



Payphone Access Charge Product Description

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V1.0

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Document Control

Document name	Payphone Access Charge
Document Owner	open eir
Document Type	Microsoft Word
Last updated	22 ⁿ d April 2003
Version	1.0
Status	

Revision History

Version	Date	Revised by	Revision details
A	22 nd April	Open eir	
B		Open eir	
C	15 TH May	Open eir	
1.0	6 th October 2003	Open eir	Publication
1.0	14 th October 2015	Open eir	Re-branding



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1 Preface

This document defines the open eir Product Description to provide wholesale Payphone Access Charge (PAC) in response to industry discussions following consultation paper 02/63

This document is without prejudice to any future position open eir may adopt relative to the provision of PAC. It should be read in conjunction with the associated documents detailing processes, technical specifications and service level agreements, to be published according to applicable publication arrangements.

Intended audience for this document:

- (i) ComReg industry forum.

2 Introduction

This document defines the product description for Payphone Access Charge. The product description is subject to change or review within the applicable ComReg forum.

3 Product Description

A PAC charge is where terminating operators pay originating operators a higher price per minute rate for termination of calls to a freephone service, when the call has originated from a payphone.

open eir will provide a cost-orientated and non-discriminatory service enabling payphone operators to recover a PAC charge against a downstream network operator. In turn the downstream network operator will be able to recover a PAC, in conjunction with call charges if applicable, from the downstream network provider. The PAC will flow in reverse of the call direction from the freephone service provider to the payphone operator, it will be monitored administered and collected using cascade billing. The flow of the PAC will vary in accordance with the route and network traversing of the call. open eir will administer the cascade billing in accordance with industry agreed standards and processes.

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4 Product Components

The PAC product consists of four components:

1. Payphone line identification
2. Payphone operator A-number database
3. Cascade billing architecture
4. PAC accounting principles

4.1 Payphone Line Identification

The calling party category applicable to open eir card and payphone lines will be available to all PAC eligible public payphone lines. The subscriber category (A_CAT) identifying the line as coming from a payphone will be applied to the line, for AXE switches this is 2, for E10 switches this is 15. These subscriber categories will map to the calling party category 17 (CPC 17) the signalling parameter for payphones will be applied to all public payphone lines to identify them as such. This category is the defined Irish standard for national use in the open eir and interconnecting national networks, as defined in the Carrier Services technical manual.

4.2 A Number database

The PAC solution will have CPC 17 applied only to lines in the A Number database, to then differentiate between specific payphone operators A number analysis will be used. Differentiation between payphone operators as a means of charging different PAC per operator is possible and is under investigation by eircom, for the next phase of the product. An A number database has been constructed by ComReg, this will capture, as an independent means of identification and verification, the A numbers of all existing and new payphone operators eligible to raise a PAC1. The database is owned by ComReg who will control the access mechanisms and maintenance parameters. The access, use and maintenance of the database and information it will contain is subject to agreement of industry defined processes.

4.3 Cascade billing architecture

The cascade billing will use information extracted from CDRs to identify the calls as originating from a payphone and terminating on a freephone number.

The A number database will be governed by the principles ComReg set out when they define the payphone market.



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The CDR will identify the originating payphone by the A_CAT, this maps to CPC 17 identifying the line as a public payphone. The A number database will provide the information necessary to determine the specific payphone operator.

The B number will identify the destination of the call, in this instance a freephone number; 1800xxxxxx. The route the call takes or the owner of the freephone block are variable and give rise to a number of potential scenarios. Capturing and documenting said scenarios is not the purpose of this product description, rather the structure of the product described herein will create a basis on which any scenario will be catered for within the cascade billing structure.

The interconnect billing and mediation systems will use the line category, A number, A number database and B number to produce in one direction an invoice for the payphone operator using open eir call service enabling them to raise a PAC against eircom. In the other direction a bill will be generated to charge the PAC to either a downstream OLO or freephone service provider. The billing of this PAC may pass through several OLO's or open eir again until it reaches the freephone number, thus the PAC is cascaded from the freephone service provider through the network(s) to the payphone operator.

4.4 Accounting Principles

The accounting principles will be captured in a separate document. It should be noted that the accounting principles are applicable to national networks in Ireland. Therefore, arrangements to recover a PAC from a terminating international freephone number by the last national carrier that passed on the call, will be defined by commercial agreement between the aforementioned parties and remain outside the remit of this development.

5 Industry Process

This is detailed in the PAC Industry Process Manual