



Commission for
Communications Regulation

Information Notice

- **Order Handling Charges for 2005/06**
- **Number Translation Code Rates for 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07**

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1 Introduction

The Commission for Communications Regulation (“ComReg”) welcomes the publication by eircom of the updated Reference Interconnect Offer (“RIO”) Price List relating to wholesale Order Handling Charges (“OHC”) and regulated retention rates for Number Translation Codes (“NTC”) services.

The update is available on the eircom website at the following link:

<http://www.eircomwholesale.ie>

2 Order Handling Charges

OHC¹ rates for 2005/2006 are published for the following eircom services:

- Service Schedule 120: eircom Carrier pre-selection² (CPS Service)
- Service Schedule 301: Reciprocal Non Geographic Number Portability Service³
- Service Schedule 401: Single Billing through Wholesale Line Rental⁴

ComReg has carried out a detailed review of the costing models submitted by eircom and is of the view that the final OHC rates for 2005/2006 proposed by eircom meet the cost orientation obligation as set out in the Regulation 8(3) of the Interconnection Regulations⁵.

OAOs should note the following:

- The final OHC rates for 2005/2006 will act as interim rates for financial year 2006/2007 and this will take effect from 1 April, 2006.
- ComReg will review the 2006/2007 rates following publication of separated accounts for 2006/07, as part of a rates finalisation process.

¹ Order handling charges in this context are *eircom's* charges for processing customers' orders for the services referred to in this information notice. An order handling charge arises because of the costs that *eircom* itself incurs in processing such orders.

² Carrier pre-selection ('CPS') refers to the facility offered to customers which allows them to opt for certain defined classes of call to be carried by an operator selected in advance (and having a contract with the customer) without having to dial a routing prefix or follow any other different procedure to invoke such routing.

³ Non-geographic number portability refers to a situation where a customer who has had allocated to him or her, a non-geographic number associated with a particular type of service (such as 0800 freephone, a 07 personal number, or a 090 premium rate number) can retain that number when changing to a different operator or service provider offering a service of the same or similar type.

⁴ Single billing refers to the ability of a customer to receive a single bill from the service provider of his or her choice for every aspect of his or her telephone service requirements including all calls and line rental.

⁵ European Communities (Interconnection in Telecommunications) Regulations, 1998 to 2000 as continued by Regulation 8(1) of S.I. No. 305 of 2003 the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Access) Regulations 2003 until such time as significant market power obligations (if any) pursuant to Regulation 9 of the Access Regulations are imposed

3 Number Translation Code Rates

NTC rates for 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 are published for the following *eircom* services:

- Service Schedule 105: Access to *eircom* PRS services
- Service Schedule 106: Access to *eircom* Freefone Service
- Service Schedule 107: Access to *eircom* LoCall Service
- Service Schedule 108: Access to *eircom* Callsave
- Service Schedule 109: *eircom* Universal Number
- Service Schedule 110: *eircom* personal Numbering Access
- Service Schedule 121: Access to *eircom* internet Service (1891)
- Service Schedule 122: Access to *eircom* internet Services (1892)

eircom previously finalised the interconnection rates for the years 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 as notified in ComReg Document 06/23. The interconnection rates included the call origination charges, which represent a substantial proportion of the NTC charges. As such *eircom* felt that it was also appropriate to set the NTC rates as final to 31 March 2007.

ComReg has carried out a detailed review of the costing model submitted by *eircom* and believes firstly that the 2004/2005 and 2005/2006 rates proposed by *eircom* meet the cost orientation obligation as set out in Regulation 8(3) of the Interconnection Regulations⁶ and secondly that the 2006/2007 rates proposed will meet this obligation. ComReg accepts *eircom*'s position that it does not expect any significant variance to the forecasted costs and volumes up to March 2007 that would result in a significant change to the NTC rates as proposed by *eircom* for that period.

In its submissions to ComReg, *eircom* expressed the view that the finalisation of the NTC rates on this basis should be beneficial to OAOs as this will provide stability and certainty in the NTC market.

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⁶ European Communities (Interconnection in Telecommunications) Regulations, 1998 to 2000 as continued by Regulation 8(1) of S.I. No. 305 of 2003 the European Communities (Electronic Communications Networks and Services) (Access) Regulations 2003 until such time as significant market power obligations (if any) pursuant to Regulation 9 of the Access Regulations are imposed