



**BANGLADESH TELECOMMUNICATION  
REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
IEB BHABAN, RAMNA, DHAKA-1000

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**REGULATORY AND LICENSING GUIDELINES**


**FOR**

**MOBILE NUMBER PORTABILITY SERVICES**

**IN**

**BANGLADESH**

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## **REGULATORY AND LICENSING GUIDELINES FOR MOBILE NUMBER PORTABILITY SERVICES**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Government has authorized the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission ('Commission'/'BTRC') to issue License for telecommunication services by determining the eligibility criteria and other general terms and conditions of License under section 36 of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Act, 2001 (Act No. XVIII of 2001) ('the Act').
- 1.2 Having given due consideration to the principles of transparency, fairness, openness, non-discrimination and all other relevant principles, the Commission has decided to issue Guidelines on Licensing Procedure of Mobile Number Portability Services (MNPS).
- 1.3 These Guidelines, along with the terms and conditions of the License, shall be read in conjunction with the Act, any subsequent legislation, and prevalent laws or sector policies framed by the Government, and other rules, regulations, decrees, orders, decisions, guidelines, directives and documents of general application issued by the Government or the Commission from time to time. The Act specifically provides that the establishment, operation or use of telecommunication system including radio apparatus and provision of telecommunication services in Bangladesh without a Licensee an offence, punishable with imprisonment or a fine or both.
- 1.4 The Guidelines may be withdrawn, revised, updated or amended from time to time taking into consideration various factors including but not limited to any threat to public health, national security and Court orders.
- 1.5 This guideline is approved by the Government and shall come into effect from the date of its issuance by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

### **2. INTERPRETATIONS AND DEFINITIONS**

The interpretations and definitions of the terms used in these guidelines are annexed herewith as Appendix-1.

### **3. OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 These Guidelines is intended to provide an overview of the licensing and regulatory framework for Applicant(s) seeking to obtain License to develop, build, maintain and operate MNPS in Bangladesh. No person or business entity shall be allowed to develop, build, operate or maintain MNPS in Bangladesh without a valid License issued by the Commission.
- 3.2 These Guidelines have been prepared taking into account the objectives of the Government to launch MNPS. The introduction of MNPS shall remove the barrier for mobile subscribers to migrate to their preferred operators without changing their mobile number. Besides, other subscribers shall not have to keep track of mobile numbers of the migrators.
- 3.3 The Commission encourages the orderly development of a telecommunication system that enhances and strengthens the social and economic welfare of Bangladesh. The Commission protects the social and economic interests of the consumers, responses to their needs, and controls existing and probable oppressive or discriminatory conduct or activities of the telecommunication service providers. The Commission also maintains and promotes competition among the service providers in order to ensure high-quality telecommunication services. The introduction of MNPS would be a strong regulatory tool to achieve the above objective of the Commission.
- 3.4 Mobile Number Portability shall indirectly encourage service providers to improve their service quality in order to retain existing subscribers and to attract new subscribers. It is a global trend in both developed and developing countries. The service shall benefit the Telecommunication and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Industry as a whole.

### **4. SCOPE OF THE LICENSE**

The Licensee shall develop, build, operate and maintain the MNP system and provide MNPS in Bangladesh under these Licensing Guidelines. The Licensee may provide MNP associated value added service(s) with the prior approval of the Commission. An Industry Code describing the business process framework for the implementation and operation of MNPS in Bangladesh shall be followed by the Licensee depicted in Schedule-4.

### **5. SCOPE OF THE EXISTING LICENSEE**

- 5.1 Existing mobile operators are obliged to connect with the MNPS for the purpose of providing MNPS. A mobile operator shall design its own systems to facilitate the number portability processes. Such design shall include the provision of an Operator Gateway to automatically connect with the MNPS.

- 5.2 Routing Numbers shall be assigned by BTRC to each mobile operator for mobile number portability traffic routing. A mobile operator shall enhance or configure their network to deliver Mobile Terminated (MT) video, voice and message traffic to the ICX with the destination number prefixed by the Routing Number of the terminating mobile operator.
- 5.3 PSTN and IGW operators shall enhance or configure their network to deliver MT voice and message traffic to the ICX with the destination number prefixed by the Routing Number of the terminating mobile operator. They will need to connect with the MNPS and receive the latest Routing Number of each ported subscriber number from the MNPS.
- 5.4 ICX Licensee shall configure their network to route MT traffic to the terminating mobile operators based on their Routing Numbers.

## 6. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 6.1 These guidelines are applicable to the entities applying for MNPS License in Bangladesh. They shall also be applicable to other licensees who are operating other portions of the national network, including the fixed-line, mobile, ICX and IGW, where necessary.
- 6.2 Followings are the principal legal instruments governing the telecommunication industry in Bangladesh:
- 6.2.1 The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Act, 2001 (Act No. XVIII of 2001).
- 6.2.2 The Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 (Act No. XVII of 1933) and the Telegraph Act, 1885 (Act No. XIII of 1885), for matters that are not covered by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Act, 2001.
- 6.2.3 Any Rules/Regulation/Directives/Instructions/Directions/Decisions made by the Commission.
- 6.3 Applicant(s) shall be disqualified from obtaining a License if any of the following provisions applies to its owner(s) or to any of its director(s) or partner(s) or to the Applicant(s) himself-
- 6.3.1 he is an insane person;
- 6.3.2 he has been sentenced by a court under any law, other than this Act, to imprisonment for a term of 2 (two) years or more, and a period of 5 (five) years has not elapsed since his release from such imprisonment;
- 6.3.3 he has been sentenced by a court for committing of any offence under the Act and a period of 5 (five) years has not elapsed since his release from such imprisonment;