

# NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2003

## NUMBERING REGULATIONS 2007

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# NUMBERING REGULATIONS 2007

Commencement: *[insert date for the regulations taking effect]*

In exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 70 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003 (the “Act”), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Nigerian Communications Commission (the “Commission”) hereby makes the following Regulations:

## Part I – Scope and Operation

1. These Regulations are made to provide a regulatory framework for the control, planning, administration, management and assignment of Numbers, pursuant to Section 128(1) of the Act. In particular, they set out the rules for the assignment, transfer, porting and use of Numbers under the national numbering and electronic addressing plan, pursuant to Section 128(3) of the Act. Scope of the Regulations

For the avoidance of doubt, in these Regulations:

- (a) Telephone numbers and short codes are Numbers; and
  - (b) IP addresses and domain names are not Numbers.
2. These Regulations are intended to promote investment, facilitate competition and protect customers by ensuring that: Objectives of the Regulations
  - (a) Numbers are understood to be national resources that are not owned by customers or Licensees;
  - (b) Numbers can be assigned efficiently, quickly, transparently and fairly, without undue discrimination against particular customer classes, Licensee types and communications technologies;
  - (c) Shortages of Numbers can be predicted and prevented in timely ways; and
  - (d) Uses of Numbers can be monitored and controlled to avoid detriment to the interests of customers.
3. These Regulations include a Schedule that illustrates by examples Numbers and Blocks as defined in Regulation 52. Nature of Numbers and Blocks

## Part II – Contents of the National Numbering Plan

4. The Commission shall maintain and publish in the National Numbering Plan up-to-date versions of the Allocation Status and Usage Conditions of Blocks that do not overlap but that together contain all the defined Numbers. Publication of the National Numbering Plan

5. The Allocation Status of a Block shall be: Allocation Status
- (a) “Assigned” if the Block has been included in an Assignment to a Licensee and has not been subsequently returned by or withdrawn from the Licensee;
  - (b) “Assignable” if the Block is available for inclusion in an Assignment subject to the Usage Conditions;
  - (c) “Expected To Become Assignable” if the Block is expected to be available in the future for inclusion in an Assignment subject to the Usage Conditions;
  - (d) “Unusable” if the Block is excluded from Assignments to avoid possible human errors or system constraints; or
  - (e) “Retained” if the Block is excluded from Assignments to keep resources for unknown future developments.
6. In imposing Usage Conditions on a Block the Commission shall restrict only some or all of: Content of Usage Conditions
- (a) The charges for calls or messages to Numbers in the Block;
  - (b) The contents of calls or messages to Numbers in the Block, if the charges relate in any way to the contents;
  - (c) The terms and conditions for the services that use the Numbers in the Block;
  - (d) The geographic areas for completing calls or transmitting messages to the Numbers in the Block;
  - (e) The networks required to route traffic to and from Numbers in the Block, if the Numbers are not telephone numbers; and
  - (f) The means of implementing Service Provider Number Portability for the Numbers in the Block, if for the Block there are regulations that introduce Service Provider Number Portability.
7. A Licensee shall not use a Number to provide a service unless the service satisfies the applicable Usage Conditions at the time of use. Limitations on providing services
- For the avoidance of doubt, the service does not need to have satisfied the Usage Conditions at the time of granting any Assignment that includes the Number.

**Part III – Modifications to the National Numbering Plan**

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| 8.  | The Commission shall review and if necessary modify the National Numbering Plan pursuant to the review processes of Section 72 of the Act. In any such review, the Commission may request and receive advice from external advisory groups but shall not be bound by any such advice.  | Modifications to the National Numbering Plan            |
| 9.  | In reviewing or modifying the National Numbering Plan the Commission shall take into account factors including but not limited to:<br><br>(a) The need to meet demand in a rapidly developing market, for both existing and expected services and for both near and long terms;<br><br>(b) The advantages to End Users in not changing the Numbers through which services are taken;<br><br>(c) Compatibility with agreements, standards and recommendations by the International Telecommunication Union and other relevant organisations;<br><br>(d) The benefits and costs of a change to the National Numbering Plan; and<br><br>(e) The costs of alternatives to a change to the National Numbering Plan that provide similar benefits. | Factors in modifying the National Numbering Plan        |
| 10. | In modifying the National Numbering Plan the Commission shall do only some or all of:<br><br>(a) Changing which Blocks have Expected To Become Assignable, Unusable or Retained as their Allocation Status;<br><br>(b) Changing the Usage Conditions; and<br><br>(c) Changing Numbers by replacing, inserting or deleting digits.<br><br>For the avoidance of doubt, the creation of Assignments, the return of Blocks and the withdrawal of Blocks are not modifications to the National Numbering Plan but are changes in the Allocation Status of Blocks that are maintained and published in the National Numbering Plan.  | Content of modifications to the National Numbering Plan |
| 11. | If the Commission modifies the National Numbering Plan by replacing, inserting or deleting digits in Numbers:<br><br>(a) The Commission shall ensure that advertising or advisory material, explaining the practical consequences of the modification to customers, is made publicly available at least three (3) months before the modification occurs;   | Timing of modifications to the National Numbering Plan  |

- (b) The Commission shall inform Licensees about the modification at least six (6) months before the modification occurs; and
- (c) The Commission shall inform the International Telecommunication Union and any necessary foreign telecommunications administrations about the modification at least one (1) month before the modification occurs.

12. Every Licensee shall implement a modification to the National Numbering Plan at the time and in the manner that the Commission determines for the Licensee. Implementation of modifications

#### **Part IV – Utilisation of Numbers**

13. Every Licensee shall at the end of each year submit to the Commission information required by the Commission for auditing Utilisations. In doing so the Licensee shall adopt the format prescribed by the Commission and state for each Assignment: Monitoring Utilisations of Numbers
- (a) The quantity of Numbers having each Utilisation Status;
  - (b) The services that use the Assignment; and
  - (c) Any other information that the Commission may from time to time require to assess Utilisations.
14. The Commission shall at the end of each year summarise and publish the information submitted by Licensees under Regulation 13. Publication of Utilisations of Numbers
15. The Utilisation Status of a Number assigned to a Licensee shall be: Utilisation Status
- (a) “In Service” if an End User is taking service through the Number from the Licensee or another Licensee;
  - (b) “For Withdrawal” if the Number does not have In Service as its Utilisation Status and the Commission has informed the Licensee that the Number is proposed for withdrawal pursuant to Regulations 25 and 26;
  - (c) “In Quarantine” if the Number does not have In Service or For Withdrawal as its Utilisation Status and an End User was taking service through the Number within the previous three (3) months or some longer period of time identified by the Licensee;
  - (d) “Unsuitable” if the Number does not have In Service, For Withdrawal or In Quarantine as its Utilisation Status and the Licensee considers that the Number should remain out of service to avoid possible human errors or system constraints; or

- (e) “Available” if the Number does not have In Service, For Withdrawal, In Quarantine or Unsuitable as its Utilisation Status.

**Part V – Assigning Numbers**

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| 16. A Licensee may apply to the Commission for an Assignment. In doing so the Licensee shall use the forms made available by the Commission to state: | Content of applications for Assignments              |
| (a) The name and contact details of the applicant;  |  |
| (b) The Licence under which the application is made;  |  |
| (c) The services intended to use the Assignment;  |  |
| (d) The geographic areas for completing calls or transmitting messages to the Numbers to be included in the Assignment;                               |  |
| (e) The quantity of Numbers requested for inclusion in the Assignment;  |  |
| (f) Any particular Blocks requested for inclusion in the Assignment;  |  |
| (g) The predicted Utilisation of the Assignment for each of the next three (3) years;   |  |
| (h) The current Utilisations of existing Assignments to the applicant for the intended services;  |  |
| (i) An indication of which, if any, portions of the application are confidential to the Commission;   |  |
| (j) Any other information that the applicant considers necessary or appropriate to justify the application; and                                       |  |
| (k) Any other information that the Commission may from time to time require to assess the application.  |  |
| 17. The Commission shall refuse or grant an application for an Assignment. The granting of an Assignment may be subject to variations in:             | Content of decisions on applications for Assignments |
| (a) The quantity of Numbers included in the Assignment; and   |  |
| (b) The particular Blocks included in the Assignment.   |  |
| 18. In making a decision on an application for an Assignment the Commission shall take into account factors including but not limited to:             | Factors in deciding on applications for Assignments  |
| (a) Any earlier decisions about Assignments to the applicant or other Licensees for services similar to the intended services;                        |  |



- (b) Any statements in the Licence of the applicant about eligibility for providing services or being assigned Numbers;
  - (c) The Usage Conditions;
  - (d) The digit analysis capabilities of communications networks that are operated in the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
  - (e) The predicted Utilisation of the Assignment over the next three (3) years;
  - (f) The current Utilisations of existing Assignments to the applicant for the intended services;
  - (g) The quantity and fragmentation of Blocks that do not have Assigned as their Allocation Status; and
  - (h) Any Contraventions by the Licensee pursuant to Regulation 49.
19. The Commission shall review and make decisions regarding applications for Assignments in the order in which the applications are received by the Commission.
- Timing of decisions on applications for Assignments
- The Commission shall communicate its decision on an application to the applicant, including reasons for any refusal of an application, within one (1) month of receiving the application.
20. The Commission shall require that for each Assignment:
- Constraints on Assignments
- (a) Each Block in the Assignment has Assignable as its Allocation Status immediately before the Assignment is created;
  - (b) Each Block in the Assignment has the same Usage Conditions;
  - (c) The services intended to use the Assignment satisfy the applicable Usage Conditions; and
  - (d) Each Block in the Assignment adjoins another Block in this or another Assignment that has the same Usage Conditions, unless there is no such other Block or particular Blocks are requested in the application for the Assignment.

For the avoidance of doubt, the creation of Assignments, the return of Blocks and the withdrawal of Blocks may split or combine Blocks that would otherwise be identified separately in the National Numbering Plan.

## Part VI – Returning Numbers

21. A Licensee may apply to the Commission for approval to return a Block. In doing so the Licensee shall use the forms made available by the Commission to state:
- Content of applications for returning Blocks
- (a) The name and contact details of the applicant;
  - (b) The particular Block to be returned to the Commission; and
  - (c) An affirmation that every Number in the Block has Available as its Utilisation Status.
22. The Commission shall refuse or grant an application for approval to return a Block. The granting of approval to return a Block may be subject to variations in:
- Decisions on applications for returning Blocks
- (a) The quantity of Numbers to be returned to the Commission; and
  - (b) The particular Block to be returned to the Commission.
23. In making a decision about an application for approval to return a Block the Commission shall take into account factors including but not limited to:
- Factors in deciding on applications for returning Blocks
- (a) The digit analysis capabilities of communications networks that are operated in the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and
  - (b) The quantity and fragmentation of Blocks that do not have Assigned as their Allocation Status.
24. The Commission shall review and make decisions regarding applications for approval to return Blocks in the order in which the applications are received by the Commission.
- Timing of decisions on applications for returning Blocks
- The Commission shall communicate its decision on an application to the applicant, including reasons for any refusal of an application, within one (1) month of receiving the application.

## Part VII – Withdrawing Numbers

25. The Commission may withdraw a Block from an Assignment if and only if:
- Conditions for withdrawing Numbers
- (a) A Number in the Block is used for a service that does not satisfy the applicable Usage Conditions;
  - (b) No Number in the Block has been brought into service within three (3) years of applying for the Assignment; or
  - (c) The Block is needed for advancing a clearly identified national

interest.

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| 26. | The Commission shall notify a Licensee about the nature of, and the reasons for, a proposal to withdraw a Block from an Assignment to the Licensee at least three (3) months before the Commission withdraws the Block.  | Timing of withdrawals of Numbers         |
| 27. | Where the Commission notifies a Licensee about a proposal to withdraw a Block from an Assignment to the Licensee:<br><br>(a) The Licensee shall not thereafter bring into service any Numbers in the Block unless the Commission informs the Licensee that it has decided not to withdraw the Block;<br><br>(b) The Licensee shall inform any affected customers about the reasons for the proposal to withdraw the Block and about replacements for the Numbers in the Block at least two (2) months before the Commission withdraws the Block; and<br><br>(c) The Licensee shall remove from service all of the Numbers in the Block at least one (1) month before the Commission withdraws the Block. | Implementation of withdrawals of Numbers |

**Part VIII – Bringing Numbers into Service**

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| 28.  | Every Licensee shall identify to the Commission contact points intended to receive notifications about the routing of traffic.  | Identification of contact points               |
| 29.  | The Commission shall forward information about contact points identified by Licensees under Regulation 28 in response to requests for that information.   | Forwarding of information about contact points |
| 30.  | Every Licensee shall notify other Licensees and any relevant foreign telecommunication operators that traffic is to be routed to and from a Number at least one (1) month before the Licensee brings the Number into service.   | Timing of bringing Numbers into service        |
| For the avoidance of doubt, the Commission shall not be responsible for notifying any party that Numbers are to be brought into service. |   |  |
| 31.  | A Licensee may bring a Number into service if and only if:<br><br>(a) The Licensee has been assigned the Number;<br><br>(b) The Number is to be used for a service that satisfies the applicable Usage Conditions; and<br><br>(c) The Number has Available as its Utilisation Status. | Conditions for bringing Numbers into service   |

32. The Commission may notify Licensees that traffic is not to be routed to and from a Number if and only if: Conditions for barring Numbers
- (a) The Number is in a Block that does not have Assigned as its Allocation Status; or
  - (b) The Number is used for a service that does not satisfy the applicable Usage Conditions.
33. Every Licensee shall route traffic to and from a Number to which another Licensee is providing service unless: Limitations on routing traffic to and from Numbers
- (a) The Commission has notified the Licensee to the contrary pursuant to Regulation 32; or
  - (b) The Number is in a Block that has Usage Conditions which clearly provide otherwise.

**Part IX – Porting Numbers**

34. In developing or in the ongoing management of the National Numbering Plan, and pursuant to Section 128(3) of the Act, the Commission may issue one or more decisions or directions regarding the introduction of Service Provider Number Portability. In issuing such decisions or directions, the Commission shall consult with Licensees regarding implementation factors including but not limited to: Factors in introducing Service Provider Number Portability
- (a) Helping customers to understand the relation between Numbers and charges for calls and messages, and how charges may change if there is Service Provider Number Portability;
  - (b) Facilitating the use of Service Provider Number Portability, once introduced;
  - (c) The benefits and costs of Service Provider Number Portability; and
  - (d) The costs of alternatives to Service Provider Number Portability that provide similar benefits.
35. Every Licensee that is providing service to a Number shall facilitate the routing of traffic to and from the Number through the network of another Licensee if: Conditions for exporting Numbers
- (a) The other Licensee has undertaken to provide service to the Number within a period of time to be determined by the Commission; and
  - (b) The Number is in a Block for which Service Provider Number

Portability has been introduced pursuant to Regulation 34.

36. A Licensee shall not undertake to provide service to a Number assigned to another Licensee unless: Limitations on importing Numbers
- (a) The Licensee that is making the undertaking can provide the service under its Licence;
  - (b) An End User is taking service through the Number at the time of the undertaking;
  - (c) The End User has asked to take service through the Number from the Licensee that is making the undertaking; and
  - (d) The Number is to be used for a service that satisfies the applicable Usage Conditions.
37. Every Licensee that has provided service to a Number assigned to another Licensee shall return the Number to the other Licensee if the Number is removed from service. Conditions for returning imported Numbers

**Part X – Transferring Numbers**

38. Every Licensee shall transfer an Assignment to another party if and only if the Licensee transfers the Licence under which the application for the Assignment was made. Conditions for transferring Assignments

**Part XI – Limitations on Rights of Licensees to Use Numbers**

39. A Licensee shall not claim that it has exclusive, perpetual or other proprietary rights in particular Codes or Numbers, including but not limited to rights in Codes or Numbers that represent a business name or brand. Limitations on rights to Numbers

**Part XII – Rights of End Users Relating to Numbers**

40. Every Licensee shall change the End User taking service through a Number, or the Number through which an End User takes service, if: Conditions for changing End Users or Numbers
- (a) The End User taking service through the Number used before the change has requested the change;
  - (b) The End User intending to take service through the Number used after the change has requested the change;
  - (c) The Number used after the change identifies the same Network Termination Point as the Number used before the change; and
  - (d) The Number used after the change is used for a service that satisfies

the applicable Usage Conditions.

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| 41. | A Licensee shall not change the Network Termination Points that are identified by a Number through which an End User is taking service unless:<br><br>(a) The End User taking service through the Number has requested the change; and<br><br>(b) The Number is to be used for a service that satisfies the applicable Usage Conditions.  | Limitations on changing Network Termination Points            |
| 42. | Every Licensee shall state in the terms and conditions for its relevant services that End Users do not own Numbers and shall identify any compensation that End Users may claim from the Licensee if Numbers are removed from service.  | Compensation to End Users                                     |
| 43. | Every Licensee shall supply information for public access about a Number through which an End User is taking service if and only if:<br><br>(a) The Commission or a person authorised by the Commission has requested the information for public access;<br><br>(b) The Licensee has stated in the terms and conditions for the service that the information may be supplied; and<br><br>(c) The End User has not requested that the information be withheld. | Conditions for supplying information about holders of Numbers |
| 44. | A Licensee shall not supply a calling line identity for presentation if the calling End User has requested its suppression.   | Limitations on presentation of calling line identities        |
| 45. | A Licensee shall not supply a called line identity for presentation if the called End User has requested its suppression.   | Limitations on presentation of called line identities         |

**Part XIII – Fees for Assignments**

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| 46. | The Commission shall from time to time determine and publish the schedule of fees for Assignments. The Commission shall supply the schedule of fees for Assignments in response to requests for that information.                   | Publication of the schedule of fees for Assignments         |
| 47. | In determining the schedule of fees for Assignments the Commission shall consider some or all of the following factors:<br><br>(a) The administrative and operational expenses incurred in maintaining the National Numbering Plan; | Factors in determining the schedule of fees for Assignments |

- (b) The Usage Conditions;
  - (c) The distinction between initial fees that are payable on the grant of Assignments and renewal fees that are payable on anniversaries of those grants;
  - (d) Encouraging the efficient use of existing Assignments;
  - (e) Encouraging the use of Blocks that are no larger than necessary;
  - (f) Encouraging the use of Blocks that adjoin other Blocks that have Assigned as their Allocation Status; and
  - (g) Encouraging the return of Blocks from existing Assignments.
48. Every Licensee shall pay the initial fees for Assignments and the renewal fees for Assignments as directed by the Commission. Payment of fees for Assignments

**Part XIV – Contravention and Enforcement**

49. Every Licensee that fails to fulfil an obligation in these Regulations or the National Numbering Plan, or any other numbering related obligation under the Act, shall have committed a Contravention. Contraventions
50. If a Licensee commits a Contravention, the Commission may take one or more of the following enforcement measures: Enforcement measures
- (a) Refusing applications for Assignments;
  - (b) Imposing administrative fines pursuant to Regulation 14 of the Enforcement Processes Regulations; and
  - (c) Issuing one or more directions pursuant to Section 53 of the Act.
51. In considering the application of enforcement measures under Regulation 50 the Commission may take into account factors including but not limited to: Factors in applying enforcement measures
- (a) The factors and considerations set out in Regulation 14 of the Enforcement Processes Regulations; and
  - (b) Any failures to fulfil obligations that arise partly or wholly from the failures of another Licensee.

**Part XV – Miscellaneous**

52. In these Regulations terms defined in the Act shall have the same meanings as in the Act, and also: Definitions

“Act” means the Nigerian Communications Act 2003;

“Allocation Status” means the status of a Block defined pursuant to Regulation 5;

“Assignment” means a set of Blocks that consist of Numbers that are defined by the National Numbering Plan;

“Block”, as illustrated by the examples in the Schedule to these Regulations, means a set of consecutive Numbers that has as its least Number the result of multiplying the Code of the Block by the Size of the Block and that has as its greatest Number one (1) less than the result of adding its Size to its least Number;

“Code” means a positive integer that forms the most significant digits of each of the Numbers in a Block;

“Contravention” means any failure to comply with the requirements identified in Regulation 49;

“End User” means a Customer that is not an Interconnecting Licensee or a provider of an international route to or from the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

“Enforcement Processes Regulations” means the Nigerian Communications (Enforcement Processes, etc.) Regulations 2005, S.I. 7 of 2005, as those regulations may be amended from time to time;

“Interconnecting Licensee” means a Licensee that has an Interconnection with another Licensee at a Network Termination Point;

“IP” means the Internetwork Protocol that is defined by the Internet Engineering Task Force and that is often known as the Internet Protocol;

“National Numbering Plan” means the numbering and electronic addressing plan developed under Section 128(2) of the Act, excluding these Regulations;

“Network Termination Point” means a point at which a customer has physical access through customer equipment to a network of a Licensee;

“Number”, as illustrated by the examples in the Schedule to these Regulations, means a sequence of digits preceded by \* or # if necessary and followed by \* or # if necessary that might be used to identify to customers the Network Termination Points that are associated with a particular service of an End User;

“Service Provider Number Portability” means letting an End User take



service from one Licensee through a Number assigned to another Licensee;

“Size” means a positive integer that is one (1), ten (10), one hundred (100), one thousand (1000), ten thousand (10000), one hundred thousand (100000), one million (1000000), ten million (10000000) or one hundred million (100000000) and that represents the quantity of Numbers in a Block;

“Usage Conditions” means the conditions that shall be satisfied by services that use the Numbers in a Block;

“Utilisation” means the proportion of Numbers that have In Service as their Utilisation Status; and

“Utilisation Status” means the status of a Number defined pursuant to Regulation 15.

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| 53. | The Commission may from time to time review and modify these Regulations, including the Schedule, pursuant to the review processes of Section 72 of the Act. In doing so the Commission may request and receive advice from external advisory groups but shall not be bound by any such advice. | Changes to the Regulations |
| 54. | The Commission may from time to time issue additional rules, directions or guidelines on any aspect of these Regulations, and either of general application or specific to a Licensee.  | Further Directions         |
| 55. | These Regulations may be cited as the Numbering Regulations 2007.   | Short Title                |

Made at Abuja this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2007.

## **SCHEDULE – Examples of Numbers and Blocks**

These examples are based on the National Numbering Plan as published at the time of preparation of these Regulations.

In these Regulations the trunk prefix is not regarded as part of the Number; doing this is both convenient for the definitions in the Regulations and consistent with the recommendations of the International Telecommunication Union. In consequence, a customer dialling 012691531 in Nigeria is using the Number 12691531 with the trunk prefix 0. In the current implementation of the National Numbering Plan, this Number actually identifies the Lagos area ('1'), the Ikoyi exchange ('269' and one line out of ten thousand (10000) lines that have been assigned to this part of Lagos. In the terminology of these Regulations, there is a Block that has 1269 as its Code and 10000 as its Size. It contains all the Numbers between its least Number, 12690000 ( $=1269 \times 10000$ ), and its greatest Number, 12699999 ( $=1269 \times 10000 + 10000 - 1$ ). It has Assigned as its Allocation Status (because it has been assigned to a Licensee for use in that part of Lagos).

A customer dialling 01732531 in Nigeria is using the Number 1732531 with the trunk prefix 0. In the current implementation of the National Numbering Plan, this Number actually identifies the Lagos area ('1'), the Bagadry exchange ('732') and one line out of one thousand (1000) lines that have been assigned to this part of Lagos. In the terminology of these Regulations, there is a Block that has 1732 as its Code and 1000 as its Size. It contains all the Numbers between its least Number, 1732000 ( $=1732 \times 1000$ ), and its greatest Number, 1732999 ( $=1732 \times 1000 + 1000 - 1$ ). It has Assigned as its Allocation Status (because it has been assigned to a Licensee for use in that part of Lagos).

According to the National Numbering Plan, in this part of Lagos other Blocks could be assigned but have not been assigned yet. For instance, the Block containing all the Numbers between 1734000 ( $=1734 \times 1000$ ), and its greatest Number, 1734999 ( $=1734 \times 1000 + 1000 - 1$ ) has 1734 as its Code and 1000 as its Size. It has Assignable as its Allocation Status (because it could be assigned to a Licensee for use in that part of Lagos but has not been assigned).

The Blocks mentioned so far have Usage Conditions that restrict the geographic areas for receiving calls or messages (to Lagos or parts of Lagos). However, some Blocks in the National Numbering Plan do not have Usage Conditions like these. In particular, this is so for the Block containing all the Numbers between 8040000000 ( $=804 \times 10000000$ ) and 8049999999 ( $=804 \times 10000000 + 10000000 - 1$ ), which has 804 as its Code, 10000000 as its Size and Assigned as its Allocation Status.

Some Blocks have not yet been given purposes; an example is the Block containing all the Numbers between 8000000000 ( $=800 \times 10000000$ ) and 8009999999 ( $=800 \times 10000000 + 10000000 - 1$ ), which has 800 as its Code and 10000000 as its Size. In many countries a Block having this Code is used for freephone services. Possibly in Nigeria this Block should have Expected To Become Assignable as its Allocation Status, with the expectation that in due course it would be used for freephone services; it would then have a Usage Condition that would restrict the charges for calls or messages (as calls and messages would be free). However, the use of the Block for freephone, or any other, services might be decided to be confusing because of the similarity between its Code and the Codes for mobile telephone numbers; in that case the Block should have Unusable as its Allocation Status. Until the purpose of the Block is determined it should have Retained as its Allocation Status.

As these examples show, Blocks can have very different sizes. Assignments can split them into other Blocks, some of which have Assigned as their Allocation Status and some of which have Assignable as their Allocation Status. Blocks are intended just for ease of description, assignment and routing. In fact, a Block could be any set of consecutive Numbers that has a suitable Code and a suitable Size, provided that there is one Allocation Status and the same Usage Conditions throughout the set.

The International Telecommunication Union calls a telephone number such as 12691531 (without the trunk prefix) a 'National (Significant) Number'. However, telephone numbers are not the only Numbers in the terminology of these Regulations. In particular, short codes for fixed telephones and mobile telephones are also Numbers.

Short codes are often assigned individually. In such cases they correspond to Blocks that have 1 as their Size. For instance, the national emergency number given in the National Numbering Plan, 115, can be regarded as the Block containing all the Numbers between 115 ( $=115 \times 1$ ) and 115 ( $=115 \times 1 + 1 - 1$ ), which has 115 as its Code and 1 as its Size.

Nonetheless some short codes have in effect been assigned in larger Blocks. For instance, in the National Numbering Plan one set of short codes intended for prepaid and internet services is the Block containing all the Numbers between 15000 ( $=15 \times 1000$ ) and 15999 ( $=15 \times 1000 + 1000 - 1$ ), which has 15 as its Code and 1000 as its Size. A customer dialling 15999 in Nigeria can gain access to a prepaid calling card service and can then dial, say, 012691531 (possibly preceded by a Personal Identification Number). In such respects, a prepaid calling card service number is very like a carrier selection code that in many countries would be used for call-by-call selection of the trunk network.

The same national emergency number should be usable on all access networks. By contrast, a prepaid calling card service number might be usable only on a particular access network. The Block containing the prepaid calling card service number would then have a Usage Condition that restricted which networks were required to route traffic to and from it. Such a Usage Condition would be inappropriate for a Block containing telephone numbers (as opposed to short codes), because telephone numbers are intended to be usable on all access networks.