
2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.4 PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS AND CREDIT ALLOWANCES (CONT'D)

2.4.6 PREPAYMENT DISCOUNT

Recurring rates for services provided under a fixed-period service pricing plan may, at the customer's option, be prepaid in whole or in part. The prepaid amount shall be subject to a prepayment discount, which will be calculated by the Company, using an annuity factor which is based on the after tax basis of the Company's incremental cost of capital rate at the time of the prepayment and the term for which the prepayment is being made.

2.4.7 SPREAD OF NONRECURRING CHARGES

Nonrecurring charges for services provided under a fixed-period service pricing plan may, at the customer's option, be spread over the term of the plan and paid monthly as part of the customer's monthly billing. The additional charge will be calculated by the Company, using a composite annuity factor which is based on the Company's cost of money, income tax and depreciation factors. If customer discontinues or converts service provided under a spread of nonrecurring charges, the nonrecurring charges become due immediately.

2.5 CONNECTIONS

2.5.1 GENERAL

Equipment and systems, i.e., terminal equipment and communications systems, may be connected with Advanced Communications Services furnished by the Company where such connection is made in accordance with the provisions of this Catalog and the provisions set forth in the technical publications listed in this Catalog under Reference to Technical Publications.

Customer terminal equipment and systems must conform to industry standards set forth in technical publications listed in this Catalog under Reference to Technical Publications.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS

Certain terms used herein are defined as follows:

ACS Network

The commonly-shared, geographically-distributed arrangement of interoperating advanced communications components. Together, these components provide advanced communications services and/or functionalities of a specified type to multiple customers.

Bit

The smallest unit of information in the binary system of notation.

Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD)

A method of controlling access to a shared transmission path, particularly in local area networks.

Committed Information Rate (CIR)

The number of bits transmitted per second, under normal conditions, over a Permanent Virtual Connection (PVC).

Communication System - Communication links and other facilities which are capable of communications between terminal equipment provided by other than the Company.

Customer

Any individual, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, corporation, governmental entity or any other entity which subscribes to the services offered herein.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (CONT'D)

Discard Eligibility (DE)

A bit in the Frame Relay header that enables the network to manage congestion.

Ethernet

A local area network design employing CSMA/CD as its access control mechanism.

Ethernet Virtual Circuit (EVC)

The term "Ethernet Virtual Circuit" (EVC) denotes an association of two or more Network Interfaces (NI). The EVC connects two or more subscriber sites (NIs) enabling private and secure transfer of Ethernet frames between them. An internal identifier is transparently assigned by the Company to customer traffic and prevents data transfer between subscriber sites not part of the same customer EVC. The EVC also provides customer traffic segmentation over the shared Metro Optical Ethernet (MOE) Network.

Facilities

Data switches, wires, cables, circuits, conduit, poles or space thereon, service entrances, network interfaces and all other Company-provided equipment.

First Come, First Served

A procedure followed when the first order or transmission received will be the first processed.

Flag Sequence

The sequence of bits employed to delimit the beginning and ending of a frame.

Frame

A sequence of contiguous bits delimited by beginning and ending flag sequences.

Hot Back-Up

When a customer has purchased Interface Redundancy, hot back-up is the electronic redundancy of a Data Link interface which becomes active if a Data Link interface fails.

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2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (CONT'D)

Local Area Network (LAN)

A network permitting the interconnection and intercommunication of a group of computers, primarily for the sharing of resources such as data storage devices and printers.

Logical Channel

A communications channel through the network that allows transmission of sequenced data packets through the network. No circuit capacity is preassigned to a logical channel; capacity is made available as data is transmitted.

Network Interface (NI)

The point of interconnection between Company communications facilities and terminal equipment, protective apparatus or other customer-provided facilities. The network interface serving the customer's premises is also referred to as the demarcation point.

Network-To-Network Interface (NNI)

A frame relay industry-standard interface between two frame relay networks used to connect private or public frame relay networks.

Open System Interconnection (OSI)

A seven-layer, generic network architecture model, used to standardize network protocol. Its purpose is to facilitate interoperability, enabling any OSI compliant computer or device to communicate with any other OSI compliant computer or device for an exchange of information.

Effective: December 29, 2000

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (CONT'D)

Polling

Status inquiry message sent on a data communications facility to give the receiving end of the inquiry an opportunity to transmit and/or receive information.

Premises

A building, or a portion of a building in a multi-tenant building, or buildings on continuous property (except railroad rights of way, etc.) not separated by a public highway. This term is not limited to one building, but applies as well to a complex, or campus-type configuration of buildings.

Private Frame Relay Network

Typically a single-owner, single-user network, which may be interconnected with a public frame relay service network.

Protocol

A set of conditions for conducting interactions between two or more terminals, hosts or peripherals. These conditions consist of syntax (header structure), semantics (actions and reactions that are supposed to occur) and timing (relative ordering and duration of states and events).

Public Frame Relay Network

Typically a multi-user, shared network, used by a frame relay service provider to provide frame relay service to its customers.

Service Point

The geographic location designated by the Company at which the access component of a customer's Advanced Communications Service is considered to first enter the ACS Network.

2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

2.6 DEFINITIONS (CONT'D)

Statistical Multiplexing

A multiplexing technique in which timeslots are dynamically allocated on the basis of need rather than being predefined. The data is typically transmitted on a first come, first served basis.

Transparent

In communications systems, that property which allows transmission of signals without changing their electrical characteristics or coding beyond the specified limits of the system design.

Uniform Service Order Code (USOC)

A three or five character alphabetic, numeric, or an alphanumeric code that identifies a specific item of service or equipment. Uniform Service Order Codes are used in the Company billing system to generate recurring rates and nonrecurring charges.

User-To-Network Interface (UNI)

A frame relay industry-standard interface between an end user customer and a frame relay network.

Virtual Circuit

A logical transmission channel established to a network address. The logical channel exists for a period of time until either end of the channel terminates the transmission.

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