



Telecom Decision CRTC 2018-51

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CISC Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering – Consensus report CNRE121A regarding an update of unassignable NXXs in the *Canadian Non-Geographic Code Assignment Guideline*

Report

1. On 22 November 2017, the Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering (CSCN) of the CRTC Interconnection Steering Committee (CISC) submitted the following consensus report for Commission approval:
 - Update unassignable NXXs in the *Canadian Non-Geographic Code Assignment Guideline* (CNRE121A)
2. The consensus report can be found in the “Reports” section of the CSCN page, which is available in the CISC section of the Commission’s website at www.crtc.gc.ca.
3. In the report, the CSCN proposed an update to the *Canadian Non-Geographic Code¹ Assignment Guideline* (the Guideline) to identify a number of N11² NXXs³ as unassignable. As such, the CSCN recommended that the Commission approve the consensus report and the proposed update to the Guideline.
4. As outlined in the consensus report, the CSCN indicated that all new central office code (NXX) assignments and other related data elements that facilitate the completion and rating of telephone calls within the public switched telephone network (PSTN) must be entered into the Business Integrated Routing and Rating Database System (BIRRDS). Further, each telecommunications service provider (TSP) pays for its use of BIRRDS. The CSCN also indicated that current BIRRDS edits do not allow N11

¹ Non-geographic numbers are accessible from networks that have arranged to route calls to and from the non-geographic codes used for non-geographic services and require bilateral agreements between originating and terminating networks. Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communications is typically cited as the reason for the need for non-geographic numbers.

² N11 codes are used to provide three-digit dialing access to special services.

³ A Canadian telephone number consists of the country code 1 plus a 10-digit North American Numbering Plan (NANP) telephone number. Current NANP telephone numbers are ten digit numbers that consist of the following three basic parts: (i) a 3-digit Numbering Plan Area (NPA) code, commonly called the area code; (ii) a 3-digit central office code sometimes referred to as the NXX code (where N represents digits 2-9 and X represents digits 0-9); and (iii) a 4-digit line number sometimes referred to as a station number. An NPA is a discrete geographic area within the area served by the NANP to which one or more area codes may be assigned.

codes associated with Numbering Plan Area (NPA) 622⁴ to be entered into the database.

5. Section 3.6 of the current Guideline only identifies 911 and 555⁵ as unassignable NXXs, opening up the possibility of other NPA 622-N11 codes being assigned under the current Guideline; this would require a modification of BIRRDs edits to allow the code input. Modifying BIRRDs inputs is an onerous process and changes require the approval of the Common Interest Group on Routing and Rating (CIGRR)⁶ which oversees changes to the database.
6. The CSCN noted that during its 3 October 2017 meeting the members agreed to update the Guideline to specify the remaining N11 NXXs that are unassignable to be consistent with other guidelines in Canada and the North American Numbering Plan (NANP).

Commission's analysis and determinations

7. The Commission notes that the CSCN has updated the Guideline to include the following NXXs as unassignable: 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711, and 811, and that these numbers, as well as 911, have been assigned for use as service codes. They are commonly called N11 codes because of their format and are used to provide three-digit dialing access to special services. These NXXs are also set aside and are not assigned by the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) in other NPAs (i.e. NPAs other than 622) pursuant to section 3 of the *Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guideline*.⁷
8. Since the rest of the countries that are members of the NANP, i.e., the United States and many Caribbean countries, do not use these N11 codes as NXXs, it would be unreasonable to request that they modify the database system to accommodate such use by Canadian TSPs only. Therefore, the Commission considers it appropriate to identify all N11 codes as unassignable in the Guideline consistent with the rest of the NANP.
9. Accordingly, the Commission **approves** the CSCN's consensus report and the proposed update to the Guideline.

Secretary General

⁴ NPA 622 has been made available for assignment of non-geographic numbers in Canada.

⁵ 555 NXX was identified as a unique numbering resource assigned to individuals, companies, or carriers, on a national or non-national (regional) basis, for public information services. This use has recently been discontinued (see [Telecom Decision 2017-203](#)).

⁶ CIGRR is a user group that meets several times a year, often in conjunction with meetings of other telecommunications organizations. This group reviews system changes and provides guidance to the BIRRDs database administrator in determining system priorities, and identifying procedural changes and other user requirements. Each company that inputs to BIRRDs automatically becomes a member of CIGRR.

⁷ <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/cisc/eng/cisf3fg.htm>

Related document

- *CISC Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering – Consensus report CNRE120A regarding 555 line numbers*, Telecom Decision CRTC 2017-203, 16 June 2017