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**STANDARDISATION GUIDE
FOR REVISING
THE FREE ACCESS CODES AND NUMBERS
IN PRIVATE PAYPHONES**



**TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
HONG KONG**

FOREWORD

1. This Standardisation Guide sets out the procedures for revising the free access codes and numbers in private payphones connected to the Public Fixed Telecommunication Networks in Hong Kong.

2 The technical and functional requirements for private payphones are stipulated in the following performance specifications published by the Telecommunications Authority (TA):-

HKTA 2020	Performance Specification for Private Payphone Equipment (to Comply with Interim Single Payphone Common Access (SPCA) Requirements) using Access Line to be Connected to the Public Fixed Telecommunications Network in Hong Kong
HKTA 2024	Performance Specification for Private Payphone Equipment (not Required to Comply Interim Single Payphone Common Access (SPCA) Requirements) using Access Line to be Connected to the Public Fixed Telecommunications Network in Hong Kong

3. Private payphones for use in Hong Kong shall have obtained certificates issued by the TA to ensure their conformity with HKTA 2020 or HKTA 2024. For more details on payphone certification, manufacturers may refer to Information Note I.416 titled "How to obtain Certification of Private Payphone to be connected to the Public Fixed Telecommunication Networks in Hong Kong".

4. The TA requires that all valid numbering levels in the Hong Kong Telecommunications Numbering Plan as published by the TA should be accessible from all payphones, with the exception of those levels specifically provided for in the relevant performance specifications.

5. As defined in HKTA 2020 and HKTA 2024, free access to certain numbering levels provided by a payphone means that a user must not be required to deposit coins or make payment in any other form before access to the concerned numbering levels is provided.

6. According to the TA's Statement "Regulation of Payphone Services in Hong Kong" issued in April 1997, the tariffs for private payphone services operated by Payphone Service Providers (PSP) are regulated under the relevant PSP licences as follows :-

- For *local* calls, the PSP must not charge more than the published tariffs (for a local call made over a private payphone service) of the FTNS licensee providing the access line connected to the payphone.
- For *international calls*, the PSP must not impose any surcharge on the relevant published tariffs (for a corresponding international call over a private payphone service) of the FTNS licensee providing the service chosen by the payphone user. The user must not be required to deposit coins or make payment in any other form before access to service is provided.

7. To meet the above tariff requirements, HKTA 2020 and 2024 have defined the following as ***Free Access Codes and Numbers*** to be implemented in private payphones:

- ***Indirect Access Codes and Numbers*** - these numbering levels allow a payphone user to choose indirectly the international call services and international related enquiry provided by FTNS licensees. The list of indirect access codes and numbers is given in *Schedule A* of this Guide.
- ***Toll Free Codes and Numbers*** - these numbering levels allow a payphone user to access the free-of-charge services provided by FTNS operators. The list of toll-free codes and numbers is given in *Schedule B* of this Guide.

8 This Guide also serves as a supplement to HKTA 2020 and HKTA 2024 and specifies the free access requirement with which private payphone must comply.

9. The HKTA series specifications as well as other information notes issued by the Telecommunications Authority can be obtained through one of the following methods:-

- download direct through the OFTA's Internet Home Page. The Home Page address is <http://www.ofta.gov.hk>;

- hard copies will be available upon request to :-

Senior Telecommunications Engineer (Standards)
Office of the Telecommunications Authority
29/F, Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East,
Wanchai,
Hong Kong.

10. If further information is required regarding this Standardisation Guide, please contact :

Senior Telecommunications Engineer (Standards)
Office of the Telecommunications Authority
29/F, Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East,
Wanchai, Hong Kong.

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CONTENTS

- 1. SCOPE**
- 2. FREE ACCESS CODES AND NUMBERS IN PRIVATE PAYPHONE**
- 3. PROCEDURES FOR REVISING FREE ACCESS CODES AND NUMBERS**
- 4. SCHEDULES**

Schedule A : Indirect Access Codes and Numbers

Schedule B : Toll Free Codes and Numbers

1. SCOPE

There will be changes of the free access codes and numbers in private payphones from time to time. This Standardisation Guide sets out the procedure and criteria for revising the free access codes and numbers in private payphones connected to the Public Fixed Telecommunication Networks in Hong Kong.

2. FREE ACCESS CODES AND NUMBERS IN PRIVATE PAYPHONES

2.1 The free access codes and numbers in private payphones are given in the following schedules of this Guide :-

- a) Schedule A : INDIRECT ACCESS CODES AND NUMBERS
- b) Schedule B : TOLL FREE CODES AND NUMBERS

2.2 It is required that the free access codes and numbers in private payphones shall be implemented as follows :-

<u>Private Payphone Complying With</u>	<u>Implementation of Free Access Codes and Numbers</u>
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|--------------|---------------------------|
| a) HKTA 2024 | Schedule B |
| b) HKTA 2020 | Schedule A and Schedule B |

3. PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR REVISING THE FREE ACCESS CODES AND NUMBERS IN PRIVATE PAYPHONES

The following procedure for revising the free access codes and numbers in private payphones should be observed by Fixed Telecommunication Network Services (FTNS) operators and Private Payphone Providers (PSP).

- a) The frequency of updating the schedules of free access codes and numbers should not exceed once a year, unless otherwise approved by the TA.
- b) A FTNS operator proposing a revision to the schedules of free access codes and numbers should make a submission to the TA by **1 October** of a calendar year. The submission should be addressed to:

Chief Telecommunications Engineer (Regulatory)
Office of the Telecommunications Authority,
29/F., Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai,
Hong Kong.

- c) If the TA receives no submission from a FTNS operator by the deadline in (b) above, the free access codes and numbers of that FTNS operator are assumed to remain unchanged for the coming year starting from **1 January** of the next calendar year.
- d) The submission should give justification for the proposed revision and should demonstrate that the update satisfies the following criteria :-
- only those numbers and levels assigned for international service or international related enquiry in the Numbering Plan for Telecommunications Services in Hong Kong are acceptable as Payphone Indirect Access Levels ;
 - a Payphone Indirect Access Level should not be a number or level assigned to an FTNS licensee for providing a third party's services ; and
 - a toll-free code or number should be a free-of-charge service approved by the TA and be assigned in the Numbering Plan for Telecommunications Services in Hong Kong.
- e) Unless approved otherwise by the TA, only those codes or numbers satisfying the above criteria will be considered by the TA as free access codes and numbers in payphones.
- f) After preliminary evaluation by the TA, the proposed revision together with the date of compliance will be circulated to all FTNS operators and PSP for consultation.
- g) Having considered the feedback from FTNS operators and PSP, the TA will determine the acceptance of the revision as proposed by the FTNS operators.
- h) The TA will revise the schedules of free access codes and numbers accordingly and formally inform all FTNS operators and PSPs of the revised schedules before **1 January** of the next calendar year.
- i) Unless decided otherwise by the TA, all PSPs should arrange to implement the revised free access codes and numbers in their payphones by **1 February** of the next calendar year. PSPs which are unable to implement the revised free access codes and numbers according to the time scale should seek the TA's prior approval.
- j) The TA will report the progress of the annual revision of free access codes and numbers to the Telecommunications Standards Advisory Committee.

Office of the Telecommunications Authority
December 2000