

No 20-577/2018 AS-I (Pt)
Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
(Access Services Division)
1203, Sanchar Bhawan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110001

Dated 10.03.2021

To,

All Unified Licensee (having Access Services Authorization) and UAS Licensees.

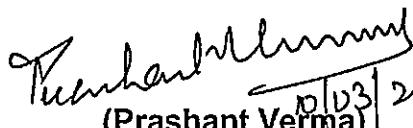
Subject: Norms for network testing before commercial launch of Wireline Access Services.

For the purpose of network testing before commercial launch of Wireline Access Service, the following norms are specified:

1. The number of test subscribers that can be enrolled by a Licensee in an LSA shall be limited to 5% of its installed network capacity for that LSA. The Licensee will submit the detailed capacity calculations of the network to DoT and TRAI at least 15 days before commencing enrolment of test subscribers.
2. If a Licensee wants to enrol test subscribers in its network before the commercial launch of services for testing purpose, it should give prior intimation to DoT and TRAI at least 15 days before commencing enrolment of test subscribers.
3. All licensing provisions related to the security and privacy such as ensuring adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber, protection and privacy of communication, maintaining Call Detail Record (CDR)/ IP Detail Record (IPDR), Confidentiality of Information, Lawful interception & monitoring etc., must be complied with by the licensee.
4. If a Licensee wants to enrol test subscribers for the testing of its network, it shall transparently give the following information to the test subscribers at the time of enrolment:
 - i. During test phase, Licensee is not mandated to adhere to specified level of QoS. Therefore, there may be sub-optimal level of network performance.
 - ii. The scope of services during the test period.
 - iii. There will not be any charge (fixed charge or usage based charge) during the test phase. CPE (Customer Premises Equipment) is also provided free of charge.
 - iv. Likely date of commercial launch.

5. During test phase, the licensee shall be bound to submit test subscriber related statistics and their usage, and other information as per prevailing instructions of DoT/ TRAI.
6. There shall be no restriction on the time limit, if the network testing is conducted using wireline telephone test connections given to employees and business partners for test purpose only.
7. There shall be a limit of 90 days on the test phase involving test subscribers. However, if the Licensee fails to conclude network testing due to valid reasons, it may make representations to DoT, seeking additional time for network testing giving detailed justification.
8. The norms of extension are as follows:
 - a. If the Licensee fails to conclude network testing within 90 days, it may make representation to DoT three weeks prior to the end of 90 days' period, seeking additional time for network testing subject to the condition that:
 - i. The total time period for network testing provided to the Licensee shall not exceed 180 days and;
 - ii. The number of test subscribers shall continue to be limited to 5% of the installed capacity, as submitted by the Licensee during its initial request.
 - b. Extension of time for network testing beyond 90 days shall be granted only on following conditions:
 - i. New technology is under testing and requires more time to conclude.
 - ii. Quality of service (QOS) not achieved during testing as per TRAI norms.
 - iii. Network modifications have been made during initial testing period of 90 days.
 - c. The Licensee shall provide following details along with the request for extension of time period:
 - i. Should specify under which category/ categories of para b above, the request for additional time is made. Licensee shall specify the new technology under test or the network modifications done during initial network testing period;
 - ii. Total number of test subscribers served during testing period LSA wise;
 - iii. QOS parameters achieved as per TRAI format;
 - iv. Features tested and specific complaints regarding shortcomings received, if any, for non-working of certain features provided to test subscribers;
 - v. Report on the test subscribers' feedback;

- vi. Licensee shall also provide a detailed write up on how the extended period of testing will be utilized for improving the network performance and test subscribers' experience.
- d. Based on the details submitted by the Licensee, DoT will decide on the request for extension and the final decision shall be conveyed before the expiry of testing period of 90 days.


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Copy to:

1. Secretary, TRAI, New Delhi.
2. DG (T), DoT HQ, New Delhi.
3. DDG (Satellite)/ DDG (CS)/ DDG (DS)/ DDG (LFP), DoT HQ.
4. Director (AS)/ Director (AS-II)/ Director (AS-III)/ Director (AS-IV)/ Director (AS-V).