



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

**TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**

STUDY PERIOD 2009-2012

COM 2 – LS 8 – E

English only

Original: English

Question(s): ALL Geneva, 24 March-2 April 2009

Ref.: TD 40 Rev.2 (PLEN/2)

Source: ITU-T Study Group 2 (Geneva, 24 March-2 April 2009)

Title: Draft ITU-T Recommendation on Requirements for Land Mobile Alerting Broadcast Capabilities for Civic Purposes

LIAISON STATEMENT

For action to: 3GPP (GSMA/UMTS) TSGs GERAN, RAN, CT and SA
3GPP2 (IS95 CDMA)
GSMA SRG
GSM Association North America Regional Interest Group (GSM-NA) Wireless
Emergency Alerts Task Force
ATIS WTSC
European Union “Cell Broadcast for Public Warning” Project
EMTEL (GSMA Emergency Telecommunication Committee)
FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
WGET Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications
iDEN
TETRA Trans European Terrestrial Radio PSC
EU Public Safety Communications study group (NARTUS)
CBF Cell Broadcast Forum
CTIA Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association
CEASa Citizens Emergency Alert Services Association
ISO
Lirne Asia
APCO
MESA
TIA TR45.2
ITU-D Emergency Telecommunications activity/program and ITU-D SG2 (Q22-2)
OASIS
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Approval: ITU-T SG2 plenary, 2 April 2009

Deadline: November 2009

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ITU-T SG2 would like to thank you for your response to our liaison COM2-LS 113 on Draft ITU-T Recommendation on Administration and allocation of multicast addresses for civic purposes. We appreciate the views on issues you have expressed. International Committee Red Cross operations and UNHCR has expressed full support of the transparent and neutral technological approach suggested and the suggestion of ITU to be administrators of the subsequent allocations of the multicast addresses and the offer for guidance on the use this technology offered by ITU-T.

During the discussion in ITU-T SG2 meeting held in March 2009, it was agreed that the harmonization of message identifiers for the purpose of emergency alerting and for civic purposes is significant. ITU-T SG2 would like to know whether there is any existing allocation of identifiers for GSM/UMTS Message Identifier and Service Category in IS95 CDMA system for the purpose of emergency alerting and for civic purposes. ITU-T SG2 considers that it is very important to make these arrangements known by related organizations as needed. We look forward to keep informed and close collaboration with you on this aspect.

Q.3/2 has the responsibility to specify the service aspects of point-to-multipoint, multicast and broadcast alerting messaging system and it was agreed that the focus of service requirements for the broadcast of emergency messages to warn and inform the public over mobile services should be to facilitate multi-language warnings, cross-border roaming, and to prevent spam. A draft recommendation on Requirements for Land Mobile Alerting Broadcast Capabilities for Civic Purposes has been developed. The latest version of the draft recommendation is provided below. We would appreciate receiving your comments on this draft Recommendation.

Draft ITU-T Recommendation E.abc

Requirements for Land Mobile Alerting Broadcast Capabilities for Civic Purposes.

Summary

This recommendation describes requirements to enable the use of Land Mobile services for point-to-multipoint, Multicast and Broadcast capabilities for civic purposes, including but not limited to, warning and informing the public, at the discretion of the concerned Member State.

1. Introduction

A disaster is a hazard multiplied by the vulnerability.

Many national, regional, and international studies have shown that by enabling warning and informing the public by all means, including, but not limited to, mobile telephone services, vulnerability can be dramatically reduced and thus save lives and reduce the cost of damage to property. The issues associated with the deployment of warning and informing the public over mobile telephone networks in the case of emergencies and disasters is under way in a number of Member States.

Such capabilities within commercial mobile services is critical to support the deployment of warning and informing the public, as mobile networks support a large number of 'Roamers', who may be from another country entirely. Accordingly the purpose of this Recommendation is to ensure that a consistent approach is taken to enable;

- Warnings to be received by subscribers in a given area (both residents and roamers),
- The transmission of such warnings in multiple languages and
- Prevention of spamming from occurring on addresses suggested as for civic purposes.

This framework will not inhibit Administrations from developing any technical solution that it sees fit. As further bearer services become relevant, the capabilities described in the Recommendation may or may not act as a guideline for the deployment within other bearer services and technologies.

1 Scope

This Recommendation proposes a set of capabilities to be provided when broadcasting alerts to subscribers of commercial mobile services.

2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions, which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published.

The reference to a document within this Recommendation does not give it, as a stand-alone document, the status of a Recommendation.

3 Definitions

Cell Broadcasting; The point-to-multipoint bearer service of GSM and UMTS system technologies.

Other definitions are for further study.

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

GSM Global System for Mobilecommunications.

CDMA Code Division Multiple Access

5. Initial capabilities for Alert Messaging

The following capabilities should be provided and should apply to both GSM and CDMA technologies.

5.1 Alert Messages

An alert message is one component in an overall effective notification system. An alert is designed to get the attention of the subscriber and not a full source of information. An alert message is to be used when there is an imminent threat to life or property. It is required that the terminal (e.g. phone) should make a more intrusive and persistent behaviour, such as a special alert tone resembling an alert siren. Depending on national requirements, there could be multiple classes of alerts based on severity, certainty, and urgency of the alert. Subscribers could be offered the option to opt out of some classes of these alerts, based on national regulatory requirements.

5.2 Advisory Messages

‘Advisory’ messages may be provided and are intended for less urgent civic communications. Transmission of these should be subject to national regulatory requirements as well as operator preferences. Subscribers should have the ability to opt in or opt out of civic messages since they are more of an advisory nature and are not matters of urgent life and death situations, or matters of national security. In addition, a purely advisory message need only use the normal alert ring tone from the terminal and not the more obtrusive one as used for alerts.

5.3 Languages

To the extent practicable, and subject to national regulatory requirements, messages may be delivered to the user in the user’s preferred language. [How a user’s preference should be specified and how many languages need be supported is for discussion.]

5.4 ‘Mandatory’ National Civic Messages

In some Member States, legislation requires that a message pertaining to national security might be mandatory rather than optional for the citizen. Terminal users should not be able to disable these messages.

5.5 ‘International’ closed user group

Certain messages may be communications destined to ‘closed user groups’ of specialists and not for communication to the public. Warning and informing the public is strictly a national matter.

In some cases users may need the same address for all countries. For example, a small boat skipper who is not mandated to have the official GMDSS equipment, may have a mobile phone in his

possession or mounted in the wheelhouse. The sailor would want navigation warnings on the same address whatever coast he passed.

There may be a need for Member States to relay onto first responders or other specialized personnel messages from certain international agencies (for example, for health or medical alerts). For example, health and medicine might need closed user group communications to medical specialists who may be dealing with a situation such as an outbreak of avian flu. However these communications would be controlled by the concerned national agency within each Member State, not by any international entity. An international agency (such as the World Health Organization) might provide messages to Member States, if so requested. The Member State would then decide whether or not to transmit them to the closed user group, and would control the membership of that closed user group.

This capability could also include special ‘technical test’ addresses for management of the system without causing any interference to the users of the network concerned. In this way customers of the network are not bothered by periodic tests and other trouble shooting activity.
