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| Letter Number IL -93/08-002 | Type Informational | Date 8/2/93 |
| Title Assignment of NPA code "456" for International Carrier Identification | | File Number/Related Project Number(s) 422402 |
| Related Documents None | Distribution List Code(s) NP062, NS001, SS002 | |
| To: Recipients of North American Number Plan (NANP) Information | | |
| Restriction/Classification Unrestricted | | |
| From: R. R. Conners, Director - North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) | | |
| Message This IL announces the NANPA's assignment of the "456" NPA code, the purpose for which it is assigned, and the current assignment procedure for the NXX codes within the "456" NPA. | | |
| Letter Information (Includes safety liability disclaimer (if applicable), ordering information, originator's signature information) | | |

For several years the World Zone 1 (WZ1) telecommunications sector (carriers, service providers, vendors, regulators, and users) has discussed the need, and the method by which, to provide carrier identification, within the dialed digits of an E.164 number, on certain international calls destined for WZ1. The intended purpose of such carrier identification is to enable the routing of inbound international calls for carrier-specific services to the appropriate carrier. Several assumptions were evident from the beginning, for example, that the carrier identification must be accomplished within the dialed digits of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) number and that the routing to the appropriate carrier will be accomplished at the originating end of the call, i.e., within the network of the foreign administration.

This Information Letter is issued to inform the WZ1 telecommunications sector that NANPA has assigned NPA code "456" for the purpose of international carrier identification. The NXX codes within the shared NPA code will be assigned to international carriers for the purposes of carrier identification and the routing of service-specific inbound international calls to specific international carriers.

The Industry Carriers Compatibility Forum (ICCF) has established a workshop to develop the assignment guidelines for the NXX codes within the "456" NPA. Their work is not yet completed, and many issues remain unresolved as of this date. Some of the international carriers requesting assignments, however, have qualified their need as urgent. NANPA agrees that the need is urgent and therefore is prepared to respond to urgent need situations absent industry consensus or guidelines, particularly in the case of an issue such as this where debate has continued for an extended period of time with no reason to anticipate near-term resolution. NANPA has so informed the FCC, which has expressed approval.

NANPA will initially only assign NXX codes within the "456" NPA to those entities having regulatory authority to function as WZ1 international carriers. The ICCF workshop agrees that at least these entities qualify for the assignment of NXX codes and is debating the potential for other entities to qualify as well. However, there is no consensus within the workshop regarding what entities other than authorized international carriers may qualify for NXX codes within the "456"

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NPA. If there is consensus or regulatory direction to expand the qualifying criteria, NANPA will then make appropriate changes to its assignment procedures.

It is understood both by NANPA and the entire telecommunications sector that the "456" NPA code and the NXX codes within it will not be used domestically; i.e., within the boundaries of any WZ1 country. There is, however, continuing debate within the ICCF workshop regarding the definition of "inbound international." The participants are attempting to determine whether these resources are to be used on calls between countries within WZ1; i.e., does "inbound international" include calls within the same "national" numbering plan - the North American Numbering Plan? Since the NANP serves eighteen nations in North America, this is a significant question requiring a fair, reasonable, and timely resolution. Pending resolution, NANPA will not assign NXX codes for use between countries within WZ1, and will request of each entity assigned NXX codes that it refrain from using these resources between countries within WZ1 until this issue is resolved.

When each of these initial NXX code assignments is made, NANPA will temporarily "protect" the remaining nine codes within the decade from which the assignment is made from being assigned to any other carrier. This intention addresses another issue being debated within the ICCF workshop - the need for code assignments in decades in order to allow foreign administrations to determine the identity of the carrier to which the calls are to be routed by analyzing only six digits (the maximum allowable after Time T or negotiable by bilateral agreement). On calls to WZ1, six-digit analysis includes only the country code "1", the three digits of the NPA code and the first two digits of the NXX code, e.g., 1-456-78X-XXXX, thereby necessitating the assignment of decades of codes until/if another alternative is identified. This temporary assignment procedure will be adhered to until the issue is resolved. Additionally, during this temporary period, a carrier receiving more than one code, will have all additional codes (up to nine) assigned from the same decade.

In the assignment of the NXX codes within the "456" NPA, NANPA will use the *Draft International Inbound INPA Assignment Guidelines* currently under development by the ICCF workshop in assigning and administering these codes until they are superseded by guidelines that have achieved industry consensus. Assignments to satisfy urgent needs will be expressly subject to such industry assignment guidelines and/or regulatory rules as may be adopted.

Any entity qualifying for the assignment of NXX codes within the "456" NPA code as detailed above and within the draft assignment guidelines should request an assignment by writing to NANPA at:

North American Numbering Plan Administration
c/o Bellcore
290 West Mount Pleasant Avenue, Room 1B233
Livingston, New Jersey 07039

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The application letter should include a certification that the applicant has the appropriate regulatory authority to function as an international carrier.

Any questions regarding this letter and its content should be referred to Fred Gacchter, NANP Administration, on 201 740 4596 or by facsimile on 201 740 6860.



R. R. Conners
Director
North American Numbering Plan Administration