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A2.1 Application

The terms and conditions specified herein are applicable to all communication services offered in this Guidebook by BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Company. Additional terms and conditions, where applicable, pertaining to specific service offerings accompany such offerings in various Sections of this Guidebook.

When the Company provides any of the services described in Section E1.1 of the Company's intrastate Access Services Tariff to end users, it does so under rates, terms and conditions set forth in that Tariff, which are incorporated herein by reference.

(N)

A2.2 Limitations and Use of Service

A2.2.1 Use of Subscriber's Service

- A. Telephone equipment and facilities are furnished for the use of the subscriber, employees, agents or representatives of the subscriber or members of the subscriber's domestic establishment except as the use of the service may be extended, in addition to other service which may be separately ordered, for switched data (non-voice) communications relating directly to the business of Composite Data Service Vendor's patrons, to patrons of hotels or motels where the extended local service is flat, message, or measured rate, to patients of hospitals or nursing homes where the extended local service is flat, message or measured rate, members of clubs, to occupants of living units of Time Share (Interval Ownership) Condominiums subscribing to business flat, message rate or measured service, students living in quarters furnished by schools, colleges or universities, to persons temporarily sub-leasing a subscriber's residential premises, patrons of State Government "incubator" projects located in specified buildings in Charleston, Florence, Spartanburg and North Augusta, or to Sharing and Resale of Basic Local Exchange Service subscribers as specified in Section A23.
- B. Except as otherwise provided in this Guidebook, service furnished by the Company is intended only for communications in which the subscriber has a direct interest. Most services specified in this Guidebook are available for resale, except as otherwise noted in this Guidebook, by Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) which are certificated by the South Carolina Public Service Commission and such services are subject to the terms and conditions specified in this Guidebook.
- C. In view of the fact that the subscriber has exclusive control of his communications over the facilities furnished him by the Company, and of the other uses for which facilities may be furnished him by the Company, and because of unavailability of errors incident to the services and to the use of such facilities of the Company, the services and facilities furnished by the Company are subject to the terms, conditions and limitations herein specified.
- D. Traffic Reports as described in A32.1.4.B. may be requested for use by Enhanced Service Providers (ESPs) and Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) vendors when utilized for evaluation and engineering purposes and not provided to the end user. When a Traffic Report is requested by an ESP or CPE vendor, a study time will be determined based on availability of equipment utilized for this offering. The offering is provided on a per-report basis and will consist of a one-week analysis of the customer's central office based facilities. These reports vary based on central office types and equipment availability.
- E. No subscriber may use any service listed in any part of this General Exchange Guidebook, including but not limited to such call management features as the various call forwarding features, conferencing and bridging capabilities, for the purpose of allowing the subscriber or any other telephone user to avoid usage, message or toll charges, whether flat rated or usage based, that would otherwise be applicable.

A2.2.2 Establishment of Identity

- A. The calling party shall establish his identity in the course of any communication as often as may be necessary.
- B. The calling party shall be solely responsible for establishing the identity of the person or station with whom connection is made at the called location.

A2.2.3 Reserved For Future Use

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A2.2 Limitations and Use of Service (Cont'd)

A2.2.4 Accessories Provided by the Subscriber

Accessories which aid a subscriber's convenience in his use of the facilities of the Company in the service for which they are furnished under this **Guidebook** are permissible provided any such accessory so used would not endanger the safety of Company employees or the public; damage, require change in or alteration of, or involve direct electrical connection to the equipment or other facilities of the Company; or interfere with the proper functioning of such equipment or facilities; or impair the operation of the telecommunications system or otherwise injure the public in its use of the Company's services.

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A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A2.2 Limitations and Use of Service (Cont'd)

A2.2.5 Broadcast of Recordings of Telephone Conversations

The broadcasting of a recording of a telephone conversation during the period of recording is permissible provided that, in the interest of protecting the privacy of telephone service, the recording is made in accordance with the terms and conditions governing connection with subscriber-provided voice recording equipment as specified in this guidebook.

A2.2.6 Recorded Public Announcements

- A. Use of Company facilities or service in connection with automatic announcement service, automatic answering and recording service, recorder-coupler service or miscellaneous devices for recorded public announcements are subject to the following conditions:
1. For purposes of identification, subscribers to telephone service who transmit recorded public announcements over facilities provided by the Company must include in the recorded message the name of the organization or individual responsible for the service and the address at which the service is provided, unless the address of the organization or individual named in the announcement is shown in the currently distributed telephone directory (*where available*). (T)
 2. Subscribers transmitting factual public announcements such as Time, Stock Market quotations, Airline schedules, devotional messages and prayers provided by churches, and similar information are excluded from the preceding condition.
 3. Private telephone numbers will not be furnished for use with recorded public announcements.
 4. Failure to comply with the provisions of this guidebook shall be cause for termination of the service.

A2.2.7 Limited Communication

The Company reserves the right to limit the length of communication when necessary because of a shortage of facilities caused by emergency conditions.

A2.2.8 Transmitting Messages

The Company will not transmit messages, but offers the use of its facilities when available, and will not be liable for errors in transmission or for failure to establish connections. Employees of the Company are forbidden to accept either oral or written messages to be transmitted over the facilities of the Company.

A2.2.9 Unlawful Use of Service

The service is furnished subject to the condition that it will not be used for an unlawful purpose. The Company will discontinue service or refuse to furnish service when it has reasonable grounds to believe that such service is being used or will be used in violation of the law. Reasonable grounds include an order, provided by law enforcement officials to the Company, from a court of competent jurisdiction in which the court finds that the service is being used or will be used in violation of the law and should be terminated.

A2.2.10 Cancellation of Service for Cause

- A. (DELETED)

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.2 Limitations and Use of Service (Cont'd)

A2.2.10 Cancellation of Service for Cause (Cont'd)

- B. The Company reserves the right to cancel any contract for service with and to discontinue service to any person who uses or permits the use of obscene, profane or grossly abusive language over or by means of the Company's facilities, and who, after reasonable notice fails, neglects or refuses to cease and refrain from such practice or to prevent the same, and to remove its property from the premises of such person.
- C. The Company reserves the right to cancel any contract for service with and to discontinue service to any subscriber who uses any service listed in any part of this General **Exchange Guidebook**, including but not limited to such call management features as the various call forwarding features, conferencing and bridging capabilities, for the purpose of allowing the subscriber or any other telephone user to avoid usage, message or toll charges, whether flat rated or usage based, that would otherwise be applicable. (T)

A2.2.11 Use of Company Owned Conduit and Poles

- A. Company owned conduit and poles are commonly used in the distribution of Company provided services. Facilities placed by others in Company owned conduit or attached to Company owned poles for non-Company use shall not be used for the purpose of bypass or to avoid access charges.

A2.2.12 Linked Offer

- A. A Linked Offer is an offer, whether available as a promotion or otherwise:
 - 1. That includes **Company guidebook** service(s) and other non-**guidebook** service(s) provided either by **the Company** or an affiliate or non-affiliate of **the Company**, (T)
 - 2. Where the Subscriber receives an economic benefit associated with the non-**guidebook** service(s), (T)
 - 3. Which benefit does not affect the price billed to the Subscriber for the **guidebook** service(s), but (T)
 - 4. That results in an accounting charge against the **guidebook** service(s) due solely to accounting requirements. (T)
- B. **The Company** may make available to subscribers any Linked Offer provided that: (T)
 - 1. The Linked Offer is not promoted, advertised, or billed as a direct discount or reduction in price for the **guidebook** service(s) (T)
 - 2. The **guidebook** service(s) remains available to any Subscriber on a stand alone basis under the rates and terms and conditions set forth in the applicable **guidebook** section, and (T)
 - 3. Except as set forth in this Section, nothing contained herein relieves **the Company** from any of its obligations and responsibilities under State or Federal law with respect to the **guidebook** service(s) portion of the Linked Offer. (T)

A2.2.13 Reserved For Future Use

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A2.2 Limitations and Use of Service (Cont'd)

A2.2.14 Billed Number Screening

- A. Billed Number Screening will be furnished at no charge at the Company's option or upon agreement with the customer to control instances of fraud associated with billed to third party, and/or collect calls. This service may also be furnished in response to a customer request.

A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service

A2.3.1 Availability of Facilities

- A. The Company's obligation to furnish service is dependent upon its ability to secure and retain, without unreasonable expense, suitable facilities and rights for the provision of such service.
- B. The rates and charges quoted in this guidebook provide for the furnishing of service and facilities where suitable facilities are available or when the construction of the necessary facilities does not involve excessive costs.
- C. When excessive costs are involved for the construction of facilities, charges for such construction will be determined in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in Section A5. "Charges Applicable Under Special Conditions," except as otherwise specified. (M)
- D. The Company may discontinue certain Company services in geographic areas for which the Company has no customers subscribing to those services. (N)

Page 3.1 is hereby deleted in its entirety and removed from this Guidebook.

(N)

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)**A2.3.1 Availability of Facilities (Cont'd)**

- C. When excessive costs are involved for the construction of facilities, charges for such construction will be determined in accordance with the *terms and conditions* as set forth in Section A5. "Charges Applicable Under Special Conditions," except as otherwise specified.

(T)

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)

A2.3.2 Flat and Usage Rate Service

- A. When both flat and usage rate service are offered in an exchange, an applicant may select either type of service or combination of services for the applicant's private residence location. This will also include the mixing of usage rate residence service and flat rate business service or flat rate residence service and usage rate business service at the applicant's private residence location.

An applicant at a business location may select either flat or usage rate service when both types are available in the exchange. However, a combination of both flat and usage rate service will not be furnished to the same subscriber at the same business location. Different applicants at the same business location, even in the same office, may each subscribe to a different type of service as long as each applicant has a different account and the applicants do not share a communication or other key-type system. The exceptions to the mixing restrictions for business locations are listed following:

1. Any combination of flat and message rate service authorized by B. following;
 2. Any combination of flat and usage rate service authorized by Section A23. for Sharing and Resale of Basic Local Exchange Service providers;
 3. Premises where pay telephones may properly be located;
 4. A flat rate Foreign Exchange line which is switched at a location outside the local calling area of the normal serving exchange;
 5. Any combination of Classroom Communication Service lines with flat rate administrative lines at a school teaching grades kindergarten through twelve;
 6. Premises where Back-Up* Line service may be located with flat rate primary line service; and
 7. Premises where flat rate service is used for voice transmission and usage service is used for transmission of medical information only, for contingency or temporary use during service outages of the main communication system only, for lines to the subscriber's own automatic attendant or voice mail system only, for fax machines only, or for computer data communications only, and the usage lines are not part of the primary voice system at that location. It shall also apply for premises where usage service is used for voice transmission and Flat Rate Service is for the same purposes stated above;
 8. To premises where toll terminals are located;
 9. To premises where Flat Rate Service is used for voice transmission and the customer subscribes to a service for which the Company requires usage rated network access such as, but not limited to, MegaLink service and LightGate service.
- B. Message Rate service is provided to Hotels, Motels, Time Share Condominiums, Sharing and Resale of Basic Local Exchange Service subscribers, Nursing Homes, and Hospitals. A combination of Flat and **Message** Rate Service is available when the Flat Rate Service is used exclusively by the hotel, motel, Time Share Condominium, Sharing and Resale of Basic Local Exchange Service, nursing home, or hospital management and Message Rate Service is used in the rooms or individual units. In addition, Flat Rate Service may be provided in patients' and guests' rooms, lobbies, and living units in addition to Flat Rate Service for management use. Guests of hotels or motels, patients of nursing homes or hospitals, or occupants of living units of Time Share Condominiums may contract separately for the services which may otherwise be available to them.

A2.3.3 Party Line Service

When party line service is furnished to a subscriber, the Company may in consideration of the rate at which service is furnished, establish and furnish service to one other subscriber in the case of two-party line service, and to three other subscribers in the case of four-party line service. The Company reserves the right to cancel any party line service, upon thirty days' notice, whenever in the judgment of the Company, the use of the subscriber holding such contract is such, from large use or other causes, as to interfere with the reasonable use of others connected with the same line.

A2.3.4 Reserved for Future Use

A2.3.5 Application for Service

- A. Any applicant for facilities or service may be required to sign an application form requesting the Company to furnish the facilities or service in accordance with the rates, charges, **terms and conditions** from time to time in force and effect.
- B. The Company reserves the right to refuse service to any applicant or to interrupt the service of any existing customer, who is indebted under an undisputed bill to the Company for telephone service provided in South Carolina or in any other state in which the Company operates.

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A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)

A2.3.5 Application for Service (Cont'd)

- C.** When an application for service and facilities or requests for additions, rearrangements, relocations or modifications of service and equipment are cancelled in whole or in part prior to completion of the work involved, the applicant is required to reimburse the Company for all expense incurred in handling the request before notice of cancellation is received. Such charge, however, is not to exceed all charges which would apply if the work involved in complying with the request had been completed.
- D.** When equipment has been ordered for the specific needs of a subscriber and the installation thereof is unduly delayed by or at the request of the subscriber, appropriate charges apply for such equipment for the period of the delay.
- E.** When a subscriber requests a change in location of all or a part of the facilities covered by his application for service or requests for additions, rearrangements or modifications of his existing service and equipment prior to completion of the work involved, he is required to pay the difference between the total costs and expenses incurred by the Company in completing the work involved and that which would have been incurred had the final location of the facilities been specified initially.
- F. (DELETED)**

(D)

A2.3.6 Application of Rates for Business and Residence Service

- A.** Although in general business rates apply at business locations and residence rates apply at residence locations, the determination as to whether subscriber service should be classified as business or residence should be based as described in B. or C. following.
- B.** Business rates apply for:
 - 1. Offices, stores, factories, mines and all other places of a strictly business nature.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)

A2.3.6 Application of Rates for Business and Residence Service (Cont'd)

B. (Cont'd)

2. Offices of hotels, boarding houses, and apartment houses; colleges, quarters occupied by clubs and fraternal societies, private schools, hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, churches, and other institutions. For the purpose of this Guidebook, a boarding house is defined as a structure where rooms are rented or boarders taken.
3. Service terminating solely on the secretarial facilities of a telephone answering bureau.
4. Service listed as a business in *the Company's Listing Information System or directory (where available)*. (T)
5. WatsSaver service which is consolidated from separate locations and may include residential intrastate intraLATA toll usage.

C. Residence rates apply for:

1. Private residence locations which have up to and including ten (10) lines which do not employ business listings in the Company's *Listing Information System*. For this application, the subscriber may have up to three (3) of those lines in a rotary or hunting arrangement. Special construction charges may be applied to recover additional costs as specified in Section A5. (T)
 - a. If a subscriber requires more than ten (10) lines at a residence location, business service rates shall apply for all lines in excess of the initial ten (10) lines.
 - b. If a subscriber requires more than three (3) lines in a rotary or hunting arrangement at a private residence location, business rates shall apply for all lines in the arrangement.
 - c. Effective June 6, 1997, existing residence subscribers with more than ten residence service lines and/or more than three (3) of those lines in a rotary or hunting arrangement at their residence location shall be allowed to retain their existing service. If these existing subscribers require additional residence service lines for their private residence location, the additional lines over ten shall have business service rates for all lines over ten. If existing subscribers request a move of their existing service to a new residence location, business service rates shall apply for all lines over the initial ten lines.
 - d. If existing subscribers require additional lines in their existing rotary arrangement or request a move of their existing rotary arrangement to a new residence location, business service rates shall apply for all the lines in the arrangement, if there are more than three lines in the arrangement, at that residence location.
 - e. Rotary or hunting arrangements shall not be allowed to rotary or hunt to another rotary or hunting arrangement at the same location or at a different location. Effective June 6, 1997, existing subscribers who are using Rotary Line Service to rotary or hunt from one rotary arrangement to another rotary arrangement at the same location or at a different location will be allowed to retain their service as specified in Section A103.
2. Subscribers residing in private apartments in hotels, clubs, hospitals, and boarding houses who request their own individual residential service when business listings are not employed.
3. Subscribers residing in college sorority or fraternity houses who order their own individual residence service for their rooms.
4. Secretarial line terminations of residence main service terminating as extension lines on the premises of a telephone answering bureau.
5. Shelters providing temporary housing for families or individuals in crisis, such as shelters for abused spouses, the homeless, and other recognized types of shelters, that have at least one (1) business service line may have a maximum of three (3) access lines at residence service rates. The residence service lines and the business service line(s) cannot be placed in the same rotary or hunting arrangement. A rotary or hunting arrangement with residence service lines cannot rotary or hunt to another rotary or hunting arrangement with business service lines and vice versa.

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A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)

A2.3.6 Application of Rates for Business and Residence Service (Cont'd)

- D. If a subscriber's service changes from business service to residence service, the telephone number must be changed. Reference of calls will not be provided regardless of how long existing directories will remain in effect. Service Charges, which apply for such changes, are quoted in Section A4. (T)
- E. Changes from residence to business service may be made without change in telephone number, if the subscriber so desires. Service Charges, which apply for such changes, are quoted in Section A4. (T)
- F. Customers identifying themselves as amateur radio operators, licensed under Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules and Regulations, will be charged business rates at business locales and residence rates at residence locales. This includes Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) individual or club requests. The Company expects that the access line will be employed to connect amateur radio transmitters and receivers to the Company's telephone network for Control Line, Phonepatch, and/or Autopatch purposes. Although the FCC prohibits the transmission of business communications by an amateur radio station (Para. 97.110), this rule does not negate the application of the appropriate business or residence classification of telephone access lines.

A2.3.7 Transfer of Service Between Subscribers

- A. At the Company's discretion, service previously furnished one subscriber may be assumed by a new subscriber if the new subscriber willingly assumes all existing financial responsibility for the account if such service has been cancelled or abandoned by the previous subscriber or if consent from the previous subscriber has been obtained and providing there is no lapse in the rendition of service. Upon the acceptance of the transfer of service by the Company, all future bills will be rendered to the new subscriber.

Service Charges, as specified in Section A4. will apply as appropriate. (T)

A service charge does not apply when transferring the service to the remaining spouse in the event of divorce or death of a spouse.

- B. After the new subscriber assumes financial responsibility, the new subscriber may retain the existing telephone number if the Company deems such a transfer appropriate and if the previous subscriber consents or if the previous subscriber has abandoned the service.

A2.3.8 Initial Service Periods

- A. Unless otherwise specified, the initial service period for all services offered in this **Guidebook** is one month commencing with the date of installation of the service. (T)
- B. For all other services furnished with initial service periods exceeding one month, the applicable initial service period is the number of months indicated in brackets following the basic termination charge listed in that Section of this **guidebook** containing the service offered. (T)
- C. The initial service period relates to each applicable unit of service, either on the initial or subsequent installations.
- D. The initial service period for automatic answering and recording service is three months.

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A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)

A2.3.9 Floor Space, Electric Power and Operating at the Subscriber's Premises

- A. The subscriber is responsible for the provision and maintenance, at his expense, of all suitable space and floor arrangements, including but not limited to adequate lighting and temperature control, required on his premises for communication facilities provided by the Company in connection with services furnished to the subscriber by the Company. Any power outlets and commercial power required for the operation of such facilities shall be provided by, and at the expense of, the subscriber.
- B. All operating required for the use of communications facilities provided by the Company at the subscriber's premises will be performed at the expense of the subscriber, and must conform with the operating practices and procedures of the Company to maintain a proper standard of service.

A2.3.10 Provision and Ownership of Equipment and Facilities

- A. Equipment and facilities furnished by the Company on the premises of a subscriber or authorized user of the Company are the property of the Company and are provided upon the condition that such equipment and facilities, except as expressly provided in this **Guidebook**, must be installed, relocated and maintained by the Company and that the Company's employees and agents may enter said premises at any reasonable hour to make collections from coin boxes, to install, inspect or repair any part of the Company's equipment and facilities on the subscriber's premises, or to remove such equipment and facilities which are no longer necessary for the provision of service. (T)
- B. Subscribers may not disconnect or remove or permit others to disconnect or remove any apparatus installed by the Company, except as expressly provided in this **Guidebook** or upon the written consent of the Company. (T)
- C. Equipment and facilities furnished by the Company shall, upon termination of service from any cause whatsoever, be returned to it in good condition, reasonable wear and tear thereof expected.

A2.3.11 Provision and Ownership of Directories

Telephone directories distributed from time to time by the Company remain the property of the Company, shall not be mutilated and shall be surrendered upon request. No binder, holder, insert or auxiliary cover or attachment of any kind not furnished by the Company shall be attached to the directories owned by the Company, except that this prohibition shall not apply to a subscriber-provided binder, holder, insert, or auxiliary cover which is not so attached as to impede reference to essential service information or otherwise interferes with service.

A2.3.12 Provision and Ownership of Telephone Numbers

Telephone numbers are the property of the Company and are assigned to the service furnished the subscriber. The subscriber has no property right to the telephone number or any other call number designation associated with services furnished by the Company, and no right to the continuance of service through any particular central office. The Company reserves the right to change such numbers, or the central office designation associated with such numbers, or both, assigned to the subscriber, whenever the Company deems it necessary to do so in the conduct of its business.

A2.3.13 Maintenance and Repairs

All ordinary expense of maintenance and repairs, unless otherwise specified in this **Guidebook**, is borne by the Company. In case of damage, loss, theft, or destruction of any of the Company's property due to the negligence or willful act of the subscriber or other persons authorized to use the service, and not due to ordinary wear and tear or causes beyond the control of the subscriber, the party damaging the Company's property and/or the subscriber, shall be required to pay the expense incurred by the Company in connection with the replacement of the property damaged, lost, stolen, or destroyed, or the expense incurred in restoring it to its original condition. (T)

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)

A2.3.14 Company Facilities at Hazardous or Inaccessible Locations

Where new or additional service is to be established at a location that would involve undue hazards, or where accessibility is impracticable, to employees of the Company, the subscriber may be required to install and maintain the Company's equipment and facilities in a manner satisfactory to the Company, any remuneration to be based on the conditions involved.

Where new or additional service is to be established at a location that has a hazardous electrical environment (e.g., an electric power substation or generating plant or a high voltage transmission tower, switching or distribution location), the customer must have high voltage isolation equipment installed at such premises whenever hazardous voltages of 1000V peak-asymmetrical or greater exist prior to the installation of **Company** ordered service. If the customer is aware that its premises are located where such hazardous voltages exist, the customer must notify **the Company** of this fact at the time its order for service is placed. **The Company** makes high voltage isolation equipment that complies with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers ("IEEE") Standards 487 and 1590 available to its customer under Special Assembly to meet location specific requirements.

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The customer may elect to provide high voltage protection by means other than Special Assembly and if customer so elects, the customer shall submit its proposed design and equipment specifications to **the Company** for **Company** approval prior to installation of **Company** service ordered. Where the customer has elected to select, install, use and maintain its own high voltage protection equipment, the customer does so with the understanding that it is solely responsible for any interruption of **Company** service associated with its selection, installation, use or maintenance of the high voltage protection. Furthermore, the customer, its employees, agents, officers, directors, affiliates, successors and assigns agree to indemnify and hold **the Company**, its subsidiaries, affiliates and their collective employees, agents, officers, and directors harmless from all loss, liabilities, costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees and all costs of defense and settlement, resulting from interruption of service, damage to property, claims, demands, suits or actions of any nature whatsoever arising from the failure of the high voltage protection selected, installed, used or maintained by the customer.

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The Company reserves the right to suspend any service it provides absent required high voltage protection until adequate protection is provided.

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Standard intervals do not apply for service ordered where voltage isolation equipment is required and must be installed prior to installation of new or additional service ordered from **the Company**.

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A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)

A2.3.15 Work Performed Outside Regular Working Hours - Other Special Requests

The rates and charges specified in this **Guidebook** contemplate that all work in connection with furnishing or rearranging service be performed during regular working hours. Whenever a subscriber requests that work necessarily required in the furnishing or rearranging of his service be performed outside the Company's regular working hours or that work once begun be interrupted, so that the Company incurs costs that would not otherwise have been incurred, the subscriber may be required to pay, in addition to the other rates and charges specified in this **Guidebook**, the amount of additional costs incurred by the Company as a result of the subscriber's special requirements.

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A subscriber may also be required to pay the amount of additional costs incurred by the Company resulting from the subscriber's special requests for expedited shipping.

A2.3.16 Suspension of Business and Residence Service

A. General

1. Upon request, a subscriber to business or residence service may arrange for the temporary suspension of such service. Suspension of service is available on a subscriber's complete service or on such portion thereof as can be suspended.
2. When the period of suspension is less than one month, the regular charges for the full month of service shall apply.
3. When a complete service, or portion thereof which can be suspended, is subject to an initial service period of more than one month, the basic termination charge applicable thereto will be reduced at one-half the normal full rate of reduction while the service is on a suspended basis and the initial service period is extended by one-half month for each month of suspension.
4. In connection with complete suspension of service, local or long distance service is not furnished during the period of suspension. At the request of the subscriber, inward calls to a service which is suspended may be referred to the call number of another service in the same or a distant exchange.
5. The charge for the total suspension period may be collected in advance.
6. There is no reduction in the charge for foreign central office channels, foreign exchange channels, or tie line channels during the period of suspension.
7. In connection with service at a concession rate, the charge for service during the period of suspension is fifty percent of the rate regularly charged for service without concession, except in case the concession is fifty percent or more, then the charge during the period of suspension is the rate regularly charged for the concession service.
8. There is no reduction in the recurring charge for Back-Up Line during the period of suspension.

B. Application Of Charges

1. The charge for basic exchange line service and associated optional services and features during the period of suspension is fifty percent of the rate regularly charged, except as specified in service-specific **guidebooks**, in A2.3.16.A. preceding and in 2. following. Where specified in other sections of this **Guidebook**, optional services associated with the basic exchange line can be suspended at no recurring charge during the period of suspension. Other restrictions in service-specific **guidebooks** shall still apply. Service charges will continue to apply as specified in Section A4.
2. The maximum time allowed for suspension of service for any calendar year shall be six months, except where the subscriber is an emergency oriented organization that meets all of the following criteria:
 - a. The primary mission of the organization is the preservation of life or property;
 - b. The organization is government funded;
 - c. The use of the suspended service is limited to emergency situations and kept on a standby basis during non-emergency times, except during maintenance testing by the subscriber.

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The maximum number of suspendable main station lines at a customer's site will be limited to thirty (30) lines.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)

A2.3.17 Termination of Service

A. Termination Of Service By The Company

1. Violation of any of the **terms and conditions** contained in this **Guidebook** on the part of the subscriber may be regarded as sufficient cause for termination of the subscriber's service. (T)
2. When the service is terminated on the initiative of the Company because of violation of its **terms and conditions** by the subscriber, the **terms and conditions** stipulated below for termination of service at the subscriber's request apply. (T)
3. The Company may refuse to furnish or continue to furnish service hereunder, if such service would be used or is used for a purpose other than that for which it is provided or when its use interferes with or impairs, or would interfere with or impair, any other service rendered to the public by the Company.

B. Termination Of Service At The Subscriber's Request

1. Service may be terminated at any time upon reasonable notice from the subscriber to the Company. Upon such termination the subscriber shall be responsible for the payment of all charges due. This includes all charges due for the period service has been rendered plus any unexpired portion of an initial service period or applicable termination charges, or both.

C. Termination Charge

1. A termination charge is determined by applying to the Basic Termination Charge the percentage which the unexpired portion of the Initial Service Period bears to the full Initial Service Period.
 - a. The Basic Termination Charge and the Initial Service Period are indicated in the section of this **guidebook** covering the service items to which they apply. The Initial Service period is shown in brackets following the amount of the Basic Termination Charge. (T)
 - b. When a subscriber discontinues one or more units of a group of the same item, the service latest installed shall be considered as the service first discontinued.
 - c. When a subscriber cancels an order for service carrying a Basic Termination Charge prior to the establishment of that service, a termination charge applies equal to the cost incurred by the Company in engineering, ordering, and providing the service; the termination charge in this event will not exceed the Basic Termination Charge.

A2.3.18 Ringer Limitations

- A. Except as provided herein, the capability to activate one ringer is provided for each access line.
- B. The number of ringers directly connected to the access line is limited to four per access line in the case of individual and two-party lines, to two per access line in the case of four-party lines.

A2.3.19 Reserved for Future Use

A2.3.20 (DELETED)

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)**A2.3.21 Connection with Miscellaneous Common Carriers****A. Application**

1. Service is available to and from customers of Miscellaneous Common Carriers through connecting facilities provided by the Company in accordance with the provisions as set forth in 2. through 5. following.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.3 Establishment and Furnishing of Service (Cont'd)

A2.3.21 Connection with Miscellaneous Common Carriers (Cont'd)

A. Application (Cont'd)

2. Subject to the availability of facilities and the reasonable requirements of the Company for its telecommunications service, the Company will, at the Miscellaneous Common Carrier's request, physically connect its facilities with those of the Miscellaneous Common Carrier for the purpose of interchanging intrastate traffic in connection with the miscellaneous common carrier's Domestic Public Land Mobile Radio Services (as defined in Part 21 of the FCC Rules). Such connection and interchange of intrastate traffic shall be as follows:
 - a. Two Way Mobile Traffic

The Company will connect its facilities between any telephone exchange whose rate center is located in the miscellaneous common carrier's Reliable Service Area (as defined in Part 22 of the FCC Rules) and the miscellaneous common carrier's control point(s) or communications system serving that Reliable Service Area.
 - b. One-Way Signaling Traffic

The Company will connect its facilities between any telephone exchange within which a signaling receiver is served by the miscellaneous common carrier's system and the miscellaneous common carrier's control point(s) or communications system serving that system.
3. The facilities provided for connection and interchange of traffic shall not be used, switched or otherwise connected together by the Miscellaneous Common Carrier for the provision of through calling from a landline telephone to another landline telephone, nor shall they be switched or otherwise connected together by the Miscellaneous Common Carrier for the provision of through calling from a landline or mobile unit located in one Reliable Service Area to a landline telephone or mobile unit in another Reliable Service Area.
4. Specific administrative procedures, connection and operating arrangements and charges for the facilities provided by the Company to the Miscellaneous Common Carrier for the purpose of connection and interchanging traffic are set forth in various intercarrier agreements between the Company as appropriate. Where the state franchise area or state authorization of the Miscellaneous Common Carrier is different than the Reliable Service Area the terms and conditions of connection and interchange of traffic may be modified to recognize the extent of such state franchise or authorization.
5. The connection and interchange of traffic as set forth in 1. through 4. preceding do not constitute a joint undertaking with the Miscellaneous Common Carrier for the furnishing of any service.

A2.3.22 Reserved for Future Use

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances

A2.4.1 Advance Payments

An applicant for service or facilities may be required to pay in advance of installation an amount not to exceed applicable service charges, installation or other non-recurring charges plus charges for one month of service. Where construction charges are applicable the payment thereof may be required in advance of start of construction.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2.4.2 Deposits

- A. The Company may require any applicant for or any subscriber to its services to provide a deposit. For a new customer, a maximum deposit may be required up to an amount equal to an estimated two (2) months (60 days) total bill (including toll and taxes). For an existing customer, a maximum deposit may be required up to an amount equal to the total actual bills of the highest two (2) consecutive months within the preceding six (6) months. All deposits may be subject to review based on the actual experience of the customer. The amount of the deposit may be adjusted upward or downward to reflect the actual billing experience and the payment habits of the customer.
- B. Simple interest on deposits at the rate of no more than eight percent (8%) per annum shall be paid by the Company to each customer required to make such deposit for the time it is held by the Company. The interest shall be accrued annually and payment of such interest shall be made to the customer at least every two (2) years and at the time the deposit is returned. The deposit shall cease to draw interest on the date it is returned, the date service is terminated, or on the date notice is sent to the customer's last known address that the deposit is no longer required. If held until discontinuance of service, such deposit and accrued interest, less any amounts then due the Company, is upon such discontinuance returnable to the subscriber.
- C. The fact that a deposit has been made in no way relieves the applicant or subscriber from complying with the Company's **terms and conditions** as to advance payments and the prompt payment of bills on presentation or constitutes a waiver or modification of the regular practices of the Company providing for the discontinuance of service for non-payment of any sums due the Company.

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A2.4.3 Payment for Service

- A. The subscriber is responsible for payment of all appropriate charges for completed calls, services, and equipment. All charges due by the subscriber are payable at the Company's Business Office or at any agency duly authorized to receive such payments. If objection in writing is not received by the Company within thirty days after the bill is rendered the account shall be deemed correct and binding upon the subscriber.
- B. The subscriber shall pay monthly in advance or on demand all charges for service and equipment and shall pay on demand all charges for long distance service. The subscriber is responsible for payment of all charges for services furnished the subscriber, including charges for services originated or charges accepted at the subscriber's station.
- C. Should service be suspended for non-payment of charges, it will be restored as provided in Section A4.
- D. When the service has been disconnected for non-payment, the service agreement is considered to have been terminated. Re-establishment of service may be made only upon the execution of a new service agreement which is subject to the provisions of this **Guidebook**.
- E. In its discretion, the Company may restore or re-establish service which has been suspended or disconnected for non-payment of charges, or otherwise discontinued, terminated or interrupted, prior to payment of all charges due. Such restoration or re-establishment shall not be construed as a waiver of any rights to suspend or disconnect service for non-payment of any such or other charges due and unpaid or for the violation of the provisions of this **Guidebook**; nor shall the failure to suspend or disconnect service for non-payment of any past due account or accounts operate as a waiver or estoppel to suspend or disconnect service for non-payment of such account or of any other past due account.
- F. In the event legal process is instituted by the Company to collect monies owed the Company for the provision of telecommunications service and a judgment is obtained in favor of the Company, the subscriber shall be responsible for all attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the Company in obtaining that judgment.

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A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2.4.3 Payment for Service (Cont'd)

- G.** Customers who have deferred payment agreements for services provided by the Company will be allowed to spread the Line Connection Charges specified in Section A4., plus interest, over the respective period of the agreement. Interest on deferred amounts will be calculated at the rate set forth in the deferred payment agreement executed by the customer. The interest rate to be charged on deferred payment will be revised periodically by the Company. If, in the judgment of the Company, the maximum interest rate allowed by law is insufficient to cover the costs of providing the deferred payment option, the Company will suspend the availability of said option until such time as the costs of providing said option can be recovered through the application of a lawful interest rate. Suspension of the deferred payment option will not affect customers who have executed a deferred payment agreement prior to the effective date of such suspension. The deferred charges (including calculated interest) will be prorated on a monthly basis over the selected deferral period length.
- H.** A termination charge may apply as described in A2.3.17.C
- I.** Residence subscribers with overdue bill balances for their existing service, which has been temporarily suspended for nonpayment, who are unable to pay the charges in full may be allowed to retain their local service if they elect to have a full toll restriction placed on their existing service, at no charge, until the charges are paid. These subscribers may arrange to pay the outstanding balance in up to twelve (12) monthly installment payments.
- J.** Effective October 1, 2001, a monthly recurring surcharge is applicable to each retail customer's total telecommunications bill in order to support South Carolina's Universal Service Fund. The surcharge will be assessed in accordance with orders issued by the Public Service Commission of South Carolina.
- K.** A late payment charge of one and one-half percent (1 1/2%) applies to each **residence** subscriber's bill **with a balance greater than \$5.00** (including amounts billed in accordance with the Company's Billing and Collection Services section found in the Access Service Tariff) when the previous month's bill has not been paid in full prior to the next billing date. The one and one-half percent charge is applied to the total unpaid amount carried forward and is included in the total amount due on the subscriber's current bill. (C)
- A late payment charge of one and one-half percent (1 1/2%) applies to each business subscriber's bill (including amounts billed in accordance with the Company's Billing and Collection Services section found in the Access Service Tariff) when the previous month's bill has not been paid in full prior to the next billing date. The one and one-half percent charge is applied to the total unpaid amount carried forward and is included in the total amount due on the subscriber's current bill. (N)

A2.4.4 Allowance for Outages

When the use of service or facilities furnished by the Company is out of operation due to any cause other than the negligence or willful act of the subscriber or the failure of the facilities provided by the subscriber, a pro rata adjustment of the fixed monthly charges involved will be generated for the service and facilities rendered useless and inoperative by reason of the outage during the time said outage continues in excess of twenty-four hours from the time it is reported to or detected by the Company, except as otherwise specified in this Guidebook. For the purpose of administering this term and condition, every month is considered to have thirty days.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)**A2.4.5 Provision for Certain Local Taxes and Fees**

- A. When any municipality or political sub-division collects or receives from the Company any payment or payments, whether in money, service, or other thing of value; (1) for or by reason of the use of the streets, alleys, or public places of the municipality or political sub-division or (2) for or by reason of any license, privilege, inspection, franchise tax, fee, charge or other imposition, whether in a lump sum or at a flat rate or based on receipts or otherwise, so much of the aggregate amount of such payment and value of services as exceeds the amounts produced by the schedule which follows will be billed pro rata to customers receiving local exchange service within the municipality or political sub-division or within the affected area of either. The Company will not be required to pass on any such tax, fee, or payment to its customers when the administrative cost of the Company in passing on any such tax, fee, or payment exceeds the amount of such tax, fee, or payment:
1. For a municipality or a political sub-division in which the Company serves less than 100 telephones, a flat sum of \$100.
 2. For all other municipalities or political sub-divisions:
 - a. For the first \$25,000 of recurring local service revenues from customers within the limits of the city or political sub-division \$250.00.
Plus,
 - b. For the next \$175,000 of such local service revenues, \$5 per \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
Plus,
 - c. For all such local service revenues in excess of \$200,000, \$1 per \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
- B. Provided that the amount of any tax, fee, or payment received by a municipality or political sub-division pursuant to any ordinance, levy, statute, agreement, or arrangement in effect as of September 15, 1972 shall, if larger than the amount produced by the foregoing schedule, be used in lieu of the latter in determining amounts which the Company is required to bill to its customers;
- C. It is further provided that none of the provisions of this section apply to any ad valorem tax payment, nor to the value of any services furnished without charge or at concession rates under an agreement between the Company and the municipality, which agreement was in existence on September 15, 1972.

A2.4.6 Reserved for Future Use**A2.4.7 Reserved for Future Use****A2.4.8 Variable Term Payment**

- A. In the event that all or any part of the service is disconnected at the customer's request prior to the expiration of any selected payment period of greater than one month's duration, the customer will be required to pay the applicable termination charge as stated in the Access Service Tariff, the Private Line *Guidebook* and this *Guidebook*. The provisions concerning termination liability shall be inapplicable to any state, county, or municipal governmental entity when there is in effect, as a result of action by such entity and through a duly constituted legislative, administrative, or executive body:
1. a statute;
 2. an ordinance;

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A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)**A2.4.8 Variable Term Payment (Cont'd)****A. (Cont'd)**

3. a policy directive; or
4. a constitutional provision

which restricts or prohibits an additional contractual payment for early termination of a contract by any such entity, or agency thereof, due to an unavailability of funding. When service is being provided and funding to the governmental entity for such service becomes unavailable, the governmental entity may cancel the service without additional payment obligation. Notwithstanding the preceding, if the customer terminates the contract prior to the expiration of the term permitted by law, the customer shall be responsible for the total obligation between the time of termination and the expiration of the term permitted by law.

A2.4.9 Reserved For Future Use

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2.4.10 Payment Plans and Options for Contract Services

A. General

1. The **terms and conditions** specified herein are applicable to specific services as indicated in each service's respective section of this **Guidebook**. (T)
2. Services furnished under Payment Plans for Contract Services (PPCS) are subject to all general **terms and condition** applicable to the provision of service by the Company as stated elsewhere in this **Guidebook** except as noted herein. (T)
3. The PPCS are payment plans which allow customers to pay fixed or variable rates for services provided over variable contractual payment periods. A specific monthly rate applies for the duration of each period.
Payment periods for services provided under PPCS will be described in the services' specific **guidebook** section. The following is an example of payment periods offered. (T)
 - a. Payment Plan A - payment periods may be selected from 24 months to 48 months in length.
 - b. Payment Plan B - payment periods may be selected from 49 months to 72 months in length.
 - c. Payment Plan C - payment periods may be selected from 73 months to 96 months in length.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2.4.10 Payment Plans and Options for Contract Services (Cont'd)

A. General (Cont'd)

4. When the customer extends service beyond the longest service period offered, then rates for the longest available service period will apply.
5. When the customer orders service to be provided under a PPCS arrangement, the customer must designate to the Company the payment plan and the service period desired, e.g. Payment Plan B and sixty months.

B. Application of Rates and Charges

1. Rates stabilized under a PPCS arrangement are exempt from Company-initiated increases, however, decreases for any rate element will automatically flow through to the customer. Effective with this **Guidebook**, customers under a PPCS arrangement will be billed the lower of their existing PPCS rates or the current PPCS rates for their service arrangement. (T)
2. When customers renew or change the length of their payment period, the rates applicable for the new period are those currently in effect at the time of the renewal or change in the length of the payment period. A service charge will not be applicable for such renewals or changes to the payment period.
3. Recurring rates and installation, termination, service establishment, Service Connection and other nonrecurring charges apply according to the appropriate schedules for services offered as associated items to Contracted Services, and are **found** elsewhere in this **Guidebook**. (T)
4. Customer requests for inside moves of service will not affect the contract period.
5. A change in jurisdiction will not constitute a disconnect of service provided the new PPCS arrangement is at least the minimum number of months allowable under Payment Plan A or equals/exceeds the remaining service period, whichever is greater, and provided the new PPCS arrangement is for the same customer at the same location for the same capacity service.

C. Termination Liability Charge

1. In the event that all or any part of a service is disconnected at a customer's request prior to expiration of any selected payment period of greater than one month's duration, the customer will be required to pay a termination charge as stated in that service's section of this **Guidebook**. (T)

D. Additions

1. Additions of services or rate elements, e.g. ports, new local channels, interoffice channels, etc., must be under a new PPCS arrangement at rates and charges as specified in B. preceding.
2. Termination charges for premature disconnection of added contractual services will apply as set forth under Disconnects as stated in E. following.

E. Disconnects

1. When a service or rate element, included under a PPCS arrangement, is disconnected prior to expiration of the selected service period, Termination Liability Charges apply as set forth in the rate **terms and conditions** in this **Guidebook** for such service. Remaining services or rate elements will not be affected by such disconnections. (T)
2. When a **guidebook** service under a PPCS arrangement is disconnected prior to the expiration of a selected service period as a result of a change of jurisdiction, Termination Liability Charges will not apply when: (T)
 - the completed service period is twelve months, or twenty-five percent of the length of the originally selected PPCS service period, whichever is greater, and
 - the service orders to install the new service and disconnect the old service are related together and there is no lapse in service between installation of the new service and disconnection of the existing service, and
 - the service orders are for the same customer at the same location.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2.4.10 Payment Plans and Options for Contract Services (Cont'd)

F. Moves of Equipment

1. The appropriate nonrecurring charges for inside moves for items associated with contract services as specified in this and other **Guidebooks** are applicable. This type movement will not affect the contract period. (T)
2. Customer requests for moves of service(s) under PPCS, other than inside moves, will be subject to the conditions stated in M. following.

G. Requests for Changes in Length of Optional Payment Period

1. Subsequent to the establishment of a contract with a PPCS period, and prior to the completion of that period, the existing payment period may be replaced by:
 - a. A currently offered payment period at the current rates, with a length equal to or longer than the time remaining in the existing service agreement, subject to the following conditions:
 - (1) No credit will be given for payments made during the formerly selected period.
 - (2) The new payment period begins with the new PPCS effective date.
 - (3) No termination charge applies for the remaining portion of the former payment period.
 - (4) Nonrecurring charges will not be reapplied.
 - (5) A service charge will not apply.
 - b. A currently offered payment period at the current rates, with a length shorter than the time remaining in the existing service agreement, subject to the following conditions:
 - (1) No credit will be given for payments made during the formerly selected period.
 - (2) The new payment period begins with the new PPCS effective date.
 - (3) A termination charge applies for the remaining portion of former payment period.
 - (4) Nonrecurring charges will not be reapplied.
 - (5) A service charge will not apply.

H. Renewal Options

1. The customer has the following renewal options:
 - a. Prior to completion of the current payment period, any period available under the PPCS may be selected at the rates in effect for new customers at the time of the renewal. The customer will be charged the current rate for the newly selected payment period, commencing the day following completion of the prior payment period.
 - b. Service may be continued on a month-to-month basis at the current rate for the one-month payment period, unless otherwise specified in this **Guidebook**. The customer has no additional service commitment and, consequently, when service is terminated will not be subject to any termination charge. The one month service will be subject to Company-initiated rate adjustments. (T)
 - c. If the customer does not elect an additional payment period or does not request discontinuance of service, service will be continued at the monthly rate currently in effect for the month-to-month payment rate, under the terms specified in b. preceding.
 - d. Upon expiration, the Letter of Election shall automatically renew for an additional one-year term under the same rates, terms and conditions in effect under the original Letter of Election, unless the Subscriber or the company provides written notice of its intent not to renew the Letter of Election at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the initial term or any subsequent additional one-year term.
2. Service charges are not applicable for services renewed under the PPCS. Any new rate elements added at the time of renewal will be subject to all appropriate service charges and other nonrecurring charges.
3. The Company may discontinue or change any or all renewal options. (T)
4. When a customer renews a PPCS arrangement, the rates and charges in effect on the first day of service of the renewal will apply.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)**A2.4.10 Payment Plans and Options for Contract Services (Cont'd)****H. Renewal Options (Cont'd)**

5. Recognition of previous service will be given to customers who renew an existing PPCS arrangement, for all associated rate elements at the same location(s), provided that the length of the new PPCS arrangement is at least the minimum number of months allowable under Payment Plan A or equals/exceeds the remaining service period of the original PPCS arrangement, whichever is greater.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2.4.10 Payment Plans and Options for Contract Services (Cont'd)

H. Renewal Options (Cont'd)

6. Recognition of previous service will be given to month-to-month customers with a service date of January 1, 1994 or later who convert to a PPCS arrangement, provided the minimum service period has been met. For customers whose service date is January 1, 1994 or earlier, recognition will be given for the previous service back to January 1, 1994. For customers whose service date is later than January 1, 1994, recognition for the previous service will be given back to the actual service date.
7. To determine the appropriate PPCS for the renewed arrangement, recognition of service will consist of the sum of months in service of the completed service arrangement and the sum of the months of the proposed service period of the PPCS arrangement. For example, a PPCS arrangement for a thirty-six month service period under Payment Plan A is renewed for twenty-four months with no changes at the end of the thirty-six month period. The sum of months for the completed and proposed service periods would equal sixty months and would be billed under Payment Plan B. Another example is a Month-to-Month customer, in service for fifteen months, who wishes to convert to a sixty month PPCS arrangement with no changes. The combined service period of the Month-to-Month arrangement and the PPCS arrangement is equal to seventy-five months, which would be billed under Payment Plan C.

I. Transfer of Service

1. Service may be transferred to a new customer at the same location upon prior written concurrence by the new customer as specified in this **Guidebook**. This does not constitute a disconnect of service or a discontinuance of an existing PPCS arrangement. The new customer will be subject to all provisions and equipment configurations currently in effect for the previous customer. **Terms and conditions** concerning transfer of service between subscribers as stated in other sections of this **Guidebook** also apply under PPCS.

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J. Deferred Payment

1. Payment of nonrecurring charges for services with contract payment plans which have been approved for deferred payments may be deferred over the length of the customer's payment period or a shorter period (in annual increments) subject to the conditions specified in the **Guidebook** for the contracted service as well as the conditions following:
 - a. The charges to be deferred must be either the Installation, Service Establishment and/or other nonrecurring charges (including the applicable interest).
 - b. The payment period must be longer than one month.
 - c. The minimum amount deferrable shall be the minimum amount set forth in the specific **guidebook** for the contracted service.
 - d. Interest on deferred amounts will be calculated at the rate set forth in the deferred payment agreement concurred in by both the customer and the Company. The interest rate shall be reviewed periodically by the Company. If the Company determines that the maximum interest rate allowed by law is insufficient to cover the costs of providing the deferred payment option, the Company will suspend the availability of said option until such time as the costs of providing said option can be recovered through the application of an allowed interest rate specified by law. Suspension of the deferred payment option will not affect customers with existing deferred payment agreements that were made prior to the effective date of such suspension.
 - e. The deferred charges (including interest) will be prorated on a monthly basis over the length of the selected deferral period.
 - f. All deferred charges must be paid in full when the customer:
 - (1) Disconnects service, for the system or service prior to expiration of the deferral period.
 - (2) Fails to pay a monthly amount within thirty days of its due date.
 - g. The customer may prepay only the total outstanding deferred charges at any time during the selected deferral period. The customer will be given a credit for the amount of unearned interest. The customer may not prepay less than the total of the outstanding deferred charges.

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A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.4 Payment Arrangements and Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2.4.10 Payment Plans and Options for Contract Services (Cont'd)

K. Prepayment

The customer may prepay the total outstanding recurring monthly rates for contracted services, approved for prepayment, for payment periods greater than one month. The prepayment of monthly rates in no way constitutes a purchase and the Company retains full ownership of all services covered by the prepayment. The following conditions apply:

1. Customers who prepay six months or more will have an allowance applied. The interest rate credit for prepayments shall be based on market interest rates that will change periodically, and will be calculated by the Company.
2. Monthly rates for all services covered by a single Letter of Election must be prepaid. Monthly rates must be prepaid for services added subsequently and placed on the same Letter of Election (i.e., customer-elected coterminous option) with a prepaid service.
3. Customers who change the length of a prepaid payment period will be credited any unused portion of the prepayment, subject to termination charges as specified preceding and/or in the **Guidebook** for the contracted service. (T)
4. Customers who prematurely disconnect will have termination or cancellation charges deducted from the prepaid amount and any balance credited to their account.

L. Exception To Termination Liability For State, County, And Municipal Governments

(See A2.4.8.)

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M. Moves of Service(s) under PPCS

Termination Liability Charges will not apply to customer requests for moves of service under PPCS from one location to another location subject to the following:

1. The original and new premises locations must be in Company territory within the same state.
2. The move from the original location to the new location must be completed within thirty days of the original premises disconnect date.
3. No lapse in billing will occur for moves of service under PPCS.
4. Orders to disconnect the existing service and reestablish it at the new location must be related.
5. Any rate elements from the original location that are not reestablished at the new location will be subject to applicable Termination Liability charges.
6. Any additions made at the new location will be treated as coterminous additions in accordance with D. preceding.
7. All **terms, conditions** and charges for changes made to the service coincident to the move shall apply. (T)
8. All appropriate nonrecurring charges for moves of service as specified in this **Guidebook** will apply. (T)
9. Moves of service that involve a change of jurisdiction, e.g., intraLATA to intrastate, intrastate to interstate, etc., will not be treated as a disconnect of service with regard to Termination Liability Charge application. The customer must subscribe to a payment arrangement offered in the appropriate interstate tariff which is at least the minimum number of months allowable under Payment Plan A or equals/exceeds the remaining contract period, whichever is greater.

A2.4.11 Economic Waiver Exception to Termination Liability for Business Customers

The Company will waive early-termination liability charges associated with a **Company** Local Exchange Term Election Agreement plan, program, or promotion for business customers who voluntarily and in good faith file bankruptcy under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. Sections 101-1330. This exception is a one-time waiver. To qualify for this waiver, subscriber must present a copy of the Chapter 7 Bankruptcy filing to **the Company**, must disconnect all their local exchange service as a result of going out of business, and must have had an existing local exchange Term Election Agreement in effect for at least six (6) months. This exception only applies to disconnects and bankruptcy filings after September 16, 2005. This waiver does not apply to product contracts, Letters of Election, Contract Service Arrangements, or Special Assembly. Subscriber may not have any other outstanding amounts due except the termination liability. (T)

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.5 Liability of the Company**A2.5.1 Service Irregularities**

The liability of the Company for damages arising out of mistakes, omissions, interruptions, preemptions, delays, errors or defects in transmission, or failures or defects in facilities furnished by the Company, occurring in the course of furnishing service or other facilities and not caused by the negligence of the subscriber, or of the Company in failing to maintain proper standards of maintenance and operation and to exercise reasonable supervision shall in no event exceed an amount equivalent to the proportionate charge to the subscriber for the period of service during which such mistake, omission, interruption, preemption, delay, error or defect in transmission or defect or failure in facilities occurs. The Company shall not be liable for damage arising out of mistakes, omissions, interruptions, preemptions, delays, errors or defects in transmission or other injury, including but not limited to injuries to persons or property from voltages or currents transmitted over the service of the Company, (1) caused by customer-provided equipment (except where a contributing cause is the malfunctioning of a Company-provided connecting arrangement, in which event the liability of the Company shall not exceed an amount equal to a proportional amount of the Company billing for the period of service during which such mistake, omission, interruption, preemption, delay, error, defect in transmission or injury occurs), or (2) not prevented by customer-provided equipment but which would have been prevented had Company-provided equipment been used.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A2.5 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)

A2.5.2 Use of Facilities of Other Connecting Carriers

When suitable arrangements can be made, facilities of other connecting carriers may be used in conjunction with this Company's facilities in establishing connections to points not reached by this Company's facilities. Neither this Company nor any connecting carrier participating in a service shall be liable for any act or omission of any other company or companies furnishing a portion of such service.

A2.5.3 Indemnifying Agreement

This Company shall be indemnified and saved harmless by the subscriber or subscribers against claims for libel, slander, or the infringement of copyright arising directly or indirectly from the material transmitted over the facilities or the use thereof; against claims for infringement of patents arising from combining with, or using in connection with, facilities furnished by the Company, apparatus and systems of the subscriber; and against all other claims arising out of any act or omission of the subscriber in connection with the facilities provided by the Company.

A2.5.4 Defacement of Premises

The Company is not liable for any defacement of or damage to the premises of a subscriber resulting from the furnishing of service or the attachment of the equipment and associated wiring furnished by the Company on such premises or by the installation or removal thereof, when such defacement or damage is not the result of negligence of employees of the Company.

A2.5.5 Period for the Presentation of Claims

The Company shall not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where a claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the alleged delinquency occurs.

A2.5.6 Equipment in Explosive Atmosphere

- A. The Company does not guarantee nor make any warranty with respect to equipment and facilities provided by it for use in an explosive atmosphere. The subscriber shall indemnify and hold the Company harmless from any and all loss, claims, demands, suits, or other action, or any liability whatsoever, whether suffered, made, instituted or asserted by the subscriber or by any other party or person, for any personal injury to or death of any person or persons, and for any loss, damage or destruction of any property, whether owned by the subscriber or others, caused or claimed to have been caused directly or indirectly by the installation, operation, failure to operate, maintenance, removal, presence, condition, location or use of said equipment so provided.
- B. The Company may require each subscriber to sign an agreement for the furnishing of such equipment as a condition precedent to the furnishing of such equipment.
- C. The subscriber shall furnish, install and maintain sealed conduit with explosion-proof fittings between this equipment and points outside the hazardous area where connection may be made with regular facilities of the Company. The subscriber may be required to install and maintain this equipment within the hazardous area if, in the opinion of the Company, injury or damage to Company employees or property might result from installation or maintenance by the Company.

A2.5.7 Reserved for Future Use

A2.5.8 Reserved for Future Use

A2.5.9 Listing Errors and Omissions

- A. The Company's liability for damages arising from errors in or omissions of listings in the Company's alphabetical White Pages Directory (*where available*), **Listing Information System** or directory assistance records for which no additional charge is made shall be limited to the amount of actual impairment of the subscriber's service and in no event shall exceed one-half the amount of the charge to the subscriber for the Company's Local Exchange Service during the period covered by the directory (*where available*) or during the period that the **Company's Listing Information System and/or** directory assistance records remain in error after notice to the Company by the subscriber, or \$500.00 whichever is less. (T)
- B. For listings furnished at additional charge, the Company's liability shall not exceed the amount of such additional charge during the period covered by the directory (*where available*) or during the period that the **Company's Listing Information System and/or** directory assistance records remain in error after notice to the Company by the subscriber. (T)
- C. The Company may discharge its liability for errors or omissions by abatement or refund, or by a combination of abatement and refund.

A2.5.10 Reserved for Future Use

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(T)

A2.5 Liability of the Company

A2.5.11 Application Testing

The Company makes no warranties with respect to the performance of certain services for any and all possible customer applications which may utilize these services. The Company will provide a limited amount of such service(s) subject to the conditions specified in A. and B. following. Such service is to be utilized without charge in an initial application test with a customer for no longer than sixty days from the date of installation. The purpose of an application test is to determine the appropriateness of that specific service(s) for that specific application prior to the customer placing a firm order for such service(s).

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- A. The specific quantity of each service that may be utilized in an application test without charge is listed in the specific **guidebook** for that service. Services to be provided in an application test are subject to the availability of facilities and equipment as determined by the Company.
- B. Services that are utilized in an application test with a customer may be provided without charge for an application test period of up to sixty days. Such service is provided at the discretion of the Company for the specific purpose of conducting an application test with a customer and is not intended to be utilized as a substitute for temporary service.
1. Upon completion of the application test where the customer determines that the performance of the services utilized are unacceptable for the application, the application test service will be removed without charge to the customer.
 2. Upon completion of the application test where the customer determines that the performance of the services utilized are acceptable for the application and no changes to the test service configuration are required, the customer will be billed the appropriate nonrecurring charges for the test service and monthly billing will begin at that time.¹
 3. Upon completion of the application test where the customer determines that the performance of the services utilized are acceptable for the application, however, the test service configuration must be changed, the customer shall be responsible for both the appropriate nonrecurring charges for the application test service plus all appropriate charges for the rearrangement of the service. Monthly billing shall begin for the rearranged service.¹

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A2.5.12 Limitation of Liability

A. Unauthorized Computer Intrusion

The Company's liability, if any, for its willful misconduct is not limited by this section of this **Guidebook**. With respect to any other claim or suit by a subscriber, common carrier, reseller, or any other party for damages caused by, or associated with, any unauthorized computer intrusion, including but not limited to the input of damaging information such as a virus, time bomb, any unauthorized access, interference, alteration, destruction, theft of, or tampering with, a Company computer, switch, data, database, software, information, network or other similar system, the Company's liability, if any, shall not exceed an amount equal to the proportionate charge by the Company for the service for the period during which the service provided by the Company was affected or so utilized.

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Each subscriber of the Company shall be responsible for providing appropriate security measures to protect the subscriber's computer, data, or telecommunications network.

B. Transmission of Data

Voice-grade lines are primarily conditioned to handle data speeds up to 9.6 kilobits per second (kbps). The Company makes no guarantee that voice-grade access lines and/or facilities are suitable for the transmission of data. However, in those cases where the transmission of data is attempted, the Company shall not be held liable for any damage, harm or loss of data caused by the subscriber using the Company's voice-grade telephone access lines and/or facilities for the transmission of data. The Company's liability shall be limited to errors or damages to the transmission of voice messages over these facilities, and the liability shall be limited to an amount equal to the proportionate amount of the Company's billing for the period of service during which the errors or damages occur.

The Company's liability for damages or errors caused during the transmission of data over any of the Company's data facilities shall be limited to an amount equal to the proportionate charge for the service for the period during which the service was affected.

Note 1: Any additional service requested to be installed upon completion of the application test shall be subject to standard **guidebook** nonrecurring charges and rates as set forth in each service **guidebook**.

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A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.5 Liability of the Company (Cont'd)

A2.5.12 Limitation of Liability (Cont'd)

C. Errors or Damages Caused by System Date Limitations

The Company's liability for errors or damage resulting from the inability of the Company's systems to process dates, such as the Year 2000, shall be limited to an amount equal to the proportionate amount of the Company's billing for the period of service during which the errors or damages occur.

D. Unauthorized Devices

The Company shall not be held liable or responsible for any damage or harm that may occur as the result of unauthorized devices or the failure of the Company to detect unauthorized devices on the subscriber's line.

A2.6 Reserved for Future Use

A2.7 Obligation of the Company

A2.7.1 Obligation to Furnish Service

- A.** The Company's obligation to furnish service or to continue to furnish service is dependent on its ability to obtain, retain and maintain suitable rights and facilities, and to provide for the installation of those facilities required incident to the furnishing and maintenance of that service.

A2.8 Reserved for Future Use

A2.9 Customer Premises Inside Wire

A2.9.1 General

- A.** Customer premises inside wire is defined as that wire, including connectors, blocks and jacks, on the customer's side of the demarcation point that extends between the termination of the Exchange Access Line or Private Line and those standard jack locations on the customer's side of the demarcation point to which terminal equipment can be connected for access to the Exchange Access Line.
- B.** Customer premises inside wire provided by the customer must be installed in accordance with the technical standards and installation guidelines furnished by the Company. (T)
- C.** Customer premises inside wire provided by the customer may be connected to residence and business individual and party line basic exchange service or Private Line Service furnished by the Company according to Part 68 of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules and Regulations.
- D.** The Network Interface for the connection of customer premises inside wire consists of a standard miniature modular jack and is provided as part of the Exchange Access Line¹. The normal location of the Network Interface would be in close proximity to the protector or equivalent if located outside or where the Company's facilities enter the customer's premises when located inside. When the Company is notified prior to the installation of the Network Interface, the customer shall have the option, at no charge to the customer, of an indoor or outdoor Network Interface. When at the instance of the customer, an existing Network Interface is moved from the outside to the inside, or vice versa, the applicable nonrecurring Service Charges specified in Section A4. apply. There will be no charge to the customer when the Company retrofits existing Access Line terminations in connection with other maintenance or installation work at the customer's premises. (T)

A2.9.2 Responsibility of the Customer

- A.** In the event the customer maintains or attempts to maintain inside wire, the customer assumes the risk of loss of service, damage to property, or death to or injury of the customer or the customer's agent. The customer will save the Company harmless from any and all liability, claims, or damage suits arising out of the customer's wire maintenance activity.

A2.9.3 Reserved for Future Use

Note 1: Where any Network Interface other than a miniature modular type is used in the provision of a Network Interface, the current charge for such Network Interface will apply.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.9 Customer Premises Inside Wire (Cont'd)**A2.9.4 Violation of *Terms and Conditions***

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- A. Where customer-provided inside wire is in violation of Section A2.9, the Company will promptly notify the customer of the violation and will take such immediate action as is necessary for the protection of the telecommunications network and Company employees.

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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A2.9 Customer Premises Inside Wire (Cont'd)

A2.9.4 Violation of Terms and Conditions (Cont'd)

(T)

- B. The customer shall discontinue use of the customer-provided inside wire or correct the violation and notify the Company in writing that the violation has been corrected within 10 days after receipt of such notice.
- C. Failure of the customer to discontinue such use or to correct the violation will result in the suspension of the customer's service until such time as the customer complies with the provisions of this **Guidebook**.

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A2.10 Special Promotions

A2.10.1 Terms and Conditions

(T)

- A. The Company may offer special promotions of new or existing services or products for limited periods. Subject to the availability of products, services and facilities, promotions will be available on a completely non-discriminatory basis to all subscribers meeting the eligibility criteria for each promotion within the classification of service and area for which the promotion is available. Each subscriber so meeting eligibility criteria will have an equal opportunity for participation.

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(D)

A2.10.2 Reserved for Future Use

A2.11 Trademarks and Servicemarks Protection

A2.11.1 Use of Trademarks and Servicemarks

Trademarks and Servicemarks owned by **AT&T** Intellectual Property may not be used by any entity concurring in or providing services pursuant to this **Guidebook** except under an express written license agreement with **AT&T** Intellectual Property.

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A2.12 Reserved for Future Use

A2.13 Reserved for Future Use

A2.14 Customer Agents

A2.14.1 General

- A. The conditions specified herein apply to any entity (hereinafter "agent"), including but not limited to Customer Premises Equipment Providers, Enhanced Service Providers, and Interexchange Carriers acting or purporting to act on behalf of a customer or prospective customer (hereinafter "customer") in transactions with the Company. Such transactions may include, but are not limited to: (1) requests for information about the service or equipment of any customer, (2) negotiations regarding deposits, (3) orders for establishment of or changes in service or equipment, and (4) requests for or inquiries concerning the repair or maintenance of the service or equipment of any customer.

A2.14.2 Responsibility of the Agent

- A. The agent shall at all times act within the scope of the agent's authority as defined in the agent's agreement with the customer and shall not undertake any transaction with the Company on behalf of any customer unless the agent has been authorized to do so by that customer.
- B. In undertaking any such transactions on behalf of any customer, the agent shall comply with all **terms and conditions** in this section of this **Guidebook** applicable to the transaction or to the service or equipment to which the transaction pertains.

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A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A2.14 Customer Agents (Cont'd)

A2.14.3 Warranty and Liability of the Agent

- A. By undertaking any transaction with the Company on behalf of a customer, the agent warrants and represents to the Company that the agent has been duly authorized by the customer to act on behalf of the customer in the transaction undertaken. In the event that the customer denies that the agent has acted within the scope of its authority, the agent shall assume responsibility for such transactions and will indemnify and hold the Company harmless from any and all damages, losses, or claims resulting from such dispute or denial by the customer, except for any damages, losses, or claims resulting from the Company's willful misconduct, and will pay any and all applicable rates and charges for services rendered or equipment supplied by the Company because of the agent's actions. The foregoing in no way absolves the customer from liability arising from transactions performed by the agent on behalf of the customer.

A2.14.4 Proof of Authority

- A. When the Company in the reasonable exercise of the Company's discretion believes it appropriate, the Company may request proof of the authority of any party claiming to be the agent of the customer prior to acting upon such request. Failure of the Company to request such proof shall not, however, limit or otherwise affect the agent's responsibility or liability set forth herein, nor shall such a failure constitute a waiver of the Company's right to request such proof at any time in the future.

A2.15 Reserved for Future Use

A2.16 Reserved for Future Use

A2.17 Reserved for Future Use

A2.18 Reserved for Future Use

A2.19 Reserved for Future Use

A2.20 Cost Assessment Charge (CAC)

- A. A Cost Assessment Charge (CAC) is assessed on a per line or trunk basis or as shown below for residence and business customers. The CAC is also assessed on a percentage basis against all billed revenue for business customers subscribing to transport (or miscellaneous transport-like) services. The CAC is established to recover property taxes (from business customers) as well as ongoing costs associated with the administration of Local Number Portability (from line- and trunk-based services from residence and business customers). This charge is not a tax or fee that the government requires AT&T to collect from customers. The CAC does not apply to 911 Services, Coin Services, Lifeline, or any of the following account types: Federal, State and Local Government accounts; Resale accounts; or accounts designated by the Company as Wholesale.

	Monthly Rate	USOC	
1. Cost Assessment Charge (CAC)			
(a) Each Local Exchange Service line			
Residence	\$0.18	C8RCC	(R)
Business	10.00	C8RCD	
(b) Each Primary Rate ISDN (PRI)	50.00	C8RCE	
(c) Each PBX trunk	90.00	C8RCG	
(d) Each Centrex Station line	10.00	C8RCD	
(e) Each Basic Rate ISDN (BRI)			
Residence	0.18	C8RCC	(R)
Business	10.00	C8RCD	
(f) Transport (or miscellaneous Transport-like) services	7.00%	NA	
BellSouth Metro Ethernet Service			

A2. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A2.21 TDM to IP Transition

A2.21.1 General TDM to IP Transition Provisions

As a result of evolving network technology, the Company is able to offer new, advanced services. At the same time, certain older services will no longer be available in some geographic areas, as those services are no longer technically or economically feasible. The table below identifies services that have been withdrawn, by wire center and exchange, along with additional information related to these service withdrawals.

<u>Product Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Basic Flat Rate Service, PBX Trunks	A3.2.1
Message Rate Service, Trunk Lines	A3.2.2
Auxiliary Line Service (Inward Service)	A3.6
Foreign Exchange Service	A9.1
Foreign Central Office Service	A9.2
Private Branch Exchange Service	A11.1
Trunk Lines	A11.2
Direct-Inward Dialing (DID) Service	A12.7
Identified-Outward-Dialing (IOD) from Customer Premises Located Switching Systems	A12.8
BellSouth Centrex ISDN Service	A12.26
Extension Services	A13.1
Dormitory Communication Service	A13.13
Long Distance Trunk Service (Toll Terminals)	A13.14
Hot Line Service	A13.56
Derived Data Channel Service	A29.1
Data Transport Access Channel Service	A29.2
ISDN Business Service (IBS)	A42.1
Primary Rate ISDN	A42.3
Channelized Trunks	A43.1
BellSouth Remote Access Service	A47.1

Effective Date

<u>Wire Center</u>	<u>Exchange</u>	<u>Other Information</u>
10/01/2019		
BATHSCMA	Bath	Distribution Area 442002
07/15/2020		
CLMASCSC	Columbia	Distribution Area 330120
11/15/2020		
CLMASCSC	Columbia	Distribution Areas 240204 and 270220
03/01/2021		
CLMASCSC	Columbia	Distribution Areas 330106, 410502, 430106, 440101 and 460102
04/01/2021		
FLRNSCMA	Florence	Distribution Area 731001

(N)

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