

The proposed requirement to use specific branding language was deleted in light of difficulties in distinguishing between intrastate and interstate calls and because carriers demonstrated varying ways to provide adequate consumer notice of the carrier's identity. *Id.*

AOS carriers must maintain adequate facilities for a blockage rate not exceeding one percent in the time consistent busy hour, rather than a given busy hour, consistent with industry standards. If the AOS carrier provides facilities for access to consumers' preferred carriers, those facilities must also meet the stated adequacy standard. *Id.*

Location surcharges are allowed in AOS company tariffs, and can be waived by aggregators or may be established at a higher level for locations with demonstrably higher costs. This will help mitigate multi-tiered surcharges which may be discriminatory and confusing and may lead to unjustly high rates; will allow flexibility in pricing; and will avoid the need to spread the support of high-cost locations. WAC 480-120-141(10).

The section headings are changed to refer to variable rates and surcharges, the present subject of subsection (c). *Id.*

Clarification is added that the relevant rates for consideration are those which consumers are charged and that the relevant market means interLATA or intraLATA. *Id.*

The proposed cap upon location charges, fees or surcharges exceeding twenty-five cents for any call, above tariffed rates, was deleted because of potential adverse economic effect. The posting requirement related to such charges was moved to subsection (4) of this rule for proximity to other posting requirements, for clarity.

Departure from prevailing rates can be supported by an AOS. Such a demonstration can include evidence from aggregators about the economic necessity for location surcharges. This will assist AOS companies to support the economic need for charges paid to their customers. *Id.*

Subsection (12) is added in order to allocate risk of loss from fraud on toll traffic when loss from fraud occurs even through the local exchange company offers and an aggregator subscribes to call screening.

Local service to aggregators. A new section is added which requires LEC tariffs to provide that all aggregators who offer local calls on a per-call basis must provide without-charge access to 911, where available, and to the local exchange company operator. The requirement was noticed in WAC 480-120-141 (4)(c) as a condition required through AOS providers, but refers to a local services and is more appropriately associated with the provision of local exchange service. The requirement will assure that there is no impediment to dealing swiftly with emergency conditions affecting health or safety. WAC 480-120-143

#### ORDER

WHEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED That WAC 480-120-021, 480-120-106, 480-120-138, and 480-120-141 as set forth in Appendix A, be amended and adopted as rules of the Washington Utilities and Transportation

Commission to take effect pursuant to RCW 34.05.380(2).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That the order and the annexed rule, after first being recorded in the order register of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, shall be forwarded to the code reviser for filing pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW and chapter 1-21 WAC.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, this 17th day of June, 1991.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Sharon L. Nelson, Chairman  
Richard D. Casad, Commissioner  
A. J. Pardini, Commissioner

#### APPENDIX "A"

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-293, filed 1/31/89)

WAC 480-120-021 GLOSSARY. Alternate operator services company - any corporation, company, partnership, or person other than a local exchange company providing a connection to intrastate or interstate long-distance or to local services from ((places including but not limited to, hotels, motels, hospitals, campuses, and customer-owned pay telephones. Alternate operator services companies are those with which a hotel, motel, hospital, campus, or customer-owned pay telephone, etc., contracts to provide operator services to its client-tele)) locations of call aggregators. The term "operator services" in this rule means any intrastate telecommunications service provided to a call aggregator location that includes as a component any automatic or live assistance to a consumer to arrange for billing or completion, or both, of an intrastate telephone call through a method other than (1) automatic completion with billing to the telephone from which the call originated, or (2) completion through an access code use by the consumer with billing to an account previously established by the consumer with the carrier.

Applicant - any person, firm, partnership, corporation, municipality, cooperative organization, governmental agency, etc., applying to the utility for new service or reconnection of discontinued service.

Automatic dialing-announcing device - any automatic terminal equipment which incorporates the following features:

- (1)(a) Storage capability of numbers to be called; or
- (b) A random or sequential number generator that produces numbers to be called; and
- (c) An ability to dial a call; and
- (2) Has the capability, working alone or in conjunction with other equipment, of disseminating a prerecorded message to the number called.

Billing agent - A person such as a clearing house which facilitates billing and collection between a carrier and an entity such as a local exchange company which presents the bill to and collects from the consumer.

Base rate area or primary rate area - the area or areas within an exchange area wherein mileage charges for primary exchange service do not apply.

(17) Cordless and tabletop pay telephones shall not be connected to the telephone network except under the following conditions:

(a) The bill for usage is tendered to the user before leaving the premises where the bill was incurred or alternatively billed at the customer's request; and

(b) The user is notified verbally or on the instrument that privacy on cordless and tabletop telephones is not guaranteed; and

(c) When other electrical devices are equipped with filters, as necessary, to prevent interference with the pay telephone.

(18) Violations of the tariff, commission rules pertaining to pay telephone service, or other requirements contained in these rules, including interexchange carrier access requirements, will subject the pay telephone to disconnection of service if the deficiency is not corrected within five days from date of written notification to the subscriber. WAC 480-120-081 (4)(g) shall not apply to such disconnections. Local exchange company field visits shall be charged to the subscriber if the charge is required by a pertinent local exchange company tariff.

It shall be the responsibility of every local exchange company to assure that any subscriber taking service pursuant to these rules and to tariffs filed pursuant to these rules meets all of the terms and conditions contained within these rules and the tariffs so filed. It shall be the duty of the local exchange company to enforce the terms and conditions contained herein.

It shall be the responsibility of the local exchange company to provide free of charge one current telephone directory each year for each public access line. It shall be the responsibility of the subscriber to make a reasonable effort to assure a current directory is available at every pay telephone location.

Public access lines will be charged at rates according to the relevant tariff as approved by the commission.

(19) Disconnection of, or refusal to connect, a pay telephone for violation of these rules may be reviewed by the commission in a formal complaint under WAC 480-09-420(5) through an adjudicative or a brief adjudicative proceeding under the provisions of chapters 34.05 RCW and 480-09 WAC.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and chapter 80.36 RCW, 91-13-078 (Order R-345, Docket No. UT-900726), § 480-120-138, filed 6/18/91, effective 7/19/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 90-08-010 (Order R-316, Docket No. U-89-3323-R), § 480-120-138, filed 3/23/90, effective 4/23/90, 85-20-009 (Order R-239, Cause No. U-85-45), § 480-120-138, filed 9/20/85.]

**Reviser's note:** RCW 34.05.395 requires the use of underlining and deletion marks to indicate amendments to existing rules, and deems ineffectual changes not filed by the agency in this manner. The bracketed material in the above section does not appear to conform to the statutory requirement.

**WAC 480-120-141** Alternate operator services. All telecommunications companies providing alternate operator services (AOS), as defined in WAC 480-120-021, shall comply with this and all other rules relating to telecommunications companies not specifically waived by order of the commission.

[1991 WAC Supp—page 2836]

(1) Each alternate operator services company shall file with the commission at least every six months a current list of operator services customers which it serves and the locations and telephone numbers to which such service is provided to each customer. A customer list provided pursuant to this rule is proprietary information and, if identified when filed as required in WAC 480-09-015, is subject to the protections of that rule.

(2) Each AOS company is responsible for assuring that each of its customers complies fully with contract and tariff provisions which are specified in this rule. Failure to secure compliance constitutes a violation by the AOS company.

(a) The AOS company shall withhold on a location-by-location basis the payment of compensation, including commissions, from a call aggregator, if the AOS company reasonably believes that the call aggregator is blocking access to interexchange carriers in violation of these rules.

(b) Violations of tariff, contract or other statements of conditions of service, in commission rules pertaining to AOS company service, or of other requirements contained in these rules, including interexchange carrier access requirements, will subject an aggregator to termination of alternate operator services if the deficiency is not corrected within five days from date of written notification to the aggregator. WAC 480-120-081 (4)(g) shall not apply to such terminations.

(c) AOS company actions in furtherance of this rule may be reviewed by the commission in a formal complaint under WAC 480-09-420 through an adjudicative or a brief adjudicative proceeding under the provisions of chapters 34.05 RCW and 480-09 WAC.

(d) An AOS company shall refuse to provide operator services to a call aggregator who the commission has found to have knowingly and repeatedly violated commission rules regarding the provision of alternate operator service until the commission has found that the call aggregator will comply with relevant law and rule.

(3) For purposes of this section, "consumer" means the party initiating and/or paying for an interexchange or local call. "Customer" means the call aggregator, i.e., the hotel, motel, hospital, prison, campus, pay telephone, etc., contracting with an AOS for service.

(4) An alternate operator services company shall require, as a part of any contract with its customer and as a term and condition of service stated in its tariff, that the customer:

(a) Post on the telephone instrument in plain view of anyone using the telephone, in eight point or larger **Stymie Bold** type, the information provided in the following notice:

SERVICE ON THIS INSTRUMENT MAY BE PROVIDED AT RATES THAT ARE HIGHER THAN NORMAL. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTACT THE OPERATOR FOR INFORMATION REGARDING CHARGES BEFORE PLACING YOUR CALL. INSTRUCTIONS FOR REACHING YOUR PREFERRED CARRIER ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE OPERATOR.

(b) Post and maintain in legible condition on or near the telephone:

(i) The name, address, and without-charge number of the alternate operator services company, as registered with the commission;

(ii) Dialing directions so that a consumer may reach the AOS operator without charge to receive specific rate information; and

(iii) Directions to allow the consumer to reach the consumer's preferred carrier and to make it clear that the consumer has access to the other providers.

(c) Provide access from every instrument to 1-800 services and all available interexchange carriers; and

(d) Shall post, on or near the instrument, a notice stating whether a location surcharge or any other fee is imposed for telecommunications access through the instrument, the amount of any fee or location surcharge, and the circumstances when it will apply.

(e) Posting under these rules shall begin no later than October 1, 1991, and shall be completed no later than January 31, 1992. In the interim, posting in compliance with the immediate prior posting provisions of WAC 480-120-141 is required and shall constitute compliance with this rule.

(5) The alternate operator services company shall:

(a) Identify the AOS company providing the service audibly and distinctly at the beginning of every call, and again before the call is connected, including an announcement to the called party on calls placed collect.

(i) For purposes of this rule the beginning of the call is no later than immediately following the prompt to enter billing information on automated calls and, on live and automated operator calls, when the call is initially routed to the operator;

(ii) The message used by the AOS company shall state the name of the company as registered with the commission whenever referring to the AOS company. Terms such as "company," "communications," "incorporated," "of the northwest," etc., when not necessary to clear consumer identification of the entity providing service may be omitted when authorized by letter from the secretary of the commission

(iii) The consumer shall be permitted to terminate the telephone call at no charge before the call is connected.

(iv) The AOS company shall immediately, upon request, and at no charge to the consumer, disclose to the consumer:

(A) A quote of the rates or charges for the call, including any surcharge.

(B) The method by which the rates or charges will be collected; and

(C) The methods by which complaints about the rates, charges, or collection practices will be resolved

(b) Provide to the local exchange company such information as may be necessary for billing purposes, as well as an address and toll free telephone number for consumer inquiries

(c) Reoriginate calls to another carrier upon request and without charge, when equipment is in place which will accomplish reorigination with screening and allow billing from the point of origin of the call. If

reorigination is not available, the AOS company shall give dialing instructions for the consumer's preferred carrier.

(d) Assure that a minimum of ninety percent of all calls shall be answered by the operator within ten seconds from the time the call reaches the carrier's switch.

(e) Maintain adequate facilities in all locations so the overall blockage rate for lack of facilities, including as pertinent the facilities for access to consumers' preferred interexchange carriers, does not exceed one percent in the time consistent busy hour. Should excessive blockage occur, it shall be the responsibility of the AOS company to determine what caused the blockage and take immediate steps to correct the problem. This subsection does not apply to blockage during unusually heavy traffic, such as national emergency, local disaster, holidays, etc.

(6) The alternate operator services company shall assure that persons are not billed for calls which are not completed. For billing purposes, calls shall be itemized, identified, and rated from the point of origination to the point of termination. No call shall be transferred to another carrier by an AOS which cannot or will not complete the call, unless the call can be billed in accordance with this subsection.

(7) For purposes of emergency calls, every alternate operator services company shall have the following capabilities:

(a) Automatic identification at the operator's console of the location from which the call is being made;

(b) Automatic identification at the operator's console of the correct telephone numbers of emergency service providers that serve the telephone location, including but not limited to, police, fire, ambulance, and poison control;

(c) Automatic ability at the operator's console of dialing the appropriate emergency service with a single keystroke;

(d) Ability of the operator to stay on the line with the emergency call until the emergency service is dispatched.

No charge shall be imposed on the caller by the telephone company or the alternate operator services company for the emergency call.

If the alternate operator services company does not possess these capabilities, all calls in which the consumer dials zero (0) and no other digits within five seconds shall be routed directly to the local exchange company operator, or to an entity fully capable of complying with these requirements. AOS companies lacking sufficient facilities to provide such routing shall cease operations until such time as the requirements of this section are met.

(8) Complaints and disputes shall be treated in accordance with WAC 480-120-101. Complaints and disputes.

(9) Charges billed to a credit card company (e.g., American Express or Visa) need not conform to the call detail requirements of this section. However, the AOS shall provide specific call detail in accordance with WAC 480-120-106 upon request.

(10) "Public convenience and advantage"; surcharges; variable rates

(a) For services, public convenience and advantage means at a minimum that the provider of alternate operator services offers operator services which equal or exceed the industry standards in availability, technical quality and response time and which equal or exceed industry standards in variety or which are particularly adapted to meet unique needs of a market segment. In the absence of other persuasive evidence, a demonstration that operator service equals or exceeds that provided by U S WEST Communications for intraLATA services or AT&T for interLATA services will be accepted as demonstrating public convenience and advantage.

(b) Charges no greater than the prevailing charges in the relevant market - intraLATA or interLATA - will be accepted as demonstrating that charges are for the public convenience and advantage. In the absence of persuasive contrary evidence, the charges for U S WEST for intraLATA service and AT&T for interLATA service will be accepted as the prevailing charges.

(c) Surcharges; variable rates. No location surcharge may be added to without-charge calls nor to a charge for directory assistance. No tariff may provide for rate levels which vary at the option of a call aggregator, provided, that an aggregator may waive application of the surcharge to calls from its instruments, and provided further, that an AOS company may establish a tariff rate for high-cost locations if the conditions for application of the rate confine it to locations with substantially higher than average operating costs.

(11) Rates to the consumer for the provision of alternate operator services, including directory assistance, shall not exceed the prevailing rates for such services in the relevant market - intraLATA or interLATA - unless need for the excess to produce rates which are fair, just and reasonable is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the commission. In the absence of persuasive contrary evidence, rate levels of U S WEST for intraLATA service and AT&T for interLATA service will be considered the prevailing rate.

(12) Fraud prevention.

(a) A company providing interexchange telecommunications service may not bill a call aggregator for charges billed to a line for calls which originated from that line through the use of 10XXX+0; 10XXX+01; 950-XXXX; or 1-800 access codes, or when the call originating from that line otherwise reached an operator position, if the originating line subscribed to outgoing call screening and the call was placed after the effective date of the outgoing call screening order.

(b) A company providing interexchange telecommunications service may not bill to a call aggregator any charges for collect or third number billed calls, if the line serving to which the call was billed was subscribed to incoming call screening and the call was placed after the effective date of the call screening service order.

(c) Any calls billed through the local exchange carrier in violation of subparagraphs (a) or (b) above must be removed from the call aggregator's bill by the local exchange company upon identification. If investigation by

the local exchange company determines that the pertinent call screening was operational when the call was made, the local exchange company may return the charges for the call to the interexchange telecommunications company as not billable.

(d) Any call billed directly by an alternate operator service company, or through a billing method other than the local exchange company, which is billed in violation of subparagraphs (a) and (b), above, must be removed from the call aggregator's bill. The telecommunications company providing the service may request an investigation by the local exchange company. If the local exchange company, after investigation, determines that call screening which would have protected the call, which is offered by the LEC and was subscribed to by the call aggregator, was not operational at the time the call was placed, the AOS company shall bill the LEC for the call.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and chapter 80.36 RCW, 91-20-162 (Order R-348, Docket No. UT-910828), § 480-120-141, filed 10/2/91, effective 11/2/91; 91-13-078 (Order R-345, Docket No. UT-900726), § 480-120-141, filed 6/18/91, effective 7/19/91; Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 1988 c 91, 89-04-044 (Order R-293, Docket No. U-88-1882-R), § 480-120-141, filed 1/31/89.]

**WAC 480-120-143 Local service to aggregators.** The local exchange company's tariff shall provide that every aggregator offering local calls on a per-call basis must provide without-charge access to 911, where available, and to the local exchange company operator.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and chapter 80.36 RCW, 91-13-078 (Order R-345, Docket No. UT-900726), § 480-120-143, filed 6/18/91, effective 7/19/91.]

**WAC 480-120-400 Purpose.** The purpose of WAC 480-120-400 through 480-120-435 is to set forth the standards and procedures under which the commission will consider the creation of new extended area service routes. The commission finds that the creation of extended area service routes is in the public interest, where the establishment of those routes meets the standards set forth in WAC 480-120-400 through 480-120-435. The commission further finds that where extended area service is offered by operation of WAC 480-120-400 through 480-120-435, it is a local exchange calling service.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and chapter 80.36 RCW, 91-03-052 (Order R-314, Docket No. U-89-2709-R), § 480-120-400, filed 1/14/91, effective 2/14/91.]

**WAC 480-120-405 Definition of extended area service.** (1) As used in this chapter, "exchange" shall be as defined in WAC 480-120-021.

(2) As used in this chapter, "extended area service" means mandatory, two-way, seven digit local calling service between exchanges that provides the ability to call from one exchange to another exchange without incurring a toll charge.

(3) As used in this chapter, "embedded extended area service routes" means those extended area service routes which exist prior to the effective date of WAC 480-120-400 through 480-120-435.