



# **ATTACHMENT 10SW - ABT-BILLING-COLLECTING- REMITTING AND CLEARINGHOUSE**



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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Attachment sets forth the terms and conditions that apply to those Telecommunications Services for which Charges are billed and collected by one Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) or CLEC but earned by another LEC; and to establish procedures for the Billing, Collecting and Remitting (BCR) of such Charges and for Compensation for the services performed in connection with the BCR of such Charges and for the settlement of Alternately Billed Traffic (ABT) utilizing the Clearinghouse (CH) process. This Attachment is only applicable to the AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE.

## 2.0 Definitions

2.1 “Billing, Collecting and Remitting” or “Bill, Collect and Remit” (BCR) means the process and support systems used in AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE for which intrastate/intraLATA local ABT calls are settled among participating LECs and CLECs.

2.2 “Alternately Billed Traffic (ABT)” means the service that allows either Party’s End Users to bill LEC-carried calls to accounts that may not be associated with the originating line, and may include all of the following LEC-carried call types for the purpose of this Attachment:

2.2.1 Local and/or intraLATA toll Collect calls

2.2.2 Local and/or intraLATA toll Bill-to-Third Number calls

2.2.3 Local and intraLATA toll Calling Card calls

2.3 “Charges” for BCR only, means the amount approved or allowed by the appropriate regulatory authority to be billed to an End User for any of the services described in Section 3.0 below, rendered by a LEC to an End User.

2.4 “Clearinghouse” (CH) means the process and support system used in AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE for which intrastate/intraLATA toll ABT calls are settled among participating LECs and CLECs.

2.5 “Clearinghouse Record” or “CH Record” means the call detail attributed to a single completed toll message.

2.6 “Compensation” means the amount to be paid by one Party to the other Party for BCR of Charges.

2.7 “Local Exchange Carrier (LEC)” as used in this Attachment, means those Local Exchange Carriers or Competitive Local Exchange Carriers that participate in the BCR process contained herein.

2.8 “Local Message” means those messages that originate and terminate within the area defined as the local service area of the station from which the message originates.

2.9 “Revenues” means the sum of all or part of the Charges.

## 3.0 BCR General Provisions

3.1 This Attachment shall apply to AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE procedures for the BCR of revenues (and Compensation to either Party for BCR of such revenues) derived from the following services:

3.1.1 LEC-carried local messages of the following types:

3.1.1.1 Local Message service Charges billed to a calling card or to a third number.

3.1.1.2 Directory Assistance calls charged to a calling card or to a third number.

3.1.1.3 Public Land Mobile Radiotelephone Transient-Unit Local Message Service (Mobile Channel Usage Link Charge).

3.1.1.4 Maritime Mobile Radiotelephone Service and Aviation Radiotelephone Service (Marine, Aircraft, High Speed Train Radio Link Charges).

## 4.0 BCR Responsibilities of the Parties

4.1 CLEC agrees to BCR, to AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE the Charges for the services described in Section 3.1.1 above which Charges are earned by any LEC (including AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE) but which are to be billed to End Users of the CLEC by the CLEC.

- 4.2 In those cases in which the Charges for the services, listed in Section 3.1.1 above, are due any LEC other than AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE, AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE will arrange to transfer these Charges to the appropriate LEC in accordance with accepted industry standards.
- 4.3 Charges for the services listed in Section 3.1.1 above to be billed, collected and remitted by CLEC for AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE's benefit, shall be remitted by CLEC to AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE's bill to CLEC for such services.
- 4.4 AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE agrees to bill and collect (or when another LEC agrees to bill and collect), and to remit to CLEC, the Charges for the services described in Section 3.1.1 above, which Charges are earned by CLEC, but which are to be billed by another LEC (including AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE to the End Users of that LEC).
- 4.5 Charges for the services listed in Section 3.1.1 above to be billed, collected and remitted by AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE or another LEC for CLEC's benefit, shall be remitted by AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE to CLEC within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of CLEC's bill to AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE for such services.
- 4.6 The full amount of the Charges transmitted to either Party for BCR shall be remitted by the other Party, without setoff, abatement or reduction for any purpose, other than to deduct the Compensation due the Party for performing the End User billing function, as described in Section 5.0 below. The Party billing the End User shall be responsible for all uncollectible amounts related to the services described remitted in Section 3.1.1 above. Notwithstanding this paragraph, AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE may net amounts due to CLEC under this Attachment against amounts owed to AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE when AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE renders a bill to CLEC hereunder.
- 4.7 Each Party will furnish to the other such information as may be required for monthly billing and remitting purposes.
- 4.8 AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE assumes no responsibility with regard to the accuracy of the data supplied by CLEC when this data is accessed and used by a Third Party.
- 5.0 BCR Product Specific Service Delivery Provisions**
- 5.1 A Party performing the services described in Section 3.1.1 above will compensate the other Party for each charge billed at the rates set forth in the Pricing Schedule. Such Compensation shall be paid (unless a Party has collected such Compensation as described in Section 4.6 above) within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of a bill for such Compensation by the Party performing (or which has another LEC perform for it), the BCR functions described in Section 4.0 above.
- 6.0 CH General Provisions**
- 6.1 ABT does not include any interLATA and/or intraLATA long distance charges assessed by an Interexchange Carrier (IXC).
- 6.2 The settlement of ABT revenues, owed by and among participating LECs, via CH in another AT&T-Owned ILEC region is technically infeasible.
- 6.3 The only toll call messages that qualify for submission to AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE for CH processing are:
- 6.3.1 intrastate intraLATA sent collect (including calling card, collect and third number) messages which are originated in one LEC or CLEC Exchange, exclusively carried by a LEC or CLEC over LEC or CLEC facilities and billed to an End User located in a second LEC's or CLEC Exchange within the same state; or
- 6.3.2 intrastate intraLATA sent collect (but limited to calling card and third number) messages originated in one (1) of AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE's local exchange operating areas, exclusively carried by a LEC or CLEC over LEC or CLEC facilities, and billed to an End User located in a second LEC's or CLEC Exchange and not in the originating State.

- 6.4 CLEC agrees to pay AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE a processing charge in consideration of AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE's performance of CH services. This charge is located in the Pricing Schedule.
- 6.5 CLEC agrees to pay a per message charge to the LEC responsible for billing the message, including AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE when AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE bills the message. This charge is located in the Pricing Schedule.
- 6.6 The Parties agree that processing of retroactive messages through the CH is acceptable, if such messages utilize the industry standard format for call records, pursuant to 6.3 above. The Parties agree that lost messages are the complete responsibility of the originating LEC or CLEC. If messages are lost by any Party, and cannot be recreated or retransmitted, the originating LEC or CLEC will estimate messages, minutes, and associated revenues based on the best available data. No estimate will be made for messages, which are more than two (2) years old at the time the estimate is made. The estimates will be off-line calculations (i.e., not part of the routine CH processing) and will be included as a supplement to the monthly settlement report.

### **7.0 CH Responsibilities of the Parties**

- 7.1 CLEC agrees that it will provide AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE billing records for CH processing that are in industry standard format acceptable to AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE. The records shall at minimum display the telephone number of the End User to whom the call is to be billed, and data about the call sufficient for a carrier to comply with all applicable state regulatory billing requirements. CH Records will detail intraLATA toll calls which were originated by use of the single digit access code (i.e., 0+ and 0-) in one LEC or CLEC Exchange but are to be billed to an End User in a second LEC's or CLEC Exchange. Such records are referred to as category ninety-two (92) records for CH processing purposes.
- 7.2 CLEC agrees that all CH Records it generates will display indicators denoting whether category ninety-two (92) Records should be forwarded to CH. CLEC will retain its originating records for ninety (90) calendar days such that the category ninety-two (92) Records can be retransmitted to AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE for CH processing, if needed.
- 7.3 AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE will provide and maintain such systems it believes are required to furnish the CH service described herein. AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE, in its capacity as operator of the CH, agrees to retain all CH Records processed through the CH for two (2) years.
- 7.4 CLEC will timely furnish to AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE all CH Records required to provide the CH service.
- 7.5 Presently, in operating the CH, AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE relies upon NXX codes to identify messages for transmission to participating billing companies. To the extent any sub-processes are required to settle CH messages due to the use of ported numbers, such sub-processing will be the responsibility of the porting entity.

### **8.0 CH Product Specific Service Delivery Provisions**

- 8.1 AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE will issue monthly reports containing the results of the processing of CH Records to each participating LEC and CLEC. These reports list the:
- 8.1.1 amounts owed by CLEC for billing messages originated by others;
  - 8.1.2 amounts due to CLEC for CLEC originated messages billed by others;
  - 8.1.3 applicable billing charges; and
  - 8.1.4 processing charges.

### **9.0 Limitation of Liability**

- 9.1 Except as otherwise provided herein, Limitation of Liability will be governed by the General Terms and Conditions of this Agreement.
- 9.2 AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE assumes no liability for any LEC's or CLEC's receipt of appropriate revenues due to it from any other entity. CLEC agrees that AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE will not be liable to it for damages (including, but not limited to, lost profits and exemplary damages) which may be owed to it as a



result of any inaccurate or insufficient information resulting from any entity's actions, omissions, mistakes, or negligence and upon which AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE may have relied in preparing settlement reports or performing any other act under this Attachment.

- 9.3 AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE will not be liable for any losses or damages arising out of errors, interruptions, defects, failures, or malfunction of services provided pursuant to this Attachment, including those arising from associated equipment and data processing systems, except such losses or damages caused by the sole negligence of AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE. Any losses or damage for which AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE is held liable under this Attachment for CH will in no event exceed the amount of processing charges incurred by CLEC for the services provided hereunder during the period beginning at the time AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE receives notice of the error, interruption, defect, failure or malfunction, to the time service is restored.
- 9.4 CLEC agrees to indemnify and hold AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE harmless against and with respect to any and all Third Party claims, demands, liabilities or court actions arising from any of its actions, omissions, mistakes or negligence occurring during the course of AT&T SOUTHWEST REGION 5-STATE's performance pursuant to this Attachment.