

## **PROCEDURES FOR ASSIGNING 3-DIGIT ACCESS CODES**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Access codes "00X" to "03X" are divided into two pools - Pool A and Pool B. Codes in Pool B have recognisable patterns and are considered more desirable than the codes in Pool A. These codes are shown and explained in Attachments B & C.

### **2. General Principles and Procedures**

- 2.1 IDA will determine an applicant's qualification for 3-digit codes upon justification. The criteria for the allocation of 3-digit access codes are set out in Attachment A. Applicants who do not qualify for 3-digit codes may be recommended to use 4-digit codes. The procedure for assigning 4-digit access codes is provided in Annex 2.
- 2.2 Qualified applicants may request for 3-digit access codes from either Pool A or Pool B. Access codes from Pool A which are allocated through balloting, are allocated without charge. Qualified applicants requesting for Pool A access codes are to follow the balloting procedures listed in Attachment B. Access codes from Pool B which are allocated through bidding, are allocated at the bid price. The minimum bid price for Pool B access codes is S\$50,000 (excluding GST). Qualified applicants requesting for Pool B access codes are to follow the bidding procedures listed in Attachment C.
- 2.3 Applicants who have successfully balloted for Pool A access codes but do not wish to retain the balloted codes are eligible to bid for access codes in Pool B. These applicants may take part in the next available bidding session. Upon successfully bidding for a code from Pool B, the code initially balloted from Pool A will be recovered by IDA.
- 2.4 Applicants who have successfully bid for codes from Pool B are required to pay the offered amount. These applicants will no longer be eligible for balloting or bidding of codes.
- 2.5 Except where approved, assigned access codes must be activated within 6 months from the date of assignment<sup>25</sup>. Codes not activated within the stipulated period will be recovered from licensees. Inefficiently used codes will also be recovered.

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<sup>25</sup> Date of assignment for codes from Pool A is the date of successful ballot allocation or the date of licence approval, whichever later. Date of assignment for codes from Pool B is the date of receipt of payment for the bid.

- 2.6 Extension to activation date of access code may be granted to licensees upon justification. The period of extension granted will not exceed 6 months. Codes not put into use after the extension will be recovered without refund. Licensees who have their Pool A code recovered shall pay an Access Code Acquisition Fee of S\$20,000 (exclude GST) before they can reapply to acquire access codes from either Pool A or Pool B. Licensees affected by the recovery of the Pool B code are exempted from the payment of the Access Code Acquisition Fee if they reapply to acquire access codes from either Pool A or Pool B.
- 2.7 Access codes assigned to licensees are not transferable and will be recovered by IDA if the licensees fail to:
  - a. Hold a valid FBO licence; or
  - b. Commence or provide the service requiring the access code
- 2.8 Once code assignment and payment have been made, no refund will be made even if the access code is returned to IDA

### **3. PAYMENT FOR POOL B ACCESS CODES**

The amount payable for each access code from Pool B is based on the amount that the access code was bid for. All payment for access codes must be forwarded to IDA within seven (7) working days from receiving the invoice for the access code.

**Attachment A****CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION OF 3-DIGIT ACCESS CODES**

- 1 With the full liberalisation of the telecommunication market from 1 April 2000, and with no pre-set limit on the number of licences to be granted, 3-digit access codes has become a scarce number resource. As such, only Facilities-Based Operators<sup>26</sup> (FBO) licensees that have commit an overall investment in infrastructure of an amount not less than S\$150 millions over the first 3 years from date of licensing are eligible for 3-digit access codes. The investment shall include international connectivity and capacity that will expand the overall global international reach from Singapore.
- 2 Eligible FBOs requesting for 3-digit access codes must use the codes to provide service for the mass consumer market, an example of which is the offering of international public switched services to the general public. Eligible FBO offering international communication services to corporate users alone will not be qualified for 3-digit access codes.
- 3 In order to conserve the 3-digit access codes to meet all justifiable demand for as long a period as possible, each eligible FBO is restricted to one '00X' code (subject to availability) and six '0XX' codes<sup>27</sup>. Subject to IDA's approval, additional Level '0' short code requirements beyond assigned limit, especially for differentiated schemes under the same service which has already been assigned a 3-digit access code, is to be met by 4-digit access codes.
- 4 Notwithstanding the above, IDA reserves the right to review the restriction of 3-digit access code allocation from time to time. IDA also reserves the right to review the service providers' usage of 3-digit access codes to determine if they are used efficiently. IDA will recover those access codes that are not used efficiently by giving the service providers at least 6 months' advance notice.

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<sup>26</sup> Facilities-based operators refers to licensees who deploy of any form of telecommunication networks, systems and facilities, outside of their own property boundaries, to offer telecommunication services to third parties, which may include other licensed telecommunication operators, business customers or the general public.

<sup>27</sup> Restriction applies for all applications following the full liberalisation of telecommunications market on 1 April 2000.

**Attachment B**

**PROCEDURES FOR BALLOTTING 3-DIGIT ACCESS CODES IN POOL A**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 A first-come-first-served principle is adopted in the assignment of Pool A access codes through balloting.
- 1.2 The sequence in which applicants ballot for the access code in a balloting session is determined by the order in which IDA approves the licence or short code application (whichever later).

**2. Ordinary Access Codes for Balloting**

- 2.1 Pool A access codes are numbers from 010 to 039 less the numbers in Pool B that are in that range.
- 2.2 IDA will inform approved FBO applicants of the Pool A codes that are available for balloting.

**3. Balloting Arrangements**

- 3.1 Applicants whose licence and access code applications have been approved by IDA will be invited to attend a balloting session held in IDA's premises. The date and time of the balloting session will be arranged between IDA and the applicants.
- 3.2 The arrangement for the balloting process will be explained to applicants prior the actual balloting session.
- 3.3 Each applicant will randomly draw an access code from the access codes available in Pool A.
- 3.4 The access code drawn in the ballot will be assigned to the applicant upon the successful acquisition of the required licence by the applicant.

## **PROCEDURES FOR BIDDING 3-DIGIT ACCESS CODES FROM POOL B**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Upon receipt of a qualifying applicant's request to bid for a Pool B access codes, IDA will wait for a period of 1 month to collate similar requests from other FBOs.
  - 1.2 If there are more than one request to bid at the expiry of the 1 month waiting period, IDA will conduct a bidding session. If only one request is received, the applicant may pay the minimum bid amount of S\$50,000 and select an available Pool B access code.
  - 1.3 An applicant who fails to attend the bidding session despite indicating the intention to do so shall be handled as per Para. 3.5 or 3.6, whichever applicable.

## 2. Special Access Codes for Bidding

- 2.1 Pool B access codes are:
    - 00X
    - 0YY
    - 0YZ (where X = 1 to 9  
Y = 1 to 3  
Z = 0 and 8)
  - 2.2 For each bidding session, the lowest available 00X access code will be selected for bidding.
  - 2.3 In addition, for the 0YY and 0YZ access codes, the number of access codes equal to the number of bidders less one will be randomly selected for bidding (see Para. 2.2). Bidders will be invited to witness the random selection of the required number of access codes prior to the actual bidding session.
  - 2.4 IDA will inform the approved FBO applicants of all the Pool B access codes that are available for bidding.

### 3. Bidding Arrangements

- 3.1 Applicants whose licence and access code applications have been approved by IDA, and have indicated their intention to bid for a Pool B code will be

invited to attend a bidding session held in IDA's premises. Applicants will be informed of the date and time of the bidding session.

- 3.2 The arrangement for the bidding process will be explained to applicants prior the actual bidding session.
- 3.3 The Pool B access codes selected in Para. 2.2 and 2.3 will be sequentially put up for bidding. Bidders interested to bid for an access code at a particular price shall submit a bid by raising the bidding card provided. The bid price for each access code will be systematically increased by a fixed amount from the floor price of S\$50,000 until only one interested bidder (the highest bidder) is left.
- 3.4 An access code successfully bid for by the highest bidder will be assigned to the applicant upon the successful acquisition of the required licence.
- 3.5 Bidders who had earlier balloted for access codes but was either unsuccessful in the bidding or did not take part in the bidding session, can choose to keep the ordinary access code that was earlier balloted or take part in the next bidding session.
- 3.6 Bidders who had requested to take part in the bidding without first going through the balloting can choose to ballot for ordinary access codes if they did not succeed or participate in the bidding. In such cases, bidders can choose to accept the access code that is balloted or take part in the next bidding session.