REPUBLIC OF LEBANON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
REGULATORY AUTHORITY

National Numbering Plan

10 February 2009

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1 Scope

The Telecommunications Law 431/2002 (Article 5.1.f and Article 31.1) gave to the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority ("the Authority") the responsibility for establishing and managing the numbering needed for Customers and Users of Public Telecommunication Services. An important part of numbering management is the preparation and maintenance of the National Numbering Plan. The National Numbering Plan specifies the intended structure and use of numbers. It does not specify which numbers are assigned; however, both its design and its management must be competitively neutral.

Numbering management is principally concerned with telephone numbers, which customers need to use when making calls or sending messages in telephone networks. Many of these numbers can be used from abroad (when preceded by an international prefix and a country code), in conformance with ITU-T Recommendation E.164 ("The international public telecommunication numbering plan"). Others, such as short codes, are not used from abroad or sometimes, even, from other networks in the same country. In Lebanon, the Authority is responsible for managing all telephone numbers, whether or not they can be used from abroad. The Authority specifies (in this National Numbering Plan) how telephone numbers are structured and used. It also maintains information on whether telephone numbers are assigned (in the National Numbering Database).

Various other numbers and codes, besides telephone numbers, are needed to ensure that telephone networks work together to connect calls and transmit messages correctly. The Authority is responsible for managing these numbers and codes. It specifies (in this National Numbering Plan) how these other numbers and codes are structured and used, and it provides information on the assignment of these other numbers and codes to interested parties.

Numbering management by the Authority does not extend to IP addresses and Internet domain names.

Annex A contains a Summary of the new National Numbering Plan.

2 Telephone numbers

2.1 Overall structure

For telephone numbers according to the National Numbering Plan, there is no national prefix and there is no local dialling: full national numbers are always dialled. All telephone numbers (except international numbers and short codes have the same length of 8 digits. Calls and messages to Lebanon from other countries put the full national numbers after the country code for Lebanon assigned by the ITU, which is 961.

The high-level structure of telephone numbers is shown in the following table.

Initial digit	Number of dialed digits	Use
0	up to 17	International dialing
1	3 or 4	Short codes
2	8	Services with fixed network tariff ceilings
3	8	Protected for introducing new services or expanding existing services
4	8	Protected for introducing new services or expanding existing services
5	8	Protected for introducing new services or expanding existing services
6	8	Protected for introducing new services or expanding existing services
7	8	Services with mobile network tariff ceilings
8	8	Free of charge services
9	8	Premium and pay rate services

Throughout these sections (and in the Numbering Regulation) telephone numbers are just referred to as “numbers”. Furthermore, (and as also defined in the Numbering Regulation), a “code” is used denote a sequence of initial digits of numbers identified in the National Numbering Plan such that all numbers that have the same code have the same conditions of use and all blocks that have the same code have the same size.

The following sections provide more detail on different telephone numbers, arranged according to the initial digit.

2.2 Initial digit 0

Initial digits	Number of dialed digits[1]	Use
00	up to 17	Calls to other countries
01		Protected for supporting new international standards or requirements
02	up to 11	Calls to Syria[2]
03		Protected for supporting new international standards or requirements
04		Protected for supporting new international standards or requirements
05		Protected for supporting new international standards or requirements
06		Protected for supporting new international standards or requirements
07		Protected for supporting new international standards or requirements
08		Protected for supporting new international standards or requirements
09		Protected for supporting new international standards or requirements

The initial digit 0 is for international dialling. International dialling uses at most 17 digits (including the 0, but excluding any carrier selection code).

In accordance with ITU-T Recommendation E.164 ("The international public telecommunication numbering plan"), the international dialling prefix 00 is used for a call or a message to another country; it is followed by the country code and a national number in the country. Though at most 15 digits are generally expected to follow 00, this cannot be controlled by the Authority.

The special dialling prefix 02 is used for a call or a message to Syria followed by a national number in Syria. Though at most 9 digits are generally expected to follow 02, this cannot be controlled by the Authority.

The remaining numbers with initial digit 0 are protected until they are needed for supporting new international standards or requirements.

2.3 Initial digit 1

Definitions of terms introduced in the short codes table below are illustrated in Section 2.3.4

Initial digits	Primary expected type	Additional expected types[3]
10	Protected	100 (Proprietary (Ogero))
11	Common (Mandatory/Optional[4])	11x (Proprietary[5])

[1] The number of dialled digits shown excludes any carrier selection code

[2] A bilateral agreement has been set between Lebanon and Syria where 02 is used for calls from Lebanon to Syria and 06 is used for calls from Syria to Lebanon . In addition, Syria's country code (963) is currently used as well.

[3] The entries in this column are illustrative, not comprehensive.

[4] Currently 112 (emergency) is the only mandatory code in this range. In future, other codes may also become mandatory. In Europe, codes beginning with 11 are earmarked for harmonised development. The Authority intends that Lebanon should be able to adopt such harmonised codes in future if it so chooses.

Initial digits	Primary expected type	Additional expected types[3]
12	Common (Optional)	120 (Proprietary (Ogero)) 122 (Common (Mandatory)) 125 (Common (Mandatory))
13	Proprietary	
14	Proprietary	140 (Common (Mandatory)), Voice Value Added Services (Common(Optional))[6]
15	Protected	1515 (Proprietary (Ogero))
16	Protected	Internet Access (Proprietary)
17	Common (Public Institutions)	175 (Common (Mandatory))
18,19	Common (Carrier Selection)	

2.3.1 Codes

Each number starting with 1 (short code) is actually a code (in the sense of the Numbering Regulation) in its own right: it is assigned individually and can have its own conditions of use. However, codes that have the same second digits have the same conditions of use, as far as possible.

2.3.2 Number length

The numbers have 3 or 4 digits (including the initial digit 1).

2.3.3 Block size

A block contains 1 number.

2.3.4 Conditions of use

The initial digit 1 is for “short codes”.

Calls or messages to short codes must not be charged at levels higher than the prevailing levels for national calls or messages between points on the network on which they originate.

Each short code is of either Common or Proprietary type, with the associated conditions of use (in the sense of the Numbering Regulation).

Common Short Codes

Common short codes are used to terminate traffic destined to **same or equivalent** services accessible through the short code[7]. Once a common code used off a certain network, it’s automatically reserved in all the networks.

Common short codes are mandatory or optional for service providers:

[5] The proprietary codes in this range are expected to migrate at some point to the 13 or 14 ranges.

[6] See transitional arrangements in Section 2.3.5.

[7] Technically, the same service might be made available on multiple networks by providing only one connection, to one network, and routing traffic from the other networks over the interconnection links; however, other implementations are possible.

- **Mandatory** means that service providers must route traffic to the codes. Emergency calls are an example.
- **Optional** means that service providers are not obliged to route traffic to the codes. Directory enquiries are an example.

Some ranges of short codes will be used for common short codes of particular kinds:

- **Public Institutions.** Such short codes are used for access to government and other public institutions.
- **Carrier Selection.** Such short codes are used to select, or override default choices of, service providers to carry calls. In call-by-call selection, a customer is required to dial a telephone number immediately after dialling a carrier selection code. Carrier selection codes are also used within networks, in some implementations of carrier pre-selection. The Authority will issue these codes with either 3 digits or 4 digits according to the level of demand.

Proprietary Short Codes

Proprietary short codes are used by different service providers to terminate traffic destined to different services[8] through the short code. Once a proprietary short code is allocated to a service provider, other service providers are not obliged to reserve or route traffic to such short code.

Codes that have the same second digits have the same conditions of use, as far as possible. The preferred conditions of use are those associated with the “primary expected type” in the table above. Other conditions of use are associated with the “additional expected types” in the table above.

The Authority will be more likely to allow a service to be provided through a short code when some or all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The service is intended for public service or customer service.
- The use of a short code is clearly in the national interest for social, economic, or other important reasons (e.g. emergency services).
- The use of a short code is needed to enable completion of a call (e.g. carrier selection and operator services which provide the facility to complete calls).
- The use of a short code solves a problem having no other feasible technical or numbering solution.
- The use of a short code facilitates harmonization with international numbering tendencies.
- The use of a short code will not create or worsen a competitive imbalance.

Proprietary short codes are not severely constrained by conditions of use. However, the Authority considers that users and service providers would benefit from the following guidelines:

Different service providers often need to provide similar facilities through Proprietary short codes; for example, fault reporting, credit top-up and message box access. The Authority expects that service providers will co-ordinate among themselves to ensure that, as far as practicable, similar facilities are provided through the same short codes by different service providers.

Facilities provided through Proprietary short codes might usefully be made generally accessible through full length national numbers; for example, faults on a specific network might be reported by using a short code on the specific network and full

[8] This does not exclude the possibility of having the same service accessible off multiple networks through a separate connection to each network.

national numbers on other networks. The Authority prefers that service providers use the new numbering ranges starting with 8 or 9 for this purpose.

2.3.5 Transitional arrangements

The Authority expects that some existing codes will continue unchanged for the time being. However, calls or messages to short codes must not be charged at levels higher than the prevailing levels for national calls or messages between points on the network on which they originate. Because of this:

Services provided through short codes and charged at levels higher than these prevailing levels must be provided through numbers in the new specially tariffed numbering ranges starting with 9, within transitional periods that will be announced by the Authority. However, in order to provide a smooth migration of existing premium services, existing VAS providers will be allowed to keep up to 3 (three) short codes in the 14xx range to continue to be used for existing voice Value Added Services (except those run on Media (TV, Radio)) for a 3 (three) years period starting from effective date[9] of this National Numbering Plan. Any new premium services must be assigned numbers from the 9 range illustrated in section 2.8.

Services provided through short codes and charged at levels no higher than these prevailing levels may be allowed to keep their existing short codes or to have new short codes with appropriate conditions of use. Otherwise, if the short codes do not satisfy the conditions of use then the associated services will be required to have numbers in the numbering ranges starting with 8 or 9, within transitional periods that will be announced by the Authority.

2.4 Initial digit 2

Initial digits	Number of dialed digits	Use
20	8	Protected for services with fixed network tariff ceilings
21	8	Beirut, part of Metn (South) and part of Metn (North)
22	8	Protected for services with fixed network tariff ceilings
23	8	Protected for services with fixed network tariff ceilings
24	8	Part of Metn (North)
25	8	Part of Metn (South), Alay and part of Chouf
26	8	North Lebanon
27	8	South Lebanon and part of Chouf
28	8	Bekaa Valley
29	8	Keserwan

[9] Actual effective date will be determined by the Authority

2.4.1 Codes

The codes are 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29. The remaining numbers with initial digit 2 are protected. (One possible use of 20, for example, is making more numbers available for Beirut.)

2.4.2 Number length

The numbers have 8 digits (including the initial digit 2).

2.4.3 Block size

A block contains 10,000 numbers within the same geographic area that belongs to the initial digits stated in the above table (e.g., 26 for North Lebanon) However, for non-infrastructure service providers such as Fixed Virtual Network Operators or resellers, the block size will be 10,000 if it is allocated directly by the TRA. Multiple blocks may be assigned simultaneously if justified by the demand forecast.

2.4.4 Conditions of use

The initial digit 2 is for services with “fixed network tariff ceilings”.

National calls or messages to numbers with fixed network tariff ceilings must not be charged at levels higher than the prevailing levels for national calls or messages to fixed networks from the network on which the calls or messages originate.

Numbers with initial digit 2 may identify the supposed location of the call or message recipient.

A number starting with 21, 24, 25, 25, 27, 28 or 29 is for service providers providing services in the geographic area shown in the relevant line of the table above. It identifies a network termination point on a corresponding network.

2.5 Initial digits 3, 4, 5 and 6

The numbers with initial digit 3, 4, 5 or 6 are protected until they are needed for introducing new serv0ices or expanding existing services.

2.6 Initial digit 7

Initial digits	Number of dialed digits	Use
70	8	MIC1 (70/1,2,3,4,5) & MIC2 (70/0,6,7,8,9)
71	8	MIC2
72	8	MIC1
73	8	MIC1 (73/1,2,3,4,5) & MIC2 (73/0,6,7,8,9)
74	8	Liban Telecom
75	8	Liban Telecom
76	8	Protected for services with mobile network tariff ceilings
77	8	Protected for future expansion of the numbering plan if needed
78	8	Protected for services with mobile network tariff ceilings
79	8	Protected for services with mobile network tariff ceilings

2.6.1 Codes

The codes are 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 and 75. The remaining numbers with initial digit 7 are protected.

2.6.2 Number length

The numbers have 8 digits (including the initial digit 7).

2.6.3 Block size

A block contains 100,000 numbers. However, for non-infrastructure service providers such as Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs) or resellers, the block size will be 10,000 if it is allocated directly by the TRA.

Multiple blocks may be assigned simultaneously if justified by the demand forecast.

2.6.4 Conditions of use

The initial digit 7 is for services with “mobile network tariff ceilings”.

National calls or messages to numbers with mobile network tariff ceilings must not be charged at levels higher than the prevailing levels for national calls or messages to mobile networks from the network on which the calls or messages originate.

Numbers with initial digit 7 may identify the supposed network of the call or message recipient. However, with the introduction of number portability, this identification will become less likely to be correct.

A number starting with 71, 72, 74 or 75 is for the particular mobile service provider shown in the relevant row of the table above. It identifies a network termination point on the corresponding network until there is mobile number portability.

2.7 Initial digit 8

2.7.1 Codes

The following codes are proposed:

-80 xxxxxx (Calls/Messages to such number are accessible from all types of Networks (Fixed & Mobile)

- 82 xxxxxx (Calls/Messages to such numbers are accessible only from Fixed Networks)

- 87 xxxxxx (Calls/Messages to such numbers are accessible only from Mobile Networks)

The remaining numbers with initial digit 8 are protected.

2.7.2 Number length

The numbers starting with 8 have 8 digits (including the initial digit 8).

2.7.3 Block size

Numbers in the 80 range will be allocated by the TRA on per number basis (block size of 1.)

A block with initial digit 82 or 87 contains 1,000 numbers. Multiple blocks may be assigned simultaneously if justified by the demand forecast.

2.7.4 Conditions of use

The initial digit 8 is for “Toll Free” services with no charge to the caller.

A number within the 80 range activated on one service provider’s network (e.g., Fixed network) can be accessed from other service provider’s networks (e.g., Mobile network) either through a direct link (to the other service provider) or through an interconnect link (between the two service providers.)

Once an 80 xxxxxx number is assigned for use in a certain network, it’s automatically reserved in all the networks.

A number within the 82 or 87 ranges activated on one service provider’s network can only be accessed from service provider network(s) of the same type (Fixed or Mobile).

Different service providers that terminate traffic to number within the 8-range must provide the same services through the number.

Initially, the following numbers together with their associated conditions of use are available for assignment:

Initial digits	Specified Range	Condition of use
80	800 xxxxx	For free (phone/message) calls where the call/message to that number **are** accessible from **all types of Networks (Fixed & Mobile)**
82	820 xxxxx	For free (phone/message) calls where the call/message to that number is accessible **only** from **Fixed Networks**
87	870 xxxxx	For free (phone/message) calls where the call/message to that number is accessible **only** from **Mobile Networks**

2.8 Initial digit 9

2.8.1 Codes

The following codes are proposed:

- 90 xxxxxx Calls/Messages to such numbers are accessible from all types of Networks (Fixed & Mobile)

- 92 xxxxxx Calls/Messages to such numbers are accessible only from Fixed Networks

- 97 xxxxxx Calls/Messages to such numbers are accessible only from Mobile Networks

The remaining numbers with initial digit 9 are protected.

2.8.2 Number length

The numbers starting with initial digit 9 have 8 digits (including the initial digit 9).

2.8.3 Block size

Numbers in the 90 range will be allocated by the TRA on per number basis (block size of 1.)

A block with initial digit 92 or 97 contains 1,000 numbers. Multiple blocks may be assigned simultaneously if justified by the demand forecast.

2.8.4 Conditions of use

The initial digit 9 is for premium and pay services.

National calls or messages to numbers for **premium** rate services are charged at levels higher than the prevailing levels for national calls or messages between points on the network on which they originate.

National calls or messages to numbers for **pay** rate services are charged at or below the prevailing on-net national tariff ceilings for national calls or messages between points on the network on which they originate.

Initially, the following numbers together with their associated conditions of use are available for assignment:

Initial digits	Specified range	Conditions of Use
90	900 xxxxx	For calls or messages that are accessible from **all type of Networks (Fixed & Mobile)** and charged as **premium** rate services.
	901 xxxxx	For calls or messages that are accessible from **all types of Networks (Fixed & Mobile)** and charged as **pay** rate services.
92	920 xxxxx	For calls or messages that are accessible only from **Fixed Networks** and charged as **premium** rate services.
	921 xxxxx	For calls or messages that are accessible only from **Fixed Networks** and charged as **pay** rate services.
97	970 xxxxx	For calls or messages that are accessible only from **Mobile Networks** and charged as **premium** rate services.
	971 xxxxx	For calls or messages that are accessible only from **Mobile Networks** and charged as **pay** rate services.

A number within the 90 range activated on one service provider's network (e.g., Fixed network) can be accessed from other service provider's networks (e.g., Mobile network) either through a direct link (to the other service provider) or through an interconnect link (between the two service providers.)

Once a 90 xxxxxx number is assigned for use in a certain network, it's automatically reserved in all the networks.

A number within the 92 or 97 ranges activated on one service provider's network can only be accessed from service provider network(s) of the same type (Fixed or Mobile).

Different service providers that terminate traffic to number within the 9-range must provide the same services through the number.

The following ranges for premium services are reserved for numbers that mimic the 4-digit short codes and will be allocated by the TRA on a per number basis:

- **90**00 xxxx
- **92**00 xxxx
- **97**00 xxxx

A number for premium and pay rate services is subject to the conditions stipulated in the prevailing "Deontology Code" that addresses amongst other things the Audio and SMS Value Added Services including the declaration of the applicable call/message charge and the maximum call duration.

3 Numbers and codes other than telephone numbers

3.1 Unstructured Supplementary Service Data codes

An Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) code is a sequence of digits preceded and followed by occurrences of * or #. It is used in GSM networks for identifying service destinations of messages that are sent instantaneously, not by the “store-and-forward” technique of conventional text messages. They are typically used within individual networks. The Authority will take responsibility for assigning USSD codes to service destinations if there is a need for harmonization of meaning or pricing between networks that the service providers are unable to satisfy unaided.

3.2 Data network digits

A Data Network Identification Code (DNIC) comprises a Data Country Code (DCC) and a network digit. Each network digit identifies a data network in a country. ITU assigns DCCs; Lebanon has DCC 415. The Authority is responsible for assigning network digits to service providers.

The ITU-T Recommendations on the management and structure of DNICs are X.121 (“International Numbering Plan for public data networks”) and X.122 (“Numbering Plan for inter-working between a packet switched public data network (‘PSPDN’) and an integrated services digital network (‘ISDN’) or PSTN in the short term”).

3.3 Telex numbers

The numbering structure of telex networks is described in ITU-T Recommendation F.69 (“The international telex service - Service and operational provisions of telex destination codes and telex network identification codes”). ITU assigns numeric and alphabetic country codes; Lebanon has country codes 923 and LE. The Authority is responsible for assigning blocks of telex numbers to service providers for assignment to end terminals and will do so on request.

3.4 Signaling point codes

Signaling Point Codes (SPCs) are used in public telephone networks using the ITU-T Recommendations on Signaling System Number 7 (known as ‘C7’ or ‘SS7’), such as Q.704 (“Signaling Network Functions and Messages”), Q.705 (“Signaling Network Structure”) and Q.708 (“Numbering of International Signaling Point Codes”).

There are three types of SPCs:

- International Signaling Point Codes (ISPCs), used to route traffic between the networks of service providers internationally.
- National Signaling Point Codes (NSPCs), used to route traffic between the networks of service providers nationally.
- Network Specific Signaling Point Codes (NSSPCs), used to route traffic within the networks of individual service providers.

An ISPC comprises a Signaling Area / Network Code (SANC) and a Signaling Point Identification (SPI). Each SPI identifies an international gateway in a country.

ITU assigns SANCs. The Authority is responsible for assigning SPIs (using criteria given in ITU-T Recommendation Q.708) and for notifying the ITU about assignments of SPIs.

An NSPC usually has a structure similar to that of an ISPC. The Authority is responsible for assigning the entities analogous to SANCs and service providers are responsible for assigning entities analogous to SPIs to nodes in their own networks.

Service providers are responsible for devising their own NSSPCs.

3.5 Mobile network codes

A Mobile Network Code (MNC) is part of the International Mobile Station Identity (IMSI) that identifies the subscriber terminal, especially when roaming. The MNCs for GSM mobile networks are two (2) digits long in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation E.212 (“The international identification plan for mobile terminals and mobile users”).

The MNC is used alongside the Mobile Country Code (MCC). ITU assigns MCCs; Lebanon has MCC 415. The Authority is responsible for assigning MNCs to service providers and inform the GSMA association.

Service providers that are assigned MNCs must be able to authenticate roaming subscribers (by having a home location register, switching capacity and an authentication centre).

3.6 Number portability prefix codes

Number portability prefix codes are used between networks, in some implementations of number portability, to ensure that calls to numbers initially implemented on one network are correctly routed to the new network. If the need arises, to ensure consistency between networks, the Authority will be responsible for assigning them to service providers.

3.7 Targeted transit codes

Targeted transit codes are used between networks, in some implementations of transit traffic, to route traffic between points of interconnection. If the need arises, to ensure consistency between networks, the Authority will be responsible for assigning them to service providers.

3.8 Carrier codes

Carrier codes consist of up to 6 alphanumeric characters, in accordance with ITU-T Recommendation M.1400 (“Designations for interconnections among operators' networks“). The scheme is intended for identifying service providers uniquely for the purposes of describing interconnections between service providers, whether international or national. Its use inside countries is subject to national regulation and bilateral agreement between service providers.

Carrier codes provide unique identifiers for service providers in documentation for purposes such as number management, network data management, telephone directory maintenance, number portability and carrier selection.

If the need arises, the Authority will establish, maintain and provide information (to ITU, service providers and other interested parties) on the assignment of carrier codes to be used in documentation.

Annex A Summary of the new National Numbering Plan

First digit	Second digit	Use	Number of digits	Capacity
0	**0**	International access (unchanged)	up to 17	
	1	Future services		
	2	Syria access	11	
	3-9	Future services		
1	**0-9**	1xx(x) short codes	3 or 4	
2	**0**	Fixed, Geographic expansion	8	1,000,000
	1	Fixed, Beirut	8	1,000,000
	2	Fixed, Geographic expansion	8	1,000,000
	3	Fixed, Geographic expansion	8	1,000,000
	4	Fixed, Metn (North)	8	1,000,000
	5	Fixed, Metn (South)	8	1,000,000
	6	Fixed, North Lebanon	8	1,000,000
	7	Fixed, South Lebanon	8	1,000,000
	8	Fixed, Bekaa	8	1,000,000
	9	Fixed, Keserwan	8	1,000,000
3	**0-9**	Future services	8	10,000,000
4	**0-9**	Future services	8	10,000,000
5	**0-9**	Future services	8	10,000,000
6	**0-9**	Future services	8	10,000,000
7	**0-5**	Services with mobile network Tariffs	8	6,000,000
	6-9	Mobile Expansion	8	1,000,000
8	**0-9**	Toll Free Services	8	10,000,000
9	**0-9**	Premium and Pay services	8	10,000,000