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SERIES E: OVERALL NETWORK OPERATION,  
TELEPHONE SERVICE, SERVICE OPERATION AND  
HUMAN FACTORS

International operation – General provisions concerning  
users

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**Presentation of national numbering plans**

ITU-T Recommendation E.129

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# **ITU-T Recommendation E.129**

## **Presentation of national numbering plans**

### **Summary**

The objective of this Recommendation is to specify a methodology that will provide a standardized method for presenting the domestic numbering plans of all countries (i.e. each country's application of ITU-T Rec. E.164). This Recommendation also includes a method by which this information is made available to all interested parties, as well as timely information on numbering plan changes that influence the routing, charging and accounting of international telecommunications traffic.

### **Source**

ITU-T Recommendation E.129 was prepared by ITU-T Study Group 2 (2001-2004) and approved under the WTSA Resolution 1 procedure on 6 September 2002.

## FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

## NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

ITU draws attention to the possibility that the practice or implementation of this Recommendation may involve the use of a claimed Intellectual Property Right. ITU takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of claimed Intellectual Property Rights, whether asserted by ITU members or others outside of the Recommendation development process.

As of the date of approval of this Recommendation, ITU had not received notice of intellectual property, protected by patents, which may be required to implement this Recommendation. However, implementors are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information and are therefore strongly urged to consult the TSB patent database.

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# ITU-T Recommendation E.129

## Presentation of national numbering plans

### 1 Scope

The scope of this work is dedicated to assist and make available timely access to E.164 numbering information. This includes, but is not limited to, how to obtain information on national numbering plans, how they should be described, and the timely posting of numbering plan changes in a standardized presentation that is consistent with ITU-T Rec. E.164.

While the basic objective of this Recommendation is to present Geographic country code information, it may also be used to communicate numbering information for Network code applications and for Country Codes assigned to Groups of Countries (GoC).

### 2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published. The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

- ITU-T Recommendation E.164 (1997), *The international public telecommunication numbering plan*.

### 3 Definitions

This Recommendation defines the following term:

**3.1 parallel running:** Refers to the co-existence of the new and old numbers during a limited period of time (e.g. 6 months ) to support a gentle transition to a new numbering plan.

### 4 Abbreviations

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations:

CC	E.164 Country Code (as specified in ITU-T Rec. E.164)
GoC	Group of Countries
ITU-T	International Telecommunication Union – Telecommunication Standardization Sector
NDC	National Destination Code
TSB	Telecommunication Standardization Bureau of the ITU
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
WG	Working Group
WP1/2	Working Party 1 of SG 2

### 5 Background

The establishment of a timely standardized methodology and presentation of each country's application of ITU-T Rec. E.164 is required to address the difficulties in gaining access to

information relating to newly assigned and implemented numbering resources on a worldwide basis. In this regard, this Recommendation presents and identifies new processes for worldwide notification of such openings.

The assistance of national numbering plan administrators worldwide has been requested and as a result, the following Recommendation has been created to provide a solution to the problem of disseminating international numbering information. The ITU-T has been involved in this process and the TSB's efforts are integral to its implementation and its success.

## **6 Description of approach and recommended solution**

To meet the objectives of this Recommendation a standardized methodology is herein described to:

- a) Recommend the gathering of and availability of Internet Web addresses and hyperlinks to and from the ITU-T home page entitled "International Numbering Resources" to the websites of national numbering plan administrators to obtain descriptions of each country's national numbering plan(s).
- b) Recommend a format to describe a country's application of ITU-T Rec. E.164. This information can be posted on the national numbering plan administrator's website of each country.
- c) Recommend a standardized format to post and describe changes to a country's numbering plan. This information will be posted on the ITU-T website under the specific country for which it applies.
- d) Recommend a method to inform all requesting parties to subscribe and participate in an exploder list that will broadcast relevant changes to a country's numbering plan.

The remainder of this Recommendation expands on these objectives and describes how they are implemented.

## **7 ITU-T website and exploder list**

### **7.1 General**

The ITU-T website is a critical component in the success and implementation of this solution to provide free, accurate, and timely access to the most current international numbering information. The section of the ITU-T home page entitled "International Numbering Resources". (At present the URL is <http://www.itu.int/itu-t/inr/nnp/index.html>) is the focal point for obtaining accurate and timely numbering information for all world countries<sup>1</sup>. The ITU-T will post both the current contact and website information of the national numbering plan administrators from all world countries who provide the ITU-T with this information.

In addition the ITU-T will email via an exploder list the latest numbering change information that they receive to all parties who register with them to receive numbering plan updates as they are made available. Details of how to subscribe to receive and submit numbering information are available on the ITU-T website referenced above.

The ITU-T Databases accessible via the ITU-T website and the ITU Operational Bulletin remain the authoritative sources for E.164 numbering information. The exploder email list is merely a method for providing early information. In case of discrepancies, the Databases and Operational Bulletin shall be authoritative.

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<sup>1</sup> The primary purpose of the ITU-T website referenced in this Recommendation is for E.164 national numbering plan information. However, national Administration websites may also include information on other national naming, numbering, addressing or identification plans.

## **7.2 Responsibilities of national numbering plan administrators**

This clause outlines a list of recommended tasks and responsibilities for national numbering plan administrators in order to describe their national numbering plans as well as describing any changes to these national numbering plans. The ITU-T involvement is also included.

- All national numbering plan administrators should provide their web address information to the ITU-T along with the names, address, phone, and E-mail addresses of all current contact individuals. This information should be updated annually, or as changes occur to keep the contact information current.
- All national numbering plan administrators are encouraged to have their national numbering information accessed via Internet links from the ITU-T website.
- National numbering plan administrators are encouraged to describe their national numbering plans per the format shown in 8.2.
- Any administration's website containing a national number plan that is hyperlinked with the ITU-T website should if possible, contain explanatory guidance or notes up front regarding how to easily access and retrieve information.
- National numbering plan administrators are responsible for numbering plan information and for keeping the TSB informed of any changes, in order to update the information posted on the website accordingly. The accuracy of the information is the responsibility of the national numbering plan administrator(s).
- With respect to number plan change information, all national numbering plan administrators should advise the TSB, on a non-binding informational basis, of significant national numbering plan changes well in advance of the event, so that this information can be published by the TSB. It is recommended that this notification be submitted sufficiently in advance to ensure formal and timely information to the widest possible distribution.
- It is recommended that national numbering plan administrators should describe their national numbering plan changes per the format shown in clause 9.
- An administration may designate another entity to provide the above functions.

## **8 Presentation of E.164 national numbering**

### **8.1 General**

This clause specifies the information that national numbering plan administrators should provide to describe and record their respective numbering plans. A proposed format (that should be used where practicable) is provided, and the key requirement is that national presentations should at least contain the information described in the following clause. Additional information may be provided as considered as appropriate.

## 8.2 Tabular presentation

Table 8.2 is a presentation that has been designed to accommodate ITU-T Rec. E.164-based number plans. This standardized format has been chosen to allow all countries to present their specific E.164 application regardless of their national language. Any additional information may be added to clarify this table.

**Table 8.2/E.129 – Presentation of E.164 national numbering  
for country code \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Overview:  
 The minimum number length (excluding the country code) is \_\_\_\_\_ digits  
 The maximum number length (excluding the country code) is \_\_\_\_\_ digits
- b) Detail of numbering scheme:

(1) NDC (National Destination Code) or leading digits of N(S)N (National (Significant) Number)	(2) N(S)N number length		(3) Usage of E.164 number	(4) Additional information
	Maximum length	Minimum length		

The following is a brief description of each column with an indication if each column is essential or not for the description.

Column (1): The information to be inserted in this column consists of the values of the leading national digits for which the lengths in column 2 apply. In most cases, this is the NDC as defined in ITU-T Rec. E.164, or information equivalent to a city code, area code, regional code, service specific indicator etc. Any prefix in the national dialing plan should not be included. This is a required column unless it is not applicable in a particular numbering plan. Please indicate if the values entered are the NDC (see examples in Appendix I).

Column (2): The information to be inserted in these columns is the minimum and maximum number lengths i.e. the minimum and maximum number of digits following the country code. This is a required column.

NOTE – This includes the digits whose values are in column 1.

Column (3): The information to be inserted in this column is the E.164 number usage (e.g. geographic area code, mobile area code, routeing address). As an option, this field can be used to represent the service provider to whom the numbering resource has been assigned. This is a required column.

Column (4): This column contains any comment information and it is optional.

Examples of sample data inserted in this table are shown in Appendix I.

## 9 E.164 numbering plan changes

### 9.1 Introduction

Three change categories are supported in this Recommendation:

- 1) Introduction of a new numbering resource.
- 2) Deletion of an existing numbering resource.

- 3) Change to an existing number resource.

The following subclauses provide the details necessary to report each of these three changes. These standardized formats have been chosen to allow all countries to present changes to their specific E.164 national numbering plans regardless of their national language.

## 9.2 Introduction of a new numbering resource

The following is a tabular presentation that accommodates the introduction of all E.164-based number resources. This standardized format has been chosen to allow all countries to present changes to their specific E.164 national numbering plan regardless of their national language.

**Table 9.2/E.129 – Description of introduction of new resource for national numbering plan for country code \_\_\_\_\_:**

(1) NDC (National Destination Code) or leading digits of N(S)N (National (Significant) Number)	(2) N(S)N number length		(3) Usage of E.164 Number	(4) Time and date of introduction
	Maximum length	Minimum length		

Column (1): The information to be inserted in this column consists of the values of the leading national digits for which the lengths in column 2 apply. In most cases this is the equivalent to a city code, area code, regional code etc. as it is defined in ITU-T Rec. E.164. This is a required column.

Column (2): The information to be inserted in this column is the subscriber number length. This is a required column unless it is not applicable or used in a particular numbering plan.

Column (3): The information to be inserted in this column is the usage to which the new numbering resource will be put (e.g. geographic location, mobile service etc, or network operator where the code is for sole use of an individual operator). This is a required column.

Column (4): The information to be inserted in this column is the time and date of introduction of the new numbering resource. The date of introduction should be indicated in the column as YYYY – MM – DD – HH – mm (UTC). This is a required column.

## 9.3 Deletion of an existing numbering resource

The following is a tabular presentation that accommodates the deletion of E.164-based number resources. This standardized format has been chosen to allow all countries to present changes to their specific E.164 national numbering plan regardless of their national language.

**Table 9.3/E.129 – Description of deletion of resource for national numbering plan for country code \_\_\_\_\_:**

(1) NDC (National Destination Code) or leading digits of N(S)N (National (Significant) Number)	(2) Usage of E.164 number	(3) Time and date of deletion

Column (1): The information to be inserted in this column consists of the values of the leading national digits for which the lengths in column 2 apply. In most cases this is the equivalent to a city code, area code, regional code etc. as it is defined in ITU-T Rec. E.164. This is a required column.

Column (2): The information to be inserted in this column is the type of E.164 number (e.g. geographic location with number, mobile service etc, network operator where the code was for sole use of an individual operator). This a required column in order to validate against the NDC from existing records.

Column (3): The information to be inserted in this column is the time and date of deletion of the numbering resource. The date of deletion should be indicated in the column as YYYY – MM – DD – HH – mm (UTC). This is a required column.

#### 9.4 Changes to existing resource

The following is a tabular presentation that accommodates all E.164-based number plans changes.

**Table 9.4/E.129 – Description of number change for national numbering plan for country code \_\_\_\_\_:**

(1) Communicated time and date of change	(2) N(S)N		(3) Usage of E.164 number	(4) Parallel running		(5) Operator	(6) Proposed wording of announcement
	Old number	New number		Begins	Ends		

In filling out the above table please use the information below as a guide.

In completing the above table, specific numbers should be inserted where necessary. If specific numbers are not required, please use generalized representations (i.e. X = 0 through 9 or Y = 0 and 1, etc.) as applicable. In all cases, the number of digits need to be shown as well as the allowable values of these digits. A legend should be noted with all tables as necessary.

All dates and times should be given according to the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

Column (1): The information to be inserted in this column consists of the date of the number change, as communicated to customers. This is a required column.

Column (2): The information to be inserted in this column is the E.164 presentation of the complete N(S)N within a given country's numbering plan before and after the change. This is a required column.

Column (3): The information to be inserted in this column is the usage (e.g. geographic area code, mobile service code, network operator code for sole use of an individual operator, etc.). This is a required column in order to validate against the current usage from existing records.

Column (4): The information to be inserted in this column indicates if parallel running (permissive dialling) is being supported. If parallel running applies, the dates that it commences and ends should be indicated in the column as YYYY – MM – DD – HH – mm (UTC). For the avoidance of doubt, the commencement of parallel running is that time/date from which the new format of the number should be operational, while the end is the time/date from which the old format of the number will no longer be operational. If parallel running does not apply, "N/A" should be entered into the columns. This is a required column.

Column (5): The information to be inserted in this column is the name of the Telecommunications operator/Service Provider/ROA to whom the numbering resource has been assigned. This is an optional column. In some countries there may be multiple service providers to whom these

numbering resources may be assigned and this may be confusing and too voluminous to be captured.

Column (6): The information to be inserted in this column should provide any guidance as to wording for announcements to be played to customers dialling the old number after it has been ceased. Note that this wording is a recommendation only, and there is no compulsion on originating operators to implement it. This is an optional column.

An example of sample data inserted in this table is shown in Appendix II.

## Appendix I

This appendix contains an example of how to complete Table 8.2 as described in this Recommendation. The data from Sweden is presented for illustrative purposes and should not be used for any technical applications. The most current, accurate, and complete data for the sample country code shown should be obtained from the appropriate website.

### Example of presentation of E.164 national numbering for country code 46

a) Overview:

The minimum number length (excluding the country code) is 7 digits

The maximum number length (excluding the country code) is 9 digits

b) Detail of numbering scheme:

(1) NDC (National Destination Code) or leading digits of N(S)N (National (Significant) Number) <i>Nationell destinationskod eller inledande siffror i det nationella (signifikanta) numret</i>	(2) N(S)N number length <i>N(S)N nummerlängd</i>		(3) Usage of E.164 number <i>Typ av E.164-nummer</i>	(4) Additional information <i>Ytterligare information</i>
	Maximum length <i>Maximum längd</i>	Minimum length <i>Minimum längd</i>		
10 (NDC)	9	9	Non-geographic number – Analogue mobile telephony services (NMT450) – Assigned to Telia AB	
11 (NDC)	9	7	Geographic number – Area code for Norrköping	
120 (NDC)	9	8	Geographic number – Area code for Åtvidaberg	
...				
124 (NDC)	9	9	Routing address – Assigned to Tele2 Sverige AB	Voicemail GSM/ Replaced by NDC 252 at the latest December 2003
...				

For country code 46

(1) <b>NDC (National Destination Code) or leading digits of N(S)N (National (Significant) Number)</b> <i>Nationell destinationskod eller inledande siffror i det nationella (signifikanta) numret</i>	(2) <b>N(S)N number length</b> <i>N(S)N nummerlängd</i>		(3) <b>Usage of E.164 number</b> <i>Typ av E.164-nummer</i>	(4) <b>Additional information</b> <i>Ytterligare information</i>
	<b>Maximum length</b> <i>Maximum längd</i>	<b>Minimum length</b> <i>Minimum längd</i>		
306 (NDC)	Maximum, or less, according to ITU-T Rec. E.164	–	Trial number – Assigned to Telia AB	Test numbers
308 (NDC)	Maximum, or less, according to ITU-T Rec. E.164	–	Routing address – Assigned to Telia AB	Coast station, maritime rescue
31 (NDC)	9	8	Geographic number – Area code for Göteborg	
...				
70 (NDC)	9	9	Non-geographic number – Digital mobile telephony services (e.g. GSM, UMTS/IMT-2000)	
...				
74 (NDC)	9	9	Non-geographic number – Paging services	
...				

The following table is an additional example of how to complete Table 8.2 as described in this Recommendation. Data from France is presented for illustrative purposes and should not be used for any technical applications. The most current, accurate, and complete data for the sample country code shown should be obtained from the appropriate website.

**Additional example of presentation of E.164 national numbering  
for country code 33**

a) Overview:

The minimum number length (excluding the country code) is   9   digits

The maximum number length (excluding the country code) is   9   digits

b) Detail of numbering scheme:

(1) <b>NDC (National Destination Code) or leading digits of N(S)N (National (Significant) Number)</b> <i>Chiffres de poids fort du N(S)N</i> <i>Numéro national significatif</i>	(2) <b>N(S)N number length</b> <i>Longueur des numéros N(S)N</i>		(3) <b>Usage of E.164 number</b> <i>Utilisation du numéro</i>	(4) <b>Additional information</b> <i>Information Additionelle</i>
	<b>Maximum length</b> <i>Longueur maximale</i>	<b>Minimum length</b> <i>Longueur minimale</i>		
1 23	9 chiffres	9 chiffres	<i>service téléphonique fixe</i>	NOOS TÉLÉ-COMMUNICATIONS
1 30	9 chiffres	9 chiffres	<i>service téléphonique fixe</i>	FRANCE TÉLÉCOM
...	9 chiffres	9 chiffres	...	...
2 72	9 chiffres	9 chiffres	<i>service téléphonique fixe</i>	opérateurs divers
2 76	9 chiffres	9 chiffres	<i>service téléphonique fixe</i>	opérateurs divers
2 90	9 chiffres	9 chiffres	<i>service téléphonique fixe</i>	opérateurs divers
...	9 chiffres	9 chiffres	...	...
5 87	9 chiffres	9 chiffres	<i>service téléphonique fixe</i>	opérateurs divers

This is a final example of how to complete Table 8.2 as described in this Recommendation. The data from the United Republic of Tanzania is presented for illustrative purposes and should not be used for any technical applications. The most current accurate data for the sample country code shown should be obtained from the appropriate website.

**Final example of presentation of E.164 national numbering  
for country code 255**

a) Overview:

The minimum number length (excluding the country code) is   10   digits

The maximum number length (excluding the country code) is   12   digits

b) Detail of numbering scheme:

(1) NDC (National Destination Code) or leading digits of N(S)N (National Significant Number)	(2) N(S)N number length		(3) Usage of E.164 number	(4) Additional information
	Maximum length	Minimum length		
22 (NDC)	Twelve	Twelve	Geographic number for Fixed telephony services (Area code)	Area code for Dar Es Salaam Region
23 (NDC)	Twelve	Ten	Geographic number for Fixed telephony services (Area code)	Area code for Coast, Morogoro, Lindi and Mtwara Regions
24 (NDC)	Twelve	Twelve	Geographic number for Fixed telephony services (Area code)	Area code for Zanzibar (Unguja & Pemba) Regions
25 (NDC)	Twelve	Ten	Geographic number for Fixed telephony services (Area code)	Area code for Mbeya, Ruvuma and Rukwa Regions
26 (NDC)	Twelve	Ten	Geographic number for Fixed telephony services (Area code)	Area code for Dodoma, Iringa, Singida and Tabora Regions
27 (NDC)	Twelve	Nine	Geographic number for Fixed telephony services (Area code)	Area code for Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga Regions
28 (NDC)	Twelve	Ten	Geographic number for Fixed telephony services (Area code)	Area code for Mwanza, Shinyanga, Mara, Kagera and Kigoma Regions
741 (NDC)	Twelve	Twelve	Non-geographic number – (Find Me Anywhere)	Digital mobile (GSM) telephony services; NDC assigned to MIC (T) Ltd
742 (NDC)	Twelve	Twelve	Non-geographic number – (Find Me Anywhere)	Digital mobile (GSM) telephony services; NDC assigned to Tritel (T) Ltd

**For country code 255**

(1) NDC (National Destination Code) or leading digits of N(S)N (National (Significant) Number)	(2) N(S)N number length		(3) Usage of E.164 number	(4) Additional information
	Maximum length	Minimum length		
744 (NDC)	Twelve	Twelve	Non-geographic number – (Find Me Anywhere)	Digital mobile (GSM) telephony services; NDC assigned to Vodacom (T) Ltd
747 (NDC)	Twelve	Twelve	Non-geographic number – (Find Me Anywhere)	Digital mobile (GSM) telephony services; NDC assigned to Zantel Ltd for Zanzibar
748 (NDC)	Twelve	Twelve	Non-geographic number – (Find Me Anywhere)	Digital mobile (GSM) telephony services; NDC assigned to Celtel (T) Ltd
76X (NDC)	Twelve	Twelve	Non-geographic number – (Find Me Anywhere)	Assigned for Radio paging services

## Appendix II

This appendix contains an example of how to complete Table 9.4 as described in this Recommendation. Data from the UK for the year 2000 London numbering change is presented for illustrative purposes only and should not be used for any technical applications.

In this change, the NDCs 171 and 181 were replaced by the NDC 20, and local subscriber numbers were extended from 7 to 8 digits. The subscriber number values that followed 171 were transferred with a period of parallel running to the range 20 7, and the subscriber number values that followed 181 were transferred with a period of parallel running to the range 20 8, as shown in the entries in the table below.

**Description of number change for national numbering plan for country code \_\_44**

(1) Communicated time and date of change	(2) N(S)N		(3) Usage of E.164 number	(4) Parallel running		(5) Operator	(6) Proposed wording of announcement
	Old number	New number		Begins	Ends		
2000-04-22 - 01:00	171 xxxxxxx	20 7xxxxxxx	Geographic number Central London	1999-06- 01- 01:00	2000-10-14- 01:00	N/A	London codes and numbers have changed. Please redial, replacing 44171 with 44207.
2000-04-22 - 01:00	181 xxxxxxx	20 8xxxxxxx	Geographic number Outer London	1999-06- 01- 01:00	2000-10-14- 01:00	N/A	London codes and numbers have changed. Please redial, replacing 44181 with 44208.



## SERIES OF ITU-T RECOMMENDATIONS

Series A	Organization of the work of ITU-T
Series B	Means of expression: definitions, symbols, classification
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