

Proposal to Streamline Regulatory Arrangements for Filing and Publication of Tariffs

Telecommunications Regulatory Affairs Advisory Committee

11 June 2020



Current Regulatory Requirements

Section 7F of the Telecommunications Ordinance:

A licensee is required to:

- publish its tariffs in accordance with the requirements of its licence or directions by the CA; and
- include the terms in the published tariffs



Special Conditions (“SC”) under Unified Carrier Licence:

- Set out the requirements on filing and publication of tariffs and notification of discounts



Current Regulatory Requirements (Cont'd)

Relevant SCs under UCL -

- **SC 7.1 on Tariffs**
 - Licensees shall publish and charge no more than the tariffs
- **SC 7.2 on Tariffs Publication**
 - Tariff shall be published through a number of channels
- **SC 8.1 on Notification of Discounts**
 - Licensees shall notify the CA of any discount to its published tariffs. Currently, all licensees, except HKT, are exempted from SC 8.1



Current Regulatory Requirements (Cont'd)

Tariff publication requirement under UCL SC 7.2 -

(a) Publish the tariff
in the website of
the licensee



(b) Provide a copy of the
tariff to the CA

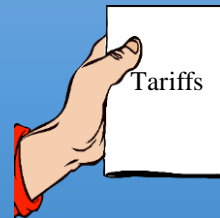


Tariff Publication

(c) Place a copy of
the tariff in a publicly
accessible part of the
licensee's business premises




(d) Supply a copy of
the relevant
details to
customers on request



Recent Developments

- Comments from the industry that the tariff filing and publication requirements should be removed or streamlined
- Consumers could browse and compare different services and prices offered through a variety of channels nowadays



Review of tariff
filing and
publication
requirements



Balance between
transparent market
information
to safeguard consumer
interests and minimizing
compliance cost

The Proposal



Retention of SC 7.1 and SC 7.2(a) of UCL

- To safeguard consumers' interests by requiring licensees to charge no more than the tariffs published.
- To maintain publication in website as it is the most convenient and commonly used channel for consumers to seek relevant service information (including tariff)



The Proposal (Cont'd)



Removal of SC 7.2 (b), (c) & (d) of UCL on other means of tariff publication

- As long as updated tariff information is available from licensees' websites, other channels become ancillary
- Consumer may ask for or the CA may require tariff information from licensees direct



Removal of SC 8, Sch.5 & Sch.6 of UCL on "Discounts"

- Keenly competitive telecommunications market environment
- Prior notification of discounts is no longer necessary.

Updates on the Guidelines

Guidelines on Publication and Filing of Tariff (“Guidelines”) will be revised to -

- Make consequential amendments reflecting removal of the relevant SCs
- Remove outdated content
- Provide updated guidance on publication of tariff

Publish up-to-date tariff information (including the updated market prices) at all times

Tariff information should be presented in a clear, legible and well-organised manner, and can be easily located in printer-friendly web pages by customers



Way Forward

- Seek members' views and comments



- Consult relevant licensees* on the revised Guidelines

- Seek the CA's approval of the proposal



- Incorporate the amendments into the relevant sample licences and apply to all new UCLs and other relevant licences

- Offer licence amendments to existing licence holders



- Update the Guidelines for application to all the relevant licensees

Thank You

