

4 - RATE CATEGORIES

4.1 SWITCHED ACCESS

4.1.1 RATE CATEGORIES APPLICABLE TO SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICES

There are three rate categories which apply to Switched Access Service provided by the Company: Carrier Common Line, Tandem Transport, and Network Access.

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(C)

4.1.2 CARRIER COMMON LINE

The Carrier Common Line rate category provides Customers with the use of services, facilities, and/or equipment owned, or controlled through contractual or other arrangements, by the Company, in order to access End Users to furnish intrastate communications.

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(C)

No Carrier Common Line charge is assessed in this Tariff.

(N)

(D)

(D)

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4.1 SWITCHED ACCESS

4.1.2 CARRIER COMMON LINE (CONT'D)

(D)

(D)

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4.1 SWITCHED ACCESS (CONT'D)

4.1.3 TANDEM TRANSPORT

(T)

The Tandem Transport rate category provides for the transmission between an access tandem and the Company's End Office, Trunk Gateway, or other functionally equivalent location. Rate elements include:

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(C)
(D)

A. Transport Termination

(D)

(T)

Transport Termination includes the non-distance-sensitive portion of Tandem Transport and is assessed on a per-access-minute-of-use basis.

(T)
(T)

B. Transport Mileage

(T)

Transport Mileage includes the distance sensitive portion of Tandem Transport and is assessed on a per-access-minute-of-use-per-mile basis. Transport Mileage will be calculated based on the airline mileage between the access tandem (or functional equivalent) and the Company's End Office, Trunk Gateway, or functionally equivalent location within the applicable LATA.

(C)

(C)

(D)

(D)

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4.1 SWITCHED ACCESS (CONT'D)

4.1.4 NETWORK ACCESS

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Network Access provides the functional equivalent of traditional end office switching. It consists of the following elements: Network Switching and Common Trunk Port.

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A. Network Switching

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Network Switching provides for: (a) the establishment of a call path for the routing of Customer communications from the Company's End Office, Trunk Gateway, or functionally equivalent location to a Company End User and (b) the establishment of a call path for the routing of communications originating from a Company End User for delivery to the Company's End Office, Trunk Gateway, or functionally equivalent location.

The "establishment" of call path and routing is achieved through equipment and facilities, including, in some cases, a soft switch or similar equipment, owned or controlled through contractual or other arrangements, by the Company, which allows for the routing of voice communications between the Company's End Office, Trunk Gateway, or functionally equivalent location and End Users via SS7 signaling based on telephone numbers obtained by the Company and assigned to End Users as set forth in the LERG.

B. Common Trunk Port

Common Trunk Port provides for the termination of tandem transport trunks at the Company's End Office, Trunk Gateway, or functionally equivalent location. Common Trunk Port is assessed on a per-MOU basis to all trunkside originating and terminating access minutes routed to the Company via a third-party access tandem.

(N)

4.1.5 8XX TOLL-FREE ACCESS SERVICE

(N)

All appropriate Switched Access rate elements apply to 8XX Toll-free Access Service.

8XX Toll-Free Access Service is an originating access service offering. The service provides for the forwarding of end user originated 8XX calls to a Company Service Control Point, which will initiate a query to the database for the identification and delivery of the call. The call is forwarded to the appropriate customer based on the dialed 8XX number.

1. Customer Identification Charge

The 8XX Toll-Free Access Service Customer Identification Charge applies for the identification of and delivery of 8XX calls to the appropriate customer. The charge is assessed to the Customer on a per query basis.

(N)

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4.2 SPECIAL ACCESS

Special Access Services are not generally available in Maryland but may be provided subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations set forth in Section 5.1.3, following, for Special Assemblies and Individual Cases Basis Arrangements.

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(C)

4.2.1 [RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE]

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(D)

4.2.2 [RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE]

(D)
(T)
(D)

(D)