

**General Order 133-C**  
**Public Utilities Commission of the State of California**  
**Rules Governing Telecommunications Services**  
**Effective July 9, 2009**

**1. GENERAL**

1.1 Intent.

- a. Purpose. The purpose of these rules is to establish uniform minimum standards of service to be observed in the operation of public utility telephone corporations.
- b. Limits of Order. These rules do not cover the subjects in the filed tariff rules of telephone utilities.
- c. Absence of Civil Liability. The establishment of these rules shall not impose upon utilities, and they shall not be subject to, any civil liability for damages, which liability would not exist at law if these rules had not been adopted.
- d. These rules may be revised in scope on the basis of experience gained in their application and as changes in technology, the telecommunications market, or technology may require.

1.2 Applicability. These rules are applicable to all public utility telephone corporations providing service within the State of California, except as otherwise noted.

1.3 Definitions.

- a. Business Office – A centralized service group which receives small business and/or residential customer requests for new installations or changes in existing service. This also includes billing center inquiries.
- b. Central Office Entity – A group of lines using common-originating equipment or under stored program control.
- c. CLEC: A *Competitive Local Exchange Carrier* (CLEC), per Pub.Util. Code § 234, § 1001, and Decision 95-07-054, provides local telephone services in the service territories formerly reserved for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs), in competition with ILECs, and must obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the Commission.
- d. COLR: A *Carrier of Last Resort* (COLR) is required to serve upon request all customers within its designated service areas. Pursuant to Decision 96-10-066, a carrier seeking to be a COLR needs to file a notice

of intent (NOI) with the Commission in order to have access to high cost fund subsidies. Once designated a COLR, the carrier must get the Commission's approval to opt out of its obligation to serve.

- e. Commission – In the interpretation of these rules, the word “Commission” shall be construed to mean the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California.
- f. Commitment – The date agreed to by a customer and a utility for the completion of requested work.
- g. Enhanced Services/Information Service Providers: The 1996 Telecommunications Act (47 U.S.C. § 153 (20) (2008)) distinguished between *information* service providers and *telecommunication* service providers. The former provide so-called Enhanced Services over transmission facilities where they employ computer processing applications that act on the format, content, code, protocol or similar aspects of the subscriber's transmitted information but where the information is not dependent on the telecommunications service beyond the delivery of it. Information services generate, acquire, store, transform, process, retrieve, utilize, or make available information *via* telecommunications, and these processes are considered separate from delivery. Information service providers do not need a CPCN and do not need to register if they do not provide telephone service in addition to their information services. Examples of enhanced/information services are internet access, voicemail, electronic messaging, and video conferencing.
- h. ETC: *Eligible Telecommunications Carrier* (ETC) - A telecommunications carrier that has been designated by the Commission, pursuant to Resolution T-17002 and GO 153, as eligible to receive federal lifeline and/or high cost Universal Service support. Designated ETCs must file annual recertification advice letters to continue to be eligible for federal high cost fund support.
- i. Facilities-based Carriers: A local exchange carrier that uses facilities it owns, operates, manages, or controls to provide service, including partially or totally owning, operating, managing or controlling such facilities. A local exchange carrier providing service solely by resale of the ILEC's local exchange services is not a facilities-based carrier. By Commission Decision (D.) 95-12-057, facilities-based carriers must file an environmental assessment report and undertake mitigation efforts addressing any adverse environmental impacts associated with their construction activities under their CPCN.
- j. Installation – The provision of telephone service at the customer's request.
- k. GRC ILECs: A *General Rate Case Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier* (GRC ILECs) is designated a COLR in its franchise territories per

D.96-10-066, the decision where the Commission spelled out what is meant by basic telephone service for purposes of Universal Service funding and is regulated through cost-of-service reviews by the Commission per General Order 96 B.

- l. ILEC: An *ILEC* is a certificated local telephone company such as Pacific Bell Telephone Company (now d/b/a AT&T California) and Verizon California Inc., which used to be the exclusive local telephone service provider in a franchise territory established before the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996. See Pub.Util. Code § 234 and § 1001.
- m. Line – An access line (hardwire and/or channel) which provides dial tone and which runs from the local central office (Class 4/5, Class 5, or a remote) to the subscriber’s premises.
- n. Local Exchange – A telecommunications system providing service within a specified area within which communications are considered exchange messages except for those messages between toll points per D.96-10-066.
- o. Minimum Standard Reporting Level – A specified service level of performance for each measure and each reporting unit.
- p. NDIEC: A *Non-Dominant Inter-Exchange Carrier* (NDIEC) or long distance carrier (IEC/IXC) is only required to register with the Commission before providing long distance telephone services in California, per Pub.Util. Code § 1013.
- q. Out of Service – A telephone line without dial tone.
- r. Small Business Customer -- small business customers are those that purchase five or fewer lines.
- s. Telephone Company/Utility – A public utility telephone corporation providing public telephone service as further defined by Pub. Util. Code §§ 216 and 234.
- t. Traffic Office – A group of operators which receives incoming calls from direct trunk groups or by means of an automatic distributing system.
- u. Trouble Report – Any oral or written notice by a customer or customer’s representative to the telephone utility which indicates dissatisfaction with telephone service, telephone qualified equipment, and/or telephone company employees.
- v. URF Carrier – A utility that is a wireline carrier that has full pricing flexibility over all or substantially all of its rates and charges. A Uniform Regulatory Framework (URF) carrier includes any ILEC that is regulated through the Commission’s URF, as established in Decision 06-08-030, as modified from time to time by the Commission, and includes CLECs and IECs.

- w. URF ILECs – URF ILECs are distinguished from GRC ILECs in that they are currently granted pricing flexibility through D.06-08-030, which may be modified from time to time.
  - x. Wire Center – A facility composed of one or more switches (either soft switch or regular switch) which are located on the same premises and which may or may not utilize common equipment. In the case of a digital switch, all remote processors that are hosted by a central processor are to be included in the central office wire center.
  - y. Wireless Carrier. A *Wireless Carrier* (a Commercial Mobile Radio Service provider under Federal Communications Commission regulations) is a carrier or licensee whose wireless network is connected to the public switched telephone network (PSTN). Per Commission decision (D.94-10-031), wireless carriers are required to file a wireless identification registration with the Director of the Communications Division within the Commission.
- 1.4 Information available to the Public. The public utility telephone corporation shall maintain, available for public inspection at its main office in California, copies of all reports submitted to this Commission in compliance with these rules. These copies shall be held available for two years. The public utility telephone corporation shall identify the location and telephone number of its main office in California in its White Pages directory and/or on its Internet website and shall provide information on how to contact it. A copy of these reports will also be maintained and be available for public inspection at the Commission's San Francisco and Los Angeles offices. Copies shall also be made available to interested parties for a nominal fee to cover the cost of processing and reproduction. The availability shall be limited to reports provided by the local serving company.
- 1.5 Location of Records. All reports required by these rules shall be kept and made available to representatives, agents, or employees of the Commission upon reasonable notice.
- 1.6 Reports to the Commission. The public utility telephone corporation shall furnish to the Commission, at such times and in such form as the Commission may require, the results or summaries of any measurements required by these rules. The public utility telephone corporation shall furnish the Commission with any information concerning the utility's facilities or operations which the Commission may request and need for determining quality of service.
- 1.7 Deviations from any of these Rules. In cases where the application of any of the rules incorporated herein results in undue hardship or expense to the public utility telephone corporation, it may request specific relief by filing a

formal application in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, except that where the relief requested is of minor importance or temporary in nature, the Commission may accept an application and showing of necessity by letter.

- 1.8 Revision of Rules. Public utility telephone corporations subject to these rules and other interested parties may individually or collectively file with this Commission a petition for rulemaking Pub. Util. Code § 1708.5 for the purpose of amending these rules. The petition shall conform to the requirements of Rule 6.3 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

## **2. STANDARDS OF SERVICE [Effective January 1, 2010]**

- 2.1 General. These rules establish minimum standards and uniform reporting levels for the installation, maintenance, and operator answer time for local exchange telephone service. The service measures established are as follows:

<b><i>Service Measure</i></b>	<b><i>Type of Service</i></b>
Installation Interval	Installation
Installation Commitments	Installation
Customer Trouble Reports	Maintenance
Out of Service Repair Interval	Maintenance
Answer Time	Operator Services

- 2.2 Description of Reporting Levels. These levels have been established to provide customers information on how carriers perform. Minimum standard reporting levels are established for each of the service measures. Minimum standard reporting levels are applicable to each individual reporting unit.

## **3. MINIMUM TELEPHONE SERVICE MEASURES [Effective January 1, 2010]**

- 3.1 Installation Interval – Applies to GRC ILECs.
  - a. Description. Installation interval measures the amount of time to install basic telephone service from the day and hour the customer requests service until it is established. When a customer orders basic service he/she may request additional features, such as call waiting, call forwarding, etc. If an additional feature is included in a basic service installation, the installation interval should only reflect the basic service installation. Installation interval applies to residential and small business customers (those that purchase five or fewer lines).

- b. Measurement. The average interval measured by summing each installation interval, expressed in business days, between the date the service order was placed and the date the service becomes operational during the current reporting period, divided by the total service orders during the reporting period. This amount excludes all orders having customer requested appointments (CRS) later than the utility's commitment dates.
- c. Minimum Standard Reporting Level. Business Days. Five Business Days is the minimum standard.
- d. Reporting Unit. Exchange or wire center, whichever is smaller. Wire centers with fewer than 100 lines should be combined with other central offices within the same location. A remote switching unit with fewer than 100 lines should also be added to its host switch. All reporting carriers shall submit the raw data included in the report.
- e. Reporting Frequency. The interval shall be compiled monthly and reported quarterly for all reporting units.

### 3.2 Installation Commitments – Applies to GRC ILECs.

- a. Description. Requests for establishment of basic telephone services. Commitments will not be considered missed when resulting from customer actions. Installation commitments apply to residential and small business customers (those that purchase five or fewer lines).
- b. Measurement. Monthly count of the total commitments and the commitments missed. Commitments met, expressed as a percentage, will equal total commitments minus missed commitments divided by total commitments.
- c. Minimum Standard Reporting Level. 95% commitments met.
- d. Reporting unit. Exchange or wire center, whichever is smaller. A wire center with fewer than 100 lines should be combined with other central offices within the same location. A remote switching unit with fewer than 100 lines should also be added to its host switch. All reporting carriers shall submit the raw data included in the report.
- e. Reporting Frequency. Compiled monthly and reported quarterly.

### 3.3 Customer Trouble Reports – Applies to GRC ILECs and facilities-based URF Carriers with 5,000 or more customers and to any URF Carrier with fewer than 5,000 customers that is a COLR. Trouble reports apply to residential and small business customers (those that purchase five or fewer lines).

- a. Description. Service affecting, and out of service trouble reports, from customers and users of telephone service relating to dissatisfaction with telephone company services. Reports received will be counted and related to the total working lines within the reporting unit in terms of reports per 100 lines.
  - b. Measurement. Customer trouble reports received by the utility will be counted monthly and related to the total working lines within a reporting unit.
  - c. Minimum Standard Reporting Level. Report number of trouble reports per 100 working lines (excluding terminal equipment reports). Six trouble reports per 100 working lines for reporting units with 3,000 or more working lines, eight reports per 100 working lines for reporting units with 1,001-2,999 working lines, and 10 reports per 100 working lines for reporting units with 1,000 or fewer working lines.
  - d. Reporting Unit. Exchange or wire center, whichever is smaller. A wire center with fewer than 100 lines should be combined with other central offices within the same location. A remote switching unit with fewer than 100 lines should also be added to its host switch. URF CLECs that do not have exchanges or wire centers shall report at the smallest reporting unit. All reporting carriers shall submit the raw data included in the report.
  - e. Reporting Frequency. Compiled monthly, reported quarterly.
- 3.4 Out of Service Repair Intervals – Applies to GRC ILECs and facilities-based URF Carriers with 5,000 or more customers and to any URF Carrier with fewer than 5,000 customers that is a COLR.
- a. Description. A measure of the average interval, in hours and minutes from the time of the reporting carrier's receipt of the out of service trouble report to the time service is restored for residential and small business customers.
  - b. Measurement. Commitment is measured by taking the total number of the repair tickets restored within less than 24 hours divided by the total outage report tickets. In addition, the system average outage duration is measured by summing each repair interval, expressed in clock hours and minutes, between the time the customer called to report loss of service and when the customer regains dial tone, divided by the total outage report tickets. These measurements include only residential and small business customer tickets. The measurements exclude Sundays and federal holidays and tickets when maintenance is delayed due to circumstances beyond the carrier's control. Typical reasons for delay include, but are not limited to: outage caused by cable theft, third-party cable cut, lack of premise access when a problem is isolated to that location, absence of

customer support to test facilities, or customer's requested appointment. Changed appointments shall be reported separately by identifying the number of such appointments and the time, in hours and minutes, associated with these appointments. When reporting includes a delay for one or more months, the carrier shall provide supporting information as to why the month should be excluded and work papers that show the date(s) of the catastrophic event and/or widespread outage and how the adjusted figure was calculated. A catastrophic event, an event where there is a declaration of a state of emergency by a federal or state authority, and a widespread service outage (an outage affecting at least 3% of the carrier's customers in the state) are circumstances beyond the carrier's control.

- c. Minimum Standard Reporting Level. 90% of all out of service trouble reports within 24 hours is the set minimum standard. Both the percentage of outages meeting the 24-hour standard and the actual system-wide average outage duration should be reported.
- d. Reporting Unit. Reporting is at the state-wide level. However, carriers shall submit with the report the underlying data at the exchange or wire center level, whichever is smaller, that supports the information being reported. A wire center with fewer than 100 lines should be combined with other central offices within the same location. A remote switching unit with fewer than 100 lines should also be added to its host switch. URF CLECs that do not have exchanges or wire centers shall report at the smallest reporting unit. All reporting carriers shall submit the raw data included in the report.
- e. Reporting Frequency. Compiled monthly and reported quarterly for those reporting units.

3.5 Answer Time for trouble reports and billing and non-billing inquiries applies to GRC ILECs, facilities-based URF Carriers with 5,000 or more customers, and any URF Carrier with fewer than 5,000 customers that is a COLR.

- a. Description. A measurement of time for the operator to answer within 60 seconds 80% of calls to the business office for billing and non-billing inquiries and to the repair office for trouble reports. This measurement excludes any group of specialized business account representatives established to address the needs of a single large business customer or a small group of such customers. A statistically valid sample of the answering interval is taken to obtain the percentage of calls answered within 60 seconds. A customer must be presented with the option on an interactive voice response (IVR) or automatic response unit (ARU) system to speak with a live agent, preferably in the first set of options.



- b. Measurement. An average answer time of a sample of the answering interval on calls to the business office and repair office that is representative of the measurement period.
- c. Minimum Standard Reporting Level. 80% answered within 60 seconds when speaking to a live agent or 80% answered within 60 seconds when speaking to a live agent after completing an IVR or ARU system. If measurement data of average answer time is used, it will be converted to the percent answered within 60 seconds.
- d. Reporting Unit. Each traffic office serving 10,000 or more lines and handling calls to the business office for billing and non-billing inquiry calls and to the repair office for trouble report calls.
- e. Reporting Frequency. Compiled quarterly and reported annually on February 15 for percent answered within 60 seconds.

**4. MAJOR SERVICE INTERRUPTION – Applies to all facilities-based certificated and registered public utility telephone corporations.**

- a. Description. The Commission adopts for its major service interruption reporting the FCC's Part 4 rules concerning communications disruption and outages, the FCC's Network Outage Reporting System (NORS) reporting requirements, and the annual ETC outage report, as modified by FCC over time. The FCC's Part 4 rules and NORS user manual can be found at the following FCC website link:

<http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/services/cip/nors/nors.html>

- b. Reporting Procedures:
  - (i) Written reports are normally satisfactory. In cases where large numbers of customers are impacted or that are otherwise of great severity, a telephone report should be made promptly.
  - (ii) Concurrent reports shall be submitted to the Communications Division (CD) and the Division of Ratepayer Advocates or their successor divisions when the carrier files its reports with FCC's NORS system. Carriers shall submit a report to the Commission when the communication disruption or outage meets the FCC's reporting threshold and that disruption or outage involves communications in California, regardless of whether the affected communications in California independently meet the FCC's reporting threshold. Reports shall be filed with the CD per CD's directed method/media.
  - (iii) Final NORS reports shall be made confirming that service has been restored.
  - (iv) ETCs, concurrent with their FCC filing, shall submit the annual outage report that provides detailed information on any outage lasting at least

30 minutes and potentially affecting 10% of their customers in a designated service area.

- c. Confidentiality. Major Service Interruption reports submitted to the Commission pursuant to these rules shall be treated as confidential in accordance with Pub. Util. Code § 583 and General Order 66-C.

**5. WIRELESS COVERAGE MAPS** – Applies to all public utility telephone corporations that are wireless carriers.

5.1 Description: Wireless coverage maps shall show where wireless phone users generally may expect to receive signal strength adequate to place and receive calls when outdoors under normal operating conditions.

5.2 Requirements. Wireless carriers shall provide coverage maps on their websites and at retail locations.

- a. Wireless carriers shall provide coverage maps in printable format on their websites and in a printable or pre-printed format at retail locations that customers can take with them. Wireless carrier representatives at retail locations shall implement procedures to make available during a sales transaction coverage maps depicting approximate wireless service coverage applicable to the wireless service rate plan(s) being sold.

- b. Wireless carriers shall provide coverage maps depicting approximate wireless service coverage applicable to the wireless service offered rate plan(s). All coverage maps shall include a clear and conspicuous disclosure of material limitations in wireless service coverage depiction and wireless service availability.

**6. RECORDS AND REPORTS**

6.1 Reporting Units. Service measurements shall be maintained by reporting units. Reporting units are exchange, central office entity, wire center, traffic office, trouble report service office, or business office as required.

The reporting unit for each service measure is defined in Section 3.

6.2 Reporting Requirements. Reports shall be made to the Director of Communications Division of the Commission within 45 days of the end of the reporting quarter, for all reporting units for the non-answer time minimum telephone service measures. The answer time measure shall be reported on February 15<sup>th</sup> annually for the preceding calendar year. Service interruption shall be reported when it is considered a major interruption as defined in Section 4. Reports to the Commission of performance not meeting the reporting level shall state the levels of service for each service measure and the months being reported. Reports on reporting units for two or more consecutive quarters shall also include a description of the performance at the reported level, a statement of action

being taken to improve service, and the estimated date of completion of the improvements.

- 6.3 Retention of Records. Quarterly summary records of service measurements for each reporting unit shall be retained for three years. All major service interruption reports shall be retained for three years. All summary records shall be available for examination by Commission representatives during the retention period and special summaries of service measurements may be requested by the Commission.
- 6.4 Commission Staff Reports. The staff may compile and post the minimum service standards and the performance of each carrier on the Commission's website.

## **7. STAFF INVESTIGATIONS AND ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Commission staff may investigate any reporting unit that does not meet a minimum standard reporting level and any major service interruption. Staff may recommend the Commission institute a formal investigation into a carrier's performance and alleged failure to meet the reporting service level for six or more consecutive months. Staff may require carriers with two or more measures below the reporting service level in one year or one measure below the industry average to meet with staff and present proposals to improve performance and to report monthly if poor performance continues. This section does not apply to Section 5, Wireless Coverage Maps.

## **8. FORM**

The attached form is a template for reporting GO 133-C Service Quality Standards. The staff may change this form as necessary.

**California Public Utilities Commission  
Service Quality Standards Reporting  
General Order No. 133-C**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ U#: \_\_\_\_\_ Report Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Measurement (Compile monthly, file quarterly)		Date filed (05/15/yy)			Date filed (08/15/yy)			Date filed (11/15/yy)			Date filed (02/15/yy)		
		1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter			2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter			3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter			4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter		
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Installation Interval</b> Min. standard = 5 bus. days	# of Installation												
	# of total hours for installation												
	% ≤ 5 Business Days												
<b>Installation Commitment</b> Min. standard = 95% commitment met	# of installation												
	# of total installation commitment met												
	% of commitment met												
<b>Customer Trouble Report</b>													
Min. Standard 6% (6 per 100 lines for units w/ ≥ 3,000 lines)	# lines												
	# of trouble reports												
	% of trouble reports												
8% (8 per 100 lines for units w/ 1,001 - 2,999 lines)	# lines												
	# of trouble reports												
	% of trouble reports												
10% (10 per 100 lines for units w/ ≤ 1,000 lines)	# lines												
	# of trouble reports												
	% of trouble reports												
<b>Out of Service Report</b> Min. standard = 90% within 24Hrs	Total # of Out of Service reports												
	Total # of repair hours												
	% < 24 Hours												
	% > 72 hrs < 120 hours												
	% > 120 Hours												

Measurement (Compile quarterly, file annually on February 15)		1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
<b>Answer Time (Trouble Reports "TR", Billing &amp; Non-Billing)</b> Min. standard = 80% of calls ≤ 60 seconds to reach live agent (w/ a menu option to reach live agent)	Total # of calls for TR & Billing				
	Total # of call seconds to reach live agent				
	% ≤ 60 seconds				

**Primary Utility Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_