

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)**ITEM 300. General**

This Part governs the provision of interconnection services associated with facilities and services of the Company and those of Telecommunications Providers that are IXSPs. An interexchange carrier (“IXC”) that wishes to interconnect with the Company must also enter into an interconnection agreement with the Company in the form of the CLEC-IXC Agreement.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)**ITEM 301. Terms and Conditions Applicable to Interconnection with IXSPs**

1. The Company will provide at least one suitably equipped point of interconnection in each exchange in which it operates as a CLEC. An IXC may also enter into a transiting arrangement to interconnect with the Company via the ILEC where suitable ILEC facilities exist.
2. Equal Access
 1. Equal Access is available to IXSPs in the Company's serving areas.
 2. Equal Access is available from any local reseller that is an affiliate of the Company to IXSPs that subscribe to interconnection services from the Company.
3. The provision of interconnection services is further subject to the terms and conditions specified in the CLEC-IXC Agreement, including the Appendices and Schedules, and in the PIC/CARE Access Customer Handbook described in Item 302.4.3. As an exception to Item 102.8, the CLEC-IXC Agreement defines and determines the procedures for handling confidential information provided by the IXSP to the Company and specifies procedures with respect to the receipt and processing of orders from the IXSP, interchange carrier billing, network planning requirements and PIC information processing, all in relation to interconnection services.

Such procedures shall also bind IX resellers and govern the handling of confidential information provided by the IX reseller to the Company. The Company shall provide the IX reseller with a copy of the CLEC-IXC Agreement.

2. As a condition for network interconnection with the Company:
 1. All carriers that establish network interconnection and call routing arrangements related to 900 calls must abide by the Commission-mandated consumer safeguards for 900 Service as outlined in Telecom Decision CRTC 2006-48, Appendix A as may be amended by the Commission from time to time; and
 2. These carriers are to include and enforce in all contracts or other arrangements with their 900 service content provider customers, the requirement to abide by these same Commission-mandated consumer safeguards.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)**ITEM 301. Terms and Conditions Applicable to Interconnection with IXSPs - continued**

5. The Company does not make any representation that its interconnection services shall at all times be available in the quantities requested and at the locations specified by the IXSP. The Company shall, however, devote its best reasonable effort to make such interconnection services available on request, in accordance with the Network Planning section of the CLEC-IXC Agreement and taking account of the Company's own requirements.
6. When the Company agrees to provide interconnection services under this Part at the IXSP's premises or at its customers' premises, the IXSP will furnish or arrange to furnish to the Company, at no charge, adequate equipment space and electrical power..
7. The IXSP will also furnish or arrange to furnish to the Company, at no charge, any additional facilities or protective apparatus that may be required due to particular hazards at the interconnection locations.
8. Where equipment or facilities are provided by the IXSP, or its customers, including IX resellers, the interface with the Company's equipment or facilities shall comply with industry-accepted guidelines.
9. Prior to receiving interconnection service pursuant to this Part, an IXSP must register with the CRTC and with the Company, except IXSPs that resell the Company's switched local exchange or switched interexchange service only to persons physically located in or on the IXSP's business premises.
10. Together with its registration, an IXC shall file with the CRTC a full description of its interexchange network, including information regarding the extent of owned and leased transmission facilities and shall notify the Company of such filing.
11. Network Changes
 1. The Company makes no representations that its equipment and facilities are adapted or will remain adapted for use in connection with IXSP-provided equipment or facilities.
 2. The Company reserves the right to change in whole or in part, the design, function, operation or layout of its equipment or facilities as it considers necessary. The Company shall not be responsible to an IXSP or its customers for any equipment or facilities which cease to be compatible with the Company's equipment or facilities or become inoperative because of such changes to the Company's equipment or facilities.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)**ITEM 301. Terms and Conditions Applicable to Interconnection with IXSPs - continued**

11. Network Changes - continued

3. The Company will provide the IXSP with advance notice of changes to the Company's equipment or facilities that may affect the IXSP's interconnection with the Company in accordance with applicable CRTC requirements.
4. The IXSP shall not implement any change to its operations, services or network which would, in the reasonable assessment of the Company, materially affect the Company's operation, interconnection services or network, without the prior consent of the Company, which shall not unreasonably be withheld.
5. The IXSP will provide the Company with advance notice of changes to the IXSP's equipment or facilities that may affect the Company's interconnection with the IXSP in accordance with applicable CRTC requirements.

5. Network Outages

1. The Company will provide the IXSP with the earliest possible notice of all network outages affecting the operation of the IXSP's equipment or facilities.
2. The Company does not guarantee uninterrupted working of its interconnection service, and shall not be liable to the IXSP, its customers or to any other person, for any failure or delay in performance of any interconnection service provided pursuant to this Part, to the extent that such failure or delay is attributable to causes or results from events beyond the Company's reasonable control. Nothing in this paragraph shall extend the liability of the Company as specified in the Terms (Item 102) in the event of network outages or service problems.

6. Protection

The characteristics and methods of operation of any circuits, equipment or facilities of the IXSP, when connected to the Company, shall not:

1. interfere with or impair service over any facilities of the Company's or any Telecommunications Providers with which the Company interchanges traffic;
2. cause damage to the Company's facilities;
3. impair the privacy of any communication carried over the Company's facilities, or
4. create hazards to the Company's employees or to the public.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)**ITEM 301. Terms and Conditions Applicable to Interconnection with IXSPs - continued**

5. If such characteristics or methods of operation are not in accordance with Item 301.12, the Company will, where practicable, notify the IXSP that temporary discontinuance of the use of any equipment or facilities may be required. When prior notice is not practicable, nothing contained within the Tariff shall be deemed to preclude the Company's from temporarily discontinuing forthwith the availability to the IXSP of any equipment or facility if such action is reasonable under the circumstances. In cases of such discontinuance, the IXSP will be promptly notified and afforded the opportunity to correct the condition which caused the temporary discontinuance.
6. During any period of temporary discontinuance of service caused by a trouble or condition arising in the IXSP's operations, equipment or facilities, no refund for interruption of service, as specified in the Terms (Item 102), shall be made.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)

ITEM 302. Trunk-side Access

1. Feature Group D Interconnecting Circuits

1. Trunk-side access permits the interconnection of facilities to enable the interchange of traffic between the Company and the IXSP, and can be configured for Feature Group D (FGD).
2. FGD interconnection enables the IXSP to offer end-customers access to its services by dialling directly (1+, 0+, 011+, 00- or 01+) or for casual access (10XXX or 10XXXX).
3. Trunk-side access is provided through FGD interconnecting circuits that may, subject to the availability of suitable facilities:
 1. be connected using Access Tandem (AT) Connection or Direct Connection (DC); and
 2. use MF or CCS7 signalling.
4. The facilities used for trunk-side access may be provided by the Company or any Telecommunications Provider.
5. The order processing charges specified below apply for each DS-0 Set used as FGD interconnecting circuits. A “DS-0 Set” means a group of FGD DS-0s within the same DS-1 connected at the same location and ordered at the same time.

Feature Group D Interconnecting Circuits		
Territory	Inward Order, each DS-0 Set (\$)	Change Order, each DS-0 Set (\$)
Ontario ¹	NorthernTel CRTC, Section N200, Item 8 (1.07)	
Ontario/Quebec ²	Bell CRTC 7516, Item 40(1)(g)(1) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 40(1)(g)(1)	

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1. Rates applicable in the operating territory of NorthernTel Limited Partnership operating as the SILEC.
 2. Rates applicable in the operating territories of Bell Aliant and Bell Canada operating as the ILECs.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)

ITEM 302. Trunk-side Access – continued

2. Switching and Aggregation

1. The Company offers switching and aggregation service to IXSPs comprised of switching, transport and signalling functions at the originating or terminating end of a call, including, subject to availability:
 1. hardware answer supervision;
 2. delivery of calling line identification.
2. When an IXSP requests trunk-side access, a switching and aggregation charge applies to each conversation minute of originating or terminating traffic exchanged. This charge is derived by multiplying the charge based on total elapsed carrier connect time by the connect time to conversation minutes ratio.
3. When an IXSP requests Access Tandem Connection, the switching and aggregation charge is comprised of the combined Direct Connection and Access Tandem Connection charges listed below:
4. Charges:

Switching and Aggregation Charges						
Territory	Rate Based on Connect Time (\$)		Connect Time to Conversation Minutes Ratio		Charge Based on Conversation Minutes (\$)	
	Direct Connection	Access Tandem	Direct Connection	Access Tandem	Direct Connection	Access Tandem
Ontario ¹	N/A				NorthernTel CRTC 25510 Section N200, Item 8(2.02)	N/A
Ontario/Quebec ²	Bell CRTC 7516, Item 40(4)(d) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 40(4)(d)					

1. Rates applicable in the operating territory of NorthernTel Limited Partnership operating as the SILEC.
 2. Rates applicable in the operating territories of Bell Aliant and Bell Canada operating as the ILECs.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)**ITEM 302. Trunk-side Access - continued****3. CCS7 Signalling**

1. CCS7 Signalling service may be provided by the Company to an IXSP for the purpose of call set-up and take-down. The service provides a port connection on the Company's designated gateway Signalling Transfer Points (STPs) for each DS-0 channel linking the Company's STPs to the IXSP's STPs or switch(es). An IXSP may establish either IXSP STP-to-STP connection ("D-link") or IXSP switch-to-STP connection ("A-link"), but not both.
2. The DS-0 channel facility linking the Company's STPs to the IXSP's STPs or switch(es) may be provided by the Company or by any Telecommunications Provider.

Rates

3. The monthly rate for each STP port connection used to establish a DS-0 channel D-link is specified below. IXSPs are required to connect in multiples of 4 DS-0 channels.
4. The monthly rate for each STP port connection used to establish a DS-0 channel A-link is specified below. IXSPs are required to connect in multiples of 2 DS-0 channels per switch.

Service Charges

5. The order processing charges specified below apply for each DS-0 Set of D-links or A-links. A "DS-0 Set" means a group of DS-0s within the same DS-1 connected at the same location and ordered at the same time.
6. When it is necessary for the Company to incur expense in order to meet IXSP requirements for subsequent additions or changes to D-links or A-links, the IXSP shall pay an additional charge based on estimated time and costs incurred to meet the IXSP's request.
7. In addition, the service charge specified below applies for operations and translations associated with the provisioning of STP port connections to establish DS-0 channels for A-links. This charge applies to each IXSP request for work to be completed at the same time and applies only once for all connections ordered at the same time.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)

ITEM 302. Trunk-side Access – continued

CCS7 Signalling					
Territory	Monthly Charges (\$)		Service Charges (\$)		
	D-link, per port connection Item 302.3.3	A-link, per port connection Item 302.3.4	Inward order, per DS-0 set Item 302.3.5	Change order, per DS-0 set Item 302.3.6	Operation and translation for A-link Item 302.3.7
Ontario ¹	NorthernTel CRTC 25510 Section N200, Item 8(1.08)	NorthernTel CRTC 25510 Section N200, Item 8(1.08)	NorthernTel CRTC 25510 Section N200, Item 8 (1.07)		[FILE]
Ontario/Quebec ²	Bell CRTC 7516 Item 40(1)(h)(1) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562 Item 40(1)(h)(1)	Bell CRTC 7516 Item 40(1)(h)(2) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562 Item 40(1)(h)(2)	Bell CRTC 7516, Item 40(1)(g)(1) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 40(1)(g)(1)		Bell CRTC 7516, Item 40(1)(h)(3) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 40(1)(h)(3)

1. Rates applicable in the operating territory of NorthernTel Limited Partnership operating as the SILEC.

2. Rates applicable in the operating territories of Bell Aliant and Bell Canada operating as the ILECs.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)**ITEM 302. Trunk-side Access - continued****4. Primary Interexchange Carrier (PIC) Processing**

1. Trunk-side access with FGD enables the IXSP to offer its end-customers access to its services by direct dialling. Such access is enabled by identifying the IXSP as the end-customer's PIC. PIC selections may be specified in respect of the Company's end-customer network access services ("NAS") that provide direct-dialled voice access to the PSTN. A list of specific eligible services is included in the PIC/CARE Access Customer Handbook (the "Handbook") described in Item 302.4.3. Charges associated with each of the PIC processing activities described below are set out in Item 302.4.8.
2. At least 60 calendar days before an IXSP wishes PIC processing to begin, the IXSP must establish a PIC processing account with the Company. When establishing the PIC processing account, the IXSP must provide its Customer Account Record Exchange (CARE) Profile. The CARE Profile form is provided in the Handbook and requires the IXSP to identify specified PIC processing parameters and options.

Subsequent changes to the IXSP's parameters and options must be provided to the Company in writing at least 30 calendar days before the requested effective date of the change.
3. The Company will provide each IXSP that establishes a PIC processing account with 2 copies of the Handbook. The Handbook contains standards and procedures for the processing of PIC transactions between the Company and the IXSP.
4. The Company will apply a PIC processing charge to the IXSP selected by an end-customer for establishing or changing a PIC selection in respect of that end-customer's NAS. Changes include adding new or additional NAS, end-customer moves and end-customer initiated telephone number changes.
5. In the case of PIC selection changes that are disputed by the end-customer or an IXSP on behalf of the end-customer, the end-customer's PIC selection will be reinstated to the previous PIC. The IXSP must then provide evidence of end-customer authorization as described in Schedule 4 of the CLEC-IXC Agreement. If such end-customer authorization is not provided within 15 business days from the date of the request from the Company, the IXSP will be deemed to have requested an unauthorized PIC change. In addition to the unauthorized PIC change charge set out below, the PIC processing charge set out below and associated with Item 302.4.4 is assessed to the IXSP that requested an unauthorized PIC change to cover the reinstatement of the unauthorized PIC to the previous PIC selection.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)

ITEM 302. Trunk-side Access - continued

4. Primary Interexchange Carrier (PIC) Processing - continued

6. To enable the IXSP to validate or place PIC subscription orders at the working telephone number level, the IXSP may request and obtain from the Company a detailed record transaction in CARE format of all working telephone numbers subscribed to a specific billing telephone number (“BTN”).
7. To enable the IXSP to perform reconciliation between the IXSP's billing records and the Company's PIC database, the IXSP may request a verification record from the Company.
8. The PIC processing service charges described in Items 302.4.2 and 302.4.3 set out below apply at the rate established for the territory where interconnection first occurs. The remaining PIC processing service charges apply at the rates set out below for each territory where the Company and the IXSP interconnect.

Primary Interexchange Carrier (PIC) Processing							
Territory	Account Set-up per PIC processing account (\$)	Changes to CARE profile, per request (\$)	Handbook, each additional copy (\$)	PIC Processing, per NAS (\$)	Unauthorized PIC Change, per NAS (\$)	BTN Detail per working telephone number provided (\$)	Verification of record per NAS (\$)
	Item 302.4.2	Item 302.4.2	Item 302.4.3	Item 302.4.4	Item 302.4.5	Item 302.4.6	Item 302.4.7
Ontario ¹	NorthernTel, CRTC 25510, Section N200, Item 2 (2.08)						
Ontario/Quebec ²	Bell CRTC 7516, Item 40(5)(h) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 40(5)(h)						

1. Rates applicable in the operating territory of NorthernTel Limited Partnership operating as the SILEC.

2. Rates applicable in the operating territories of Bell Aliant and Bell Canada operating as the ILECs.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)

ITEM 302. Trunk-side Access - continued

5. Carrier Network Profile Change

1. The Company will implement the network and translation options selected by the IXSP at the time of the IXSP's initial order for trunk-side access. The IXSP will indicate its selections by completing a carrier profile questionnaire ("CPQ") in respect of each carrier identification code ("CIC") used.
2. The following service charges will apply in respect of changes requested by the IXSP to its CPQ at any time subsequent to the initial programming in the Company's switch. The service charges apply to each switch in which modifications are required due to an IXSP's change request.

Carrier Network Profile Change Charge (\$)				
Territory	International Calling	Abbreviated Dialling No. 1	Pre-subscription Indication	Flexible ANI
Ontario¹	NorthernTel CRTC 25510, Section N200, Item 8 (3.03)			
Ontario/Quebec²	Bell CRTC 7516, Item 40(7)(c) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 40(7)(c)			

1. Rates applicable in the operating territory of NorthernTel Limited Partnership operating as the SILEC.
2. Rates applicable in the operating territories of Bell Aliant and Bell Canada operating as the ILECs.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)

ITEM 303. Network Announcements for Customers of Disconnected IXSPs with Trunk-side Access

1. This service provides for a network announcement to be activated when an IXSP with trunk-side access is disconnected from the Company’s network or otherwise ceases to provide its end-customers with access to interexchange services. The Company will route all calls destined for the network of the disconnected IXSP to a recorded announcement. The announcement will inform end-customers that the IXSP is no longer in service and direct such end-customers to contact another IXSP to establish service. The announcement will also provide instructions for making interexchange calls using casual calling.
2. The announcement creation fee specified below applies to each IXSP upon the provision of its CARE Profile for the creation of the announcement capability in respect of that IXSP.
3. In addition, each time an IXSP with trunk-side access is disconnected from the Company’s network, or otherwise ceases to provide its end-customers with access to interexchange services, the announcement activation charge specified below is assessed to each remaining IXSP having provided to the Company its CARE Profile for that ILEC operating territory, on the date that the announcement is activated.
4. Service Charges:

Network Announcements for Customers of Disconnected IXSPs with Trunk-Side Access		
Territory	Once only announcement creation fee (\$)	Announcement activation charge, each occurrence (\$)
Ontario ¹	[FILE]	
Ontario/Quebec ²	Bell CRTC 7516, Item 80(1)(c) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 80(1)(c)	

1. Rates applicable in the operating territory of NorthernTel Limited Partnership operating as the SILEC.
 2. Rates applicable in the operating territories of Bell Aliant and Bell Canada operating as the ILECs.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)

ITEM 304. Bulk Transfer of End-Customer Base Between IXSPs

1. This service is intended for situations such as acquisitions or mergers in which one IXSP with trunk side access (the “acquiring IXSP”) acquires the equal access end-customer base of another IXSP (the “original IXSP”). The acquiring IXSP can request the Company to convert the end-customers’ PIC selections from the original IXSP to the acquiring IXSP on a bulk transfer basis. Before the Company will process the requested transfer, the acquiring IXSP must provide The Company with documentation of the original IXSP’s agreement to the bulk transfer of its end-customer base.
2. The acquiring IXSP must request a bulk transfer of an original IXSP’s end-customer base from the Company in advance of the proposed transfer date. The advance notice required by the Company and the specific timing of the transfer will vary depending upon the size and nature of the end-customer base to be transferred.
3. Charges for processing a request for a bulk transfer of another IXSP’s end-customer base are assessed to the acquiring IXSP. The charges consist of a basic charge per request and a variable charge per NAS.
4. Charges

Territory	Basic Charge, each request (\$)	Variable Charge, each NAS (\$)
Ontario¹	NorthernTel CRTC 25510, Section N200, Item 4 (4.04)	
Ontario/Quebec²	Bell CRTC 7516, Item 85(1)(d) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 85(1)(d)	

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1. Rates applicable in the operating territory of NorthernTel Limited Partnership operating as the SILEC.
 2. Rates applicable in the operating territories of Bell Aliant and Bell Canada operating as the ILECs.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)**ITEM 305. Billing and Collection Service**

1. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in a Billing and Collection Services Agreement to be entered into between the Company and the IXSP or its agent, the Company will provide or arrange billing and collection service for eligible services provided by the IXSP. Eligible services are defined in the Billing and Collection Services Agreement and include bill to third number, collect, caller pays, directory assistance, casual calling, sent paid, coin telephone, conference call and messaging services.
2. Billing and Collection Service includes:
 1. preparation and rendering of bills for charges purchased by the Company from the IXSP which are associated with eligible services provided by the IXSP to end-customers who also maintain accounts with the Company for local service;
 2. collection of payments for charges associated with eligible calls placed by end-customers who use the IXSP's eligible services. Payments collected include appropriate taxes, which will be remitted by the IXSP to the appropriate governments unless the Company identifies the end-customer as tax-exempt (for either, or both, of GST and PST/HST). If the end-customer is tax-exempt, the appropriate tax, or taxes, will be removed, and remaining taxes will be recalculated by the Company, if necessary, and the revised tax amounts will be billed;
 3. answering of end-customer questions regarding charges billed by the Company for eligible services provided by the IXSP, excluding questions about the details of the IXSP's services, rates, rate structure and similar matters; and
 4. application of credits and adjustments to end-customer accounts, in accordance with billing and collection services procedures which are provided to the IXSP from time to time by the Company.
3. The Company's billing and collection service may be provided to the IXSP either by the Company or by its agent.
4. The Company will require an implementation period to establish billing and collection service with the IXSP. This period will be identified in the Billing and Collection Services Agreement.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)

ITEM 305. Billing and Collection Service - continued

5. Rates

Charges for billing and collection service consist of two components: an accounts receivable management discount that applies to each account receivable purchased from the IXSP and billed to the end-customer; and processing charges that apply to each account receivable purchased from the IXSP that is returned prior to billing, billed to a customer, or returned or charged back to the IXSP after billing.

1. Accounts receivable management discount

Territory	Discount (%)
Ontario ¹	[FILE]
Ontario/Quebec ²	Bell CRTC 7516, Item 42(3)(b) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 42(3)(b)

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1. Rates applicable in the operating territory of NorthernTel Limited Partnership operating as the SILEC.

2. Rates applicable in the operating territories of Bell Aliant and Bell Canada operating as the ILECs.

PART C Interconnection with Interexchange Service Providers (IXSPs)

ITEM 305. Billing and Collection Service - continued

2. Processing charge per account receivable (“AR”)

Territory	AR returned prior to billing (\$)	AR billed to an end-customer (\$)	AR returned or charged back to IXSP after billing (\$)
Ontario ¹	[FILE]		
Ontario/Quebec ²	Bell CRTC 7516, Item 42(3)(d) Bell Aliant CRTC 21562, Item 42(3)(d)		

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1. Rates applicable in the operating territory of NorthernTel Limited Partnership operating as the SILEC.

2. Rates applicable in the operating territories of Bell Aliant and Bell Canada operating as the ILECs.