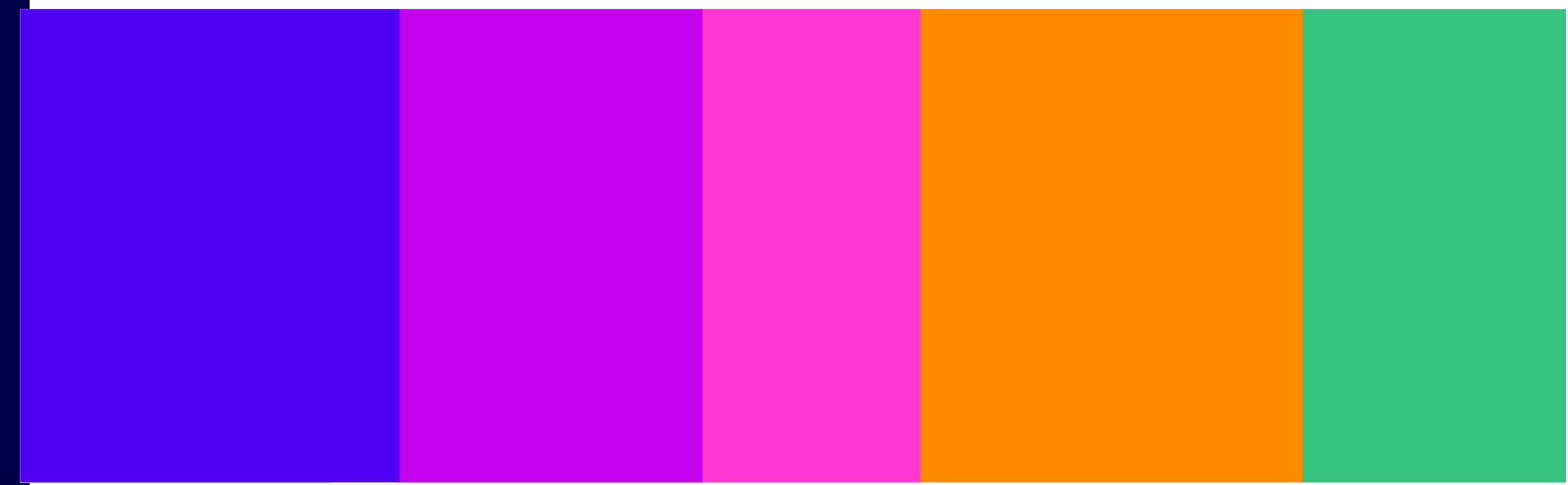


Numbering Conditions Binding Non-Providers

Unofficial Consolidated Version

Version with effect from: 22 April 2025



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About this document

On 12 December 2013, Ofcom set the telephone numbering condition binding non-providers¹. There have been a number of modifications to the telephone numbering condition binding non-providers since it was first set, which Ofcom has made by way of notification under sections 48(1) and 59 of the Communications Act 2003.

This is an unofficial consolidated version of the telephone numbering condition binding non-providers which incorporates, for ease of reference, all the modifications made to the telephone numbering condition binding non-providers since December 2013 in a single document.

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure that the information provided in this document is accurate, no guarantees of the accuracy of information are made, and this document has no legal effect. Therefore, in relation to each specific amendment, you are advised to consult the relevant notifications, as these contain an explanation of the reasons for the decision to amend and the specific modifications that have been made.

For the avoidance of doubt, in the case of any difference between texts, the text set out in the notification of 12 December 2013 and any subsequent notification published on Ofcom's website shall take precedence over this unofficial version of the telephone numbering condition binding non-providers.

¹ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/57753/annexes.pdf , see Annex 12

Legal basis for the General Conditions

Pursuant to section 59 of the Communications Act 2003 (the Act), Ofcom has the power to impose conditions on persons other than communications providers ('non-providers') in relation to the allocation of telephone numbers to those persons, the transfer of allocations to and from those persons, and the use of telephone numbers by those persons. These conditions are referred to as Non-Provider Conditions.

The conditions that may be set include conditions imposing obligations corresponding to any of the obligations that may be imposed on communications providers by [General Conditions](#). These conditions may make provision for, or be in connection with, the allocation of telephone numbers, the transfer of allocations, or the use of telephone numbers.

A person who is not a communications provider, but applies for the allocation of a telephone number, or is allocated such a number, including through sub-allocation, has a duty to comply with any conditions set under section 59 of the Act.

Definitions and interpretation relating to the conditions binding non-providers.

For the purpose of interpreting the conditions set out in Part 1 of this document:

- (a) words or expressions shall have the meaning ascribed to them in Part 2 and otherwise any word or expression shall have the same meaning as it has in the Act;
- (b) the Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply as if the condition were an Act of Parliament; and
- (c) headings and titles shall be disregarded.

Part 1: The Conditions

Condition 1: Advertising requirements in relation to the use of a telephone number

- 1.1 This condition applies where a **Service Provider** advertises, promotes or procures the advertisement or promotion of any **Unbundled Tariff Number** in connection with the provision by the **Service Provider** of a **Relevant Service** to **Consumers** by means of that **Unbundled Tariff Number**.
- 1.2 The **Service Provider** shall include or procure the inclusion in any advertising and promotion of the **Unbundled Tariff Number** the **Service Charge** which applies in respect of a call by a **Consumer** to that number.
- 1.3 The **Service Provider** shall ensure that the **Service Charge** is displayed in a prominent position and in close proximity to the **Unbundled Tariff Number** in any such advertising or promotion of the **Unbundled Tariff Number**.

Condition 2: Requirements in connection with the use of telephone numbers as Global Titles

- 2.1 This Condition only applies in relation to the use of **Telephone Numbers** as **Global Titles**.
- 2.2 A person may only use a **Telephone Number** from Part A of the **National Telephone Numbering Plan** where that **Telephone Number** has been **Allocated** to a person, unless the use in question is for the purposes of indicating that the **Telephone Number** has not been **Allocated**.
- 2.3 Any person using a **Telephone Number** shall comply with all applicable restrictions as are set out in the **National Telephone Numbering Plan**.
- 2.4 Where **Telephone Numbers** are being used by any person, that person shall:
 - (a) secure that such **Telephone Numbers** are used effectively and efficiently; and
 - (b) take all reasonably practicable steps to secure that its customers ensure the effective and efficient use of such **Telephone Numbers**.

Part 2: Definitions

“**Act**” means the Communications Act 2003;

“**Allocated**”, in relation to a **Telephone Number**, means allocation by Ofcom;

“**C7**” means to a standard for common channel signalling in **Electronic Communications Networks** (also known as ‘SS7’);

“**Consumer**” means any natural person who uses or requests a **Public Electronic Communications Service** for purposes which are outside his or her trade, business or profession;

“**General Conditions of Entitlement**” means the general conditions set under section 45 of the **Act** by Ofcom on 19 September 2017 by way of a Notification published pursuant to section 48(1) of the **Act**, and modified by Ofcom from time to time;

“**Global Title**” means a number created from any **Telephone Number** as may be used and identified for use as a signalling address, for **Signalling Connection Control Part of C7** in an **Electronic Communications Network**;

“**Facility**” shall be interpreted in accordance with section 120(14) of the **Act**;

“**National Telephone Numbering Plan**” means a document published by Ofcom from time to time pursuant to sections 56 and 60 of the **Act**;

“**Non-Geographic Number**” has the meaning given to it in the **National Telephone Numbering Plan**;

“**Relevant Service**” means a service which consists in—

- (a) the provision of the contents of communications transmitted by means of an **Electronic Communications Network**; or
- (b) allowing a **Consumer** of an **Electronic Communications Service** to make use, by the making of a transmission by means of that service, of a **Facility** made available to **Consumers** of the **Electronic Communications Service**;

“**Service Charge**” means the rate set by a **Communications Provider** in accordance with General Condition B1 of the **General Conditions of Entitlement** in respect of the conveyance of a call to an **Unbundled Tariff Number** to the point of termination and the enabling of a **Consumer** to use an **Unbundled Tariff Number** to access a **Relevant Service** provided by means of that number;

“**Service Provider**” means a person other than a **Communications Provider** who is allocated or makes use of an **Unbundled Tariff Number** for the purpose of enabling **Consumers** to access a **Relevant Service**;

“**Signalling Connection Control Part**” means the signalling protocol of that name that is part of the SS7 common channel signalling standard as defined in ITU-T Recommendations Q.711 to Q.719;

“Telephone Number” means, subject to any order of the Secretary of State pursuant to section 56(7) of the **Act**, any number, including data of any description, that is used (whether or not in connection with telephony) for any one or more of the purposes listed in section 56(5) of the **Act**; and

“Unbundled Tariff Number” means a **Non-Geographic Number** starting 084, 087, 090, 091, 098 or 118.

Version history

The table below sets out the date and effect of changes that have been made to the Conditions, in order to assist users in accessing the most up-to-date version of the Non-Provider Conditions.

Date	Condition(s) affected	Summary of change	Relevant Ofcom document(s)
12 December 2013	Condition 1 and Definitions	This Condition introduced obligations relating to the use of Unbundled Tariff Numbers.	Simplifying non-geographic numbers statement (see Part B and Annex 12)
22 April 2025	Condition 2 and Definitions	This Condition introduced obligations relating to the use of telephone numbers as Global Titles.	Global Titles and Mobile Network Security (see statement).