

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Proposed Amendment to) DOCKET NO. 920740-TI
Rule 25-4.003(18), F.A.C.,) ORDER NO. PSC-93-1738-FOF-TI
Definitions, Pertaining to) ISSUED: December 3, 1993
Multiple Location Discount)
Aggregators (MLDAs).)
_____)

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULE AMENDMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that the Commission, pursuant to section 120.54, Florida Statutes, has adopted the amendments to Rule 25-4.003, F.A.C., relating to definitions, pertaining to multiple location discount aggregators, without change.

The rule amendment was filed with the Department of State on December 1, 1993, and will be effective on December 21, 1993. A copy of the relevant portions of the certification filed with the Secretary of State is attached to this Notice.

This docket is closed upon issuance of this notice.

By Direction of the Florida Public Service Commission, this
3rd day of December, 1993.

STEVE TRIBBLE, Director
Division of Records & Reporting

(S E A L)

WEW

by: Kay Flynn
Chief, Bureau of Records

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

25-4.003 Definitions.

For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Average Busy Season-Busy Hour Traffic." The average traffic volume for the busy season busy hours.

(2) "Base Rate Area." That well-developed and contiguous territory within the exchange service area in which local exchange service, except rural multi-party line service, is furnished at rates common to all subscribers and without extra exchange line mileage or zone charges. A base rate area shall include all well-developed and contiguous territory within the exchange service area whether such territory is within or outside of an incorporated city or town. The term "well-developed" as used in this rule shall be construed to mean all land area suitable for either residential or business usage which is generally developed to a level of fifty percent (50%) or more.

(3) "Busy Hour." The continuous one-hour period of the day during which the greatest volume of traffic is handled in the office.

(4) "Busy Season." The calendar month or period of the year (preferably thirty (30) days but not to exceed sixty (60) days) during which the greatest volume of traffic is handled in the office.

(5) "Call." An attempted telephone message.

(6) "Central Office." A local operating unit by means of which connections are established between subscribers' lines and trunk or toll lines to other central offices within the same exchange or other exchanges. Each three (3) digit central office code (NNX) used shall be considered a separate central office unit.

(a) "Central Office Unit." Automatic telephone switching equipment whose maximum capacity is 10,000 terminals.

(b) "Central Office Entity." A facility comprised of two (2) or more central office units which are located on the same premises and which may or may not utilize common equipment.

(7) "Class of Service." A description of main station service furnished a subscriber in terms of grade of line, type of rate and location use.

(8) "Commission." The Florida Public Service Commission.

(9) "Company" "Telephone Company." "Utility." These terms may be used interchangeably herein and shall mean any person, firm, partnership or corporation engaged in the business of furnishing communication service to the public under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

(10) "Exchange." The entire telephone plant and facilities used in providing telephone service to subscribers located in an exchange area. An exchange may include more than one central office unit.

(11) "Exchange (Service) Area." The territory, including the base rate suburban and rural areas served by an exchange, within which local telephone service is furnished at the exchange rates applicable within that area.

(12) "Extended Area Service." A type of telephone service furnished under tariff provisions whereby subscribers of a given exchange or area may complete calls to, and receive messages from, one or more other contiguous exchanges without toll charges, or complete calls to one or more other exchanges without toll message charges.

(13) "Extension Station." An additional station connected on the same circuit as the main station and subsidiary thereto.

(14) "Foreign Exchange Service." A classification of exchange service furnished under tariff provisions whereby a subscriber may be provided telephone service from an exchange other than the one from which he would normally be served.

(15) "Grade of Line." The number of subscribers which may be served on a telephone line such as one-party, two-party, four-party.

(16) "Individual Line Service." A classification of exchange service which provides that only one main station shall be served by the circuit connecting such station with the central office equipment.

(17) "Intercept Service." A service arrangement provided by the telephone company whereby calls placed to an unequipped non-working, a disconnected or discontinued telephone number are intercepted by operator, recorder, or audio response computer and the calling party informed that the called telephone number is not in service, has been disconnected, discontinued or changed to another number, or that calls are received by another telephone. This service is also provided in certain central offices and switching centers to inform the calling party of system blockages, inability of the system to complete a call as dialed, no such office code, all circuits busy, etc.

(18) "Interexchange Company" means any telephone company, as defined in Section 364.02(7 ~~4~~), F.S., which provides telecommunication service between local calling exchange areas as those areas are described in the approved tariffs of individual local exchange companies. "Interexchange Company" includes, but is not limited to, Multiple Location Discount Aggregators (MLDA) as defined in subsection (31) of these definitions.

(19) "Inter-office Call." A telephone call originating in one central office unit or entity but terminating in another central office unit or entity both of which are in the same designated exchange area.

(20) "Interstate Toll Message." Those toll messages which do not originate and terminate within the same state.

(21) "Intertoll Trunk." A line or circuit between toll offices over which toll calls are passed. (Can also be between two end offices or between end offices and distant toll offices.)

(22) "Intra-office Call." A telephone call originating and terminating within the same central office unit or entity.

(23) "Intra-state Toll Message." Those toll messages which originate and terminate within the same state.

(24) "Invalid Number." A number comprised of an unassigned area code number, a non-working central office code, or a connector terminal number which has no equipment installed to connect to such a number.

(25) "Line Fill." The ratio of the number of main stations for a specific grade of service divided by the number of lines in use furnishing that grade of service.

(26) "Local Exchange Company" means any telephone company, as defined in Section 364.02(4), F.S., which, in addition to any other telephonic communication service, provides telecommunication service within exchange areas as those areas are described in the approved tariffs of the telephone company.

(27) "Local Service Area." "Local Calling Area." The area within which telephone service is furnished subscribers under a

specific schedule of exchange rates and without toll charges. A local service area may include one or more exchange areas or portions of exchange areas.

(28) "Main Station." The principal telephone associated with each service to which a telephone number is assigned and which is connected to the central office equipment by an individual or party line circuit or channel.

(29) "Message." A completed telephone call.

(30) "Mileage Charge." A tariff charge, generally expressed in one-quarter (1/4) mile increments, assessed on individual line and two-party line service to defray additional costs incurred in providing local exchange service beyond the base rate and suburban rate area boundaries and tariff charges for circuits and channels connecting other services that are auxiliary to local exchange service such as off premise extensions, foreign exchange, foreign central office and private line services, tie lines, etc. (Also see "Zone Charge.")

(31) "Multiple Location Discount Aggregator (MLDA)" is an entity that offers discounted long distance telecommunications services from an underlying interexchange company to unaffiliated entities. An entity is a MLDA if one or more of the following criteria applies:

(a) It collects fees related to interexchange telecommunications services directly from subscribers, or

(b) It bills for interexchange telecommunications services in its own name, or

(c) It is responsible for an end user's unpaid interexchange telecommunications bill, or

(d) A customer's bill cannot be determined by applying the tariff of the underlying interexchange company to the customer's individual usage.

(~~32~~ ~~31~~) "Multi-party (Line) Service." A classification of exchange service which provides that more than two (2) main stations may be served by the same central office circuit. Although two-party lines might be considered as multi-party, they are excluded from this classification. (See Party-Line Service.)

(~~33~~ ~~32~~) "Normal Working Days." The normal working days for installation and construction will be all days except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The normal working days for repair service will be all days except Sundays and holidays. Holidays will be the days which are observed by each individual telephone utility.

(~~34~~ ~~33~~) "Optional Calling Plan." An optional service furnished under tariff provisions which recognizes the need of some subscribers for extended area calling without imposing the cost on the entire body of subscribers.

(35 ~~34~~) "Outside Plant." The telephone equipment and facilities installed on, along, or under streets, alleys, highways, or on private rights-of-way between the central office and subscribers' locations or between central offices of the same or different exchanges.

(36 ~~35~~) "Party Line Service." A classification of exchange service which provides that two or more main stations may be served by the same central office circuit.

(37 ~~36~~) "Pay Telephone Service Company" means any telephone company, as defined in Section 364.02(4), F.S., other than a Local Exchange Company, which provides pay telephone service as defined in Section 364.335(4), F.S.

(38 ~~37~~) "Preferred Classes of Service." The classes of service (as specified in approved tariffs) which the company undertakes to furnish at any point within the base rate area at a rate common to all subscribers for the same class. Preferred classes of service may be furnished at points outside the base rate area at base rates plus applicable zone or mileage charges, except as provided by Rule 4.68(2)(b).

(39 ~~38~~) "Primary Interexchange Company." The pre-subscribed interexchange company for a given customer/subscriber.

(40 ~~39~~) "Primary Service." Individual line service or party line service.

(41 40) "Rural (service) Area." That area within the exchange service area which is sparsely developed and lies beyond the base rate and suburban rate areas.

(42 41) "Service Interruption." The term "service interruption" shall mean the inability to complete calls over the subscriber's line either incoming or outgoing or both due to facility malfunctions or human errors; except that the term as used in these rules shall not include service difficulties such as slow dial tone, circuits busy or other network and/or switching capacity shortages, nor shall it be construed to apply where service is interrupted by the negligence or willful act of the subscriber, emergency situations, unavoidable casualties and acts of God, or nonservice affecting reports, or where the company, pursuant to approved provisions of its tariff, suspends or terminates service because of non-payment of bills due to the company, unlawful or improper use of the facilities or service or any other proper reason covered by filed and approved tariffs or rules of the Commission.

(43 42) "Service Objective." The term "service objective" as used in these rules represents a quality of service which is desirable to be achieved under normal conditions, but failure to fully meet such objectives should not be considered to be a

governing factor in determining whether a company is providing adequate service for ratemaking purposes.

(44 ~~43~~) "Service Standard." The term "service standard" as used in these rules and regulations represents a level of service which a telephone utility, under normal conditions, is expected to meet in its certificated territory as representative of adequate services.

(45 ~~44~~) "Station." A telephone instrument consisting of a transmitter, receiver, and associated apparatus so connected as to permit sending and/or receiving telephone messages.

(46 ~~45~~) "Subscriber." "Customer." These terms may be used interchangeably herein and shall mean any person, firm, partnership, corporation, municipality, cooperative organization, or governmental agency supplied with communication service by a telephone company.

(47 ~~46~~) "Subscriber Line." The circuit or channel used to connect the subscriber station with the central office equipment.

(48 ~~47~~) "Suburban (Service) Area." That area within the exchange service area which is partially developed and lies immediately beyond the base rate area.

(49 ~~48~~) "Switching Center." Location at which telephone traffic, either local or toll, is switched or connected from one

circuit or line to another. A local switching center may be comprised of several central office units.

(50 ~~49~~) "Toll Connecting Trunk." A trunk which connects a local central office with its toll operating office.

(51 ~~50~~) "Toll Message." A completed telephone call between stations in different exchanges for which message toll charges are applicable.

(52 ~~51~~) "Toll Station." A telephone station connected directly to the toll switchboard installed for the convenience of the public or of a subscriber in a location where the company does not generally furnish exchange service and from which established toll rates are charged for all messages sent over company lines.

(53 ~~52~~) "Traffic Study." The process of recording usage measurements which can be translated into required quantities of equipment.

(54 ~~53~~) "Trouble Report." Any oral or written report from a subscriber or user of telephone service to the telephone company indicating improper function or defective conditions with respect to the operation of telephone facilities over which the telephone company has control.

(55 ~~54~~) "Trunk." A communication channel between central office units or entities, or private branch exchanges.

(56 55) "Valid Number." A number for a specific telephone terminal in an assigned area code and working central office which is equipped to ring and connect a calling party to such terminal number.

(57 56) "Zone Charge." Similar to mileage charge except that the portion of exchanges service area located beyond the base rate area is divided into zones or bands within which rates common to all subscribers for the same class are provided for individual line and two-party line service.

Specific Authority: 350.127(2), F.S.

Law Implemented: 364.01, 364.02, 364.32, 364.335, 364.337, F.S.

History: Revised 12/1/68, Amended 3/31/76, formerly 25-4.03, Amended 2/23/87, 3/4/92, 12/21/93.