

Implementation of Measures for More Efficient Utilisation of the 8-Digit Numbering Plan

Telecommunications Users and Consumer Advisory Committee
25 January 2018



Agenda

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Background

- On 29 October 2015, the Communications Authority ("CA") conducted public consultation on five proposed measures for more efficient utilisation of the 8-digit numbering plan and their implementation schedule
- On 24 June 2016, the CA promulgated its decision to adopt all the **five measures** for implementation in **three phases**



Five Measures for More Efficient Utilisation of 8-Digit Numbering Plan



Measure 1	Relocating some of the existing numbers for paging services and re-allocating some of the numbers in the "7(0-3)X" levels for mobile services
Measure 2	Re-allocating numbers in the "4X" level for mobile services
Measure 3	Re-allocating vacant numbers in the "8(1-3)X" levels for mobile services
Measure 4	Raising the threshold of utilisation rate for allocation of additional numbers to operators
Measure 5	Releasing most of the Special Number Blocks* for normal allocation

Implementation Schedule and Additional New Mobile Numbers



Timeframe	Measures	Number blocks to be released for allocation to mobile services	Amount of numbers (in million)
Phase 1 (1 Jan 2017)	4 (Part one)	Raising the threshold of utilisation rate to 75%	1.21
Phase 2 (1 Jul 2017)	1 (Part one)	Vacant numbers in “7(0-3)X” levels	13.43
	2	“4X” level	
	3	Vacant numbers in “8(1-3)X” levels	
	4 (Part two)	Raising the threshold of utilisation rate to 80%	
	5	Special number blocks in “4X”, “5X”, “6X”, “7X”, “8X” and “9X” levels	
Phase 3 (1 Jul 2021)	1 (Part two)	Vacated number blocks in “7(1-3)X” levels after completing the relocation of some existing paging numbers	1.08

OFCA's Preparatory Work (1/3)



- Explaining to operators, through relevant industry technical committee, about the CA's decision of 24 June 2016 to adopt the five measures for implementation in three phases; and following up with them about actions required to ensure that their networks and systems support the release of the relevant number blocks
- Making necessary amendments to the relevant parts of the "["Code of Practice Relating to the Use of Numbers and Codes in the Hong Kong Numbering Plan"](#)" in December 2016 according to the CA's decision of 24 June 2016 to reflect the above-mentioned measures

OFCA's Preparatory Work (2/3)



- Regarding the new prefixes "4", "7" and "8" for mobile numbers
 - in late 2016, certain number blocks with prefixes "4", "7" and "8" were designated as test numbers for network operators to conduct interoperability tests (including test calls to Hong Kong Police Force's 999 Emergency Centre)
 - in June 2017, principles and balloting procedures of the process for allocation of mobile numbers were explained to operators

OFCA's Preparatory Work (3/3)



- In the 2nd half of 2016, discussion was made with the paging operators the appropriate arrangement for relocating paging numbers
- In June 2016, Hospital Authority was informed of the CA's decision and the implementation of the measure to relocate the paging numbers so that it could make early preparation and arrangement. Hospital Authority will be kept reminded to carry out the necessary preparation and arrangement



Phase 1

- 1 January 2017 (successfully implemented)
- Relevant measure
 - **Measure 4 (Part One)** – raising the threshold of utilisation rate from 70% to 75% for additional number applications
- The measure was applicable to all licensees that need subscriber numbers (e.g. fixed numbers, mobile numbers, machine-to-machine numbers)





Phase 2

- 1 July 2017 (successfully implemented)
- Relevant measures
 - Measure 1 (Part One)** – re-allocating vacant numbers in “7(0-3)X” levels for mobile services
 - Measure 2** – re-allocating numbers in “4X” level for mobile services
 - Measure 3** – re-allocating vacant numbers in “8(1-3)X” levels for mobile services
 - Measure 4 (Part Two)** – raising the threshold of number utilisation rate from 75% to 80% for additional number applications
 - Measure 5** – releasing most of the Special Number Blocks for normal allocation

Publicity for Mobile Numbers with New Prefixes

- Since commencement of Phase 2 on 1 July 2017, 255,000 mobile numbers have been allocated (of which 120,000 are new mobile numbers with leading digit "4" or "8")
- OFCA will publicise the message that new mobile numbers with leading digit "4", "7" and "8" will soon be launched on the market, through the following means
 - press release
 - public education activities
 - OFCA's Facebook
- Relevant licensees plan to launch service plans with mobile numbers of leading digit "4" and "8" in Q1 of 2018
- OFCA will maintain close liaison with them to keep track of their number assignments to customers, and timely carry out public education activities



Way forward



- Conduct publicity to raise public awareness of the mobile numbers with new prefixes that will soon be launched on the market
- Continue to prepare for implementation of Phase 3 measure
- Continue to closely monitor number utilisation rate of different services and situation of number allocation, so as to assess when numbers of the relevant services will be used up
- Keep close liaison with industry to assess the impact of fast evolving new telecommunications services on the existing 8-digit numbering plan
- Keep close monitoring of the telecommunications market development and the demand for telecommunications numbers, and timely conduct study on long term development of the numbering plan in order to cope with the demand of various types of telecommunications services for numbers in an efficient and sustainable manner

Thank you

