of the reserved NPA code is kept confidential until a relief plan is approved.

9.1.2 Specific Geographic NPA Relief Codes are to be assigned to geographic areas on a non-service specific basis. In a geographic area served by more than

one NPA code, all service providers within the geography covered by that NPA shall have access to CO code assignments from any NPA with available NXX resources which serves the specific geographic area.

9.1.3 In those instances when the most recent NRUF identifies a new geographic NPA that will exhaust and no NPA has been reserved for its relief, a specific geographic NPA relief code will be selected by the NANPA and reserved from the "General Purpose" partition. Conversely, when the existing geographic NPA with a reserved relief code is projected to exhaust outside of 10 years, the reserved relief code will be released and included in the "General Purpose NPA Codes" partition.

9.2 NPA Relief Planning and Assignment Process

9.2.1 The first step is for the regional relief coordinator to notify the NANP NPA Administrator four years in advance of exhaust of the NPA. This initiates the formal reservation process.

9.2.2 The relief coordinator then submits to the administrator a plan for providing relief to the NPA in accordance with the following:

9.2.2.1 NPA Code Relief Planning and Notification Guidelines (ATIS-0300061). This document specifies the following NPA relief planning activities:

- Determine expected NPA exhaust date
- Identify alternate relief methods and their attributes
- Notify industry of pending exhaust and results of initial relief planning
- Conduct industry meetings to reach consensus on relief plan
- Notify appropriate regulatory authority
- Notify the NANP NPA administrator of relief plan

9.2.2.2 NPA relief coordinators shall take the lead to prepare relief options for each NPA projected to exhaust within the next 10 years, in accordance with the NPA Code Relief Planning & Notification Guidelines. These NPAs are identified in the semi-annual NRUF Report.

(a) The relief options shall cover a period of at least five years beyond the predicted date of exhaust, and shall cover more than one relief activity, if necessary, during that time frame.

(b) The relief options shall be documented and reflect changes that take place over time such as demand for NXX codes or other

factors (e.g., local competition, PCS, introduction of new services, number pooling etc.). The semi-annual NRUF analysis shall be used as one of the tools in updating the options.

(c) The relief plan, which will evolve from these relief options, shall be prepared in accordance with appropriate industry guidelines, i.e., NPA Allocation Plan and Assignment Guidelines, NPA Code Relief Planning Guidelines, etc.

(d) Interested industry parties are encouraged to become involved in the development of the plan. Local regulators shall be made aware of the plan, and approve if necessary.

(e) The choice of relief methods (e.g., split, overlay, boundary realignment) is a local decision and shall be specified in the plan, along with boundaries. The estimated relief period shall be included in the plan along with assumptions, projected code assignment rates, etc.

(f) For each relief activity proposed in the plan, it is recommended that customers who undergo numbering changes shall not be required to change again for a period of 8-10 years.

(g) The use of protected codes (NXXs), which permits 7-digit dialing across NPA boundaries, should be eliminated as part of the NPA code relief planning process unless the appropriate regulatory authority directs otherwise.[7]

(h) In the long term, the plan shall result in the most effective use possible of all codes serving a given area. Ideally, all of the codes in a given area shall exhaust about the same time in the case of splits. In practice, this may not be possible, but severe imbalances, for example, a difference in NPA lifetimes of more than 10 years, shall be avoided.

9.2.2.3 Requests for relief NPA codes shall be submitted to the NANPA at least 18 months prior to the NPA relief date, subject to local regulatory constraints. Normally, only one code will be assigned per request unless the codes are to be introduced simultaneously or unless implementation concerns dictate a phased in implementation of a subsequent NPA(s) within two years of the relief date of the preceding relief code. The latest version of the plan, along with relevant NRUF data, shall be submitted to the NANPA with the NPA request.

9.3 Responsibilities of Central Office Code Administrators

[7] Policy established per letter dated 10/29/97 from the NANC Chairman to the INC Moderator.

The CO Code Administrator as the assignor of CO Codes (NXXs) within an NPA will be responsible for making a request to the NPA Code Administrator for Specific Geographic NPA Relief Code(s).

9.3.1 Apply in writing by completing all required entries on Part 1 of the NPA Code Request Form to the best of the requester's ability, sign the form and submit it to the NPA Code Administrator.

9.3.2 Provide a plan and the associated information as specified in Section 9.2.2.

9.3.3 Be available to meet with the NPA Code Administrator to address the issues and details of the plan.

9.3.4 Agree to abide by sound code conservation practices.

9.3.5 Provide the necessary routing and rating information for entry into the iconectiv® Business Routing and Rating Database System (BIRRDS) in order to activate the NPA code. This system provides information to the LERG Routing Guide which contains local routing information, and reflects the current network configuration and scheduled changes within the PSTN.

9.3.6 Update the information associated with an NPA code assignment and inform the NPA Code Administrator to ensure that an accurate record of the data associated with the NPA code is maintained.

9.3.7 Participate in the audit process necessary to effectively assess code utilization, to include providing direct input to NRUF. This includes soliciting forecast and utilization data from the Pooling Administrator.

10.0 UNIQUE NANP GEOGRAPHIC NPA CODES TO COUNTRIES[8]

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 The following criteria and NPA Code Assignment procedures are to be used when considering NPA Code assignment applications from: 1) a Country currently served by the NANP on behalf of a territory, commonwealth or possession, or 2) a Country not currently served by the NANP.

10.1.2 The assignment of NPA resources in accordance with these Guidelines to a Country not currently served by the NANP constitutes acceptance of the applicant Country as a participant in the NANP.

10.1.3 As a participating Country, all types of NANP numbering and addressing resources will be available for use in the Country in accordance with the needs

[8] The term country(ies) is used herein to mean a country or a geopolitical subdivision of a country (e.g., Territory, Commonwealth or Possession).

and regulations of that Country and in accordance with the appropriate numbering and addressing resources Guidelines.

10.2 NPA Code Assignment Criteria

The following criteria must be met for an NPA assignment:

10.2.1 The applicant Country must be a United Nations or International Telecommunications Union (ITU) recognized Country.

10.2.2 The applicant Country must be politically recognized by all Countries served by the NANP.

10.2.3 The applicant Country must be a Country or geopolitical subdivision of a Country that is currently served by the NANP, or a Country in close proximity to the NANP Area. In addition, the applicant Country must have a strong community of interest, including telecommunications traffic with a Country or Countries currently within the NANP.

10.2.4 The applicant Country must agree to use the NANP to serve the entire geographic area of its Country, or geopolitical subdivision belonging to that Country.

10.2.5 The applicant Country must agree to have its Country, or geopolitical subdivision belonging to that Country, addressed only by the Country Code "1" for PSTN calls from outside the NANP Area.

10.2.6 The applicant Country must agree to conform to the NANP Area numbering, addressing, and dialing plan for the geographic area served by the NANP.

10.2.7 The applicant Country must agree to conform to all NANP Area numbering and addressing resource(s) guidelines applicable to the NANP resources assigned to it to the extent allowable by the telecommunications-related regulations of the Country.

10.2.8 The applicant Country must provide detailed documentation that:

10.2.8.1 The assignment of an NPA code will result in more efficient routing of traffic inbound to and outbound from their Country (the routing of traffic to/from the applicant Country and Countries within and outside the NANP Area must be considered); and,

10.2.8.2 The assignment of an NPA code will result in significant economic advantage to the telecommunication services users and providers within the applicant's Country; and

10.2.8.3 The assignment will not significantly disadvantage any telecommunication services users and/or providers within the existing Countries of the NANP Area. Conversely, the assignment may provide positive economic results for the NANP telecommunications community; and

10.2.8.4 The applicant Country must acknowledge that it will return, to the ITU, any Country Code currently assigned to it not later than one year from NPA implementation unless only a geopolitical subdivision is entering the NANP.

10.3 NPA Code Assignment Procedures

10.3.1 Applicant Is a NANP Participant

The applicant Country, or its authorized agent, shall submit a request to the NANPA for an NPA Code using the NPA Code Assignment Form: Part 1 – Assignment Request.

Provided that the request conforms to the criteria in Section 10.2, the NANPA shall assign the requested NPA and issue a PL to notify the industry of the assignment and associated Effective Date and related information.

10.3.2 Applicant Is Not Currently a NANP Participant

The applicant Country or its authorized agent shall submit a request in writing to the NANPA to join the NANP. The request shall address the criteria for joining the NANP identified in Section 10.2. In addition, the applicant Country or its authorized agent shall submit a request to the NANPA for an NPA Code using the NPA Code Assignment Form: Part 1 – Assignment Request.

The NANPA shall:

1. review the request for conformance with the criteria in Section 10.2;

2. notify the INC and federal regulatory authority of each participating NANP Country of the request and solicit comments if any (in order for them to be considered, comments should be provided within six months of the NANPA date of notification); and

3. present all pertinent related data including any comments received from regulatory authorities to the INC for discussion.

INC shall:

1. solicit input from applicable NANP Area industry forums and relevant advisory bodies (e.g., OBF, NGIIF, CSCN, NANC, and CANTO) on the application relative to their areas of expertise (in order for them to be considered, comments should be provided within six months of the date of solicitation); and

2. receive the pertinent data from NANPA, the comments from participating NANP Countries, and the input from industry forums and relevant advisory bodies; and after due consideration, submit a recommendation regarding the request to join the NANP to the NANPA.

In making recommendations regarding an applicant Country that is not currently a NANP participant, the INC may recommend terms and conditions regarding the use of NANP resources by such applicant Country that foster efficient and effective use of NANP resources, including but not limited to NPA and CO Code management and conservation measures and potential NPA Code sharing by Countries, or parts of Countries, or a territory belonging to that Country, seeking to join the NANP.

The NANPA shall:

1. submit the application and the INC recommendation to the regulatory authorities of all the NANP member countries and request a decision.

The final decision to enter the NANP will be made by the appropriate federal regulatory authorities of the NANP member countries. It is recommended that the federal regulatory authorities of the NANP member countries submit their decisions to the NANPA within 90 days of the receipt of the documentation from the NANPA.

2. inform the applicant Country of the decision and, if an NPA code is to be assigned, shall make the assignment. The NANPA shall issue a PL to notify the industry of the assignment and associated Effective Date and related information.

10.4 New NANP Entrant Responsibilities

10.4.1 If an NPA code is assigned, the new NANP entrant or its authorized agent is responsible for informing the ITU of its changed status and notify all SPs in its Country of the change and NPA code assignment, and other pertinent dialing/routing changes.

10.4.2 There are numerous steps a new NANP entrant or its authorized agent will need to take, and the first steps are listed below. A more comprehensive guide for new entrants can be found in the *Network and Routing Resources*

Educational Document: Intercompany Responsibilities in the Telecommunications Industry[9].

10.4.3 The new NANP entrant or its authorized agent shall provide information to NANPA for the Planning Letter (PL). This information shall include the following:

- the date of the beginning of the permissive dialing period;
- the date of the beginning of mandatory dialing of the new NPA;
- affected NXXs and rate centers;
- a test number for routing verification, the date it will become available, and the disconnect date;
- a map indicating new NPA boundaries (including rate center/locality boundaries if possible);
- a list of SPs that are operating within the affected area and their contact information; and
- a regulatory authority contact name who is responsible for administering the numbering plan.

The PL shall then be posted by NANPA to its public website informing the public and the industry of the pending NPA. The PL should be posted ideally one year prior to permissive dialing, but a minimum of nine months prior to permissive dialing.

10.4.4 On an ongoing basis, the new NANP entrant or its authorized agent shall provide a semi-annual forecast of anticipated NPA exhaust to NANPA by February 1 and August 1.

10.4.5 For publication in the iconectiv LERG Routing Guide, the NANP entrant or its authorized agent shall provide the following information at least six months in advance of the start of permissive dialing of the new NPA:

- affected NXXs and associated OCNs;
- rate centers and applicable localities;
- rate center vertical and horizontal coordinates;
- new NPA time zone;
- rate center LATA(s) (if applicable);
- and participation in daylight savings time.

10.5 Responsibilities of Service Providers operating in the new NANP Entrant Area

10.5.1 SPs with no prior Central Office Code or Company Code assignments should contact the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) to be assigned a Company Code(s)[10]. Company codes are typically used to generate Operating Company Numbers (OCNs). An OCN is a four-character alphanumeric

[9] http://www.atis.org/niif/Docs/atis0300037.pdf
[10] www.neca.org; 800-228-8597

code that uniquely identifies providers of local telecommunications service. OCN assignments are typically required of all SPs in their applications for numbering resources and submission of utilization and forecast data.

10.5.2 SPs operating in the new NANP area will need to obtain Common Languag® Location Codes (CLLI™ Codes[11]), which are used for network element location identification. Simply using common descriptions of network locations is not enough to achieve interoperability among service providers and carriers. CLLI Codes are engineered to identify specific network functions such as point-of-interconnections between service providers, analog, digital, broadband and optical switch and transport equipment. CLLI Codes provide exact names and are also used in various network data exchange processes (e.g. ASRs, the iconectiv LERG Routing Guide, NECA FCC Tariff No. 4).

10.5.3 SPs operating in the new NANP area will need to obtain a Revenue Accounting Office (RAO) code[12]. An RAO code is identified by a three-character numeric or alphanumeric code used in the routing of billing records. RAO codes are used to exchange message details between the company recording a message at the point of origination, and the company billing the call to an end user.

10.5.4 An SP operating in the new NANP area shall have an Administrative Operating Company Number (AOCN) associated with each numbering resource. An AOCN is a term used to identify a company that has assumed the responsibility to enter its own and/or other SPs' network routing and rating data into TRA's Business Integrated Routing and Rating Database System (BIRRDS). SPs with data that needs to be created or updated in the BIRRDS database have two options: (1) They can directly input their own data by becoming an AOCN or, (2) they can reach an agreement with a third-party to perform the AOCN function.[13]

11.0 NANP EXPANSION NPA CODES

11.1 NANP Expansion NPA Codes are the 80 NPA codes in the N9X format which have been reserved as a potential mechanism to facilitate the expansion of the NANP beyond its existing 10-digit format.

11.2 NANP Administrators projections carried out at the request of the INC in 1995 indicate that the NANP in its existing (NXX NXX XXXX) format may meet the needs of the industry into the 2Q of the 21st century. The INC is currently developing a detailed NANP expansion plan. When such a plan is finalized, this section of the guidelines will need to be re-addressed.

[11] For more information on Common Language Information Services or to obtain a CLLI code, access http://www.commonlanguage.com/ or contact the Common Language Customer Support Center at (877) 699-5577.

[12] Information on how to obtain an RAO code can be downloaded from www.trainfo.com.

[13] A list of AOCNs that provide this function can be found at the TRA website (www.trainfo.com)

12.0 EASILY RECOGNIZABLE NPA CODES (ERCs)

12.1 Definition

12.1.1 Easily Recognizable NPA Codes (ERCs) are codes that, due to their unique digit pattern (i.e., N22, N33...N88), are used to convey to customers certain unique knowledge regarding a call to the telephone number being dialed.

12.1.2 N00 NPA codes (formerly SACs) are included in this partition.

12.2 ERC Assignment Criteria

All the following criteria must be met for an Easily Recognizable Code (ERC) assignment when used for proposed new applications.

12.2.1 An ERC is required to enable customer recognition that the call to be made has characteristics unique from those made via traditional geographic NPA codes.
12.2.2 Substantial interest must exist in the service/application that will be offered, i.e., there is a market throughout the area served by the NANP.

12.2.3 Industry agreement must be obtained on a common service/application description. The service/application description must describe how communications would work within the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), including how the service would be routed, rated, and billed. The service/application description must describe how communications would work within the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), including how the service would be routed, rated, and billed.

12.2.4 The ERC must be a resource shared by providers of the agreed-to common service/application description.

12.2.5 An ERC request must contain high level implementation plan and a proposed activation date.[14] When the industry approves the code allocation for a specific application, the industry also will establish the activation date or period.

12.2.6 The allocation/assignment of an ERC will be made only after considering all other alternatives, including the use of existing resources.

12.3 Application Procedures

Step 1 - An applicant will make application to the NPA Administrator for a new code. The application will include information describing how/why the code request meets the criteria in Section 12.2. Applicant further agrees to

[14] Note the industry-agreed minimum interval for a new NPA is six months per the ATIS Next Generation Interconnection Interoperability Forum (NGIIF) *Recommended Notification Procedures to Industry for Changes in Access Network Architecture* (ATIS-0300046).

abide by sound conservation practices in the use of the resource (see also Section 6.0).

Step 2 - The NPA Administrator will formally present the request for a new code as an issue to the INC. The request shall include the information presented in the application related to satisfying the criteria in Section 12.2. (This does not preclude an applicant from bringing an issue directly to INC, provided the requirement of Step 1 related to criteria is met. The issue will not be rejected solely on the basis the application was not processed through the NPA Administrator.)

Step 3 - INC will initially evaluate the request relative to INC new issue acceptance criteria. If the issue is accepted, it will be evaluated based on the criteria in Section 12.2.

Step 4a - If the allocation is approved, INC will determine the need for new guidelines for resources within the NPA. A new INC issue will be established/created, if necessary, to prepare the appropriate guidelines.

Step 4b – If the allocation is not approved, the INC issue is not accepted, or industry does not accept the proposed activation date, the reason(s) the ERC assignment was not approved or the reason(s) the date was modified will be provided to the applicant.

Step 5 - INC will notify the NPA Administrator of the allocation in accordance with Section 2.10.

(NOTE: The final assignment of an ERC and preparation of guidelines is dependent on the NANPA's notification to the industry under Section 5.4 and on any further industry action under Section 8.3).

12.4 Additional Code Requests

Requests for an additional code(s) for relief of a code(s) previously assigned should be processed or originated by the NPA Administrator to the INC (this does not preclude any individual from bringing an issue directly to the INC). The request shall include sufficient information (e.g., demand and utilization) to demonstrate the need for the additional code(s).

13.0 GENERAL PURPOSE NPA CODES (GPCs)

13.1 Definition

13.1.1 General Purpose NPA Codes (GPCs) are codes available for assignment for growth in the existing partitions or for new services or uses. The GPC may be assigned to a service or application.

13.1.2 Any codes not included in the other three partitions is a General Purpose NPA code.

13.2 General Purpose NPA Code Assignment Criteria

With the exception of NPA codes which are reclassified to other partitions, that will be subject to their specific assignment criteria, all the following criteria must be met for assignment of a General Purpose NPA Code.

13.2.1 The proposed service(s)/application(s) must be offered on a non-discriminatory basis to the public, and comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

13.2.2 Industry agreement must be obtained on a common service/application description in the case of a request for a shared resource.

13.2.3 Rationale of why existing resource(s) would not work must be provided including consideration of other alternatives.

13.2.4 In addition, one of the following must be met for assignment of a code:

13.2.4.1 Substantial interest by customers and service providers must exist in the services/applications that will be offered.

13.2.4.2 Substantiation for the identification and explanation of technical reasons supporting the NPA assignment

13.2.5 A General Purpose Code request must contain a proposed activation date. When the industry approves the code allocation for a specific application, it will also establish the activation date or period

13.3 Application Procedures

Step 1 - An applicant will make application to the NPA Administrator for a new code. The application will include information describing how/why the code request meets the criteria in Section 13.2. Applicant further agrees to abide by sound conservation practices in the use of the resource (see also Section 6.0).

Step 2 - The NPA Administrator will formally present the request for a new code as an issue to the INC. The request shall include the information presented in the application related to satisfying the criteria in Section 13.2. (This does not preclude an applicant from bringing an issue directly to INC, provided the requirement of Step 1 related to criteria is met. The issue will not be rejected solely on the basis the application was not processed through the NPA Administrator.)

Step 3 - INC will initially evaluate the request relative to INC new issue acceptance criteria. If the issue is accepted, it will be evaluated based on the criteria in Section 13.2.

Step 4a - If the allocation is approved, the INC will determine the need for new guidelines for resources within the NPA. A new INC Issue will be created, if necessary to prepare the appropriate guidelines.

Step 4b – If the allocation is not approved, the INC issue is not accepted, or the industry does not accept the proposed activation date, the reason(s) the General Purpose Code assignment was not approved or the reason(s) the date was modified will be provided to the applicant.

Step 5 - INC will notify the NPA Administrator in accordance with Section 2.10.

(NOTE: The final assignment of a GPC and preparation of guidelines is dependent on the NANPA's notification to the industry under Section 5.4 and on any further industry action under Section 8.3).

13.4 Additional Code Requests

Requests for an additional code(s) for relief of a code(s) previously assigned should be processed or originated by the NPA Administrator (currently NANPA) to the INC (this does not preclude any individual from bringing an issue directly to the INC). The request shall include sufficient information (e.g., demand and utilization to demonstrate the need for the additional code(s).

14.0 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

BIRRDS - The Business Integrated Routing and Rating Database System (BIRRDS) contains data in the routing and rating of calls. Contains a complete description of all Local Exchange Companies' networks in the NANP area and pertinent information relating to the networks of other code holders. This provides information for, (1) message routing, (2) common channel signaling call setup routing, and (3) operator service access routing. Data supports all CO Codes assigned through these Guidelines, as well as all CO Codes in place prior to the existence of these Guidelines, and covers all Numbering Plan Areas (NPAs) administered under the North American Numbering Plan (NANP).

Conservation - consideration given to the efficient and effective use of a finite numbering resource in order to minimize the cost and need to expand its availability while at the same time allowing the maximum flexibility in the introduction of new services, capabilities and features.

Easily Recognizable NPA Codes (ERCs) - NPA Codes that due to their unique, recognizable digit pattern (i.e., common 'B' and 'C' digit) convey certain unique knowledge re: a call to a telephone number other than the number being dialed (e.g.,

800+). ERCs may be sometimes referred to as “NYY” codes to signify that N = digits 2-9 and YY = repeating digits 0-9.

Exchange or Exchange Area - A geographical area established by a BOC for administration and pricing of telecommunications services in a specified area that usually embraces a city, town, or village and its environs.

General Purpose NPA Codes (GPCs) - NPA codes available for assignment for growth in the existing partitions or for new services or uses.

Industry Numbering Committee (INC) - An industry forum sponsored by the Alliance of Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS). It provides an open forum to address and resolve industry-wide issues associated with the planning, administration, allocation, assignment and use of numbering resources and related dialing considerations for public telecommunications within the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) area.

International Telecommunications Union - Telecommunications Standardization (ITU-T) - formerly "The International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee" (CCITT).

iconectiv LERG Routing Guide - Telcordia Technologies document which contains information about local routing data obtained from BIRRDS. This information reflects the current network configuration and scheduled network changes for all entities originating or terminating PSTN calls within the NANP.

NANP (North American Numbering Plan) - A numbering architecture in which every station in the area served by the plan is identified by a unique ten-digit address consisting of a three-digit NPA code, a three digit central office code of the form NXX, and a four-digit line number of the form XXXX, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents the digits 0-9.

It is the basic numbering scheme for the telecommunications networks located in Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Sint Maarten, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Turks & Caicos Islands, Trinidad & Tobago, and the United States (including American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) [See also 47 CFR § 52.5 (d)].

NANPA (North American Numbering Plan Administration) - The NANPA is responsible for the neutral administration of NANP numbering resources, subject to directives from regulatory authorities in the NANP member countries (See also 47 CFR §52.7 (e)). The NANPA is an impartial non-governmental entity that is not aligned with any particular telecommunications industry segment.[15] Under contract to the FCC, NANPA's

[15] Administration of the North American Numbering Plan, Report and Order, CC Docket No. 92-237, 11 FCC Rcd 2588, 2608 (1995) (NANP Order).

responsibilities include assignment of NANP resources, and, in the U.S. and its territories, coordination of area code relief planning and collection of utilization and forecast data. See also 47 CFR § 52.13.

NANP Numbers - the numbering resource used in the area served by the North American Numbering Plan (NANP).

North American Numbering Plan Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecasting (NRUF) Report - The NANPA gathers forecast and utilization information to monitor and project exhaust in individual NPAs/area codes as well as in the NANP overall. This semi-annual report includes number utilization information as well as a five-year forecast of demand by year. Pooling carriers report at the thousands-block level per rate center. Non-pooling carriers report at the Central Office Code level per rate center. For more detailed information, see the NRUF Reporting Guidelines.

NPA Code Administrator - administers the assignment of NPA codes. Current contact information can be found at the NANPA website at https://www.nationalnanpa.com/contact_us/index.html

Numbering Plan Area (NPA) - also called area code. An NPA is the 3-digit code that occupies the A, B, and C positions in the 10-digit NANP format that applies throughout the area served by the NANP. NPAs are of the form NXX, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents any digit 0-9. In the NANP, NPAs are classified as either geographic or non-geographic.

a) Geographic NPAs are NPAs which correspond to discrete geographic areas within the area served by the NANP.

b Non-geographic NPAs are NPAs which do not correspond to discrete geographic areas, but which are instead assigned for services with attributes, functionalities, or requirements are not limited by geographic boundaries. The common examples are NPAs in the N00 format, e.g., 800.

Pooling Administrator (PA) - The term Pooling Administrator refers to the entity or entities responsible for administering a thousands-block number pool (47 CFR §52.7 (g)). The Pooling Administrator is responsible for the neutral administration of thousands-blocks from Central Office (CO) Codes in areas where thousands-block number pooling has been ordered or implemented. The PA is an impartial non-governmental entity that is not aligned with any particular telecommunications industry segment and is under contract to the FCC.

Public Switched Telecommunications Network (PSTN) - the PSTN is composed of all transmission and switching facilities and signal processors supplied and operated by all telecommunications common carriers for use by the public. Every station on the PSTN is capable of being accessed from every other station on the PSTN via the use of the NANP application of ITU-T Recommendation E.164.

Rate Center - Rate Center is used for numbering resource applications and reports to associate telephone numbers with a geographic area, as defined by the relevant regulatory agency. A Rate Center is also a uniquely defined point (Vertical & Horizontal Coordinates) located within an exchange area from which mileage measurements are determined. These measurements can be used with the tariffs in the message rating processes.

Service Access Code (SAC) - A non-geographic NPA or ERC used for the purpose of providing access to a specific type of service.

Service Provider - any entity that is authorized, as appropriate, by local, state, federal, or other governmental authorities within the area served by the NANP to provide communications services to the public. In the United States and its territories, the term “service provider” refers to a telecommunications carrier or other entity that receives numbering resources from the NANPA, a Pooling Administrator or a telecommunications carrier for the purpose of providing or establishing telecommunications service. For the purposes of this part, the term “service provider” includes an interconnected VoIP service provider (see 47 CFR § 52.5 (e)). See also “Telecommunications Carrier”.

Specific Geographic NPA Relief Codes - NPA codes reserved in anticipation of assignment to relieve specific geographic NPA codes that are identified by the most recent NRUF study as exhausting within the next 10 years. This list of specific NPA codes will be revised in accordance with successive NRUF reports.

Telecommunications Carrier - In the United States and its territories, any provider of telecommunications services, except that such term does not include aggregators of telecommunications services (as defined in 47 U.S.C. 226(a)(2)). For the purposes of this part, the term “telecommunications carrier” or “carrier” includes an interconnected VoIP service provider (see 47 CFR § 52.5 (g)).

15.0 Acronyms

BIRRDS	Business Integrated Routing and Rating Database
ERC	Easily Recognizable Code
GPC	General Purpose Code
INC	Industry Numbering Committee
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
ITU-T	ITU Telecommunications Standardization
NANP	North American Numbering Plan
NANPA	North American Numbering Plan Administration
NPA	Numbering Plan Area
NRUF	Numbering Resource Utilization/Forecast
PA	Pool Administrator
PSTN	Public Switched Telecommunications Network
SAC	Service Access Code