



# **The Bahamas National Numbering Plan (2010)**

**DRAFT**

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**UTILITIES REGULATION & COMPETITION AUTHORITY**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Utilities Regulations and Competition Authority (URCA) was established in 2009 with the coming into force of the URCA Act in 2009. URCA was empowered under the Communications Act 2009 (Comms Act) to regulate the electronic communication sector which includes the administration of numbering resources. Section 79 of the Comms Act requires URCA to publish a numbering plan for The Bahamas, making rules for the allocation and assignment of numbers to licensees.

The Comms Act also requires URCA to comply with applicable international numbering standards, including the North American Numbering Plan administration practices since The Bahamas is a member of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP), sharing country code 1 with North America, Bermuda and other countries in the Caribbean.

The National Numbering Plan (NNP) therefore sets out the policy and general guidelines that are to be used in the administration of all numbering resources in the electronic communications sector for The Bahamas.

In May 2008, URCA's predecessor (the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)) initiated a Public Consultation process on a National Numbering Plan for The Bahamas. The completion of the work in this consultation process was delayed with the introduction of new electronic communications sector legislation in 2009 and the subsequent transition of the PUC to URCA, as the new regulator. This transition process resulted in the re-prioritization of some of the work already started by the PUC.

The NNP consultation is now being concluded by URCA under the new legislation that ushered in significant regulatory changes. URCA therefore will be publishing the Statement of Results for the initial NNP consultation along with the National Numbering Plan as a draft document. This is to permit the sector and interested parties to have another opportunity to comment, before the NNP is formally published.

URCA therefore is now inviting additional comments from the industry and the general public on both documents before it makes its final decision on the administration, allocation, assignment and use of numbering resources throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

## **2. SUBMITTING COMMENTS**

Written submissions or comments on this document should be sent to the Chief Executive Officer, URCA, so as to be received by 30 July 2010, either:

- (a) by hand to URCA's office at Fourth Terrace East, Centerville, Nassau; or
- (b) by mail to P.O. Box N-4860; or

(c) by email, to [info@urcabahamas.bs](mailto:info@urcabahamas.bs); or  
(d) by facsimile to 1 242 323-7288

On reviewing and assessing all responses, URCA will publish the updated Statement of Results and the National Numbering Plan (NNP) with related guidelines.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) took over the administration of numbering resources in The Bahamas from the Bahamas Telecommunications Company Limited (BTC)<sup>1</sup> around 2004 and initiated the NNP Public Consultation in 2008. The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) which replaced the PUC on September 1, 2009, is now completing the NNP consultation process with the simultaneous publication of the Statement of Results and the National Numbering Plan documents in draft form. These are in draft form so as to solicit further comments from the industry in light of the new legislation and changes to the licensing regime for the sector.

The Bahamas, as a member of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) originally shared the 809 NPA<sup>2</sup> with other countries in the Caribbean and Bermuda. In October 1996, The Bahamas was assigned its own exclusive 242 NPA which was introduced with permissive dialing (permitting calls to be processed with both the old and the new codes) that ended at 12:01 EST on Monday March 31, 1997.

URCA believes that with good administration and utilization of the resource, the telephone number capacity under the 242 NPA code would be sufficient to satisfy the demands of the sector until the year 2016<sup>3</sup>.

Pursuant to Section 79 of the Communications Act (Comms Act), URCA is empowered to prepare and publish a numbering plan and to make rules pursuant to that plan for the allocation of numbers and the use and assignment of those numbers to licensees. URCA is required under the Comms Act to promote the efficient use of numbering resources in The Bahamas. Therefore the re-launch of the NNP Public Consultation process is deemed appropriate to afford all stakeholders the opportunity to respond, since the new legislation provides for the full liberalization of the fixed line market and the staged liberalization of the cellular mobile market<sup>4</sup>.

The Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation (BaTelCo), now the Bahamas Telecommunication Company Limited (BTC) was previously both the numbering administrator

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<sup>1</sup> The administration of numbering resources were fully transitioned by about 2004 when the PUC started work on a study of allocated and assigned resources and the subsequent publication of a Public Consultation on the National Numbering Plan.

<sup>2</sup> The NPA is the Numbering Plan Area code that is more commonly referred to as the "Area Code".

<sup>3</sup> A 20 year period is the traditional time frame for a viable NPA resource.

<sup>4</sup> Two new cellular mobile operators are to be licensed two years following the privatization of BTC.

and initially, the monopoly incumbent provider of voice telecommunications services.<sup>5</sup> BaTelCo at that time had responsibility to assign itself numbering resources for its own operation.

During the transition of numbering administration from BTC to the PUC, central office codes were assigned to Systems Resource Group Limited (SRG) by the PUC for the operation of their public fixed radiocommunication system to provide telecommunications services (except cellular mobile) in New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco.

#### **4. OBJECTIVE**

##### **General Principles**

The National Numbering Plan of The Bahamas has as its prime objective the management of all numbering resources such that licensees may be assigned the resources to deliver high quality services to end users and to foster competition in the sector and promote social and economic development throughout the country.

URCA is required to achieve these objectives such that resources are efficiently utilized, with licensees being assigned sufficient resources to provide services in such a manner that the NPA assigned to The Bahamas is able to satisfy the demand at least until the year 2016.

The Bahamas is a member country in the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) that shares country code 1 with North America, Bermuda and other countries in the region. URCA considers that the NNP should therefore conform with North American Numbering Plan (NANP) guidelines and reflects the relevant recommendations of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) related to numbering resources. The ITU Recommendation E.164 addresses central office codes that are the resources end users are most familiar with.

URCA however, as the independent administrator of numbering resources is required to ensure interoperability between licenses in The Bahamas, as well as access to international networks for electronic communications networks and services. The scope of the NNP includes other numbering resources that facilitate the efficient operation of all electronic communication services covered by the Comms Act.

The NNP also defines the roles and responsibilities of URCA, as well as code applicants and code holders. It sets the rules and guidelines for the use of resources in compliance with ITU

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<sup>5</sup> SRG was licensed under the Telecommunications Act, 1999 to provide fixed line services as of January 2004, in competition with BTC. This meant that SRG was authorized to obtain numbering resources for its network.

recommendations, NANP guidelines, and applicable laws of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, including legislation specific to the electronic communications sector<sup>6</sup>.

It is worth noting however that while compliance with NANPA guidelines is required for The Bahamas to operate within country code 1 and that the NANPA guidelines are associated with the NNP, URCA reserves the right to modify and make modifications to these guidelines and in fact the NNP, making them relevant for the efficient administration of the sector.

For general guidance, URCA has adapted three numbering resource guidelines for The Bahamas as follows:

- Bahamas Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines
- Bahamas International Mobile Station Identifier Assignment Guidelines
- Bahamas Service Area/Network Code-International Signaling Point Code Assignment Guidelines

Other NANP guidelines will be used in the management of numbering resources, including:

- (a) All relevant ITU-T guidelines and recommendations (e.g. E164 and E212);
- (b) Carrier Identification Codes;
- (c) Premium Service Codes;
- (d) Vertical Service Codes (customer dialed codes);
- (e) International Inbound Codes (special carrier services);
- (f) Any other numbering resources necessary to support modern telecommunications networks.

It must also be emphasized that the NNP is not intended to set the criteria, or to identify or categorize services or operators eligible to obtain numbering resources or licences under the Comms Act. For the avoidance of doubt, only properly licensed operators are eligible to be assigned various numbering resources to provide services to the public.

URCA has published other documents, including its Guidance on the Licensing Regime that addresses the licensing process<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> The URCA Act, 2009; The Communications Act, 2009; The UAT Act, 2009; The Electronic Communications Sector policy

<sup>7</sup> The “Guidance on the Licensing Regime under the Communications Act, 2009” may be found on URCA’s website: [www.urcabahamas.bs](http://www.urcabahamas.bs)

## 5 RESOURCE STAKEHOLDER'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The General Role of the NNP Administrator, the Resource Applicant, the Resource Assignee, and the End User are addressed in this section.

The specific roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder are outlined in various Assignment Guidelines for the respective resource.

### 5.1 NNP ADMINISTRATOR

The general responsibility of URCA, as the numbering administrator, is to assign, reserve, reclaim, and manage NNP resources in a fair, impartial, and equitable manner, in conformance with the appropriate resource Assignment Guidelines.

These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Processing applications for numbering resources in conformance with resource Assignment Guidelines,
- Reclaiming assigned resources as appropriate,
- Ensuring that all resource applications conform to all assignment criteria prior to assigning a resource,
- Interfacing with all appropriate and related domestic and international entities,
- Ensuring that adequate NNP resources are always available for legitimate assignment and use,
- Managing the resource conservation and exhaust programs,
- Ensuring that there are complete and clear resource Assignment Guidelines in place to address the needs of the entire electronic communications sector (i.e., regulatory authority, network operators, service providers, equipment vendors, and end users) and the domestic regulatory environment.

In assigning numbering resources, URCA shall have regard to the following high level administrative principles:

- Non-discrimination: all resource applicants and users to receive comparable treatment;
- Equitable: all resource applicants to have equal access to equivalent numbering resources;
- The numbering administration shall be performed by a neutral entity, not a resource assignee;
- Ease of Use: easy for users to dial and access services, e.g., code split versus overlay,
- Inclusive: all licensees and other stakeholders must be able to contribute to the administrative process;
- Transparency: agreeing to and publishing a set of rules for assignment and management of each of the resources; and
- Number administration policy: Implement policies that ensure all of the above.



## 5.2 RESOURCE APPLICANT

The primary general responsibility of a Resource Applicant is to provide complete, accurate, and truthful information when applying for a NNP Resource, as required by the relevant resource Assignment Guidelines. Inaccurate and/or incomplete information can cause a delay, or even denial of the assignment. The filing of untrue information can result in the reclamation of an assigned resource, whenever the discovery is made.

The applicant should submit a complete application form to URCA in the manner described in the Assignment Guidelines.

## 5.3 CODE HOLDER

The primary responsibility of the resource assignees is to utilize the assigned resources in conformance with the Assignment Guidelines. Lack of strict adherence to the tenets of the specific Assignment Guidelines can result in the reclamation of assigned resources by URCA.

## 5.4 END USERS

The responsibilities of the end user (typically service subscribers) are limited. It is the end users' responsibility to ensure that they use their assigned NNP resources in conformance with their service agreements, the Comms Act and the laws of The Bahamas.

## 6 NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING PLAN (NANP)

The Bahamas is a member of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) which is the basic numbering scheme for the public switched telephone network (PSTN) in countries under country code 1. These countries are: The Bahamas, the United States of America, Canada, Bermuda, and fifteen (15) Caribbean nations<sup>8</sup>.

The NANP structure is in the format:

NXX - NXX - XXXX                      where: N = 2 to 9 and X = 0 to 9  
  
(ABC - DEF - GHIJ)

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<sup>8</sup> The NANP Caribbean countries are shown with their NPAs: Anguilla: 264; Antigua & Barbuda: 268; Barbados: 246; Bermuda: 441; British Virgin Islands (the): 284; Cayman Islands (the): 345; Dominica: 767; Dominican Republic (the): 809/829/849; Grenada: 473; Jamaica: 876; Montserrat: 664; St. Kitts and Nevis: 869; St. Lucia: 758; St. Vincent and the Grenadines: 784; Trinidad and Tobago: 868; and Turks & Caicos: 649.

Canada and the United States each have multiple NPA codes.

The 10-digit format is named as follows:

- The first group of three characters, the ABC digits (NXX format), is the **Numbering Plan Area Code (NPA)**;
- the second group of three characters, the DEF digits (NXX format), is the **Central Office Code (CO Code)**; and
- the third group of characters, the GHIJ digits (XXXX format), is the **Subscriber's Line Number**.

## 7 DIALING PLAN

The country code for The Bahamas is: "1"

The Numbering Plan Area (NPA) Code for The Bahamas is: "242".

This code is commonly referred to as the area code.

Local number dialing (intra-island) is standardized in the seven digit format as follows:

NXX - XXXX

Domestic Long Distance calls are processed with 11 digits:

1 + 242 + NXX - XXXX

(The access prefix + NPA + NXX-XXXX).<sup>9</sup>

International Long Distance calls, within the NANP, are dialed using 11 digits:

1 + NPA + NXX - XXXX

(The access prefix + NPA + NXX-XXXX)

International long distance calls outside the NANP are dialed using the format required by the terminating country. The prefix 01 or 011 may be used depending on the level of assistance required to complete the call.

The prefix "01" is used for operator assisted calls. These would be in the format:

01 + Country Code + Area Code + Telephone Number

The prefix "011" is used for direct dial calls.

011 + Country code + Area Code + Telephone Number

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<sup>9</sup> In the NANP, the digit "1" is used interchangeably as the country code as well as an access digit.

Directory assistance for international calls (within and outside the NANP) may be obtained by dialing “0”.

The Bahamas National Numbering Plan (NNP) therefore conforms with NANP administration practices and the relevant International Telecommunication Union’s (ITU) Recommendations, e.g., E.164 and E.212.

## **8 CENTRAL OFFICE CODES (NXX)**

CO Codes are a part of the NANP telephone number format assigned only to identify initial destination addresses in the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), not addresses within private networks.

The term CO Code refers to digits D-E-F of the 10-digit North American Numbering Plan (NANP) area address.

The management of central office codes forms the most significant portion of the work of the numbering administrator. The CO code resource provides a capacity of 10,000 telephone numbers (TN) to electronic communications service providers in the range of 0000 through 9999 of the GHIJ digits. URCA may however in the future, consider establishing procedures to permit the allocation and assignment of TNs to service providers in blocks of 1,000 out of the traditional CO code NXX range. Calls will therefore be routed based on the fourth digit (the “G” digit). This new allocation may be considered where there is a need for service providers to be assigned TN resources in areas where the market and the island population would make the assignment of 10,000 TNs an inefficient use of resources.

A central office is a network where subscriber’s lines are joined to switching equipment for connecting other subscribers to each other either within a local environment, or internationally. Central office codes are used to identify subscribers on the originating network and to route calls to subscribers on the terminating network. As such, URCA will only assign central office codes to licensed operators of electronic communications networks in The Bahamas.

URCA acknowledges that as new technologies emerge, and new business models are presented that there will be novel uses of numbering resources. Included in these would be virtual network operators and resellers. These technological advances would cause a convergence of equipment and services such that the clear delineation of facilities and non-facilities based operations become blurred.

URCA will overcome this regulatory hurdle by assigning central office codes only to networks that are defined as a central office. Other networks that do not fit that definition may be considered as resellers who would negotiate with a licensed service provider to resell that

service using numbering resources assigned to the host office. The final decision in determining the licensing status is left to URCA's licensing regime, not the NNP.

Examples of uses for CO Codes for which these Guidelines apply include plain old telephone service (POTS), Centrex, Direct Inward Dialing (DID), cellular mobile service, pagers, data lines, facsimile, public payphones phones, and customer owned pay phones.

In any NPA, there is a maximum of 800 possible CO Codes. The Bahamas National Numbering Plan (NNP) has reserved the 9XX CO code for exclusive use assigning 9XX short codes for special service allocations, at this time. This effectively reduces the available CO codes to 700.

The following CO Codes are allocated or reserved for special services:

- Any N11 NXX: Reserved for Service Codes (i.e., 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711, 811, 911)
- Any N00 NXX; Reserved as Service Codes (i.e., 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, and 900),
- Any codes allocated or assigned for special purposes e.g. 555 reserved for information services.
- 950 for future services.
- 976 for future services.
- Local Plant Test Codes (e.g., 958 and 959)
- ERC: Any NYY NXX CO Codes that have the same numerical value in each position; 222, 333, 444, etc.

CO Codes will be assigned to permit the most effective and efficient use of the resource in order to prevent premature exhaust of the NPA and thereby the NANP in general. This would also delay the need to develop and implement costly new numbering plans across the NANP to expand numbering resources for example, North American Numbering Plan expansion from 10 to 11 or more digits.

Such changes to the numbering plan impacts the stakeholder, causing:

- a) Customer impacts (e.g., dialing, changes to advertising and stationery, etc.)
- b) CPE modifications
- c) Domestic and international switching and terminal hardware and software modifications
- d) Operational support systems modifications
- e) Reprogramming of non-telecommunications data bases that contain telephone numbers

## **9 CO CODE GUIDE LINES**

Central office codes used in networks in The Bahamas will be regulated by the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines included in this NNP. The Guidelines provide direction to the Administrator, Code Applicants, and Code Holders with respect to the administration,

assignment, activation, and use of CO Codes and its resources. These Guidelines are included in Appendix 1.

The Guidelines apply throughout The Bahamas subject to the Comms Act, the Electronic Communications Sector Policy, URCA's regulatory and licensing regime and other relevant Bahamian laws.

## **10 INDUSTRY NOTIFICATION OF RATING & ROUTING DATA**

### **10.1 TRAFFIC ROUTING ADMINISTRATION (TRA)**

The entry of routing and rating data into the Telcordia database system notifies the industry of the introduction of new CO codes via the Telcordia industry notification outputs.

The Traffic Routing Administration (TRA) supports the telecommunications industry by providing data services and products for the completion of Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) calls and the proper routing of these calls.

The TRA function provides processes for the inter-company exchange of pertinent rating and routing data<sup>10</sup>. The TRA data is intended to be NANP wide in its scope. TRA gathers, aggregates, and disseminates the collected data in the form of products that are offered to the telecommunications industry on a fee or license-based arrangement.

The data collection process employed by the TRA permits local service providers (wire line local carriers, cellular carriers, PCS providers, paging companies, etc.), or their agents, the ability to report data on Central Office (CO) Codes (also known as prefixes, exchange codes, or NXXs), switch-to-switch homing, switch services, operator-to-operator routing, and other related routing data. It also provides an effective means to report data used in rating a call, although actual rates are not provided.

Examples of RDBS outputs are the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG) and the NPA/NXX Activity Guide (NNAG). Examples of BRIDS outputs are the Terminating Point Master (TPM)

The collection, aggregation, and dissemination of data are accomplished for two separate network functions: routing and rating. Data related to the routing of PSTN calls are critical to all network operators within the NANP-served area. Data related to the rating of PSTN calls are pertinent only to those carriers handling calls based on the same domestic rating structure.

Service providers in The Bahamas are required to contact TRA to submit information on new central office codes as contained in Part 2 of the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines. The service provider may enter the information itself by contacting the TRA, or it may be done via an agent.

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<sup>10</sup> The function of the TRA resides in Telcordia Technologies Inc.

URCA will notify the TRA when a new CO code is assigned to a service provider to operate a network in The Bahamas.

## **11 CO CODE ASSIGNMENT PRINCIPLES**

The following assignment principles apply to all aspects of the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines:

- CO Codes are to be assigned only to identify initial destination addresses in the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), not addresses within private networks.
- CO Codes are a finite resource that should be used in the most effective and efficient manner possible. All Code Applicants are required to demonstrate that these Guidelines are satisfied.
- Information required from the Code Applicants in support of CO Code assignment shall be: kept to a minimum; uniform for all “Code Applicants”; treated as proprietary and confidential, except for information that is in the public domain. Information required for input into the appropriate telecommunications industry routing and rating database systems (e.g., Telcordia RDBS and BRIDS) will become available to the public upon input into those systems.
- CO Codes will be assigned in a fair and impartial manner to any Code Applicant that meets the criteria for assignment.
- Code Applicants for CO Codes must comply with all applicable regulations that apply to the services that they wish to provide.

## **12 ASSIGNMENT, RESERVATION AND AGING OF CENTRAL OFFICE CODES**

### **Assignment**

CO Codes will be assigned and reserved on a first-come, first-served basis to networks defined as central offices.

Assignment of an Initial Code will be to the extent required to terminate PSTN traffic as authorized by URCA in accordance with the guidelines. An Initial Code assignment will be based on identification of a new switching entity, physical Point of Interconnection (POI), or unique Exchange Area Rate Center consistent with regulatory requirement. Utilization criteria or projection will not be used to justify an Initial Code assignment.

Assignment of Additional Code(s) will be made for an established POI or switching entity by satisfying the criteria in the guidelines. For an Additional Code for Growth, the Code Holder must certify that existing CO Codes for the switching entity are projected to exhaust within 12 months.

A CO Code will only be assigned to a single Code Holder and shall only be associated with either a single switching entity or POI that is owned or controlled by that Code Holder.

### **Reservation**

CO Code reservation is only permitted if the Code Applicant can demonstrate that the reservation of a CO Code is essential to accommodate technical or planning constraints or pending regulatory approval of a tariff to provide service. URCA will seek to keep reserved codes to a minimum.

Code Applicants and Code Holders must obtain an Operating Company Numbers (OCN), Revenue Accounting Office Codes (RAO) and Common Language Location Identifier (CLLI) Codes, and comply with the requirements for the assignment and use of such codes.

The Industry standard Plant Test Codes are 958 and 959. URCA may consider assigning additional CO Codes to Code Applicants or Code Holders for testing purposes (i.e., Plant Test Codes) on a temporary basis for a maximum period of six months.

These Plant Test Codes are not to be published in the Telcordia RDBS and BRIDS databases. URCA may recover the Plant Test Code within 60 calendar days of notification to the Code Holder at any time during the six-month period.

### **Aging**

Aging numbers are telephone numbers (TN) that have been disconnected and are not available to be returned to service by assignment to another end user.

TNs that were assigned to a residential customer shall be aged for a period not exceeding 90 days.

TNs previously assigned to business customers shall be aged for a period not exceeding 365 calendar days.

## **13 CO CODE RESOURCE UTILIZATION**

### **Forecasting, Optimization, Conservation & Reclamation of resources**

Resource conservation and usage forecasting is very important, considering that the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) is forecasted to exhaust in 15 years if measures are not taken to ensure that NPA Codes are not assigned needlessly. In order for NANP member regulatory authorities to closely monitor service provider CO Code requirements and usage, several mechanisms have been developed over the years.

One of these is a semi-annual Numbering Resources Utilization/Forecast Report (NRUF). This reporting process provides a detailed snapshot of the status of each Numbering Plan Area (NPA) Code. This is used predominately in the US.

URCA does not believe that the level of detail provided by a NRUF is required in The Bahamas and will instead use a revised form of the Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS) at this time.

Central Office Code usage optimization is also important in assuring that NPA 242 in the Bahamas lasts as long as possible. Since it is difficult to predict how the sector will develop for fixed line services, mobile services and other new services requiring CO code resources, URCA must ensure the efficient assignment of CO Codes to new entrants, as these services develop and the market is liberalized.

Although CO Code conservation procedures are set out in the CO Code Assignment Guidelines, another effective method to monitor the CO Code requirements is to require the submission of a Telephone Number (TN) Utilization Report when URCA determines that it is necessary. This report, coupled with the required Months to Exhaust (MTE) form in the CO Code Assignment Guidelines, would allow URCA to properly assess any request for additional CO Codes.

URCA intends to monitor the entry of new networks and service providers in the liberalized sector to forecast CO code usage. URCA notes that to date, there is a low utilization of resources in CO codes for both fixed and mobile services. URCA is also cognizant that traditionally, cellular wireless networks are more efficient in using telephone number (TN) resources within a CO code. Since it is expected that there would be more demand for cellular wireless networks to be deployed, URCA anticipates that with good assignment practices, the NPA assigned to The Bahamas should be adequate to satisfy demand at least until the year 2016.

When any type of numbering resource is not being used or is not being used in accordance with the relevant guidelines, the resource will be reclaimed by URCA. The process for CO Code reclamation is set out in the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines.

## **14 CO CODE AUDITS**

URCA may conduct audits in conjunction with the CO Code assignment process. These audits would be expected to ensure:

- (a) uniform and consistent application of these Guidelines to all CO Code requests;
- (b) compliance with these Guidelines by Code Applicants and Code Holders;
- (c) the efficient and effective use of numbering resources by Code Applicants and Code Holders; and
- (d) efficient and effective management of numbering resources by URCA.



## **15 CENTRAL OFFICE CODE UTILIZATION SURVEY (COCUS)**

In order for URCA to forecast the Central Office Codes that the various networks and service providers will require over the next five to six years URCA may require an annual COCUS in the sector.

By reviewing the tabulated results of the COCUS, URCA would be able to forecast when The Bahamas NPA is expected to exhaust. Additionally, URCA will be able to compare each service provider's forecast for CO Codes with the actual requests for the assignment of CO Codes.

The steps below outline the major steps in performing the COCUS.

- a) Monitor the CO Code assignment rate to ensure effective and efficient management of numbering resources;
- b) Provide Code Holders with the current COCUS input forms and definitions;
- c) Issue the requests for COCUS information whenever a COCUS is conducted;
- d) Collect and compile available information related to CO Code utilization and relief planning forecasts;
- e) Investigate and resolve, wherever possible, any discrepancies in the information provided including comparison to previously submitted COCUS studies;
- f) Aggregate the COCUS data submitted by Bahamas CO Code Holders and submit the data to NANPA for use in the COCUS studies;
- g) Appraise the industry of the status of NPA 242 upon receipt of the NANPA COCUS results whenever a COCUS is conducted. Any information released to NANPA or to the industry would be released only on an aggregated or summary basis;
- h) Provide assistance to users of numbering resources and suggest alternatives, when possible, that will optimize numbering resource utilization;
- i) Request additional information regarding CO Code utilization from the Code Holders to assist in NPA Relief Planning as necessary.

All Code Holders shall provide forecasted CO Code requirements as input to the Central Office Code Utilization Survey (COCUS) to URCA and such forecasts shall be treated as confidential.

## 16 CO CODE ALLOCATION TABLE

The following is the current Allocation Table for Central Office Codes under the 242 NPA in The Bahamas.

CO CODES	CURRENT ALLOCATIONS
0XX	Reserved for Access/Prefix Codes
1XX	Reserved for Access/Prefix Codes
2XX	Reserved for Growth <sup>11</sup>
3XX	Fixed Services Cellular Mobile Services
4XX	Cellular Mobile Services <sup>12</sup>
5XX	Cellular Mobile <sup>13</sup> 555 reserved for Directory Assistance
6XX	Fixed Services <sup>14</sup>
7XX	Reserved for Growth <sup>15</sup>
8XX	Reserved for Growth
9XX	Short Codes and Growth

<sup>11</sup> 2XX is reserved for future growth although one block has already been assigned to fixed Vanity Code services and fixed wire line services. No further assignments will be made in this range until further notice.

<sup>12</sup> The 4XX block is allocated to Cellular Mobile Services, although one CO code has been assigned to fixed services. No additional fixed services will be assigned in this code block.

<sup>13</sup> 5XX block is assigned to cellular mobile services although there is one block already assigned to fixed services. The CO code 555 is reserved for National Directory Assistance services. No other fixed services will be assigned in 5XX.

<sup>14</sup> 6XX is assigned to fixed services although there are two blocks already assigned to cellular mobile services. No other cellular mobile services will be assigned in 6XX.

<sup>15</sup> This block is reserved for future although there is one block assigned to fixed services and one block assigned to cellular mobile services. No further assignments will be made in this range until further notice.

The following is a summary table of the current Central Office Code assignments in The Bahamas.

## 17 CENTRAL OFFICE CODE ASSIGNMENTS

### 17.1 CO CODE ASSIGNMENT FOR FIXED SERVICES

CO CODE ASSIGNMENTS	QUANTITY OF ASSIGNED CODES	TELEPHONE NUMBER CAPACITY
BTC Fixed Services	62	620,000
BTC Fixed Services 225-0/4 & 6/9  (1-242-225-5XXX has been assigned as a Vanity Code for use by all service providers)	1  Partial assignment to BTC.	9,000  1,000
Short Codes & Domestic Toll Free	10	N/A
BTC Geographic Total	73	730,000
SRG Fixed Services	6	60,000
IPSI Fixed Services	1	10,000
<b>TOTAL ASSIGNED CODES FOR FIXED SERVICES</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>800,000</b>

## 17.2 RESERVED CENTRAL OFFICE CODES

CO CODE ASSIGNMENTS	QUANTITY OF RESERVED CODES	TELEPHONE NUMBER CAPACITY
Cable Bahamas Ltd.	2	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20,000</b>

Central office codes are reserved for a maximum period of 12 months with an option for an additional six month period. Reserved codes are assigned for testing, must not be used for any commercial service and must be surrendered at the end of the reserved period.

A separate application is required for all initial central office codes.

## 17.3 CO CODES ASSIGNMENT FOR CELLULAR MOBILE SERVICES

CO CODE ASSIGNMENTS	QUANTITY OF ASSIGNED CODES	TELEPHONE NUMBER CAPACITY
BTC GSM Cellular Mobile Services	73	730,000
BTC CDMA Cellular Mobile Services	1	10,000
<b>TOTAL ASSIGNED CODES FOR CELLULAR MOBILE SERVICES</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>740,000</b>

## 17.4 CO CODE ASSIGNMENTS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

CO CODE ASSIGNMENTS	QUANTITY OF ASSIGNED CODES	TELEPHONE NUMBER CAPACITY
Domestic Toll Free Fixed Services for use by all service providers (1-242-300-XXXX)	1	10,000
Vanity Code Assignment Fixed Services for use by all service providers (1-242-225-5XXX)	Partial code assignment	1,000

## 17.5 SUMMARY OF ASSIGNED CO CODES

<b>CO SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>QUANTITY OF CODES</b>	<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER CAPACITY</b>
<b>Assigned Codes for Fixed Services</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>800,000</b>
<b>Assigned Codes for Cellular Mobile Services</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>740,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>1,450,000</b>
<b>Reserved Codes for testing (Fixed Services)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Reserved Codes for N11, N00 &amp; NYN Services</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>200,000</b>
<b>Codes Reserved for Future</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>283,000</b>
<b>Available Unassigned Codes</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>3,410,000</b>

## 17.6 CO CODE DETAILED ASSIGNMENT TABLE

Index	NXX code	Service	Operator	Location
1	225	DID ( "0-4", "6-9" thousand block )	BTC	New Providence
2	225	Vanity Code ( "5" - thousand block )	Numbering Admin.	Bahamas
3	300	Domestic Toll Free	BTC/Shared	Bahamas
4	302	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
5	321	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
6	322	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
7	323	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
8	324	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
9	325	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
10	326	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
11	327	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
12	328	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
13	329	Fixed wire line	BTC	North Andros
14	331	Fixed wire line	BTC	Rum Cay & San Sal
15	332	Fixed wire line	BTC	Eleuthera
16	333	Fixed wire line	BTC	Eleuthera
17	334	Fixed wire line	BTC	Eleuthera
18	335	Fixed wire line	BTC	Eleuthera
19	336	Fixed wire line	BTC	Exuma
20	337	Fixed wire line	BTC	Long Island
21	338	Fixed wire line	BTC	Long Island
22	339	Fixed wire line	BTC	Inagua / Mayaguana
23	340	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
24	341	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
25	342	Fixed wire line	BTC	Cat Island
26	344	Fixed wire line	BTC	Acklins
27	345	Fixed wire line	BTC	Exuma
28	346	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
29	347	Fixed wire line	BTC	Bimini and Cat Cay
30	348	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
31	349	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
32	350	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
33	351	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
34	352	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
35	353	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
36	354	Fixed wire line	BTC	Cat Island
37	355	Fixed wire line	BTC	Exuma Cays
38	356	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
39	357	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
40	358	Fixed wire line	BTC	Exuma

Index	NXX code	Service	Operator	Location
41	359	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
42	361	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
43	362	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
44	363	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
45	364	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
46	365	Fixed wire line	BTC	Abaco Island
47	366	Fixed wire line	BTC	Abaco Island
48	367	Fixed wire line	BTC	Abaco Island
49	368	Fixed wire line	BTC	Andros
50	369	Fixed wire line	BTC	Andros
51	373	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
52	374	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
53	375	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
54	376	Fixed wire line	BTC	Grand Bahama
55	377	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
56	380	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
57	381	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
58	382	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
59	383	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
60	384	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
61	392	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
62	393	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
63	394	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
64	395	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
65	396	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
66	397	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
67	421	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
68	422	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
69	423	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
70	424	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
71	425	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
72	426	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
73	427	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
74	428	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
75	429	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
76	431	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
77	432	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
78	433	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
79	434	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
80	435	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
81	436	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
82	437	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
83	438	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
84	439	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National



Index	NXX code	Service	Operator	Location
85	441	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
86	442	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
87	443	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
88	445	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
89	446	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
90	447	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
91	448	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
92	449	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
93	451	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
94	452	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
95	453	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
96	454	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
97	455	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
98	456	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
99	457	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
100	458	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
101	461	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
102	462	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
103	463	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
104	464	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
105	465	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
106	466	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
107	467	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
108	468	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
109	470	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
110	471	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
111	472	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
112	473	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
113	474	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
114	475	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
115	476	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
116	477	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
117	478	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
118	479	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
119	481	CDMA Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
120	502	Fixed wire line	BTC	National
121	524	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
122	525	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
123	533	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
124	535	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
125	544	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
126	551	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
127	552	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
128	553	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National

Index	NXX code	Service	Operator	Location
129	554	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
130	556	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
131	557	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
132	558	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
133	559	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
134	565	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
135	577	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
136	601	Fixed Services	CBL	Reserved
137	602	Fixed Services	CBL	Reserved
138	612	Fixed Services	IPSI	National Fixed Services
139	636	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
140	646	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National
141	676	Fixed Services	SRG	New Providence
142	677	Fixed Services	SRG	New Providence
143	687	Fixed Services	SRG	Grand Bahama
144	688	Fixed Services	SRG	Grand Bahama
145	698	Fixed Services	SRG	Abaco
146	699	Fixed Services	SRG	Abaco
147	702	Fixed wire line	BTC	New Providence
148	727	GSM Cellular Mobile	BTC	National

## 18 EASILY RECOGNIZABLE CODES (ERC)

### For Services Allocation

A set of codes of Easily Recognizable Codes (ERC) have been allocated for easy customer recognition of services accessed within their own exchange area, for which they might incur charges. These codes are such that the end user is likely to avoid using them because of misunderstanding and the high possibility of misdials.

These codes are reserved for national service applications.

Central office codes in the format of N00, N11 and NYY are allocated as ERCs and are therefore reserved for national service applications.

“N00” central office codes are those where “N” is equal to any digit between 2 to 9. Examples of such codes are: 300, 400 and 500.

N11 central office codes are those where “N” is equal to any digit between 2 to 9. Examples of such codes are: 211, 311, 411 ... 911.

“NYY” central office codes are those where “N” is equal to any digit between 2 to 9; and “YY” is a duplicate numbering resource and is of the same numeric value as the “N-digit”. Examples of such codes are: 222, 333 and 444.

N00, N11 and NYY central office codes are reserved for special services. The following ERC central office codes are currently assigned:

## 18.1 ERC ASSIGNMENT TABLE

Central Office Code	Format	Assigned Service
300	N00	National Domestic Toll Free Services
333	NYY	Geographic Fixed Line Services
555	NYY	Reserved for National Directory Services
711	N11	Reserved for Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS)
911	N11	Emergency Services
999	NYY	Station DN Identification (on-net)

All other ERC in the N00, N11 and NYY formats are reserved for future assignments.

## 19 SHORT CODES

Abbreviated dialing is most commonly defined as the use of a code set whose length is less than that which is dialed for a local call within an NNP. Abbreviated dialing codes uniquely and unambiguously determine the intended destination and routing of the call. They have become very popular for two types of applications:

- (1) services in the public interest such as emergency services and directory operator information service;
- (2) services with a nationwide appeal for dialing a uniform abbreviated access anywhere in the country such as information services and, weather and road conditions.

There are multiple abbreviated dialing formats used for different type applications utilizing symbols such as “\*” and “#”, usually in conjunction with numeric digits, e.g., \*XXX. The NNP for The Bahamas has adopted the NANP standard where the “\*” is used for access to services, although many services have already been introduced with the “\*” symbol, e.g., Vertical Service Codes.

The current NANP assignment of N11 Codes are as follows:

211	Community Information and Referral Services (US)
311	Non-Emergency Police and Other Governmental Services (US)
411	Local Directory Assistance
511	Traffic and Transportation Information (US); Reserved (Canada)
611	Repair Service
711	Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)
811	Business Office
911	Emergency

9XX is reserved for short code use in the NNP as detailed in the Short Code Assignment Table in Section 17.

CO codes in the 9XX NXX range are reserved for short codes in this NNP. The 1XX NXX range is reserved for future short code considerations. It is noted that short code dialing should clearly be distinguishable from either N00 NXX or NYY NXX codes, or any other codes reserved for service identification since these are codes sets that the end user would easily remember.

A non-uniform numbering and dialing plan may inhibit customers from using the telecommunications network and services to their fullest potential. Therefore all short codes will be in the same format for similar services. This provides for a structured NNP that has a dialing plan which is easy to use and understand, eliminating frequent and annoying misdials, call abandonment and service underutilization by end users.

URCA has considered three categories of codes for use with special services:

1. Public interest
2. Common; and
3. Service provider specific.

## **19.1 PUBLIC INTEREST**

The identification and dialing of public interest short codes should be consistent across all networks and should be capable of being dialed and completed from any telephone within The Bahamas. Access to emergency services is a good example of the public interest category.

911 and 919 have already been assigned police, emergency, and fire services in The Bahamas.

## 19.2 COMMON

This set of short codes for common service includes Vertical Service Codes (VSC). However, other common type services, e.g., voicemail access, could use different code sets across the networks. Service providers are required to follow the assignment guidelines in this NNP when short codes are to be use in their networks.

## 19.3 SERVICE PROVIDER SPECIFIC

Not all services are in the public interest or common. Therefore, a set of short codes have been allocated for use by each service provider to offer network specific type services. These are included in the Vertical Service Code Assignment Table in the range “\*94 through \*99”.

URCA notes that these are general guide lines and service provider specific services that may have to be continuously re-evaluated and categorized as common services, is necessary.

## 20 SHORT CODE ASSIGNMENT TABLE

The following short codes are to be used by all network operators for on-net and off-net services:

Short Code	Service	Routing Characteristics
911/919	Police Emergency	on-net for BTC; off-net for other operators until further notice
910	Telegraph Department	on-net for all operators
914	Telephone Repair (Complaints)	on-net for all operators
915	Weather	on-net for all operators
916	Directory Assistance (Local)	on-net for all operators
917	Time Announcements	on-net for all operators
918	Telephone Repair (Maintenance)	on-net for all operators
999	Station DN Identification	on-net for all operators

The following N11 code would be assigned as a public interest service for national use. This would also facilitate consistency with the USA and accommodate visitors from that country. It is noted that no operator currently offers this service in The Bahamas.

Short Code	Service	Routing Characteristics
711	Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS)	On-net/off-net

All other N11 short codes will be allocated as “Reserved Codes” to be assigned by URCA on a case by case basis, according to demand and applicable guidelines.

## 21 VERTICAL SERVICE CODES (VSC)

Vertical Service Codes (VSCs) are customer-dialed codes in the \*XX or \*2XX dialing format for touch-tone and the 11XX or 112XX dialing format for rotary phones. They are used to provide customer access to features and services (e.g. call forwarding, automatic call-back, etc.) provided by network service providers such as local exchange carriers, inter-exchange carriers, and wireless (cellular) carriers. For example, Call Forwarding is activated by dialing \*72 or 1172.

VSCs are assigned to features or services to enable consistent accessibility throughout the PSTN. The purpose of common/standard VSCs is to minimize customer confusion and provide a standard service access approach for features and services within multiple individual networks (multi-network applications).

VSCs may be required and assigned for use across and/or among two or more networks on an inter-network basis (inter-network applications), where multiple networks must act upon a VSC in a consistent manner on a given call. Such assignments are to be made using the same VSC resource, but will be identified separately from multi-network applications. Proprietary single network applications (intra-network applications), within an individual network, is at the sole discretion and determination of the individual network.

Network providers assigned VSCs under the terms of these guidelines will not act upon an end-user dialed VSC, passed to an interconnecting network, either before or after call answer unless the call process is included in an interconnection or commercial agreement.

PSTN providers will have the option of using VSCs assigned according to the VSC Assignment Guidelines and in doing so will be responsible for making any necessary changes or modification to switches or dialing instructions to accommodate code usage.

VSC assignments are made in accordance with the INC Vertical Service Code Assignment Guidelines and are assigned exclusively by the NANPA throughout the NANP.

Applications for assignments of VSCs are to be made through URCA for submission to NANPA. The same VSC may be assigned for both a multi-network and inter-network application. It is recognized that the use of a given code for both a multi-network and inter-network application may result in conflicts, and it is the responsibility of the Requester to take the necessary steps to avoid conflicts in the associated networks.

The following table shows the approved list of vertical services code.

## 21.1 VERTICAL SERVICE CODE TABLE

VSC	SERVICE
*00	Inward Voice Activated Service (English)
*01	Inward Voice Activated Service (French)
*02	Deactivation/Activation of In-Service Activation (ISA) on a per line basis
*03	Deactivation of In-Service Activation (ISA) on a per call basis
*2X	Reserved for expansion to 3 digit VSCs
*228	Over-the-Air Service Provisioning
*272	Access Wireless Priority Service
*3X	Reserved for expansion to 3-digit VSCs
*40	Change Forward- To Number for Customer Programmable Call Forwarding Busy Line
*41	Six-Way Conference Calling Activation
*42	Change Forward- To Number for Customer Programmable Call Forwarding Don't Answer
*43	Drop last member of Six-Way Conference Call
*44	Voice Activation Dialing
*45	Voice Dialing Extended Dial Tone
*46	French Voice Activation Network Control
*47	Override Feature Authorization
*48	Override Do Not Disturb
*49	Long Distance Signal
*50	Voice Activation Network Control
*51	Who Called Me?
*52	Single Line Varity Package (SVP) – Call Hold
*53	Single Line Varity Package (SVP) – Distinctive Ring B
*54	Single Line Varity Package (SVP) – Distinctive Ring C
*55	Single Line Varity Package (SVP) – Distinctive Ring D
*56	Change Forward- To Number for ISDN Call Forwarding
*57	Customer Originating Trace
*58	ISDN MBKS Manual Exclusion Activation
*59	ISDN MBKS Manual Exclusion Deactivation
*60	Selective Call Rejection Activation
*61	Distinctive Ringing/Call Waiting Activation
*62	Selective Call Waiting
*63	Selective Call Forwarding Activation
*64	Selection Call Acceptance Activation
*65	Calling Number Delivery Activation
*66	Automatic Callback Activation
*67	Calling Number Delivery Blocking
*68	Call Forwarding Busy Line/Don't Answer Activation
*69	Automatic Recall Activation
*70	Cancel Cal Waiting



VSC	SERVICE
*71	Usage Sensitive Three-way Calling
*72	Call Forwarding Activation
*73	Call Forwarding Deactivation
*74	Speed Calling 8 – Change List
*75	Speed Calling 30 – Change List
*76	Activated Call Waiting Deluxe
*77	Anonymous Call Rejection Activation
*78	Do Not Disturb Activation
*79	Do Not Disturb Deactivation
*80	Selection Call Rejection Deactivation
*81	Distinctive Ringing/Call Waiting Deactivation
*82	Line Blocking Deactivation
*83	Selection Call Forwarding Deactivation
*84	Selection Call Acceptance Deactivation
*85	Calling Number Delivery Deactivation
*86	Automatic Callback Deactivation
*87	Anonymous Call Rejection Deactivation
*88	Call Forwarding Busy Line/Don't Answer Deactivation
*89	Automatic Recall Deactivation
*90	Customer Programmable Call Forwarding Busy Line Activation
*91	Customer Programmable Call Forwarding Busy Line Deactivation
*92	Customer Programmable Call Forwarding Don't Answer Activation
*93	Customer Programmable Call Forwarding Don't Answer Deactivation
*94	Reserved For Local Assignment
*95	Reserved For Local Assignment
*96	Reserved For Local Assignment
*97	Reserved For Local Assignment
*98	Reserved For Local Assignment
*99	Reserved For Local Assignment

## 21.2 OTHER SERVICE CODES

Other codes are allocated for services across electronic communications networks. These are in the format of “XX#”.

### Class Service Codes

- 70# Call Waiting Disable
- 72# Call Forwarding (Enable)
- 73# Call Forwarding (Disable)
- 74# Speed Calling (programming/de-programming)
- 75# Speed Calling (programming)

## **22 TOLL FREE SERVICE CODES**

### **22.1 DOMESTIC TOLL FREE SERVICES**

#### **1-242-300-XXXX**

The 300 central office code has been allocated to be used by all service providers for national domestic toll free services. Since the NXX could only be assigned to a single central office, BTC is required to route traffic for each licensed service provider and its end user. Each service provider may apply to URCA to provide the service and may be assigned blocks of 500 telephone numbers out of the 300 NXX block.

BTC is required to redistribute its existing services to the assigned block of 500 numbers by December 31, 2010.

URCA will assign domestic toll free service codes to networks and services according to the table shown below.

**22.2 DOMESTIC TOLL FREE ASSIGNMENT TABLE**

NPA	Central Office NXX	Line Number Range	Service Provider
242	300	0000 – 0499	
		0500 – 0999	
		1000 – 1499	
		1500 – 1999	
		2000 – 2499	
		2500 – 2999	
		3000 – 3499	
		3500 – 3999	
		4000 – 4499	
		4500 – 4999	
		5000 – 5499	
		5500 – 5999	
		6000 – 6499	
		6500 – 6999	
		7000 – 7499	
		7500 – 7999	
		8000 – 8499	
8500 – 8999			
9000 – 9499			
9500 – 9999			

## **22.3 INTERNATIONAL TOLL FREE SERVICES**

### **1-800-389-XXXX**

The Bahamas was among various countries in the Country Code 1 block that were assigned service codes out of the 800 NPA Service Code set. The 389 NXX was assigned out of this NPA and this code was used exclusively by BaTelCo, now BTC, for its international incoming toll free services. This service started prior to the liberalization process and the licensing of a second voice telephony operator.

It is noted that this assignment is different from assignments taken from the 242 NPA resource.

The 389 NXX within the NPA or Service Code 800 is not used by any other entity in The Bahamas, does not reside in the portability database, and the line numbers are assigned only to subscribers on BTC's network. The code is not subject to reclamation or deadline to be returned to the 800 pool for portability. Therefore, this NXX resource will remain in use in The Bahamas, unless it is returned voluntarily. It therefore becomes a Bahamian national numbering resource.

URCA considers that all networks and service providers should have access to this resource and therefore BTC is required to share the code with all licensed networks and service providers. This will ensure that competing networks and service providers have equal access to comparable numbering resources, which will enable them to compete fairly for customers.

No other 800 NXX CO codes are available for assignment in the manner that 800 389 is being used. The remaining CO codes in the 800 NPA are in the portability database and are not available for block assignment.

The 389 NXX (CO code) under the 800 NPA will be assigned to service providers by URCA on a line number basis.

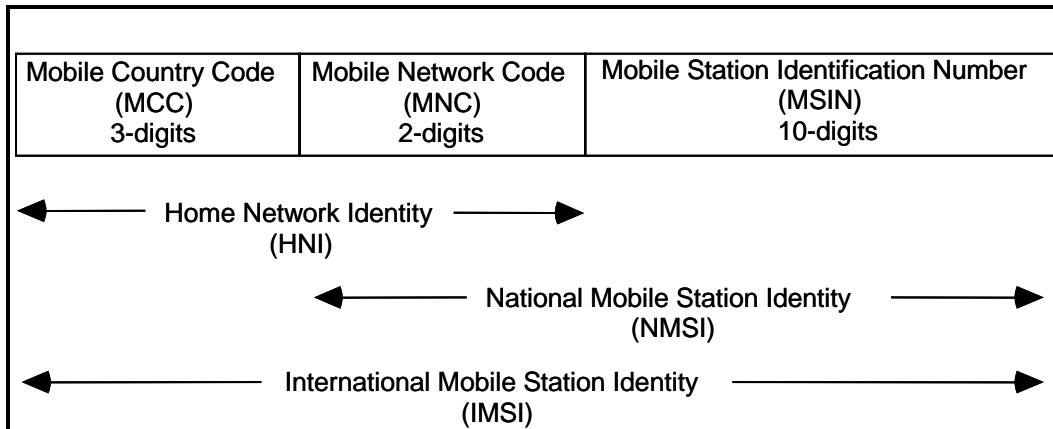
## **23 INTERNATIONAL MOBILE SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY (IMSI)**

The IMSI enables mobile terminals/users to roam among networks, domestically and internationally, by providing a uniform and unique home network and mobile terminal/user identification that is recognizable by all conforming networks. When transmitted between visited and home networks, the IMSI enables the exchange of subscription and billing information for the visiting mobile subscriber.

Specifically, the IMSI is used for:

- Determination of the mobile terminal's/user's home wireless network,
- Mobile terminal/user identification when information about a specific mobile terminal/user is to be exchanged between visited and home networks,
- Mobile station identification on the radio control path for registering a mobile station in a visited wireless network,
- Mobile station identification for signaling on the radio control path,
- Identification of the mobile terminal/user to allow for charging and billing of visiting mobile terminals/users, and
- Subscription management, i.e., retrieving, providing, changing, and updating subscription data for a specific mobile terminal/user.

The format of the IMSI in the Bahamas is:



The IMSI format in The Bahamas is a fixed 15-digit length, the maximum allowable by the ITU Recommendation E.212. Each IMSI contains an MCC, an MNC, and an MSIN and is in the following format:

MCC	MNC	MSIN
NXX	XX	XXX XXX XXXX
364	XX	XXX XXX XXXX

This format permits 100 operators to be assigned a Mobile Network Code (within the range 00 through 99), under the MCC assigned to The Bahamas.

MNCs are two digits in length. The MNC is the segment of the IMSI directly administered by URCA and will only be assigned to public networks offering mobility services with international roaming capability. BTC has already been assigned the MNC 39.

MSINs are ten digits in length and are administered directly by the network operator to which the MNC is assigned.

There is no need for the assignment of IMSIs to resellers (both wireline and wireless) since the purpose of an IMSI is for the VLR of a visited network, by a roamer, to query the HLR of the subscriber's home network to verify subscription details. The HLR function is performed in a physical node (facility) in the network and since a reseller is leasing a portion of the network's capacity, including the HLR, the HLR functionality would be a part of the facility leasing agreement and therefore does not require a separate identification for the reseller.

International carriers, with the exception of satellite-based carriers, do not require IMSIs. Satellite network operators have been allocated their own series of Mobile Country Codes by the ITU.

The IMSI Assignment Guidelines are included in Appendix 2.

## **24 DOMESTIC POINT CODES - ANSI SS7**

### **SS7 Point codes**

Telcordia Technologies is responsible for the administration and assignment of SS7 point codes in North American Numbering Plan (NANP) countries. Networks operated in The Bahamas are required to apply for these point codes through URCA, in compliance with the Comms Act and the Electronic Communications Sector Policy.

Signaling System 7 networks use 24 bit binary Point codes to identify network nodes to properly route calls. Signaling System 7 (SS7) is also known as Common Channel Signaling. Point Codes consists of 9 decimal digits representing three 8 bit binary octets: The first three decimal digits represent the Network Identification; the second three the Network Cluster; and the third three the Cluster Member.

In decimal numbers the structure appears as:

0-255	0-255	0-255
<b>Network ID</b>	<b>Network Cluster</b>	<b>Cluster Member</b>

SS7 Technical Standards and related issues are covered by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Telecommunications Standards Committee T1. Detailed technical standards describing SS7 are available in the ANSI T1 T1.100 Series Standards.

Telcordia Technologies assigns ANSI SS7 Point Codes to networks in all NANP-served countries, based on SS7 Assignment Guidelines developed and maintained by ANSI's Committee T1S1.

## **25 SIGNALING AREA / NETWORK CODES**

### **25.1 International Signaling Point Codes (SANC ISPC)**

Signaling Area Network Codes (SANC) are assigned to ITU Member States by the ITU Director of the Telecommunication Standardisation Bureau (TSB). The SANC contains 8 International Signaling Point Codes (ISPC) which may be assigned by URCA to licensees for use in The Bahamas.

Signaling point codes for the national level and the international level are assigned separately. The assignment of a point code in a national network does not automatically entitle the code holder to an ISPI.

International Signaling Point Codes (ISPC) are 14 bit binary codes used to establish direct SS7 signaling links and interconnection with overseas networks.

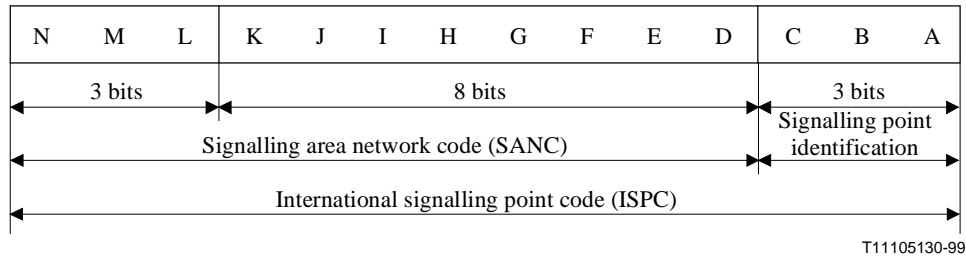
The 14 bit code of the ISPI is represented by three decimal numbers in the format: X-XX-X as follows:

1. The first decimal indicating the three (3) most significant bits (NML) with a range between 0 to 7.
2. The second decimal indicating the following eight (8) bits (K-D), with a range of 000 to 255.
3. The third decimal consisting of the three (3) least significant bits (CBA), with a range of 0 to 7.

The combination of the fields containing bits NML and bits K-D is regarded as the SANC.

The three (3) bits (CBA) identify a specific signaling point which when combined with the SANC forms the 14-bit ISPC (e.g. 2-068-1).

This is illustrated in the following figure.



### Format of the International Signaling Point Code (ISPC)

The three (3) bits (CBA) identify a specific signaling point which when combined with the SANC forms the 14-bit ISPC.

The Bahamas has been assigned Service Area/Network Code (SANC) 3-128. Within the SANC there are 8 International Signaling Point Codes ranging from 3-128-0 up to and including 3-128-7. Assignments to successful applicants may be made from this range.

Signaling Point Codes out of the SANCs assigned to the Bahamas by the TSB shall be used only in the Bahamas. Similarly, ISPCs from SANC assigned to countries other than the Bahamas, shall not be used in the Bahamas.

## 25.2 ISPC ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA

The assignment of International Signaling Point Codes (ISPC) in The Bahamas is the responsibility of URCA as the numbering administrator. ISPC resources will be assigned in accordance with the ITU Recommendation Q.708 and the ISPC Assignment Guidelines International Signaling Point Codes Assignment Guidelines in Appendix 3.

The applicant must:

1. provide an electronic communications service authorized under the Comms Act.
2. have implemented or is about to implement a signaling point having at least one Message Transfer Part (MTP) signaling relation in the international signaling network.
3. provide all a completed application form.

All applications for ISPC resources are to be submitted to URCA for processing.

The following table shows the current ISPC assignments for the Bahamas.



## 25.3 ISPC ASSIGNMENT TABLE

ISPC	Decimal	Unique Name of the signaling Point	Name of the signaling Point Operator
3-128-0	7168	Central Four	Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd.
3-128-1	7169	Eight Mile Rock	Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd.
3-128-2	7170	Soldier road	Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd.
3-128-3	7171	unassigned	unassigned
3-128-4	7172	unassigned	unassigned
3-128-5	7173	unassigned	unassigned
3-128-6	7174	unassigned	unassigned
3-128-7	7175	unassigned	unassigned

## 26 CARRIER ACCESS CODES (CAC)

The Carrier Access Code (CAC) is a dialing sequence used by the end user to access a preferred provider of service. This service is sometimes referred to as carrier pre-selection. The Carrier Identification Code (CIC) form a part of the CAC which that the end user dials as a prefix to his

desired terminating number. The originating network uses this code to route the call to the desired destination.

Carrier Identification Codes (CICs) provide routing and billing information for calls from end users via trunk-side connections to interexchange or international carriers and other entities. Entities connect their facilities to access provider's facilities using several different access arrangements, the common ones being Feature Group B (FG B) and Feature Group D (FG D). Access providers are common carriers and connecting carriers that provide interconnection services between an entity and another provider of telecommunications services. The most common is FGD access

In addition to the use of CICs for routing and billing purposes, the CIC comprises part of the Carrier Access Code (CAC), a dialing sequence used by the general public to access a preferred network or service provider. The North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) will administer the assignment and management of CICs.

Specifically, the CAC can be in the following formats:

- For FG B, the CAC is in the format 950-XXXX, where XXXX is the FG B CIC.
- For FG D, the CAC is dialed using a 7-digit format (101XXXX), where X = 0 through 9.

The code set 10X has not been used in the Bahamas and is therefore eligible for the assignment of CICs. URCA will therefore consider using this code set for CICs, following the Assignment Guidelines developed by the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) whenever the need arises for the assignment of CICs in The Bahamas.

All applications for a CIC are to be sent to URCA for submission to NANPA.

## **27 SYSTEM IDENTIFIER CODE (SID)**

System Identifier Codes (SIDs) are assigned to cellular and PCS service providers as a unique identifier of the geographic market or network. SIDs are 15 bit numbers that equate to one to five digit decimal numbers that are used in the communications between mobile terminals and base stations to determine home or roam status. The network or geographic SID is programmed into the mobile terminal, and when it detects the SID being transmitted from a base station, the mobile station will indicate a home or roam status to the mobile operator.

The SID range 8080 to 8095 was assigned to Bahamas via IFAST/TR 45, meaning that there are 16 SIDs that can be assigned in The Bahamas. Generally, no new SID ranges are being assigned to countries, except in the case where a new country emerges. The IFAST is the International Forum on AMPS Standards Technologies and is sponsored by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS).

URCA is responsible for the assignment of SIDs in The Bahamas.

BTC has been assigned a SID code for the CDMA cellular mobile network that is deployed in sections of several islands. This assignment is included in the table below.

### 27.1 SID CODE ASSIGNMENT TABLE FOR THE BAHAMAS

	SID CODE	CODE STATE <sup>16</sup>	NETWORK OPERATOR	TYPE OF SERVICE	SERVICE AREA <sup>17</sup>
1	8080	Assigned	Bahamas Telecomm Co. Ltd.	CDMA Cellular Mobile Services	Sections of: New Providence, Grand Bahama, Bimini, Eleuthera & Exuma
2	8081	Un-assigned			
3	8082	Un-assigned			
4	8083	Un-assigned			
5	8084	Un-assigned			
6	8085	Un-assigned			
7	8086	Un-assigned			
8	8087	Un-assigned			
9	8088	Un-assigned			
10	8089	Un-assigned			
11	8090	Un-assigned			
12	8091	Un-assigned			
13	8092	Un-assigned			
14	8093	Un-assigned			
15	8094	Un-assigned			
16	8095	Un-assigned			

### 28 BAHAMAS NUMBERING RESOURCE GUIDELINES

Assignment guidelines are included in the appendix to the National Numbering Plan as follows:

1. Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines
2. International Mobile Station Identifier Assignment Guidelines
3. Service Area/Network Code – International Signaling point Code assignment Guideline

<sup>16</sup> A Code Status may be: Un-assigned; Assigned; Dormant; or Conflict.

<sup>17</sup> Service Area describes the geographic area(s) served by the system.

The NNP was developed in consideration of the affiliation of The Bahamas with international agencies and bodies established and working in the development of guidelines and rules for the use of numbering resources internationally.

## **29 ASSOCIATED INDUSTRY ENTITIES**

This numbering plan therefore does not include the other assignment guidelines for the other resources, but instead notes that the NNP adheres to the appropriate guidelines developed for the industry by other entities including the ITU, NANP, NANC, INC and to a lesser degree the IETF, CTU and CITEL.

### **29.1 THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU)**

The ITU is an UN-based organization that supports the functioning of many technical committees (Study Groups) that develop “Recommendations” relative to the performance of the global public telecommunications network. Among other network operations issues, Study Group 2 resolves issues regarding numbering, naming, and addressing.

The Bahamas as a member country of the ITU operates in compliance with the ITU-T Recommendations related to the numbering resources.

At the international level, the most relevant ITU-T Recommendations that pertain to the numbering resources of The Bahamas NNP are:

- E.164 – The International Public Telecommunications Numbering Plan
- E.212 – The International Identification Plan for Mobile Terminals and Mobile Users
- Q.708 – Assignment Procedures for International Signaling Point Codes
- X.121 – International Numbering Plan for Public Data Networks

Copies of these ITU Recommendations may be found on the ITU’s website: [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int).

URCA will continue monitoring the work of monitor SG2 numbering-related activities.

### **29.2 NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING PLAN ADMINISTRATOR (NANPA)**

The NANPA is the entity responsible for the administration of NANP-wide resources; e.g., Numbering Plan Area (NPA) codes as well as US-based resources within the NANP; e.g., Central Office (CO) Codes.

The NANPA performs these administrative responsibilities in conformance with consensus-developed resource Assignment Guidelines and the oversight of the NANC and guidelines

developed by the INC. Further information on the NANPA may be found on its website; [www.nanpa.com](http://www.nanpa.com).

URCA will continue its interaction and coordination with the NANPA for the assignment of NANP-wide resources for The Bahamas. These resources will be administered in accordance with the Assignment Guidelines developed in consensus with NANP members as far as it is practicable under the laws of The Bahamas and in compliance with the Electronic Communications Sector Policy of The Bahamas.

### **29.3 TELCORDIA TECHNOLOGIES INC**

Telcordia, like the NANPA, administers resources utilized within the Bahamas, e.g., SS7 Point Codes.

Information pertaining to the administration and assignment of SS7 point codes can be found at <http://www.ss7pcadmin.com/ss7/index.cfm>.

Generally speaking, the SS7 Assignment Guidelines (developed and maintained by ANSI Committee T1S1) include the allocation of Point Codes to all NANP-served countries.

### **29.4 NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING COUNCIL (NANC)**

The NANC is the council, sponsored by the US Federal Communications Commission, created to identify, discuss, and resolve public policy issues associated with the administration and management of the North American Numbering Plan. Its membership contains telecommunications sector members (service providers, network operators, vendors, regulatory authorities) from the NANP served countries, including The Bahamas.

URCA will seek to attend meetings from time to time so as to understand and contribute to the some of the larger numbering issues being addressed.

### **29.5 INDUSTRY NUMBERING COMMITTEE (INC)**

The INC is a US-based open forum created to resolve NANP technical and administrative numbering issues in a competitive environment. The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) sponsors the INC and participation involves the payment of an annual membership fee.

Participation and membership is open to entities from all NANP-served countries. One of the most significant responsibilities of the INC is the development and maintenance of NANP-based resource Assignment Guidelines. Although these Guidelines documents are developed generally for implementation in the US, many NANP-served countries have adapted them to

their own unique regulatory and business environment and, therefore, have deemed it appropriate to actively participate in their development/maintenance. Other significant topics discussed by the INC include number portability and number pooling implementation.

## **29.6 INTERNET ENGINEERING TASK FORCE (IETF)**

The IETF is an open forum comprised of numerous telecommunications sector entities worldwide. It is a loosely managed forum that develops technical standards with regard to the management and operation of the Internet as well as inter-working with other networks.

The standards developed by the IETF impact every user, provider, and regulator of IP services and most users, providers, and regulators of other telecommunications services as well. Although the IETF does not directly consider the regulatory or policy impacts of its decisions, it is safe to say that most of its decisions have such impacts. For example, decisions made regarding the implementation of IP telephony worldwide can adversely impact international call revenues, an issue of interest to many countries.

Another issue is the inter-working of IP-based terminals with PSTN-based terminals which again is a topic of interest to most regulatory authorities. This recognition has caused many national regulatory authorities to closely monitor IETF activities and, when appropriate, actively participate in its decision process. For example, the current interaction of the IP-PSTN inter-working standard (ENUM) allows national administrations to authorize or prevent this inter-working within their country. Provided that there is no direct intervention by the national administration, it can be assumed that the default position will be the inclusion of each country in the ENUM database.

## **29.7 CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (CTU)**

Caribbean Telecommunications Union was established in 1989 in Nassau, The Bahamas, by treaty. The Organization established its Headquarters in Barbados, in agreement with that Government in 1990, but relocated to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, where it continues to function in accordance with the terms of a Headquarters Agreement, dated April 8, 1993.

At the time of the establishment of CTU, the role played by the Caribbean Association of national Telecommunication Organization (CANTO) and technical assistance provided by the International Telecommunication Union, were already of significant value.

CTU was set up on the recommendation of the Ministers for Telecommunications to correct:

- 1. the fragmented policy frame of telecommunications sectors of member countries;*
- 2. the problems of frequency incompatibility between and among member countries*

3. *the lack of Caribbean input in major international issues, which disregarded rights and sovereignty of the Caribbean states, thereby denying them opportunity*
4. *the absence of coordinating machinery to facilitate an increase in the impact of resources and assistance for Caribbean telecommunications development.*

The specific objectives and Functions of the Union are set out in the section “Excerpts From The Articles Establishing CTU” and “Functions Of The Union”, respectively.

Developments in the telecommunication field have further complicated the issues as the various services have converged, thus rendering telecommunications a means to converged services, aimed at the delivery and propagation of IT. The World Trade Organization (WTO) declaration of telecommunications as a tradable service and a delivery system has also contributed to the new move to ICT.

Additional information on the CTU may be found on its website: [www.ctu.int](http://www.ctu.int).

## **29.8 INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATION COMMISSION (CITEL)**

The Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) endeavors to make telecommunications a catalyst for the dynamic development of the Americas by working with governments and the private sector. Under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS), it resides in Washington, DC, USA. It has 35 Member States and over 200 Associate Members. It has been entrusted by the Heads of State at the Summits of the Americas with specific mandates to intensify its activities in key areas.

CITEL has technical autonomy to perform its functions within the limits prescribed by the OAS Charter, its statutes and the mandates of the General Assembly. Its objectives include facilitating and promoting the continuous development of telecommunications in the Hemisphere.

CITEL has a Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL) consisting of eleven members, three Permanent Consultative Committees and one working group.

The Committees are:

- Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunication Standardization,
- Permanent Consultative Committee II: Radiocommunication including Broadcasting,
- Steering Committee,
- Conference Preparatory Working Group,

The members are all Member States of the Organization, Associate Members that represent various private telecommunications associations or companies, permanent observers and regional and international organizations.

## **30 APPENDIX**

Assignment guidelines are included in this appendix to the National Numbering Plan as follows:

**30.1 APPENDIX 1: Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines**

**30.2 APPENDIX 2: IMSI Assignment Guidelines**

**30.3 APPENDIX 3: SANC – ISPC Assignment Guidelines**



# APPENDIX 1

## Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines

## **APPENDIX 2**

International Mobile Station Identifier (IMSI)

Assignment Guidelines

## **APPENDIX 3**

Service Area/Network Code

International Signaling point Code

Assignment Guideline