Chapter 480-120 WAC
TELEPHONE COMPANIES

WAC

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Alternate operator services—Enforcement. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and chapter 80.36 RCW. WSR 90-24-090 (Order R-332, Docket No. UT-900733), § 480-120-142, filed 12/5/90, effective 1/5/91.] Repealed by WSR 99-02-020 (Order R-452, Docket No. UT-970301), filed 12/29/98, effective 1/29/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.36.520 and 80.01.040.

Local service to aggregators. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and chapter 80.36 RCW. WSR 91-13-078 (Order R-345, Docket No. UT-900726), § 480-120-143, filed 6/18/91, effective 7/19/91.] Repealed by WSR 99-02-020 (Order R-452, Docket No. UT-900730), § 480-120-143, filed 12/29/98, effective 1/29/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.36.520 and 80.01.040.

Use of privacy listings for telephone solicitation. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, WSR 99-05-015 (Order R-459, Docket No. UT-971514), § 480-120-144, filed 2/5/99, effective 3/8/99.] Repealed by WSR 02-23-004 (General Order No. R-505, Docket No. UT-990146) and WSR 01-01-065 (Docket No. UT-910828), § 480-120-144, filed 11/7/02 and 12/6/02, effective 1/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

Cancelling registration. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-148, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.] Repealed by WSR 15-
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480-120-196 Customer notice requirements—Competitively classified telecommunications companies or services. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 02-23-004 (General Order No. R-505, Docket No. UT-990146), § 480-120-204, filed 1/11/02, effective 1/1/03.] Repealed by WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-206 Use of customer proprietary network information (CPNI) not permitted to identify or track customer calls to competing service providers. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 20-01-040 and 80.04.160. WSR 02-23-004 (General Order No. R-505, Docket No. UT-990146), § 480-120-206, filed 11/7/02, effective 1/1/03.] Repealed by WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-207 Use of private account information (PAI) to market company products and services without customer approval. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 02-23-004 (General Order No. R-505, Docket No. UT-990146), § 480-120-207, filed 11/7/02, effective 1/1/03.] Repealed by WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-208 Use of individual customer proprietary network information (I-CPNI) during inbound and outbound telemarketing calls. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 02-23-004 (General Order No. R-505, Docket No. UT-990146), § 480-120-208, filed 11/7/02, effective 1/1/03.] Repealed by WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-209 Notice when use of private account information (PAI) is permitted unless a customer directs otherwise (opt-out). [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 02-23-004 (General Order No. R-505, Docket No. UT-990146), § 480-120-209, filed 11/7/02, effective 1/1/03.] Repealed by WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.


480-120-211 Mechanisms for opting out of use of private customer account information (PAI). [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 02-23-004 (General Order No. R-505, Docket No. UT-990146), § 480-120-211, filed 11/7/02, effective 1/1/03.] Repealed by WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-212 Notice when express (opt-in) approval is required and opt-in approval required for use, disclosure, or access to customer proprietary network information (CPNI). [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 02-23-004 (General Order No. R-505, Docket No. UT-990146), § 480-120-212, filed 11/7/02, effective 1/1/03.] Repealed by WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.
Accounting requirements for competitively classified companies. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and TO-030288, General Order No. R-518], filed 2/28/05, effective 3/31/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160 and 34.05.353.

Reporting requirements for companies not classified as competitive. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and TO-030288, General Order No. R-518], filed 2/28/05, effective 3/31/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160 and 34.05.353.

Streamlined filing requirements for Class B telecommunications companies rate increases. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.353. WSR 04-05-031, filed 2/28/05, effective 3/31/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160 and 34.05.353.]


Expenditures for political or legislative activities. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-302, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.] Repealed by WSR 05-06-051 (Docket No. A-021178 and TO-030288, General Order No. R-518), filed 2/28/05, effective 3/31/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160 and 34.05.353.


480-120-369 Transferring cash or assuming obligations. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160 and 34.05.353. WSR 05-06-051 filing only), WSR 05-06-051 and 05-08-018 (Docket No. A-021178 and TO-030288, General Order No. R-518), § 480-120-369, filed 2/28/05 and 3/28/05, effective 3/31/05.] Repealed by WSR 15-08-043 (Docket UT-140680, General Order R-580), filed 3/31/15, effective 4/26/15. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.122 RCW, RCW 19.122.053, 80.01.040, and 80.04.160.


480-120-399 Access charge and universal service reporting. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 80.36.600, and 80.36.100. Docket No. R-518, § 480-120-399, filed 1/10/92, effective 2/1/92] Repealed by WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), filed 1/12/02, effective 7/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-405 Definition of extended area service. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and chapter 80.36 RCW. WSR 91-03-052 (Order R-314, Docket No. U-89-2709-R), § 480-120-405, filed 1/14/91, effective 2/14/91.] Repealed by WSR 99-01-076 (Order R-453, Docket No. UT-970545), filed 12/15/98, effective 1/15/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.36.100, 80.36.140, 80.36.160, 80.36.170 and 80.36.180.


480-120-425 Community calling fund. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and chapter 80.36 RCW. WSR 91-03-052]

480-120-430


480-120-435


480-120-440

Repair standards for service interruptions and impairments, exclusive of major outages. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-440, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.36.140, 80.36.160, 80.36.170 and 80.36.180.

480-120-500


480-120-505

Operator services. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, WSR 93-06-055 (Order R-384, Docket No. UT-921192), § 480-120-505, filed 2/26/93, effective 3/29/93.] Repealed by WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-510

Business offices. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, WSR 93-06-055 (Order R-384, Docket No. UT-921192), § 480-120-510, filed 2/26/93, effective 3/29/93.] Repealed by WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-515

Network performance standards applicable to local exchange companies. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, WSR 93-06-055 (Order R-384, Docket No. UT-921192), § 480-120-515, filed 2/26/93, effective 3/29/93.] Repealed by WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-520

Major outages and service interruptions. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. WSR 93-06-055 (Order R-384, Docket No. UT-921192), § 480-120-520, filed 2/26/93, effective 3/29/93.] Repealed by WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-525

Network maintenance. [Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, WSR 93-06-055 (Order R-384, Docket No. UT-921192), § 480-120-525, filed 2/26/93, effective 3/29/93.] Repealed by WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160.

480-120-530

PART I. GENERAL RULES

WAC 480-120-011 Application of rules. (1) The rules in this chapter apply to any company that is subject to the jurisdiction of the commission as to rates or services under the provisions of RCW 80.01.040 and chapters 80.04 and 80.36 RCW.

(2) Tariffs filed by companies must conform to these rules. If the commission accepts a tariff that conflicts with these rules, the acceptance is not a waiver of these rules unless the commission specifically approves the variation consistent with WAC 480-120-015 (Exemptions from rules in chapter 480-120 WAC). Tariffs that conflict with these rules without approval are superseded by these rules.

(3) Any affected person may ask the commission to review the interpretation of these rules by a company or customer by posing an informal complaint under WAC 480-07-910 (Informal complaints), or by filing a formal complaint under WAC 480-07-370 (Pleading—General).

(4) No deviation from these rules is permitted without written authorization by the commission. Violations will be subject to penalties as provided by law.

WAC 480-120-015 Exemptions from rules in chapter 480-120 WAC. The commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in this chapter in the same manner and consistent with the standards and according to the procedures set forth in WAC 480-07-110 (Exceptions from and modifications to commission rules).

WAC 480-120-016 Additional requirements. (1) These rules do not relieve any company from any of its duties and obligations under the laws of the state of Washington.

(2) The commission retains the authority to impose additional or different requirements on any company in appropriate circumstances, consistent with the requirements of law.
Telephone Companies

- Toll limitation services.

"Business" means a for profit or not-for-profit organization, including, but not limited to, corporations, partnerships, sole proprietorships, limited liability companies, government agencies, and other entities or associations.

"Business days" means days of the week excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays.

"Business office" means an office or service center provided and maintained by a company.

"Business service" means service other than residential service.

"Busy season" means an annual, recurring, and reasonably predictable three-month period of the year when a switch or trunk carries the most traffic. This definition is applied on an individual switch and an individual trunk basis.

"Call aggregator" means any corporation, company, partnership, or person, who, in the ordinary course of its operations, makes telephones available to the public or to users of its premises for telephone calls using a provider of operator services, including, but not limited to, hotels, motels, hospitals, campuses, and pay phones (see also pay phone service providers).

"Category of service" means local, data services such as digital subscriber line service, interexchange, or CMRS. Information about a customer's intraLATA and interLATA primary interexchange carrier freeze status is part of the local category.

"Central office" means a company facility that houses the switching and trunking equipment serving a defined area.

"Centrex" means a telecommunications service providing a customer with direct inward dialing to telephone extensions and direct outward dialing from them.

"Class A company" means a local exchange company with two percent or more of the access lines within the state of Washington. The method of determining whether a company is a Class A company is specified in WAC 480-120-034 (Classification of local exchange companies as Class A or Class B).

"Class B company" means a local exchange company with less than two percent of the access lines within the state of Washington. The method of determining whether a company is a Class B company is specified in WAC 480-120-034 (Classification of local exchange companies as Class A or Class B).

"Commercial mobile radio service (CMRS)" means any mobile (wireless) telecommunications service that is provided for profit that makes interconnected service available to the public or to such classes of eligible users as to be effectively available to a substantial portion of the public.

"Commission (agency)" in a context meaning a state agency, means the Washington utilities and transportation commission.

"Company" means any telecommunications company as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

"Competitively classified company" means a company that is classified as competitive by the commission pursuant to RCW 80.36.320.

"Control" means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a company, whether through the ownership of voting shares, by contract, or otherwise.

"Customer" means a person to whom the company is currently providing service.

"Customer premises equipment (CPE)" is equipment located on the customer side of the SNI (other than a company) and used to originate, route, or terminate telecommunications.

"Department" means the department of social and health services.

"Discontinue; discontinuation; discontinued" means the termination or any restriction of service to a customer.

"Drop facilities" means company-supplied wire and equipment placed between a premises and the company distribution plant at the applicant's property line.

"Due date" means the date an action is required to be completed by rule or, when permitted, the date chosen by a company and provided to a customer as the date to complete an action.

"Eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC)" means a carrier designated as an ETC pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Sec. 214(e).

"Emergency response facility" means fire stations, hospitals, police stations, and state and municipal government emergency operations centers.

"Exchange" means a geographic area established by a company for telecommunications service within that area.

"Extended area service (EAS)" means telephone service extending beyond a customer's exchange, for which the customer may pay an additional flat-rate amount per month.

"Facility or facilities" means lines, conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables, cross-arms, receivers, transmitters, instruments, machines, appliances, instrumentalities and all devices, real estate, easements, apparatus, property and routes used, operated, owned or controlled by a telecommunications company to facilitate the provision of telecommunications service.

"Force majeure" means natural disasters, including fire, flood, earthquake, windstorm, avalanche, mudslide, and other similar events; acts of war or civil unrest when an emergency has been declared by appropriate governmental officials; acts of civil or military authority; embargoes; epidemics; terrorist acts; riots; insurrections; explosions; and nuclear accidents.

"Interexchange" means telephone calls, traffic, facilities or other items that originate in one exchange and terminate in another.

"Interexchange company" means a company, or division thereof, that provides long distance (toll) service.

"Interoffice facilities" means facilities connecting two or more telephone switching centers.

"InterLATA" is a term used to describe services, revenues, functions, etc., that relate to telecommunications originating in one LATA and terminating outside of the originating LATA.

"IntraLATA" is a term used to describe services, revenues, functions, etc., that relate to telecommunications that originate and terminate within the same LATA.

"Local access and transport area (LATA)" means a local access transport area as defined by the commission in conformance with applicable federal law.

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"Local calling area" means one or more rate centers within which a customer can place calls without incurring long-distance (toll) charges.

"Local exchange company (LEC)" means a company providing local exchange telecommunications service.

"Major outages" means a service failure lasting for thirty or more minutes that causes the disruption of local exchange or toll services to more than one thousand customers; total loss of service to a public safety answering point or emergency response agency; intercompany trunks or toll trunks not meeting service requirements for four hours or more and affecting service; or an intermodal link blockage (no dial tone) in excess of five percent for more than one hour in any switch or remote switch.

"Missed commitment" means orders for exchange access lines for which the company does not provide service by the due date.

"Order date" means the date when an applicant requests service unless a company identifies specific actions a customer must first take in order to be in compliance with tariffs or commission rules. Except as provided in WAC 480-120-061 (Refusing service) and 480-120-104 (Information to consumers), when specific actions are required of the applicant, the order date becomes the date the actions are completed by the applicant if the company has not already installed or activated service.

When an applicant requests service that requires customer-ordered special equipment, for purposes of calculating compliance with the one hundred eighty-day requirement of WAC 480-120-112 (Company performance for orders for nonbasic service) the order date is the application date unless the applicant fails to provide the support structure or perform other requirements of the tariff. In the event the applicant fails to provide the support structure or perform other requirements of the tariff a new order date is established as the date when the applicant provides the support structure or perform the other requirements of the tariff.

"Pay phone" or "pay telephone" means any telephone made available to the public on a fee-per-call basis independent of any other commercial transaction. A pay phone or pay telephone includes telephones that are coin-operated or are activated by calling collect or using a calling card.

"Pay phone services" means provision of pay phone equipment to the public for placement of local exchange, interexchange, or operator service calls.

"Pay phone service provider (PSP)" means any corporation, company, partnership, or person who owns or operates and makes pay phones available to the public.

"Payment agency" means a physical location established by a local exchange company, either on its own premises or through a subcontractor, for the purpose of receiving cash and urgent payments from customers.

"Person" means an individual, or an organization such as a firm, partnership, corporation, municipal corporation, agency, association or other entity.

"Prior obligation" means an amount owed to a local exchange company or an interexchange company for regulated services at the time the company physically toll-restricts, interrupts, or discontinues service for nonpayment.

"Proprietary" means owned by a particular person.

"Provision" means supplying telecommunications service to a customer.

"Public access line (PAL)" means an access line equipped with features to detect coins, permit the use of calling cards, and such other features as may be used to provision a pay phone.

"Public safety answering point (PSAP)" means an answering location for enhanced 911 (E911) calls originating in a given area. PSAPs are designated as primary or secondary. Primary PSAPs receive E911 calls directly from the public; secondary PSAPs receive E911 calls only on a transfer or relay basis from the primary PSAP. Secondary PSAPs generally serve as centralized answering locations for a particular type of emergency call.

"Radio communications service company" has the meaning found in RCW 80.04.010, except that for the purposes of this section it includes only those companies providing two-way voice communication as a common carrier.

"Residential service" means basic service to a household.

"Restricted basic service" means either the ability to receive incoming calls, make outgoing calls, or both through voice grade access to the public switched network, including E911 access, but not including other services that are a part of basic service.

"Results of operations" means a fiscal year financial statement concerning regulated operations that include revenues, expenses, taxes, net operating income, and rate base. The rate of return is also included as part of the results of operations. The rate of return is the percentage of net operating income to the rate base.

"Service interruption" means a loss or impairment of service that is not due to, and is not, a major outage.

"Service provider" means any business that offers a product or service to a customer, the charge for which appears on the customer's telephone bill.

"Special circuit" means an access line specially conditioned to give it characteristics suitable for handling special or unique services.

"Standard network interface (SNI)" means the protector that generally marks the point of interconnection between company communications facilities and customer's terminal equipment, protective apparatus, or wiring at a customer's premises. The network interface or demarcation point is located on the customer's side of the company's protector, or the equivalent thereof in cases where a protector is not employed.

"Station" means a telephone instrument installed for a customer to use for toll and exchange service.

"Subscriber list information (SLI)" means any information:

(a) Identifying the listed names of subscribers of a company and those subscribers' telephone numbers, addresses, or primary advertising classifications (as such classifications are assigned when service is established), or any combination of listed names, numbers, addresses, or classifications; and

(b) That the company or an affiliate has published, caused to be published, or accepted for publication in any directory format.

"Subsidiary" means any company in which the telecommunications company owns directly or indirectly five
percent or more of the voting securities, unless the telecommunications company demonstrates it does not have control.

"Support structure" means the trench, pole, or conduit used to provide a path for placement of drop facilities.

"Telecommunications service" means the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used.

"Telemarketing" means contacting a person by telephone in an attempt to sell one or more products or services.

"Toll restriction" or "toll restricted" means a service that prevents the use of a local access line to initiate a long distance call using a presubscribed interexchange company.

"Traffic" means telecommunications activity on a telecommunications network, normally used in connection with measurements of capacity of various parts of the network.

"Trouble report" means a report of service affecting network problems reported by customers, and does not include problems on the customer's side of the SNI.

"Trunk" means, in a telecommunications network, a path connecting two switching systems used to establish end-to-end connection. In some circumstances, both of its terminations may be in the same switching system.

"Washington telephone assistance program" means the program of local exchange service discounts administered by the department.

WAC 480-120-028 Registration. Companies must file registration applications as required by RCW 80.36.350 and in accordance with chapter 480-121 WAC, Registration, competitive classification of telecommunications companies.

WAC 480-120-034 Classification of local exchange companies as Class A or Class B. (1) Each local exchange company is classified as a Class A company or a Class B company, based on the number of access lines it provides to Washington state customers.

(2) The classification of a company as Class A or Class B is made without respect to the company's classification as a competitive company under RCW 80.36.320.

(3) For purposes of classifying a company as Class A or Class B, the number of access lines served by the local exchange company includes the number of access lines served in this state by any affiliate of that local exchange company.

(4) Any company whose classification as Class A or Class B changes, due to a change in the number of access lines served, a change in affiliate relationships, or other reason, must notify the commission secretary of the change in classification within thirty days after the end of the month in which change in classification occurs.

(5) By July 1 of each year, the commission will publish on its web site the total number of access lines served by local exchange companies in Washington, based on information reported by companies for the previous calendar year, and a calculation of the two percent threshold.

WAC 480-120-061 Refusing service. (1) A company may refuse to connect with, or provide service to, an applicant under the following conditions:

(a) When service will adversely affect the service to existing customers.

(b) When the installation is considered hazardous.

(c) When the applicant has not complied with commission rules, company tariff, or rates, terms and conditions pursuant to competitive classification, and state, county, or municipal codes concerning the provision of telecommunications service such as building and electrical codes.

(d) When the company is unable to substantiate the identity of the individual requesting service.

(i) Companies must allow the applicant to substantiate identity with one piece of identification chosen from a list, provided by the company, of at least four sources of identification. The list must include a current driver's license or other picture identification.

(ii) Company business offices and payment agencies, required under WAC 480-120-132 and 480-120-162, must provide a means for applicants to provide identification at no charge to the applicant.
(c) When the applicant has previously received service from the company by providing false information, including false statements of credit references or employment, false statement of premises address, or use of an alias or false name with intent to deceive, until the applicant corrects the false information to the satisfaction of the company.

(f) When the applicant owes an overdue, unpaid prior obligation to the company for the same class of service, until the obligation is paid or satisfactory arrangements are made.

(g) When the applicant requests service at an address where a former customer is known to reside with an overdue, unpaid prior obligation to the same company for the same class of service at that address and the company determines, based on objective evidence, that the applicant has cooperated with the prior customer with the intent to avoid payment. However, a company may not deny service if a former customer with an overdue, unpaid prior obligation has permanently vacated the address.

(h) When all necessary rights of way, easements, and permits have not been secured. The company is responsible for securing all necessary public rights of way, easements, and permits, including rights of way on every highway as defined in RCW 36.75.010(11) or created under RCW 36.75.070 or 36.75.080. The applicant is responsible for securing all necessary rights of way or easements on private property, including private roads or driveways as defined in RCW 36.75.010(10). A private road or driveway is one that has been ascertained by the company not to be public.

(2) A company may not withhold or refuse to release a telephone number to a customer who is transferring service to another telecommunications company within the same rate center where local number portability has been implemented.

(3) A telecommunications company must deny service to a nonregistered telecommunications company that intends to use the service requested to provide telecommunications to hire, sale, or resale to the general public within the state of Washington. Any telecommunications company requesting service from another telecommunications company must state in writing whether the service is intended to be used for intrastate telecommunications for hire, sale, or resale to the general public. If the service is intended for hire, sale, or resale on an intrastate basis, the company must certify in writing, in the same manner as required by RCW 9A.72.085, that it is properly registered with the commission to provide the service.

**Definitions.** The following definitions apply to this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- **Applicant** means any person applying to a telecommunications company for new residential basic local exchange service. Applicant does not include developers requesting service for developments.

- **Cost of service extension** means the direct and indirect costs of the material and labor to plan and construct the facilities including, but not limited to, permitting fees, rights of way fees, and payments to subcontractors, and does not include the cost of reinforcement, network upgrade, or similar costs.

- **Developer** means any owner of a development who offers it for disposition, or an agent of such an owner.

- **Development** means land which is divided or is proposed to be divided for the purpose of disposition into four or more lots, parcels, or units.

- **Distribution plant** means telephone equipment and facilities necessary to provide new residential basic local exchange service to a premises, but does not include drop wire.

- **Drop wire** means company-supplied wire and pedestals to be placed between a premises and the company distribution plant at the applicant's property line. For drop wire installed after January 15, 2001, a drop wire must be sufficient in capacity to allow the provisioning of three individual basic exchange voice-grade access lines.

- **Extension of service** means an extension of company distribution plant for new residential basic local exchange service to a location where no distribution plant of the extending company exists at the time an extension of service is requested. An extension is constructed at the request of one or more applicants for service. Extensions of service do not include trenches, conduits, or other support structure for placement of company-provided facilities from the applicant's property line to the premises to be served. Extension of service, as defined in this rule, does not apply to extensions of service to developments or to extensions of service for temporary occupancy or temporary service.

- **Extraordinary cost** means a substantial expense resulting from circumstances or conditions beyond the control of the company that are exceptional and unlikely to occur in the normal course of planning and constructing facilities contemplated by this rule.

- **Order date** as defined in WAC 480-120-021 (Definitions) means the date when an applicant requests service unless a company identifies specific actions a customer must first complete in order to be in compliance with commission rules. Except as provided in WAC 480-120-061 (Refusing service) and 480-120-104 (Information to consumers), when specific actions are required to be completed by the applicant, the order date becomes the date the company receives the completed application for extension of service.

- **Premises** means any structure that is used as a residence, but does not include predominantly commercial or industrial structures.

- **Temporary occupancy** means occupancy definitely known to be for less than one year but does not include intermittent or seasonal use when the intermittent or seasonal use will occur in more than one-year period.
"Temporary service" means service definitely known to be for a short period of time, such as service provided for construction huts, sales campaigns, athletic contests, conventions, fairs, circuses, and similar events.

(3) Residential basic local exchange service.

(a) Each wire line ETC must, within seven business days of an applicant's initial request, provide the applicant with an application for extension of service. The company must also provide the applicant a brief explanation of the extension of service rules.

(b) The company must process applications that require an extension of service in a timely manner.

(4) Allowances.

(a) A company must allow for an extension of service within its service territory up to one thousand feet at no charge to the applicant. The company may allow for an extension of service for distances over the allowance.

(b) The applicant is responsible for the cost of that portion of the extension of service, if any, that exceeds the allowance. The company must permit multiple applicants to aggregate their allowances when an extension of service to two or more applicants would follow a single construction path.

(5) Determining costs and billing for extensions of service longer than allowances.

(a) The company must estimate the cost of the service extension that is attributable to distribution plant that must be extended beyond the applicable allowance established under subsection (4)(b) of this section.

(b) At the completion of the construction of the extension of service, the company must determine the difference between the estimated cost and the actual cost of construction. The company must provide to the applicant detailed construction costs showing the difference. The company must refund any overpayment and may charge the applicant for reasonable additional costs up to ten percent of the estimate.

(6) Requirements for supporting structures and trenches.

(a) A company may condition construction on completion of support structures, trenches, or both on the applicant's property.

(i) Applicants are responsible for installation of all supporting structures required for placement of company-provided drop wire from the applicant's property line to the applicant's premises. The company may offer to construct supporting structures and dig trenches and may charge for those services, but the company must not require that applicants use only company services to construct supporting structures and dig trenches. The offer must clearly state that the applicant may choose to employ a different company for construction services.

(ii) The company may require that all supporting structures required for placement of company-provided drop wire from the applicant's property line to the premises are placed in accordance with reasonable company construction specifications. The company must require that, once in place and in use, all supporting structures and drop wire will be maintained by the company as long as the company provides service, and any support structure and trenches constructed at company expense are owned by the company.

(b) Once supporting structures, trenches, or both, have been constructed, the company must provide drop wire to applicants at no charge.

(7) Temporary service.

A company may not provide allowances (e.g., one thousand feet without charge) or discounts on the cost of construction for extension of temporary service.


WAC 480-120-083 Cessation of telecommunications services. (1) This rule applies to any telecommunications company that ceases the provision of any telecommunications service in all or any portion of the state (excluding telecommunications company). This rule does not apply to:

(a) Services offered by tariff that are subject to the statutory notice requirements of RCW 80.36.110 (Tariff changes—Statutory notice—Exception);

(b) Discontinuance of service to an individual customer in compliance with WAC 480-120-172 (Discontinuing service—Company initiated);

(c) Cessation of a service when the provider replaces the terminated service with comparable service without interruption. For example, the notice requirements of this rule do not apply when a local exchange carrier (LEC) providing Centrex-type service with one group of features replaces that service, without interruption, with a version of Centrex-type service that has a different group of features; and

(d) A service being discontinued that has no subscribers.

Changes in customers' service providers for local exchange and intrastate toll services when there is a cessation of service are also subject to WAC 480-120-147 (Changes in local exchange and intrastate toll services).

(2) No telecommunications company may cease the provision of any telecommunications service in all or any portion of the state unless it first provides written notice to the following persons at least 30 days in advance of cessation of service:

(a) The commission;

(b) The state 911 program, in the instance of local exchange service, private branch exchange service (PBX), Centrex-type service, or private line service used in the provision of emergency services related to the state 911 program;

(c) Each of its customers, including customers that are telecommunications companies;

(d) Incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) providing the exiting telecommunications company with unbundled network elements (UNEs) pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. Section 151 et seq., if UNEs or combinations of UNEs are part of a telecommunications service provided to some or all of the exiting telecommunications company's customers;

(e) Each telecommunications company providing the exiting telecommunications company with resold telecom-

[Ch. 480-120 WAC p. 14]
munications service, if resold service is part of a telecommunications service provided to some or all of the exiting telecommunications company's customers;

(f) The national number administrator authorizing the release of all assigned telephone numbers to other telecommunications companies and releasing all unassigned telephone numbers to the number administrator.

(3) The notice to the commission and the state 911 program required in subsections (2)(a) and (b) must include:

(a) The name of the exiting telecommunications company;
(b) For each category of service, the date each telecommunications service will cease; and
(c) The number of customers for each telecommunications service and their location, described by exchange or by city and county for each telecommunications service being ceased.

(4) The notice to customers required in subsection (2)(c) must include:

(a) The date telecommunications service will cease;
(b) Information on how to contact the exiting telecommunications company by telephone in order to obtain information needed to establish service with another provider;
(c) An explanation of how customers may receive a refund on any unused service. The exiting telecommunications company must provide information to consumers via its customer service number outlining the procedure for obtaining refunds and continue to provide this information for sixty days after the date of cessation of service.
(d) A second notice provided by one of the two options listed below:

(i) Between ten and thirty days before cessation of service, the exiting telecommunications company must complete one direct call advising every customer of the cessation of service, including the date of cessation of service and a number to call for more information, if necessary. A direct call means a call in which the company leaves a recorded voice message for or speaks directly to the responsible party or its agent on the billing account; or

(ii) At least ten days before cessation of service, the exiting telecommunications company must provide a second written notice of cessation of service including the date of cessation of service and a number to call for more information, if necessary;
(e) A company may seek the commission's assistance in drafting the customer notices.

(5) The notice to ILECs required in subsection (2)(d) must include:

(a) The date telecommunications service will cease;
(b) Identification of the UNE components in relationship to the service information provided to the customer when such information differs from the ILEC's identification information as billed to the exiting telecommunications company. For example, if the ILEC identifies a UNE loop with a circuit identification number, the exiting telecommunications company must provide the ILEC with the customer telephone number assigned to the ILEC's UNE loop circuit identification number; and
(c) The telephone contact information to enable the ILEC or new provider to obtain UNE service and circuit identification information needed to establish service for a customer who will no longer receive service from the exiting telecommunications company.

(6) The notice to suppliers required in subsection (2)(e) must include:

(a) The date telecommunications service will cease;
(b) Identification of the resold service element components in relationship to the service information provided to the customer, when such information differs from the supplier's identification information as billed to the exiting telecommunications company; and
(c) Telephone contact information to enable the regulated supplier or new provider to obtain underlying service and circuit identification information needed to establish comparable replacement service for a customer who will no longer receive service from the exiting telecommunications company.

(7) The notice to the national number administrator required in subsection (2)(f) must include:

(a) Identification of all working telephone numbers assigned to customers;
(b) Identification of all unassigned or administrative numbers available for reassignment to other providers and the date such unassigned telephone numbers will be available for reassignment; and
(c) Authorization of the release of each individual assigned customer's telephone number(s) to subsequent providers selected by the customer.

(8) ILECs and telecommunications companies that are suppliers under subsection (6) must provide the information in the required notice(s) (if received) to the subsequent provider upon a request authorized by the customer.

(9) A telecommunications company ceasing a local exchange service, a PBX service, a Centrex-type service, or a private line service used in the provision of emergency services related to the state 911 program must inform the commission and the state 911 program within twenty-four hours of the cessation of telecommunications service of the number of customers and their location, listed by exchange or by city and county, that remained as customers for the telecommunications service when service ceased.

(10) Canceling registration. A company canceling its registration as a telecommunications company must notify the commission in writing and, as applicable, comply with the requirements of WAC 480-120-083, Cessation of telecommunications services. It remains subject to commission jurisdiction with respect to its provision of telecommunications service during the time it was registered, and it must file an annual report and pay regulatory fees for the period during which it was registered.


PART II. Establishing Service and Credit

WAC 480-120-102 Service offered. (1) Classes of service. The classes of service are business and residential. Each
local exchange company (LEC) must file with the commission, as part of its tariff a description of the classes and types of service available to customers in each class. LECs must record for each access line whether local exchange service is residential or business class.

(2) Types of service. LECs must offer, at a minimum, flat-rate local exchange service. In addition, companies may offer service alternatives, such as measured service.

(3) Grade of service. Local exchange service offered by companies must be one party service.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 07-08-027 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-540), § 480-120-102, filed 3/27/07, effective 4/27/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-102, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-103 Application for service. (1) When contacted by an applicant, or when a company contacts a person, a company must:

(a) Accept and process applications when an applicant for service for a particular location has met all tariff requirements and applicable commission rules;

(b) Establish the due date as the date requested by the applicant but is not required to establish a due date that is fewer than seven business days after the order date. If the company establishes a due date other than the date requested by the applicant, it must inform the applicant of the specific date when service will be provided or state that an estimated due date will be provided within seven business days as required by subsection (2) of this section; and

(c) Maintain a record in writing, or in electronic format, of each application for service, including requests for a change of service.

(2) If the company does not provide the applicant with a due date for installation or activation at the time of application as required in subsection (1)(b) of this section, the company must state the reason for the delay. Within seven business days of the date of the application, the company must provide the applicant with an estimated due date for installation or activation. The standards imposed by WAC 480-120-105 (Company performance standards for installation or activation of access lines) and 480-120-112 (Company performance for orders for nonbasic services) are not altered by this subsection.

(3) When the company informs the customer that installation of new service orders requires on-premises access by the company, the company must offer the customer an opportunity for an installation appointment that falls within a four-hour period.

(4) When the application for service requires an extension of service as defined in WAC 480-120-071 (Extension of service), the requirement of subsection (1)(b) of this section does not apply.


WAC 480-120-104 Information to consumers. (1) Except for services provided under written contract pursuant to competitive classification, each company must provide an applicant for initial service with a confirming notice or welcome letter, either in writing or with permission of the customer, electronically. The confirming notice or welcome letter must be provided to the applicant or customer no later than fifteen days after installation of service and must provide, at a minimum:

(a) Contact information for the appropriate business office, including a toll-free telephone number, a TTY number, mailing address, repair number, electronic address if applicable, and business office hours, that the customer can contact if they have questions;

(b) Confirmation of the services being provided to the customer by the company, and the rate for each service. If the service is provided under a banded rate schedule, the current rate, including the minimum and maximum at which the customer's rate may be shifted; and

(c) If the application is for local exchange service, the LEC must either provide the following information or inform the customer that it may be found on the company's web site:

(i) Process for establishing credit and determining the need and amount for deposits;

(ii) Procedure by which a bill becomes delinquent;

(iii) Steps that must be taken by the company to disconnect service;

(iv) Washington telephone assistance program (WTAP);

(v) Federal enhanced tribal lifeline program, if applicable; and

(vi) Right of the customer to pursue any dispute with the company, including the appropriate procedures within the company and then to the commission by informal or formal complaint.

(2) Except for services provided under written contract pursuant to competitive classification, each company must provide each customer a confirming notice, either in writing or, with permission of the customer, electronically, within fifteen days of initiating a material change in service which results in the addition of a service, a change from one rate schedule to another, or a change in terms or conditions of an existing service. The confirming notice must provide at a minimum, the following information in clear and conspicuous language:

(a) Contact information for the appropriate business office, including a toll-free telephone number, a TTY number, and business office hours, that customers can contact if they have questions; and

(b) The changes in the service(s), including, if applicable, the rate for each service.

(3) When a LEC is acting as an executing carrier under WAC 480-120-147, it must make the following information available upon request:

(a) The name of the intraLATA and interLATA interchange company to which the customer's account is currently subscribed; and

(b) A minimum of six months' account history, when available, including the date of the changes and the name of the interchange company.

(4) When an applicant or customer contacts the LEC to select or change an interchange company, the LEC must

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notify the carrier of the customer's selection or recommend that the customer contact the chosen interexchange company to confirm that an account has been or is being established by the interexchange carrier for the applicant.

(5) Each company must provide business offices or customer service centers that are accessible by telephone or in person. A business office or customer service center that serves more than one exchange must provide toll-free calling from each exchange to the office. Each business office or customer service center must be staffed by qualified personnel who can provide information relating to all services and rates, accept and process applications for service, explain charges on customers' bills, adjust charges made in error, and generally act as representatives of the company.


**WAC 480-120-122 Establishing credit—Residential services.** This section applies only to the provision of residential services.

(1) For a local exchange company (LEC) that offers basic service as part of any bundled package of services, the requirements of this subsection apply only to its lowest-priced, flat-rated residential basic service offering. The LEC may require an applicant or customer of residential basic service to pay a local service deposit only if:

(a) The applicant or customer has received two or more delinquency notices for basic service during the last twelve month period with that company or another company;

(b) The applicant or customer has had basic service discontinued by any telecommunications company;

(c) The applicant or customer has an unpaid, overdue basic service balance owing to any telecommunications company;

(d) The applicant's or customer's service is being restored following a discontinuation for nonpayment or acquiring service through deceptive means under WAC 480-120-172(1); or

(e) The applicant or customer has been disconnected for taking service under deceptive means as described in WAC 480-120-172(1).

(2) A LEC may, if provided for in its tariff or rates, terms and conditions of services provided pursuant to competitive classification, require an applicant or customer of ancillary services to demonstrate satisfactory credit by reasonable means or pay a deposit consistent with subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

The company must inform applicants that local service cannot be withheld pending payment of a deposit or advanced payments for ancillary services.

(3) An interexchange company may, if provided for in its tariff or rates, terms and conditions of services provided pursuant to competitive classification, require an applicant or customer of interexchange services to demonstrate satisfactory credit by reasonable means or pay a deposit consistent with subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

The company must inform applicants that local service cannot be withheld pending payment of a deposit for interexchange services.

(4) When a company requests a deposit from an applicant or customer, the amount of the deposit may not exceed two months' customary use for an applicant or customer with previous verifiable service of the same class, or two months' estimated use for an applicant or customer without previous verifiable service. Customary use is calculated using charges for the previous three months' service.

(5) When an applicant or customer is required to pay a basic service deposit or an interexchange deposit, but is unable to pay the entire amount in advance of connection or continuation of service, the company must offer the applicant or customer the following options:

(a) Pay no more than fifty percent of the requested deposit amount before installation or continuation of service, with the remaining amount payable in equal amounts over the following two months; or

(b) Where technology permits, the applicant or customer must have the option of accepting toll-restricted basic service in lieu of payment of the deposit. A company must not charge for toll restriction when it is used as an alternative to a deposit.

A company must remove toll restriction unless the customer requests to retain it when the customer makes full payment of the requested interexchange company deposit or pays fifty percent of the requested deposit and enters into payment arrangements as provided for in (a) of this subsection.

(6) A company may require an applicant or customer to pay a deposit or make advanced payments equal to two months' charges for ancillary service before providing or continuing ancillary services.

(7) A company may require an applicant or customer to pay a deposit if it finds that service was provided initially without a deposit based on incorrect information and the customer otherwise would have been required to pay a deposit.

(a) When a company requests a new deposit or a larger deposit amount after service has been established, the company must provide a written notice to the customer listing the reason(s) for the request, the date the deposit must be paid, and the actions the company may take if the deposit is not paid.

(b) Except for circumstances described in subsection (8) of this section, the deposit or additional deposit amount may not be due and payable before 5:00 p.m. of the sixth business day after notice of the deposit requirement is mailed or 5:00 p.m. of the second business day following delivery, if the notice is delivered in person to the customer.

(8)(a) A company authorized by the commission to collect deposits or advanced payments may require a customer to pay unbilled toll charges or pay a new or additional deposit amount when the customer's toll charges exceed thirty dollars, or exceed customary use over the previous six months by twenty dollars or by twenty percent, whichever is greater.

A company may toll-restrict a customer's services if the customer is unable pay the toll or deposit amount.

(b) When a customer has exceeded the toll levels in (a) of this subsection, the company may require payment before the
close of the next business day following delivery of either written or oral notice to the customer indicating that failure to pay one of the following may result in toll restriction of the customer's service. The company must give the customer the option to pay one of the following:

(i) All outstanding toll charges specified in the notice; or
(ii) All toll charges accrued to the time of payment providing the customer was notified the customer would be liable for all unbilled toll charges that accrued between the time of the notice and time of the payment; or
(iii) Payment of a new or additional deposit in light of the customer's actual use based upon two months' customary use.

(c) When an applicant does not have a customary utilization amount from a previous service, the company may request that the applicant estimate the greatest monthly toll amount the applicant expects to use. If the company asks for an estimate, it must explain that if the customer's toll charges exceed the amounts in (a) of this subsection, the company may toll restrict or require a deposit as permitted in this subsection.

(9) When a residential applicant or customer cannot establish credit or cannot pay a deposit or deposit extended payments, the applicant or customer may furnish a guarantor who will secure payment of bills for service requested in a specified amount not to exceed the amount of required deposit. The company may require that the guarantor:

(a) Reside in the state of Washington;
(b) Currently have service with the company requesting the deposit; and
(c) Have an established satisfactory payment history for each class of service being guaranteed.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.122 RCW, RCW 19.122.053, 80.01.040, and 80.04.160. WSR 15-08-043 (Docket UT-140680, General Order R-580), § 480-120-122, filed 3/26/15, effective 4/26/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 07-08-027 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-540), § 480-120-122, filed 3/27/07, effective 4/27/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-122, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05; WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-122, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-123 Establishing credit—Business services. (1) As set forth in this section, a company may require a business applicant or customer to demonstrate satisfactory credit by reasonable means appropriate under the circumstances.

(2) Amount of deposit. When a company requests a deposit from an applicant or customer, the amount of the deposit may not exceed two months' customary use for an applicant or customer with previous verifiable service of the same class, or two months' estimated use for an applicant or customer without previous verifiable service. Customary use is calculated using charges for the previous three months' service.

(3) Deposit payment. Companies may withheld regulated services until the deposit amount associated with such services is paid in full.

(4) Deposit requirement notice.

(a) When a company requests a new deposit or a larger deposit amount after service has been established, the company must provide a written notice of the reasons for the request in writing to the customer, state the date the deposit must be paid, and the actions the company may take if the deposit is not paid.

(b) Except for circumstances described in subsection (5) of this section, the deposit or additional deposit amount may not be due and payable before 5:00 p.m. of the sixth business day after notice of the deposit requirement is mailed or 5:00 p.m. of the second business day following delivery if the notice is delivered in person to the customer.


WAC 480-120-128 Deposit administration. (1) Transfer of deposit. A company must transfer a customer's deposit, less any outstanding balance, from the account at one service address to another service address, when a customer moves to a new address, is required to pay a deposit, and continues to receive service from that company.

(2) Interest on deposits. Companies that collect customer deposits must pay interest on those deposits calculated:

(a) For each calendar year, at the rate for the one-year Treasury Constant Maturity as of November 15 of the previous year, as calculated by the U.S. Treasury and published in the Federal Reserve's Statistical Release H.15; and

(b) From the date of deposit to the date of refund or when applied directly to the customer's account.

(3) Refunding deposits for retail services. Companies must refund deposits, plus accrued interest, less any outstanding balance, to a retail customer when:

(a) A customer terminates service or services for which a deposit is being held.

A company is not required to refund an amount held on deposit when a customer requests a discontinuation of service or services but requests to establish similar service with a company for which the current deposit holder also provides billing and collection service. The new provider must have authority with the commission to collect deposits; or

(b) The customer has paid for service for twelve consecutive months in a prompt and satisfactory manner as evidenced by the following:

(i) The company has not issued a discontinuation notice against the customer's account for nonpayment during the last twelve months; and

(ii) The company has sent no more than two delinquency notices to the customer in the last twelve months.

(4) A company may apply a deposit refund to a customer's account or, upon customer request, must provide the refund in the form of a check issued and mailed to the customer no later than thirty days after satisfactory payment history is established or thirty days after the date the closing bill is paid when service is terminated.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.40.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-128, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05; WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-128, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-133 Response time for calls to business office or repair center during regular business hours. (1) Calls placed to a company's business or repair center...
during regular business hours must be answered either by a live representative or an automated call answering system.

(2) Companies that use an automated answering system must comply with the following requirements:
(a) Each month, the average time until the automated system answers a call must not exceed thirty seconds; and
(b) The automated system must provide a caller with an option to speak to a live representative within the first sixty seconds of the recorded message, or it must transfer the caller to a live representative within the first sixty seconds.
(i) A company may provide the live representative option by directing the caller to take an affirmative action (e.g., select an entry on the telephone) or by default (e.g., be transferred when the caller does not select an option on the telephone).
(ii) The recorded message must clearly describe the method a caller must use to reach a live representative.
(c) Each month, the average time until a live representative answers a call must not exceed sixty seconds from the time a caller selects the appropriate option to speak to a live representative.
(3) Companies that do not use an automated answering system must answer at least ninety-nine percent of call attempts, each month, within thirty seconds.

WAC 480-120-146 Changing service providers from one local exchange company to another. When a customer migrates from one local exchange company (LEC) to another, where applicable, the carriers involved must perform local number portability (LNP) in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)-approved method and time frame for disconnecting that service following the scheduled port under Title 47, Chapter I, Part 52.26 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Part 52.26 adopts the North American Numbering Council (NANC) recommendations on local number portability administration, "Working Group Report" with certain qualifications and additions. The effective date for 47 C.F.R. §52.26 is stated in WAC 480-120-999.

When the underlying carrier is providing local exchange services for resale by a LEC and then facilitates migration of that service to another LEC or back to itself, the underlying carrier shall notify the old LEC when the customer's service has been transferred.

The requirements of this section do not apply if the customer submitted the cancellation order directly to the LEC providing existing service.

WAC 480-120-147 Changes in local exchange and intrastate toll services. For the purpose of this section "subscriber" is any one of the following: The party identified in the account records of a common carrier as responsible for payment of the telephone bill; any adult person authorized by such party to change telecommunications services or to charge services to the account; or any person contractually or otherwise lawfully authorized to represent such party.

(1) Verification of orders. A local exchange or intrastate toll company that requests on behalf of a subscriber that the subscriber's company be changed, and that seeks to provide retail services to the subscriber (submitting company), may not submit a change-order for local exchange or intrastate toll service until the order is confirmed in accordance with one of the procedures in (a) through (c) of this subsection:
(a) The company has obtained the subscriber's written or electronic authorization to submit the order (letter of agency). The letter of agency must be a separate electronic form, located on a separate screen or web page, or a separate written document (or easily separable document) containing only the authorizing language described in (i) through (vi) of this subsection, having the sole purpose of authorizing a telecommunications company to initiate a preferred company change. The letter of agency, whether written or electronic, must be signed and dated by the subscriber of the telephone line(s) requesting the preferred company change. The letter of agency must not be combined on the same document or on the same screen or web page with inducements of any kind; however, it may be combined with checks that contain only the required letter of agency language as prescribed in (i) through (vi) of this subsection, and the necessary information to make the check a negotiable instrument. The check may not contain any promotional language or material. It must contain, in easily readable, boldface type on the front of the check, a notice that the subscriber is authorizing a preferred company change by signing the check. Letter-of-agency language must be placed near the signature line on the back of the check. Any company designated in a letter of agency as a preferred company must be the company directly setting the rates for the subscriber. If any portion of a letter of agency is translated into another language, then all portions must be translated into that language, as well as any promotional materials, oral descriptions or instructions provided with the letter of agency. The letter of agency must confirm the following information from the subscriber:
(i) The subscriber billing name, billing telephone number and billing address and each telephone number to be covered by the change order;
(ii) The decision to change;
(iii) The subscriber's understanding of the change fee;
(iv) That the subscriber designates (name of company) to act as the subscriber's agent for the preferred company change;
(v) That the subscriber understands that only one telecommunications company may be designated as the subscriber's intraLATA preferred company; that only one telecommunications company may be designated as the subscriber's interLATA preferred company; and that only one telecommunications company may be designated as the subscriber's local exchange provider, for any one telephone number. The letter of agency must contain a separate statement regarding the subscriber's choice for each preferred company, although a separate letter of agency for each choice is not necessary; and
(vi) Letters of agency may not suggest or require that a subscriber take some action in order to retain the current preferred company.

(b) The submitting company has obtained the subscriber's authorization, as described in (a) of this subsection, electronically, by use of an automated, electronic telephone menu system. This authorization must be placed from the telephone number(s) for which the preferred company is to be changed and must confirm the information required in (a)(i) through (vi) of this subsection.

Telecommunications companies electing to confirm the preferred company change electronically must establish one or more toll free telephone numbers exclusively for that purpose.

Calls to the number(s) must connect a subscriber to a voice response unit, or similar device, that records the required information regarding the change, including recording the originating automatic number identification (ANI).

(c) An appropriately qualified and independent third party operating in a location physically separate from the telemarketing representative has obtained the subscriber's oral authorization to submit the change order that confirms and includes appropriate verification data (e.g., the subscriber's date of birth). A company or a company's sales representative initiating a three-way conference call or a call through an automated verification system must drop off the call once the three-way connection with the third-party verifier has been established. The independent third party must not be owned, managed, controlled or directed by the company or the company's marketing agent; and must not have any financial incentive to confirm preferred company change orders for the company or the company's marketing agent. The content of the verification must include clear and unambiguous confirmation that the subscriber has authorized a preferred company change, and the date of the verification.

(2) Where a telecommunications company is selling more than one type of telecommunications service (e.g., local exchange, intraLATA toll, and interLATA toll) that company must obtain separate authorization, and separate verification, from the subscriber for each service sold, although the authorizations may be made within the same solicitation.

(3) The documentation regarding a subscriber's authorization for a preferred company change must be retained by the submitting company, at a minimum, for two years to serve as verification of the subscriber's authorization to change his or her telecommunications company. The documentation must be made available to the subscriber and to the commission upon request and at no charge. Documentation includes, but is not limited to, entire third-party-verification conversations and, for written verifications, the entire verification document.

(4) Implementing order changes. An executing company may not verify directly with the subscriber the submission of a change in a subscriber's selection of a provider received from a submitting company. The executing company must comply promptly, without any unreasonable delay, with a requested change that is complete and received from a submitting company. An executing company is any telecommunications company that affects a request that a subscriber's company be changed. Except as provided by contract, a telecommunications company must submit a preferred company change order on behalf of a subscriber within no more than sixty days of obtaining authorization.

This section does not prohibit any company from investigating and responding to any subscriber-initiated inquiry or complaint.

(5) Preferred carrier freezes. A preferred carrier freeze prevents a change in a subscriber's preferred company selection unless the subscriber gives the company from whom the freeze was requested express consent. Express consent means direct, written, electronic, or oral direction by the subscriber. All local exchange companies (LECs) must offer preferred carrier freezes. Such freezes must be offered on a nondiscriminatory basis to all subscribers. Offers or solicitations for such freezes must clearly distinguish among telecommunications services subject to a freeze (e.g., local exchange, intraLATA toll, and interLATA toll). The carrier offering the freeze must obtain separate authorization for each service for which a preferred carrier freeze is requested. Separate authorizations may be contained within a single document.

(a) All LECs must notify all subscribers of the availability of a preferred carrier freeze, no later than the subscriber's first telephone bill, and once per year must notify all local exchange service subscribers of such availability on an individual subscriber basis (e.g., bill insert, bill message, or direct mailing).

(b) All company-provided solicitation and other materials regarding freezes must include an explanation, in clear and neutral language, of what a preferred carrier freeze is, and what services may be subject to a freeze; a description of the specific procedures to lift a preferred carrier freeze; an explanation that the subscriber will be unable to make a change in company selection unless he or she lifts the freeze; and an explanation of any charges incurred for implementing or lifting a preferred carrier freeze.

(c) No local exchange company may implement a preferred carrier freeze unless the subscriber's request to impose a freeze has first been confirmed in accordance with the procedures outlined for confirming a change in preferred company, as described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

(d) All LECs must offer subscribers, at a minimum, the following procedures for lifting a preferred carrier freeze:

(i) A subscriber's written or electronic authorization stating the subscriber's intent to lift the freeze;

(ii) A subscriber's oral authorization to lift the freeze. This option must include a mechanism that allows a submitting company to conduct a three-way conference call with the executing company and the subscriber in order to lift the freeze. When engaged in oral authorization to lift a freeze, the executing company must confirm appropriate verification data (e.g., the subscriber's date of birth), and the subscriber's intent to lift the freeze.

(iii) The LEC must lift the freeze within three business days of the subscriber request.

(e) A LEC may not change a subscriber's preferred company if the subscriber has a freeze in place, unless the subscriber has lifted the freeze in accordance with this subsection.

(6) Remedies. In addition to any other penalties provided by law, a submitting company that requests a change in a subscriber's company without proper verification as described in this rule must receive no payment for service.
provided as a result of the unauthorized change and must promptly refund any amounts collected as a result of the unauthorized change. The subscriber may be charged, after receipt of the refund, for such service at a rate no greater than what would have been charged by its authorized telecommunications company, and any such payment must be remitted to the subscriber's authorized telecommunications company.

(7) Exceptions. Companies transferring subscribers as a result of a merger, purchase of the company, or purchase of a specific subscriber base are exempt from subsections (1) through (6) of this section if the companies comply with the following conditions and procedures:

(a) The acquiring company must provide a notice to each affected subscriber at least thirty days before the date of transfer. Such notice must include the following information:

(i) The date on which the acquiring company will become the subscriber's new provider;

(ii) The rates, terms, and conditions of the service(s) to be provided upon transfer, and the means by which the acquiring company will notify the subscriber of any change(s) to those rates, terms, and conditions;

(iii) That the acquiring company will be responsible for any company change charges associated with the transfer;

(iv) The subscriber's right to select a different company to provide the service(s);

(v) That the subscriber will be transferred even if the subscriber has selected a "freeze" on his/her company choices, unless the subscriber chooses another company before the transfer date;

(vi) That, if the subscriber has a "freeze" on company choices, the freeze will be lifted at the time of transfer and the subscriber must "refreeze" company choices;

(vii) How the subscriber may make a complaint prior to or during the transfer; and

(viii) The toll-free customer service telephone number of the acquiring company.

(b) The acquiring company must provide a notice to the commission at least thirty days before the date of the transfer. Such notice must include the following information:

(i) The names of the parties to the transaction;

(ii) The types of services affected;

(iii) The date of the transfer; and

(iv) That the company has provided advance notice to affected subscribers, including a copy of such notice.

(c) If after filing notice with the commission any material changes develop, the acquiring company must file written notice of those changes with the commission no more than ten days after the transfer date announced in the prior notice. The commission may, at that time, require the company to provide additional notice to affected subscribers regarding such changes.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.122 RCW, RCW 19.122.053, 80.01.040, and 80.04.160. WSR 15-08-043 (Docket UT-140680, General Order R-580), § 480-120-147, filed 3/26/15, effective 4/26/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT-040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-147, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.353. WSR 03-22-046 (Docket No. A-030832, General Order No. R-509), § 480-120-147, filed 10/29/03, effective 11/29/03. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-147, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

PART III. PAYMENTS AND DISPUTES

WAC 480-120-161 Form of bills. (1) Bill frequency. Companies must offer customers, at a minimum, the opportunity to receive billings on a monthly interval, unless subsection (11) of this section applies.

(2) Length of time for payment of a bill. Bill due dates must reflect a date which at a minimum allows a customer fifteen days from the date of mailing for payment.

(a) Upon showing of good cause, a customer may request and the company must allow the customer to pay by a date that is not the normally designated payment date on their bill. Good cause may include, but not be limited to, adjustment of the billing cycle to parallel receipt of income.

(i) A company may not assess late payment fees for the period between the regularly scheduled due date and the customer-chosen due date so long as the customer makes payment in full by the customer-chosen due date.

(ii) A company may refuse to establish a preferred payment date that would extend the payment date beyond the next normally scheduled payment or due date.

(b) If a company is delayed in billing a customer, the company must offer arrangements upon customer request or upon indication that a payment arrangement is necessary, that are equal to the length of time the bill is delayed beyond the regularly scheduled billing interval (e.g., if the bill includes two months delayed charges, the customer must be allowed to pay the charges over two months).

Companies may not charge a customer late payment fees on the delayed charges during the extended payment period.

(3) Form of bill. With the consent of the customer, a company may provide regular billings in electronic form if the bill meets all the requirements of this rule. The company must maintain a record of the customer's request, and the customer may change from electronic to printed billing upon request.

(4) Bill organization. Telephone bills must be clearly organized, and must comply with the following requirements:

(a) Bills may only include charges for services that have been requested by the customer or other individuals authorized to request such services on behalf of the customer, and that have been provided by the company;

(b) The name of the service provider associated with each charge must be clearly and conspicuously identified on the telephone bill;

(c) Where charges for two or more companies appear on the same telephone bill, the charges must be separated by service provider;

(d) The telephone bill must clearly and conspicuously identify any change in service provider, including identification of charges from any new service provider; and

(e) The telephone bill must include the internet address (uniform resource locator) of the web site containing the service provider's tariff pursuant to WAC 480-120-193 (Posting of tariffs for public inspection and review). This requirement may be satisfied by including the address of a web site other than that of the telecommunications company itself, if the web site provides access to the tariff that applies to the service being billed.
For purposes of this subsection, "new service provider" means a service provider that did not bill the customer for service during the service provider's last billing cycle. This definition includes only providers that have continuing relationships with the customer that will result in periodic charges on the customer's bill, unless the service is subsequently canceled.

For purposes of this subsection, "clearly and conspicuously" means notice that would be apparent to a reasonable customer.

(5) Descriptions of billed charges.
(a) The bill must include a brief, clear, nonmisleading, plain language description of each service for which a charge is included. The bill must be sufficiently clear in presentation and specific enough in content so that the customer can determine that the billed charges accurately reflect the service actually requested and received, including individual toll calls and services charged on a per-occurrence basis.
(b) The bill must identify and set out separately, as a component of the charges for the specific service, any access or other charges imposed by order of or at the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
(c) The bill must clearly delineate the amount or the percentage rate and basis of any tax assessed by a local jurisdiction.

(6) Charges for which service can be discontinued.
Where a bill contains charges for basic service, in addition to other charges, the bill must distinguish between charges for which nonpayment will result in loss of basic service. The bill must include telephone numbers by which customers may inquire or dispute any charges on the bill. A company may list a toll-free number for a billing agent, clearinghouse, or other third party, provided such party possesses sufficient information to answer questions concerning the customer's account and is fully authorized to resolve the customer's complaints on the company's behalf. Where the customer does not receive a paper copy of the telephone bill, but instead accesses that bill only by e-mail or internet, the company may comply with this requirement by providing on the bill an e-mail or web site address. Each company must make a business address available upon request from a customer.

(7) Itemized statement. A company must provide an itemized statement of all charges when requested by a customer, including, but not limited to:
(a) Rates for individual services;
(b) Calculations of time or distance charges for calls, and calculations of any credit or other account adjustment; and
(c) When itemizing the charges of information providers, the name, address, telephone number, and toll-free number, if any, of the providers.

(8) Methods of payment.
(a) Companies must, at a minimum, allow the following methods of payment: Cash, certified funds (e.g., cashier check or money order), and personal checks.
(b) Upon written notice to a customer, companies may refuse to accept personal checks when that customer has tendered two or more nonsufficient-funds checks within the last twelve months.

(9) Billing companies. A company may bill regulated telecommunications charges only for companies properly registered to provide service within the state of Washington or for billing agents. The company must, in its contractual relationship with the billing agent, require the billing agent to certify that it will submit charges only on behalf of properly registered companies; and that it will, upon request of the company, provide a current list of all companies for which it bills, including the name and telephone number of each company. The company must provide a copy of this list to the commission for its review upon request.

(10) Crediting customer payments. Unless otherwise specified by the customer, payments that are less than the total bill balance must be credited first to basic service, with any remainder credited to any other charges on the bill.

For purposes of this subsection, basic service includes associated fees and surcharges such as FCC access charges. Basic service does not include ancillary services such as caller identification and custom calling features.

(11) Exemptions from this rule. Prepaid calling card services (PPCS) are exempt from subsections (1) through (10) of this section.

WAC 480-120-162 Cash and urgent payments. (1) Each local exchange company (LEC) must establish and maintain payment agencies for receipt of cash and urgent payments. For purposes of this section, a payment agency may be a business office of the company that accepts customer payments. An urgent payment is a payment that the company requires upon threat of discontinuation of service. Each LEC must use the following criteria when determining the number of payment agencies required:
(a) Exchanges serving seventy-five thousand access lines must have a minimum of one payment agency within the exchange for every fifty thousand access lines.
(b) Exchanges serving twenty-five thousand to seventy-five thousand access lines must have a minimum of one payment agency within the exchange.
(c) LECs that do not have exchanges that meet the criteria in (a) or (b) of this subsection must have at least one payment agency.

(2) The payment agency must clearly post and maintain regular business hours and may be supported by the same personnel as the business office or customer service center. It must not assess a charge from the applicant or customer for processing a transaction. Companies may not contract with a payment agent that charges a fee, surcharge, or any other similar charge to customers for the provided services and transactions required by subsection (1) of this section. Companies may contract with additional payment agents to process required transactions and may permit those additional agents to charge customers not more than $1.00 for processing a transaction.

(3) A LEC may request a waiver of subsection (1) of this section. At a minimum, as a condition for waiver, the petitioner must demonstrate that applicants and customers have a reasonable opportunity to make cash and urgent payments.

[Ch. 480-120 WAC p. 22]
(4) At least thirty days before a planned closure of any payment agency, business office, or customer service center that accepts cash and urgent payments and does not charge a fee for processing bill payments, a LEC must provide the commission, in writing, the exchange(s) and communities affected by the closing, the date of the closing, a list of other methods and locations available for making cash and urgent payments, and a list of other methods and locations for obtaining business office and customer service center services.

A LEC may not close a payment location under this subsection until alternatives for making cash and urgent payments have been provided to affected customers.

(5) When a LEC is made aware of the fact that a payment agency that does not charge a fee for processing bill payments has either closed without company knowledge or is refusing to accept company payments, it must provide alternatives for making cash and urgent payments until a replacement station has been established. The LEC must establish a replacement station within the same geographic area within sixty days. If it is unable to do so, it must advise the commission of its efforts and progress to date every thirty days thereafter until a replacement is established.

WAC 480-120-163 Refunding an overcharge. A company must refund overcharges to the customer with interest, retroactive to the time of the overcharge, up to a maximum of two years, as set forth in RCW 80.04.230 and 80.04.240. This rule does not limit other remedies available to customers.

WAC 480-120-164 Pro rata credits. Every telecommunications company must provide pro rata credits to customers of a service whenever that service is billed on a monthly basis and is not available for more than a total of twenty-four hours in a billing cycle. The minimum amount of pro rata credit a company must provide is the monthly cost of service divided by thirty, then multiplied by the number of days or portions of days during which service was not provided.

For example:

\[
\frac{\text{(Cost of Service)}}{30} \times \text{(Number of days or portions of days without service)} = \text{Pro Rata Credit}
\]

Pro rata credits are not required when force majeure, customer premises equipment, or inside wiring is the proximate cause for the unavailability of a service. If a company provides a credit amount for unavailable service that is equal to or greater than the credit amount required by this rule, the amount of credit required by this rule need not be provided.

WAC 480-120-165 Customer complaints. (1) Each company must have adequate personnel available during regular business days to address customer complaints.

(2) When a company receives an oral or written complaint from an applicant or customer regarding its service or regarding another company's service for which it provides billing, collection, or responses to inquiries, the company must acknowledge the complaint as follows:

(a) Provide the name of the company's contact to the complainant;
(b) Investigate the complaint promptly;
(c) Report the results of the investigation to the complainant;
(d) Take corrective action, if warranted, as soon as appropriate under the circumstances;
(e) Inform the complainant that the decision may be appealed to a supervisor at the company; and
(f) Inform the complainant, if still dissatisfied after speaking to a supervisor, of the right to file a complaint with the commission and provide the commission address and toll-free telephone number.

(3) When a company receives a complaint from an applicant or customer regarding another company's service for which it provides only billing service, the company must provide the complainant a toll-free number to reach the appropriate office for the other company that is authorized to investigate and take corrective action to resolve the dispute or complaint.

(4) The company must insure that records and information about complaints and disputes are used only for the purposes of resolving the complaint or dispute and improving service and practices.

WAC 480-120-166 Commission-referred complaints. (1) Each company must keep a record of all complaints concerning service or rates for at least two years and, on request, make them readily available for commission review. The records must contain complainant's name and address, date and the nature of the complaint, action taken, and final result.

(2) Each company must have personnel available during regular business days to respond to commission staff.

(3) Applicants, customers, or their authorized representatives, may file with the commission an informal complaint as described in WAC 480-07-910 (Informal complaints) or a formal complaint against a company when there are alleged violations of statutes, administrative rules, or tariffs as provided by WAC 480-07-370 (Pleadings—General).

(4) When the commission staff refers an informal complaint to a company, the company must:

(a) Stop any pending action involving the issues raised in the complaint provided any amounts not in dispute are paid when due (e.g., if the complaint involves a disconnect threat or collection action, the disconnect or collection must be stopped);
(b) Thoroughly investigate all issues raised in the complaint and provide a complete report of the results of its
investment to the commission, including, if applicable, information that demonstrates that the company's action was in compliance with commission rules; and

(5) Commission staff will ask the customer filing the informal complaint whether the customer wishes to speak directly to the company during the course of the complaint, and will relay the customer's preference to the company at the time staff opens the complaint.

(6) Unless another time is specified in this rule or unless commission staff specifies a later date, the company must report the results of its investigation of service-affecting informal complaints to commission staff within two business days from the date commission staff passes the complaint to the company. Service-affecting complaints include, but are not limited to, nonfunctioning or impaired services (i.e., disconnected services or those not functioning properly).

(7) Unless another time is specified in this rule or unless commission staff specifies a later date, the company must report the results of its investigation of nonservice-affecting informal complaints to commission staff within five business days from the date commission staff passes the complaint to the company. Nonservice-affecting complaints include, but are not limited to, billing disputes and rate quotes.

(8) Unless another time is specified in this rule or unless commission staff specifies a later date, the company must provide complete responses to requests from commission staff for additional information on pending informal complaints within three business days.

(9) The company must keep commission staff informed when relevant changes occur in what has been previously communicated to the commission and when there is final resolution of the informal complaint.

(10) An informal complaint opened with the company by commission staff may not be considered closed until commission staff informs the company that the complaint is closed.

WAC 480-120-167 Company responsibility. When a customer informs the commission that the company has identified a problem with service or billing or other matters and the customer has been told by two or more companies that the problem is not the responding company's responsibility but another company's responsibility, commission staff will inform the companies.

Once the commission has contacted the companies, the companies must confer with each other within three business days and determine which company will take the lead responsibility to resolve the customer's problem. The company accepting lead responsibility must contact the commission and begin resolution of the problem on the first business day following the three business days allotted by this subsection for a conference between the companies.

Companies must confer, allocate responsibility between the companies, and the company with lead responsibility must contact the commission, as required by this section. After conferring, if the companies cannot resolve the matter and neither one will accept the lead, each company must contact the commission and report the status of the dispute within five days of the date commission staff contacted the companies. The report must contain detailed explanations of the company's position.

WAC 480-120-171 Discontinuing service—Customer requested. (1) This section applies to residential, business, and resale services discontinued at the customer's request. The customer must notify the company of the date the customer wishes to discontinue service. If the customer moves from the service address and fails to request discontinuation of service, the customer must pay for service taken at the service address until the company can confirm that the customer has vacated the premises or a new party has taken responsibility for the service.

(2) A company must stop a customer's monthly recurring or minimum charges effective on the requested discontinuation date. The customer may be held responsible for use charges incurred after the requested discontinuation date when the company can prove that the calls were made or authorized by the customer of record. This section does not preclude a company from collecting minimum service commitment penalties when a customer disconnects service prior to fulfilling the tariff or contract commitment.

(3) The company must discontinue service as follows:

(a) For services that do not require a field visit, the company must discontinue service not later than one business day from the date requested by the customer; and

(b) For services that require a premises visit to complete the request, the company must discontinue service no later than two business days from the date requested by the customer.

(4) When a customer directs the local exchange company (LEC) to discontinue service, the LEC must either notify the customer's presubscribed interLATA and intraLATA toll carriers of the discontinuation or inform the customer that it is the customer's obligation to contact those carriers directly.

WAC 480-120-172 Discontinuing service—Company initiated. (1) A company may discontinue service without notice or without further notice when after conducting a thorough investigation, it finds the customer has used deceptive means to initiate or continue service including, but not limited to:

(a) Tampering with the company's property;
(b) Using service through an illegal connection; or
(c) Unlawfully using service or using service for unlawful purposes.

(2)(a) A company may discontinue service without notice or without further notice when after conducting a thorough investigation, it determines the customer has:

(i) Vacated the premises without informing the company;
(ii) Paid a delinquent balance in response to a delinquency notice as described in subsection (7) of this section with a check or electronic payment that is subsequently dishonored by the bank or other financial institution; or
(iii) Failed to keep payment arrangements agreed upon in response to a delinquency notice as described in subsection (7) of this section.

(b) The company must restore service once the customer has corrected the reason for discontinuance as described in subsection (2)(a) of this section.

(c) The company may require a deposit from a customer that it has disconnected due to the reasons described in subsection (2)(a) of this section.

(3) A company may discontinue service after providing proper notice, or may issue a discontinuance notice, if, and only if:

(a) The company determines the customer has violated a rule, statute, service agreement, filed tariff, or rates, terms and conditions of competitively classified services;
(b) The company determines the customer has used customer-owned equipment that adversely affects the company's service to its other customers;
(c) The company determines the customer has not paid regulated charges or has not paid a deposit as provided in the tariff or rates, terms and conditions of competitively classified services of the company or another company with which it has a billing and collection agreement, except for nonpayment of charges incurred from information delivery services as provided for in WAC 480-120-254 (Telephone solicitation) or disputed third party-billed charges;
(d) The company is unable to substantiate the identity of the individual requesting service:
   (i) Companies must allow the applicant to substantiate identity with one piece of identification chosen from a list, provided by the company, of at least four sources of identification. The list must include a current driver's license or other picture identification;
   (ii) Company business offices and payment agencies, required under WAC 480-120-132 (Business offices) and 480-120-162 (Cash and urgent payments), must provide a means for applicants to provide identification at no charge to the applicant;
   (e) The company determines the customer has received service from the company by providing false information, including false statements of credit references or employment, false statement of premises address, use of an alias or false name with intent to deceive, or rotation of service among roommates or persons living together for the purpose of avoiding the debts of one or more persons; or
   (f) The company determines the customer is receiving service at an address where a former customer is known to reside with an overdue, unpaid prior obligation to the same company for the same class of service at that address and there is evidence that the applicant lived at the address while the overdue, unpaid prior obligation was incurred and helped incur the obligations. However, a company may not deny service if a former customer with an overdue, unpaid prior obligation has permanently vacated the address.

(4) Except as provided in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section, a company may discontinue:

(a) Basic service only for nonpayment of basic service charges;
(b) Ancillary services only for nonpayment of ancillary charges or if the company properly discontinues basic service;
(c) Interexchange access only for nonpayment of interexchange charges or if the company properly discontinues basic service:
   (i) At its discretion, the company may permit access to toll-free numbers while a customer's interexchange access service is discontinued or restricted;
   (ii) The company may not charge fees for toll restriction when it has discontinued or restricted the customer's interexchange access service under this section;
   (d) A company must not shift a rate plan as a discontinuation method.

(5) When a company discontinues service to a customer, it must also discontinue billing for service as of the date of the discontinuation.

(6) Medical emergencies.

(a) When a local exchange company (LEC) has cause to discontinue residential basic service or has discontinued service, it must postpone total service discontinuation or reactivate toll-restricted basic service that permits both making and receiving calls and access to E911 for a grace period of three business days after receiving either oral or written notice of the existence of a medical emergency, as described in (b) of this subsection. The LEC must reactivate service during the same day if the customer contacts the LEC prior to the close of the business day and requests a same-day reconnection. Otherwise, the LEC must restore service by 12:00 p.m. the next business day. When service is reinstated, the LEC cannot require payment of a reconnection charge or deposit before reinstating service but may bill the charges at a later date.

(b) The LEC may require that the customer submit written certification from a qualified medical professional, within five business days, stating that the discontinuation of basic service or restricted basic service would endanger the physical health of a resident of the household. "Qualified medical professional" means a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant authorized to diagnose and treat the medical condition without supervision of a physician. Nothing in this subsection precludes a company from accepting other forms of certification, but the maximum the company can require is written certification. If the company requires written certification, it may require only:
   (i) The address of the residence;
   (ii) An explanation of how discontinuation of basic service or restricted basic service would endanger the physical health of the resident;
   (iii) A statement of how long the condition is expected to last; and
(iv) The title, signature, and telephone number of the person certifying the condition.

(c) The medical certification is valid only for the length of time the medical professional certifies the resident’s health would be endangered, but no longer than ninety days unless renewed.

(d) A medical emergency does not excuse a customer from paying delinquent and ongoing charges. The company may require that, within the five-day grace period, the customer pay a minimum of twenty-five percent of the delinquent basic service balance or ten dollars, whichever is greater, and enter into an agreement to pay the remaining delinquent basic service balance within ninety days, and agree to pay subsequent bills when due.

Nothing in this subsection precludes the company from agreeing to an alternate payment plan, but the company must not require the customer to pay more than this section prescribes and must send a notice to the customer confirming the payment arrangements within two business days.

(e) The company may discontinue basic service or restrict basic service without further notice if, within the five-day grace period, the customer fails to provide an acceptable medical certificate or pay the amount required under (d) of this subsection. The company may discontinue basic service or restrict basic service, without further notice, if the customer fails to abide by the terms of the payment agreement.

(f) The company must ensure that the records of medical emergencies are used or disclosed only for the purposes provided for in this section.

(7) Discontinuation notice requirements. The company must provide the customer notice before discontinuing service in accordance with (a) through (c) of this subsection, except as provided in subsection (1) of this section, and except as provided in WAC 480-120-122(8).

(a) Each company must provide a written discontinuation notice to the customer either by first class mail, personal delivery to the customer’s service address, or electronically delivered when the company has the technical capability and the customer consents to this delivery method. A company must provide delivered notice by handing the notice to a person of apparent competence in the residence; to a person employed at the place of business of the customer if it is a business account; or attached to the primary door of the residential unit or business office where service is provided if no person is available to receive notice. The discontinuation notice must include, at a minimum:

(i) A discontinuation date that is not less than eight business days after the date the notice is mailed, transmitted electronically, or personally delivered;

(ii) The amount(s) owing for the service(s) that is subject to discontinuation or restriction;

(iii) A statement that clearly indicates the amount a customer must pay to maintain basic service or restricted basic service, regardless of the full amount owed by the customer;

(iv) Instructions on how to correct the problem to avoid the discontinuation;

(v) Information about any discontinuation or restoration charges that may be assessed;

(vi) Information about how a customer can avoid disconnection under the medical emergency rules described in subsection (6) of this section; and

(vii) The company’s name, address, toll-free number, and TTY number where the customer may contact the company to discuss the pending discontinuation of service.

(b) If the company discovers that the information provided on the notice failed to meet the requirements of (a) of this subsection, or if the company discovers it provided incorrect information on the notice, the company must restore service and issue a second notice with accurate information as described in this section.

(c) If the company has not discontinued service within ten business days of the first day the discontinuation may be implemented, the discontinuation notice is void, unless the customer and the company have entered into a mutually acceptable payment agreement with payment dates that exceed the ten-day period. Upon a void notice, the company must provide a new discontinuation notice to the customer if the company intends to discontinue service at a later date.

(d) A company need not attempt personal contact as provided for in (a) through (d) of this subsection when the company has had cause, in any two previous billing periods during a consecutive twelve-month period, to attempt such contact and the company has notified the customer in writing that such contact will not be attempted in the future before effecting a discontinuation of services.
(9) Except in case of danger to life or property, companies may not discontinue service on days that it is not fully staffed to discuss discontinuation and reestablish service to the customer on the same or the following day.

(10) When the company has reasonable grounds to believe that service is to other than the party of record, the company must make reasonable efforts to inform the occupants at the service address of the impending discontinuation. Upon request of one or more service users, the company must allow a minimum period of five business days to permit the service user to arrange for continued service.

The company is not required to allow the additional five days when a thorough investigation indicates there is deceptive activity at the service address.

(11) LECs must provide notice of pending local service discontinuation to the secretary, Washington state department of social and health services, and to the customer, where it provides service to a facility with resident patients including, but not limited to, hospitals, medical clinics, or nursing homes. Upon request from the secretary or a designee, the company must allow a delay in discontinuation of no less than five business days from the date of notice so that the department may take whatever steps are necessary in its view to protect the interests of patients living within the facilities.

(12) Remedy and appeals. The company must not discontinue or restrict service while a customer is pursuing any remedy or appeal provided for by these rules, if the customer pays any amounts not in dispute when due and the customer corrects any conditions posing a danger to health, safety, or property. The company must inform the customer of these provisions when the customer is referred to a company's supervisor or the commission.

During a dispute a company may, upon authorization from commission staff, discontinue service when a customer's toll charges substantially exceed the amount of any deposit or customary use and it appears the customer may incur excessive, uncollectible toll charges while an appeal is being pursued. A customer whose service is subject to discontinuation may maintain service pending resolution of any dispute upon payment of outstanding toll charges subject to refund if the dispute is resolved in the customer's favor.

(13) Payment at a payment agency. Payment of any past-due amounts to a designated payment agency of the company constitutes payment to the company when the customer informs the company of the payment and the company verifies the payment.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 07-08-027 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-540), § 480-120-172, filed 3/27/07, effective 4/27/07; Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-173, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05; WSR 03-01-065 and 03-03-090 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507 and 507A), § 480-120-173, filed 12/12/02 and 1/16/03, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-173 Restoring service after discontinuation. (1) A company must restore a discontinued service when:

(a) The causes of discontinuation not related to a delinquent balance have been removed or corrected. In the case of deceptive means, as described in WAC 480-120-172(1), this means the customer has corrected the deception and has paid the estimated amount of service that was taken through deceptive means, all costs resulting from the deception, any applicable deposit, and any delinquent balance owed to the company by that customer for the same class of service. A company may require a deposit from a customer that has obtained service deceptively as described in WAC 480-120-172(1). A company is not required to allow six-month arrangements on a delinquent balance as provided for in WAC 480-120-174(1) when it can demonstrate that a customer obtained service through deceptive means in order to avoid payment of a delinquent amount owed to that company;

(b) Payment or satisfactory arrangements for payment of all proper charges due from the applicant, including any proper deposit and reconnection fee, have been made as provided in WAC 480-120-122 (Establishing credit—Residential services) and 480-120-174 (Payment arrangements); or

(c) The commission staff directs restoration pending resolution of any dispute between the company and the applicant or customer over the propriety of discontinuation.

(2) After the customer notifies the company that the causes for discontinuation have been corrected, and the company has verified the correction, the company must restore service(s) within the following periods:

(a) Service(s) that do not require a premises visit for reconnection must be restored within one business day; and

(b) Service(s) that require a premises visit for reconnection must be restored within two business days. Companies must offer customers a four-hour window during which the company will arrive to complete the restoration.

(c) For purposes of this section Saturdays are considered business days.

(3) A company may refuse to restore service to a customer who has been discontinued twice for deceptive means as described in WAC 480-120-172(1) for a period of five years from the date of the second disconnection, subject to petition by the customer to the commission for an order requiring restoration of service based on good cause.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-173, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05; WSR 03-01-065 and 03-03-090 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507 and 507A), § 480-120-173, filed 12/12/02 and 1/16/03, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-174 Payment arrangements. (1) General. Applicants or customers, excluding telecommunications companies as defined in RCW 80.04.010, are entitled to, and a company must allow, an initial use, and then, once every five years dating from the customer's most recent use of the option, an option to pay a prior obligation over not less than a six-month period. The company must restore service upon payment of the first installment if an applicant is entitled to the payment arrangement provided for in this section and, if applicable, the first installment of a deposit is paid as provided for in WAC 480-120-122 (Establishing credit—Residential services).

(2) Restoring service based on Washington telephone assistance program (WTAP) or federal enhanced tribal lifeline program eligibility. Local exchange companies (LECs) must restore service for any customer who has had basic service discontinued for nonpayment under WAC 480-120-172 (Discontinuing service—Company initiated) if the
customer was not a participant in either the Washington telephone assistance program (WTAP) or the federal enhanced tribal lifeline program at the time service was discontinued and if the customer is eligible to participate in WTAP or the federal enhanced tribal lifeline program at the time the restoration of service is requested. To have service restored under this subsection, a customer must establish eligibility for either WTAP or the federal enhanced tribal lifeline program, agree to continuing participation in WTAP or the federal enhanced tribal lifeline program, agree to pay unpaid basic service and ancillary service amounts due to the LEC at the monthly rate of no more than one and one-half times the telephone assistance rate required to be paid by WTAP participants as ordered by the commission under WAC 480-122-020 (Washington telephone assistance program rate), agree to toll restriction, or ancillary service restriction, or both, if the company requires it, until the unpaid amounts are paid. Companies must not charge for toll restriction when restoring service under this section.

In the event a customer receiving service under this subsection fails to make a timely payment for either monthly basic service or for unpaid basic service or ancillary service, the company may discontinu e service pursuant to WAC 480-120-172.

(3) Nothing in this rule precludes the company from entering into separate payment arrangements with any customer for unpaid toll charges or over a longer period than described in this rule as long as both the company and the customer agree to the payment arrangement. Longer payment arrangements as described in this subsection satisfy the requirements in subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.180. WSR 02-11-081 (Docket No. U-991301, General Order No. R-498), § 480-120-193, filed 5/14/02, effective 6/17/02.]

PART V. POSTING AND PUBLICATION NOTICE

WAC 480-120-193 Posting of tariffs for public inspection and review. Each company offering intrastate telecommunications service under tariff must make available for public inspection and review all tariffs governing its provision of service, as required by RCW 80.36.110. To comply with this requirement, a company must fulfill the provisions of either subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

(1) Web, telephone, and mail access. The company must:

(a) Maintain a complete copy of its tariff or tariffs and all proposed tariff changes on an Internet web site accessible to the public using generally available browser software;

(b) Provide a toll-free telephone number by which customers and applicants can obtain assistance during normal business hours from a company agent qualified to assist the customer in locating, interpreting, and applying tariff provisions;

(c) Upon written or oral request by any customer or applicant, deliver at no charge a copy of any current, proposed or most recently canceled tariff page that relates to the customer's or applicant's service; and

(d) Include on each customer bill and notice the address of the tariff web site and the toll-free telephone number.

(2) Physical access. The company must make available for public inspection and copying a complete copy of its tariff or tariffs, all most recently canceled tariff sheets, and all proposed tariff changes at one or more offices in each county where it offers service, except that: A single office may serve more than one county if the office is within twenty miles of all customers in the county where no tariff is posted. The company must provide at each office either an agent qualified to assist the customer in locating, interpreting, and applying tariff provisions or access to such an agent by a toll-free telephone number.

[WAC 480-120-194 Publication of proposed tariff changes to increase charges or restrict access to services. Each company offering intrastate telecommunications service under tariff must publish all proposed changes to its tariff for at least thirty days, as required by RCW 80.36.110. For any proposed tariff change that would increase recurring or per-occurrence charges or restrict access to services (e.g., discontinue a service, or limit access to service by imposing a new usage level on existing services), a company must fulfill the requirements of subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section. For any other proposed tariffs, the company must fulfill the requirements of WAC 480-120-193. The company will not be required to accomplish publication under this section if it has agreed to suspend its tariff filing and to provide notice as provided under WAC 480-120-197.

(1) Thirty-day notice to individual customers. To comply under this method, the company must, at least thirty days before the stated effective date of the proposed change, mail the posting to each customer that would be affected by the proposed change. The posting must include the information listed in subsection (4) of this section.

(2) Published notice. To comply under this method, the company must, at least thirty days before the stated effective date of the proposed change, publish notice of the proposed change within the geographical areas where it offers service. To meet minimum publication requirements, a company must:

(a) Distribute copies of the published notice to community agencies and organizations in the geographic area where the company offers service for posting and publication by the agency or organization. The company must include in its distribution list any agency or organization that requests these notices;

(b) Cause to be printed in large print, as a paid advertisement, a complete copy of the published notice in the daily newspaper of general circulation with the greatest number of subscribers in each geographic area or each of the areas affected by the proposed tariff;

(c) Provide to the news editor of every newspaper, television station, and radio station, in the geographic area within which it offers service a news release or public service announcement summarizing the published notice. The release or announcement must include a toll-free number that customers can use to obtain more information from the company. The commission will maintain a list of area newspa-

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pers, television and radio stations and will provide it on request to any company; and

(d) Post a complete copy of the published notice on an Internet web site accessible to the public using generally available browser software.

(3) Reduced publication with shortened notice to individual customers. To comply under this method, the company must:

(a) Mail the posting to each customer that would be affected by the proposed change at least fifteen days before the stated effective date of the proposed change;

(b) At the time of the company's filing with the commission, distribute copies of the published notice in the same manner as provided in subsection (2)(a) of this section;

(c) At the time of the company's filing with the commission, provide news media notice in the same manner as provided in subsection (2)(c) of this section; and

(d) At the time of the company's filing with the commission, post a complete copy of the published notice in the same manner as provided in subsection (2)(d) of this section.

(4) Content of postings. The published notice required by this rule must include, when applicable:

(a) The date the notice is issued;

(b) The company's name and address;

(c) A brief explanation of the reason(s) the company has requested the rate change (e.g., increase in labor costs, recovery of new plant investment, and increased office expenses, such as postage and customer billing);

(d) A comparison of current and proposed rates by service;

(e) An example showing the monthly increase of the average customer's bill based on the proposed rates (e.g., "based on the proposed rates, a typical telephone customer using an average of twenty minutes of local toll service would see an average monthly increase of $0.85.");

(f) When the rates will be billed (i.e., monthly or bimonthly);

(g) The requested effective date and, if different, the implementation date;

(h) A statement that the commission has the authority to set final rates that may vary from the company's request, which may be either higher or lower depending on the results of the investigation;

(i) A description of how customers may contact the company if they have specific questions or need additional information about the proposal; and

(j) Public involvement language. A company may choose from:

(i) Commission-suggested language that is available from the commission's designated public affairs officer; or

(ii) Company-developed language that must include the commission's mailing address, toll-free number, and docket number, if known, and a brief explanation of:

(A) How to participate in the commission's process by mailing or faxing a letter, or submitting an e-mail; and

(B) How to contact the commission for process questions or to be notified of the scheduled open meeting at which the proposal will be considered by the commission.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.180. WSR 02-11-081 (Docket No. U-991301, General Order No. R-498), § 480-120-194, filed 5/14/02, effective 6/17/02.]

WAC 480-120-195 Notice of tariff changes other than increases in recurring charges and restrictions in access to services. (1) This section applies to tariff changes for other than those that are subject to WAC 480-120-194.

(2) A company that files a tariff change to increase any charge that a customer may incur without being quoted a rate or price (e.g., late payment fees, insufficient fund charges, or a one-time charge) must provide notice to each affected customer or with the first bill after the change becomes effective.

(a) At a minimum, the notice must include the effective date, a clear description of changes to rates or services and a company contact number where customers may seek additional information.

(b) Methods of notice permitted include a bill insert, bill message, printing on the billing envelope, a separate mailing to all affected customers or, if the company has the capability and the customer has authorized, by e-mail.

(3) A company that files a tariff change that decreases rates, including promotions that temporarily waive recurring or nonrecurring charges, or that changes terms or conditions without restricting access to the service, must publish the change in the manner it posts tariffs under WAC 480-120-193.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.180. WSR 02-11-081 (Docket No. U-991301, General Order No. R-498), § 480-120-195, filed 5/14/02, effective 6/17/02.]

WAC 480-120-197 Adjudicative proceedings where public testimony will be taken. (1) For adjudicated proceedings, when scheduling a hearing to take testimony from the public, the timing, location, and amount of notice to the public or to customers will be addressed in the prehearing conference order.

(2) The notice must include all information contained in WAC 480-120-194(4), except the public involvement information in WAC 480-120-194 (4)(j). A company must include either of the following public involvement language:

(a) Commission-suggested language that is available from the commission's designated public affairs officer; or

(b) Company-developed language that must include the commission's mailing address, toll-free number, docket number, and a brief explanation:

(i) How to participate in the commission's process by mailing or faxing a letter, or submitting an e-mail;

(ii) How to contact the commission for process questions; and

(iii) The date, time and location of the public hearing.

(3) Methods of notice permitted include a bill insert, bill message, printing on the billing envelope, a separate mailing to all affected customers or, if the company has the capability and the customer has authorized, by e-mail.

(4) In addition to each affected customer, a company must notify at least one newspaper of general circulation, and at least one radio station and at least one television station in the area or each of the areas affected.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.180. WSR 02-11-081 (Docket No. U-991301, General Order No. R-498), § 480-120-197, filed 5/14/02, effective 6/17/02.]
WAC 480-120-198 Notice verification and assistance. (1) Within ten days of making a filing requiring posting, publication, or customer notice under WAC 480-120-194, 480-120-195, or 480-120-197, but no sooner than when the tariff is filed with the commission, a company must file a statement with the commission's records center that the required notice has been posted, published, and/or mailed. The declaration must include:
(a) The methods used to post, publish, and/or give notice to customers;
(b) When and how the notice was posted, published, and/or issued to customers;
(c) How many customers are affected; and
(d) A copy of the notice.
(2) A company may request assistance from the commission's designated public affairs officer with efforts to comply with WAC 480-120-193 through 480-120-197.


WAC 480-120-199 Other customer notice. The commission may require notice to customers of changes other than those described in these rules when the commission determines that additional customer education is needed.


PART VI. CUSTOMER INFORMATION

WAC 480-120-202 Customer proprietary network information. (1) The commission adopts by reference the Federal Communications Commission's rules codified at sections 64.2003 through 64.2009 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations (47 C.F.R. §§ 64.2003 through 64.2009), concerning protection of Customer Proprietary Network Information, for application to all telecommunications carriers providing wireline, intrastate telecommunications service in Washington. The effective date for these sections is stated in WAC 480-120-999 (Adoption by reference).

(2) Telecommunications carriers providing wireline, intrastate telecommunications service in Washington shall provide the commission with the same notice that carriers are required to provide to the Federal Communications Commission under 47 C.F.R. § 64.2009(f).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-202, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/1/05.]

WAC 480-120-217 Using privacy listings for telephone solicitation. (1) A local exchange company may not make telephone solicitation or telemarketing calls using its list of customers with nonpublished or unlisted numbers unless it has notified each such customer at least once in the past year that the company makes such calls to its customers with nonpublished or unlisted numbers and that the customer has a right to direct that the company make no such calls.

(2) When the company provides the notice required in subsection (1) of this section in writing, the notice must include a toll-free number and an electronic mail address the customer may use to state that solicitation should not be made.

(3) When the company provides the notice in subsection (1) of this section by phone call, the customer must be informed that inclusion in a solicitation list may be declined and if declined, the company must not make any additional solicitation.

(4) If a company uses or provides subscriber list information for purposes other than directory publishing or compliance with 47 U.S.C. Sec. 251(b)(3), it must exclude from use or disclosure the subscriber list information of any customer who subscribes to a privacy listing, including a nonpublished or unlisted number, or who directs the company to exclude subscriber list information relating to his or her service.


PART VII. TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

WAC 480-120-251 Directory listings. (1) Basic local exchange service includes access to directory listings comprised of the name, address, and primary telephone number for each customer that the local exchange company (LEC) serves in a local calling area unless the customer requests to exclude some or all of this information from the LEC's directory listings.

(2) A LEC must ensure that its basic local exchange service customers have access to directory listings for the customers' local calling area by making those listings available electronically via a document, data base, or link on the LEC's web site. The LEC also must distribute or arrange to distribute printed directory listings to all of the LEC's customers who request a printed directory. A LEC is not otherwise required to distribute a printed directory.

(3) If the LEC distributes or arranges for a third-party to distribute printed directory listings to the LEC's customers who have not requested a printed directory, the LEC must not distribute or arrange to distribute printed directory listings to any customer who requests not to receive a printed directory.

(4) A LEC must establish or arrange for reasonable means for its customers to request to exclude some or all of their information from the LEC's directory listings and to request to receive, or not to receive, a printed directory.

(5) The directory listings must be updated no less frequently than every fifteen months.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 13-09-051 (Docket UT-120451, General Order R-570), § 480-120-251, filed 4/16/13, effective 5/17/13; WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-251, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-253 Automatic dialing-announcing device (ADAD). (1) An automatic dialing and announcing device (ADAD) is a device that automatically dials telephone numbers and plays a recorded message once a connection is made.

(2) "Commercial solicitation" means an unsolicited initiation of a telephone conversation for the purpose of encouraging a person to purchase property, goods, or services.
(3) This rule regulates the use of ADADs for purposes other than commercial solicitation. RCW 80.36.400 prohibits the use of an ADAD for purposes of commercial solicitation intended to be received by telephone customers within the state.

(4) This rule does not apply to the use of ADADs by government agencies to deliver messages in emergency situations.

(5) Except for emergency notification as provided for in subsection (6) of this section, an ADAD may be used for calls to telephone customers within the state only if:

(a) The recorded message states the nature of the call, identifies the individual, business, group, or organization for whom the call is being made, and telephone number to which a return call can be placed;

(b) The ADAD automatically disconnects the telephone connection within two seconds after the called party hangs up the receiver; and

(c) The ADAD does not dial designated public service emergency telephone numbers as listed in published telephone directories, or any telephone number before 8:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.

(6) An emergency ADAD may be connected to the telephone network and used only if:

(a) The ADAD contains sensors that will react only to a steady tone of at least four seconds duration, broadcasts only on frequencies allocated by the FCC for emergency services, and is designed to prevent accidental triggering of emergency calls;

(b) The ADAD provides some audible tone or message that alerts the user that the device has been activated and will automatically dial the preprogrammed emergency number unless manually deactivated within thirty to forty-five seconds;

(c) The ADAD provides for disconnection within two seconds when the called party performs a predetermined function;

(d) The ADAD satisfies applicable state safety requirements; and

(e) The user registers the instrument with, and receives written approval for, its use from the emergency service entity to which an automatic call would be directed, secures from such entity an approved telephone number or numbers to be programmed into the instrument, and does not program the instrument to dial unlisted numbers, law enforcement numbers, or E911 emergency response numbers.

(7) Before any ADAD may be operated while connected to the telephone network, the potential ADAD user, unless it is a facilities-based LEC using its own facilities, must notify, in writing, the LEC whose facilities will be used to originate calls. The notice must include the intended use of the ADAD equipment, the calendar days and clock hours during which the ADADs will be used, an estimate of the expected traffic volume in terms of message attempts per hour and average length of completed message, and written certification that the equipment can effectively preclude calls to unlisted telephone numbers, designated public service emergency numbers, or any number or series of numbers on a list of telephone customers that may be in the future designated by tariff, regulation, or statute, as customers who are not to receive ADAD calls.

(a) The ADAD user must notify the LEC in writing within thirty days of any changes in the ADAD operation that would result in either an increase or decrease in traffic volume.

(b) For new applications for ADADs, the LEC must review the statement of intended use of ADAD equipment to determine whether there is a reasonable probability that use of the equipment will overload its facilities and may refuse to provide connections for the ADADs or may provide them subject to conditions necessary to prevent an overload.

(8) A LEC may suspend or terminate service to an ADAD user if the LEC determines that the volume of calling originated by the ADAD is degrading the service furnished to others. The LEC must provide at least five days' notice before suspending or terminating service, unless the ADAD creates an overload in the LEC's switching office, in which case it may terminate service immediately, with no prior notice.

(9) If a LEC learns that a customer is using an ADAD in violation of the provisions of this rule, the LEC must suspend or terminate the service of any ADAD user five days after the ADAD user receives a termination notice or immediately, with no prior notice, if use of the ADAD creates overloading in a LEC's switching office.

(10) Each LEC must maintain records of any ADAD equipment a user reports to the LEC as being connected to its facilities. If requested by the commission, the LEC must provide the name of the individual business, group, or organization using the ADAD, their address, and the telephone number or numbers associated with the ADAD.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-253, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05; WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-253, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-254 Telephone solicitation. (1) Local exchange companies (LECs) must notify customers of their rights under RCW 80.36.390 with respect to telephone solicitation.

(2) For purposes of this section, "telephone solicitation" means the unsolicited initiation of a telephone call by a commercial or nonprofit company to a residential customer for the purpose of encouraging that person to purchase property, goods, or services or soliciting donations of money, property, goods, or services. "Telephone solicitation" does not include:

(a) Calls made in response to a request or inquiry by the called party. This includes calls regarding an item that has been purchased by the called party from the company or organization during a period not longer than twelve months prior to the telephone contact;

(b) Calls made by a not-for-profit organization to its own list of bona fide or active members of the organization;

(c) Calls limited to polling or soliciting the expression of ideas, opinions, or votes; or

(d) Business-to-business contacts.

(3) Each LEC must provide notice by annual bill inserts mailed to its residential customers or by conspicuous publication of the notice in the consumer information pages of its directories that clearly informs customers, at a minimum, of at least the following rights under the law:
(a) Within the first thirty seconds, solicitors must identify themselves, the company or organization on whose behalf the call is being made, and the purpose of the call;

(b) Under Washington law residential customers have the right to keep telephone solicitors from calling back. If, at any time during the conversation, the customer requests not to be called again and to have the customer's name and telephone number removed from the calling list used by the company or organization making the telephone solicitation, the then:

The company or organization must not allow a solicitor to call the customer on its behalf for at least one year; and

(c) Companies. The company or organizations must not sell or give the customer's name and or telephone number to another company or organization; and

(d) The office of the attorney general is authorized to enforce this law. In addition, individuals may sue the solicitor for a minimum of one hundred dollars per violation. If the lawsuit is successful, the individual may also recover court and attorney's fees.

(i) To file a complaint, or request more information on the law, the customer may write to the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office at 900 Fourth Ave., Suite 2000, Seattle, Washington 98164-1012 or by e-mail at protect@atg.wa.gov. Consumers may also call the division weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at 1-800-551-4636.

(ii) When the customer files a complaint, the customer should include the name and address of the individual, business, group, or organization, the time the calls were received, the nature of the calls, and any additional information available.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-254, filed 12/12/07, effective 1/1/08.]

WAC 480-120-255 Information delivery services. (1) For purposes of this section:

"Information-delivery services" means telephone recorded messages, interactive programs, or other information services that are provided for a charge to a caller through an exclusive telephone number prefix.

"Information provider" means the persons or corporations that provide the information, prerecorded message, or interactive program for the information-delivery service.

"Interactive program" means a program that allows a caller, once connected to the information provider's announcement machine, to access additional information by using the caller's telephone.

(2) Local exchange companies (LECs) offering access to information-delivery services must provide each residential customer the opportunity to block access to all information delivery services offered by that company.

(3) The LEC must inform residential customers of the blocking service through a bill insert and publication of a notice in a conspicuous location on the company's web site or in the consumer information pages of the local white pages telephone directory. The LEC must include in the notice and bill insert the residential customers' rights under the law to request blocking a statement that these services often are called "900" numbers, and the telephone number to call to request blocking.

(4) Any company that provides billing, customer service, or collection services for an information provider must require, as a part of its contract for that service, that the information provider include in any advertising or promotion a prominent statement of the cost to the customer of the information service.


WAC 480-120-256 Caller identification service. The company that provides caller identification service must provide its retail customers the capability of blocking the delivery of their numbers, names, or locations both on a per call basis and on a per line basis. The company must not charge a monthly fee or per call fee for caller identification blocking. The company must not charge a nonrecurring fee for caller identification blocking:

(1) When the service is requested at the time an access line is connected;

(2) The first time the service is added to an access line; or

(3) The first time the service is removed from an access line.


WAC 480-120-257 Emergency services. (1) At least once every twenty-four hours, each local exchange company and each interexchange company owning, operating, or maintaining any portion of any dedicated 911 circuit must manually test, for continuity, the portion of the 911 circuit which it operates, operates, or maintains. This section does not apply to any dedicated 911 circuit, or portion thereof, if either (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection is satisfied:

(a) The circuit is carried by a transmission system (e.g., T-1 carrier) that is equipped with one or more alarms to detect loss of signal continuity;

(b) The circuit is equipped with one or more alarms to detect loss of signal continuity; or

(c) The circuit is automatically tested for signal continuity at least once every twenty-four hours.

(2) Any dedicated 911 circuit found to be defective must be immediately reported to the primary public safety answering point (PSAP) manager, and repairs must be undertaken promptly and pursued diligently by the company that has responsibility for operating or maintaining the circuit, or both. Companies are not required to repair any portion of any dedicated 911 circuit that they do not own, operate, or maintain.

(3) Each company must ensure that all dedicated 911 circuits and associated electronic equipment serving govern-
mental emergency response agencies are clearly identified in the central office and the remote switch.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-257, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

**WAC 480-120-258 Collocation. (1) Definitions.**

"CLEC" means a competing local exchange carrier that orders collocation from an ILEC.

"Collocation" means the ability of a CLEC to place equipment, including microwave equipment, within or upon an ILEC's premises.

"Deliver" or "delivery date" means the point when the ILEC turns the collocation space and related facilities over to the CLEC and the space and facilities are ready for service. Deliver or delivery includes, but is not necessarily limited to, providing the CLEC with access to the collocation space for collocation other than virtual collocation, as well as providing power, telephone service, and other services and facilities ordered by the CLEC for provisioning by the delivery date.

"ILEC" means an incumbent local exchange carrier that is required to provide collocation.

"ILEC premises" means an ILEC wire center, central office, or any other location owned and/or controlled by the ILEC at which interconnection with the ILEC's network or access to ILEC unbundled network elements is technically feasible.

"Points of interface (POI)" means the demarcation between the networks of an ILEC and a CLEC. The POI is the point where the ex-change of traffic takes place.

(2) ILEC response to CLEC order for collocation. Within ten calendar days of receipt of an order for collocation, an ILEC must notify the CLEC whether sufficient space exists in the ILEC premises to accommodate the CLEC's collocation requirements. As part of that notification, the ILEC must also notify the CLEC of any circumstance that may delay delivery of the ordered collocation space and related facilities.

(3) Provisioning collocation. If the ILEC notifies a CLEC that sufficient space exists to accommodate the CLEC's order for collocation, the following procedures apply:

(a) Within twenty-five calendar days of receipt of the order, the ILEC must provide the CLEC with a written quote detailing the nonrecurring and recurring charges applicable to provisioning the ordered collocation. After providing the written quote and upon reasonable notice of a request by the CLEC, the ILEC must permit the CLEC at least one accompanied site visit to the designated collocation space without charge to the CLEC, to enable the CLEC to verify and inspect the space the ILEC offers for collocation. The CLEC's acceptance of the written quote and payment of one-half of the nonrecurring charges specified in the quote must be within seven calendar days and does not preclude the CLEC from later disputing the accuracy or reasonableness of those charges.

(b) If the ordered collocation space was included in a periodic forecast submitted by the CLEC to the ILEC at least three months in advance of the order, the ILEC must complete construction of, and deliver, the ordered collocation space and related facilities within forty-five calendar days after the CLEC's acceptance of the written quote and payment of one-half of the nonrecurring charges specified in the quote.

(c) If the ordered collocation space was not included in a periodic forecast submitted by the CLEC to the ILEC at least three months in advance of the order, the commission declines to apply the forty-five calendar day interval in (b) of this subsection and the national standards adopted by the FCC shall apply.

(d) Following any initial notification as required in subsection (2) of this section, the ILEC must notify the CLEC of any change in circumstances as soon as the ILEC is aware of those circumstances and must take all reasonable steps to avoid or minimize any delays caused by those circumstances including, but not limited to, joint provisioning of collocation elements by the ILEC and CLEC, or sole construction by the CLEC, through a mutually acceptable third-party contractor.

(e) If the ILEC fails to deliver the collocation space by the required delivery date, the ILEC must credit the CLEC in an amount equal to one-tenth of the total nonrecurring charge for the ordered collocation for each week beyond the required delivery date. Recurring charges will not begin to accrue for any element until the ILEC delivers that element to the CLEC. To the extent that a CLEC self-provisions any collocation element, the ILEC may not impose any charges for provisioning that element.

(f) The ILEC must provide periodic notices to the CLEC during construction of the CLEC's collocation space, including scheduled completion and delivery dates. At least thirty calendar days prior to the scheduled delivery date, the ILEC must provide the CLEC with sufficient information to enable the ILEC and the CLEC to establish firm common language location identifier (CLLI) codes and any other codes necessary to order interconnection and cross-connection circuits for the equipment the CLEC intends to collocate, and the ILEC must accept and process CLEC orders for such circuits. The ILEC must provide points of interface (POIs) and other circuits concurrent with delivery of the collocation space and related facilities, unless the CLEC agrees to a later date.

(g) The ILEC must conduct an inspection with the CLEC of the collocation space at least five business days prior to completion of construction of the collocation space. The ILEC must correct any deviations to the CLEC's original or jointly amended requirements after the inspection, at the ILEC's sole expense.

(h) Upon order of the CLEC and concurrent with delivery of the collocation space and related facilities, the ILEC must provide basic telephone service to the collocation space under the rates, terms, and conditions of the ILEC's current tariff offering for the service ordered. The ILEC must also provide CLEC employees, contractors, and representatives with reasonable access to basic facilities, such as restroom facilities and parking, while at the ILEC premises.

(4) Denial of order for collocation. If the ILEC notifies a CLEC that insufficient space exists to accommodate the CLEC's order for collocation, the following procedures apply:

(a) As part of its notification of lack of space, the ILEC must notify the CLEC if any space is available for collocation and, if so, how much space is available. The ILEC must also verify that the ILEC cannot reclaim space for collocation by...
consolidating or removing inactive or underutilized equipment.

(b) The ILEC must permit the CLEC to tour the ILEC premises within fourteen calendar days of the CLEC’s written request.

(c) If the CLEC notifies the ILEC that it contests the denial of an order for collocation, the ILEC must, within twenty-five calendar days of the notification, file a petition asking the commission to determine that the space requested by the CLEC is not available. Upon request and execution of an appropriate confidentiality agreement, the ILEC must also provide a copy of the petition to the CLEC. The ILEC must prepare the petition at its sole expense, and the petition must include the following information:

(i) Central office CLLI, where applicable;
(ii) Ordering CLEC, including the amount of space sought by the CLEC;
(iii) Written inventory of active, inactive, and underutilized equipment, including the signatures of ILEC personnel certifying the accuracy of the information provided;
(iv) Color-coded floor plans that identify office space work areas, provide spatial dimensions to calculate the square footage for each area, and locate inactive and underutilized equipment;
(v) Narrative of the central office floor space use;
(vi) Total amount of space occupied by interconnecting collocators for the sole purpose of interconnection;
(vii) Total amount of space occupied by third parties for purposes other than interconnection, and a narrative of the space use;
(viii) The number of central office employees employed and job titles;
(ix) Description of central office renovation/expansion plans and time frames for completion;
(x) Description of conversion of administrative, maintenance, equipment, and storage space plans and time frames for completion; and
(xi) Description of any internal policies for conversion of administrative, maintenance, equipment, and storage space in central offices.

(d) The commission will decide any petition filed under (c) of this subsection through an expedited proceeding conducted in accordance with the relevant procedural requirements and time lines established in WAC 480-07-650. The ILEC bears the burden to prove to the commission that the ordered collocation is not practical for technical reasons or because of space limitations. The ILEC may be relieved of its obligation to provide collocation at a particular ILEC premises only to the extent expressly provided by commission order.

(e) Each ILEC must maintain a list of all of its central offices in Washington in which insufficient space exists to accommodate one or more types of collocation. The list must specify which types of collocation are unavailable in each office and whether the commission has approved the ILEC’s denial of collocation in that office. The ILEC must post this list on its publicly accessible web site and provide a copy of the list to any CLEC upon request. The ILEC must update this list within ten business days of: (i) Denying a CLEC’s order for collocation; (ii) the service date of any order from the commission approving or disapproving such a denial; (iii) providing notice to CLECs previously denied collocation that space has become available in a central office; or (iv) obtaining knowledge through any other means that space for one or more types of collocation is no longer available or has become available in a particular central office.

(f) Each ILEC must maintain for each central office a waiting list of all unfilled orders for collocation space and the date of each order. After an ILEC has announced that one or more types of collocation space are not available in an office, any CLEC may submit a letter of intent to order collocation space in lieu of a collocation order, and this letter of intent must be included on the waiting list. If space for collocation becomes available in any central office, the ILEC must inform all CLECs, that ordered collocation or submitted a letter of intent to order collocation, of the availability of that space and must provide each such CLEC with fifteen calendar days to renew its original collocation order. The ILEC must provision collocation to these CLECs on a first-come, first-served basis according to the dates on which each ordered collocation or submitted a letter of intent to collocate in that central office.


**WAC 480-120-259 Washington telephone assistance program.** (1) The commission will set by order the telephone assistance rate to be paid by program participants for local service. Every wireline eligible telecommunications company (ETC) must offer the telephone assistance rates and discounts in accordance with RCW 80.36.410 through 80.36.470.

(2) No change of service charge shall be charged to an eligible subscriber for the establishment of service under the telephone assistance program.

(3) Local exchange companies shall maintain their accounting records so that expenses associated with the telephone assistance program can be separately identified.


**WAC 480-120-261 Operator services.** (1) An operator service provider must protect the confidentiality of all communications it carries, processes, or transmits unless otherwise authorized by law.

(2) Each operator service provider must develop procedures its employees must follow to provide operator assistance to customers, ensure that when automated operator services are provided by it, customers can access a live operator, ensure that call timing for operator-assisted calls provided by its operators is accurately recorded, and ensure that its operators receiving 0- and E911 calls are capable of routing calls in a manner that will allow access to the proper local emergency service agency and connecting calls twenty-four hours a day.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-261, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

[Ch. 480-120 WAC p. 34]
WAC 480-120-262 Operator service providers (OSPs).  (1) Only for the purpose of this section:

"Consumer" means the party paying for a call using operator services. For collect calls, a consumer is both the originating party and the party who receives the call.

"Customer" means the call aggregator or pay phone service provider (PSP) contracting with an operator service provider (OSP) for service, such as hotel, motel, hospital, correctional facility, prison, campus, or similar entity.

"Operator service provider (OSP)" means any corporation, company, partnership, or person providing a connection to intrastate or interstate long-distance or to local services from locations of call aggregators.

"Operator services" means any telecommunications service provided to a call aggregator location that includes automated or live assistance to consumers in billing or completing (or both) telephone calls, other than those billed to the number from which the call originated or those completed through an access code used to bill a consumer's account previously established with the company.

This section applies to OSPs providing operator services from pay phones and other call aggregator locations. Each OSP must maintain a current list of the customers it serves in Washington and the locations and telephone numbers where the service is provided.

(2) Posted disclosure. OSPs must post clearly, legibly, and unobstructed, on or near the front of the pay phone the presubscribed OSP's name, address, and toll-free number, as registered with the commission. This information must be updated within thirty days after a change of OSPs. OSPs must post a notice to consumers that they can access other long distance companies and, in contrasting colors, the commission compliance number for consumer complaints and the following information:

"If you have a complaint about service from this pay phone and are unable to resolve it by calling the repair or refund number or operator, please call the commission at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)."

(3) Oral disclosure of rates. This subsection applies to all calls from pay phones or other call aggregator locations, including, but not limited to, prison phones and store-and-forward pay phones. When a collect call is placed, both the consumer placing the call and the consumer receiving the call must be given the rate quote options required by this section.

(a) Oral rate disclosure message required. Before an operator-assisted call from a call aggregator location can be connected by an OSP (whether by a presubscribed or other provider), the OSP must first provide an oral rate disclosure message to the consumer. If the charges to the consumer do not exceed the benchmark rate in (f) of this subsection, the oral rate disclosure message must comply with the requirements of (b) of this subsection. In all other instances, the oral rate disclosure message must comply with the requirements of (c) of this subsection.

(b) Rate disclosure method when charges do not exceed benchmark. The oral rate disclosure message must state that the consumer may receive a rate quote and explain the method of obtaining the quote. The method of obtaining the quote may be by pressing a specific key or keys, but no more than two keys, or by staying on the line. If the consumer follows the directions to obtain the rate quote, the OSP must state all rates and charges that will apply if the consumer completes the call.

(c) Rate disclosure method when rates exceed benchmark. The oral rate disclosure message must state all rates and charges that will apply if the consumer completes the call.

(d) Charge must not exceed rate quote. If the OSP provides a rate quote pursuant to either (b) or (c) of this subsection, the charges to the user must not exceed the quoted rate. If a consumer complains to the commission that the charges exceeded the quoted rate, and the consumer states the exact amount of the quote, there will be a rebuttable presumption that the quote provided by the complaining consumer was the quote received by the consumer at the time the call was placed or accepted.

(e) Completion of call. Following the consumer's response to any of the above, the OSP must provide oral information advising that the consumer may complete the call by entering the consumer's calling card number.

(f) Benchmark rates. An OSP's charges for a particular call exceed the benchmark rate if the sum of all charges, other than taxes and fees required by law to be assessed directly on the consumer, would exceed, for any duration of the call, the sum of fifty cents multiplied by the duration of the call in minutes plus fifty cents. For example, an OSP's charges would exceed the benchmark rate if any of these conditions were true:

(i) Charges for a one-minute call exceeded one dollar;
(ii) Charges for a five-minute call exceeded three dollars; or
(iii) Charges for a ten-minute call exceeded five dollars and fifty cents.

(4) Access. Pay phones must provide access to the services identified in WAC 480-120-263(3).

(5) Branding. The OSP must identify audibly and distinctly the OSP providing the service at the beginning of every call, including an announcement to the called party on collect calls. The OSP must ensure that the call begins no later than immediately following the prompt to enter billing information on automated calls and on live and automated operator calls, when the call is initially routed to the operator. The OSP must state the name of the company as registered with the commission (or its registered "doing business as" name) whenever referring to the OSP. When not necessary to identify clearly the OSP, the company may omit terms such as "company," "communications," "incorporated," or "of the Northwest."

(6) Billing. The OSP must provide to the billing company applicable call detail necessary for billing purposes and an address and toll-free number for consumer inquiries. The OSP must ensure that consumers are not billed for calls that are not completed. For billing purposes calls must be itemized, identified, and rated from the point of origination to the point of termination. An OSP may not transfer a call to another company unless the call can be billed from the point of origin. The OSP must provide specific call detail upon request, in accordance with WAC 480-120-161 (Form of bills). Charges billed to a credit card need not conform to the call detail requirements of that section.

(3/26/15)
(7) **Operational capabilities.** The OSP must answer at least ninety percent of all calls within ten seconds of the time the call reaches the company's switch. The OSP must maintain adequate facilities in all locations so the overall blockage rate for lack of facilities, including the facilities for access to consumers' preferred interexchange companies, does not exceed one percent in the time-consistent busy hour. Should excessive blockage occur, the OSP must determine what caused the blockage and take immediate steps to correct the problem. The OSP must reoriginate calls to another company upon request and without charge when technically able to accomplish reorigination with screening and allow billing from the point of origin of the call. If reorigination is not available, the OSP must provide dialing instructions for the consumer's preferred company.

(8) **Fraud protection.**

(a) A company may not bill a call aggregator for:

(i) Charges billed to a line for originating calls using company access codes, toll-free access codes, or originating calls that otherwise reach an operator position if the originating line subscribed to outgoing call screening or pay phone specific ANI coding digits and the call was placed after the effective date of the outgoing call screening or pay phone specific ANI coding digits order; or

(ii) Collect or third-number-billed calls if the line serving the call that was billed had subscribed to incoming call screening (also termed "billed number screening") and if the call was placed after the effective date of the call screening service order.

(b) The access line provider must remove from the call aggregator's bill any calls billed through the access line provider in violation of this subsection. If investigation by the access line provider determines that the pertinent call screening or pay phone specific ANI coding digits was operational when the call was made, the access line provider may return the charges for the call to the company as not billable.

(c) Any call billed directly by an OSP, or through a billing method other than the access line provider, which is billed in violation of this subsection, must be removed from the call aggregator's bill. The company providing the service may request an investigation by the access line provider. If the access line provider determines that call screening or pay phone specific ANI coding digits (which would have prevented the call) was subscribed to by the call aggregator and was not operational at the time the call was placed, the OSP must bill the access line provider for the call.

(9) **Suspension.** The commission may suspend the registration of any company providing operator services if the company fails to meet minimum service levels or to provide disclosure to consumers of protection available under chapter 80.36 RCW and pertinent rules.

Except as required by federal law, no provider of pay phone access line service may provide service to any OSP whose registration is suspended.


**WAC 480-120-263 Pay phone service providers (PSPs).** (1) A local exchange company (LEC) within the state of Washington must allow pay phone service providers (PSPs) to connect pay phones to its network, and a LEC must file a tariff with the commission to include the rates and conditions applicable to providing service to pay phones via its network. For services provided to pay phones pursuant to competitive classification, information about such services must be made available in accordance with WAC 480-120-266 (Information about telecommunications services provided pursuant to competitive classification).

(2) **Registration and application of rules.**

(a) PSPs operating a pay phone within the state of Washington must register by:

(i) Submitting a master business application to the master license service, department of licensing; and

(ii) Obtaining a unified business identifier (UBI) number. A PSP that already has a UBI number need not reapply.

(b) Except where pay phone services or PSPs are specifically referenced, the rules of general applicability to public service companies or telecommunications companies do not apply to pay phone services. This does not exempt PSPs from rules applicable to complaints and disputes (WAC 480-120-165), or remedies or sanctions for violations of rules applicable to PSP operations.

(3) **Access.** At no charge to the calling party, pay phones must provide access to:

(a) Dial tone;

(b) Emergency services by dialing 911 without the use of a coin or entering charge codes;

(c) Operator;

(d) Telecommunications relay service calls for the hearing-impaired;

(e) All available toll-free services; and

(f) All available interexchange companies, including the LEC.

(4) **Disclosure.** PSPs must post clearly and legibly, in an unobstructed location on or near the front of the pay phone:

(a) The rate for local calls, including any restrictions on the length of calls in thirty point or larger type print or a different and contrasting color;

(b) Notice that directory assistance charges may apply, and to ask the operator for rates;

(c) Notice that the pay phone does not make change, if applicable;

(d) The emergency number (E911);

(e) The name, address, phone number, and unified business identifier (UBI) number of the owner or operator;

(f) A toll-free number to obtain assistance if the pay phone malfunctions, and procedures for obtaining a refund;

(g) The name, address, and toll-free number of all pre-subscribed operator service providers (OSPs), as registered with the commission. This information must be updated within thirty days of a change in the OSP. Refer to WAC 480-120-262 for OSP definition and rules;

(h) Notice to callers that they can access other long distance companies;

(i) The phone number of the pay phone, including area code. When the pay phone is in an area that has had an area code change, the area code change must be reflected on the pay phone within thirty days of the area code conversion; and
(j) In contrasting colors, the commission compliance number for customer complaints, to include the following information:

"If you have a complaint about service from this pay phone and are unable to resolve it by calling the repair or refund number or operator, please call the commission at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)."

(5) Operation and functionality. A PSP must order a separate public access line (PAL) for each pay phone installed. The commission may waive this requirement if a company demonstrates that technology accomplishes the same result as a one-to-one ratio by means other than through a PAL, that the service provided to customers is fully equivalent, and that all emergency calling requirements are met. This PAL must pass the appropriate screening codes to the connecting company to indicate that the call is originating from a pay phone. In addition:

(a) The pay phone, if coin operated, must return coins to the caller in the case of an incomplete call and must be capable of receiving nickels, dimes, and quarters.

(b) Pay phone keypads must include both numbers and letters.

(c) Where enhanced 911 is operational, the address displayed to the public safety answering point (PSAP) must be that of the phone instrument if different from the public access line demarcation point and the phone number must be that of the pay phone. To comply with this subsection, PSPs must provide an emergency response location (ERL) to the LEC supplying the PAL within two working days of establishing the location, or changed location, of the phone instrument. The ERL must provide sufficient information to aid emergency personnel in the rapid location of the phone instrument, e.g., building floor number, compass quadrant (e.g., northeast corner), and room number.

(d) Extension telephones may be connected to a PAL only for the purpose of monitoring emergency use. The pay phone must be clearly labeled to indicate that "911 calls are monitored locally." An extension phone must be activated only when 911 is dialed from the pay phone, and must be equipped with a "push to talk" switch or other mechanism to prevent inadvertent interruption of the caller's conversation with the PSAP.

(e) Cordless and tabletop pay phones may be connected to the telephone network only when the bill is presented to the user before leaving the premise where the bill was incurred, unless the customer requests that the call be alternatively billed.

(f) Pay phones may not restrict the number of digits or letters that can be dialed.

(g) Pay phones may provide credit-only service, or coin and credit service.

(h) Pay phones must provide two-way service, and no charge may be imposed by the PSP for incoming calls. Exceptions to two-way service are allowed under the following circumstances:

(i) Service provided to hospitals and libraries where a telephone ring might cause undue disturbance;

(ii) Service provided within a building on the premises of a private business establishment, at the discretion of the business owner. For purposes of this section, premises where people have access to public transportation such as airports, bus and train stations are not considered private business establishments; and

(iii) Service at locations where local governing jurisdictions or law enforcement find that incoming calls may be related to criminal or illicit activities and have provided proper notice under subsection (6) of this section. Each pay phone restricted to one-way service must be clearly marked on or near the front of the pay phone with information detailed in subsection (6) of this section.

(6) Restrictions. A PSP may only limit the operational capabilities of a pay phone when a local governing jurisdiction or other governmental agency submits a notice to the commission using prescribed forms a minimum of ten days prior to the restriction. Restrictions may include, but are not limited to, blocking incoming calls, limiting touch-tone capabilities, and coin restriction during certain hours. The notice must be signed by an agent of the local governing jurisdiction in which the pay phone is located who has authority to submit the request, and must state the jurisdiction's reasons for the restriction. A copy of the notice must also be served on the PSP no later than ten days prior to the restriction.

The requestor must post a notice prominently visible at the pay phone(s) ten days prior to the proposed restriction. The notice must explain what is proposed and how to file an objection with the governing agency.

Once the restriction is in place, the PSP must post on or near each restricted pay phone, in legible and prominent type, a description of each limitation in effect, the times when the restrictions will be in effect, and the name and toll-free number of the governmental agency recommending the restriction.

(7) Telephone directories. The provider of the PAL must furnish without charge one current telephone directory each year for each PAL. The PSP must ensure that a current directory is available at every pay phone.

(8) Malfunctions and rule violations. The PSP must correct, within five days, malfunctions of the pay phone or rule violations reported to the repair or refund number or the commission.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-504), § 480-120-263, filed 3/27/07, effective 4/27/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-263, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-264 Prepaid calling services. (1) For the purposes of this section, prepaid calling services (PPCS) means any transaction in which a customer pays for service prior to use and applies only to those services where the number of available minutes decreases as the customer uses the service. Prepaid calling services do not include flat-rated basic local service that is billed in advance of use.

(a) PPCS may require the use of an access number or authorization code.

(b) This section excludes credit cards and cash equivalent cards. Services provided at pay telephones using these cards are regulated under the provisions of WAC 480-120-263 (Pay phone service providers (PSPs)).
(2) PPCS providers must provide customers a without-charge telephone number staffed by personnel capable of:

(a) Responding to technical problems or questions related to their service twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;

(b) Responding to general account-related questions during regular business hours; and

(c) Providing the commission's toll-free number and address to dissatisfied customers as required by WAC 480-120-165 (Customer complaints).

(3) Billing requirements for PPCS.

(a) A PPCS provider may charge only for the actual time a circuit is open for conversation. The tariff and presale document must define billing increments. The provider must not round up the length of conversation time for less than a full billing increment beyond that full increment.

(i) If a PPCS provider uses an increment based on a time measurement, the increment must not exceed one minute.

(ii) If a PPCS provider bills usage in "unit" measurements, it must clearly define units using both equivalent dollar amounts and time measurement. Unit billing increments cannot exceed the equivalent one minute rate.

(b) At the customer's request, a PPCS provider may add additional time to an existing account in exchange for an additional payment at a rate not to exceed those on file on tariff with the commission or at rates, terms and conditions pursuant to competitive classification. The PPCS provider must inform the customer of the new rates at the time of the recharge request.

(4) PPCS providers must maintain the following call-data for a minimum of twenty-four months:

(a) Dialing and signaling information that identifies the inbound access number called or the access identifier;

(b) The number of the originating phone when the information is passed to the PPCS provider;

(c) The date and time the call was originated;

(d) The duration or termination time of the call;

(e) The called number; and

(f) The personal identification number (PIN), or account number.

(5) Disclosure requirements - Prepaid calling services.

(a) A PPCS provider must disclose, prior to the sale, the following information:

(i) The PPCS provider's name as registered with the commission;

(ii) The "doing business as" name as registered with the commission, if applicable;

(iii) The maximum charge per billing increment. A PPCS provider charging varying rates for intrastate, interstate, and international calls must disclose all applicable rates;

(iv) The number of minutes or the value of the service and the rates from which the minutes may be determined;

(v) Charges for all services, including any applicable surcharges, fees, or taxes, and the method of application;

(vi) Expiration date, if applicable. If a service expires after a set period of time from activation, the PPCS provider must specify the expiration date of the service. If an expiration date is not disclosed, the service will be considered unexpired indefinitely; and

(vii) Recharge policy, if applicable. If a PPCS provider does not disclose the expiration date at the time service is recharged, the service will be considered unexpired indefinitely.

(b) A PPCS provider must disclose, at the time of purchase, the following information:

(i) The without-charge telephone number(s) a customer may use to resolve technical problems, service-related questions, and general account-related questions; and

(ii) Authorization code, if required, to access the service or, if applicable, the without-charge telephone number used to establish access capability.

(c) The information required to be disclosed in this subsection must be in the language in which the service is advertised.

(d) If the PPCS provider issues a card, all information contained in this subsection, with the exception of international rates, must be disclosed on the card or its packaging. International rates must be disclosed on the card, on its packaging, or via a without-charge telephone number. Disclosures required in (a)(i) and (vi), (b)(i) and (ii) of this subsection must be on the card.

(e) If the PPCS provider is not the entity that packages the services for sale to the public, it must require the company that does so, through a written agreement, to comply with the disclosure requirements of this section.

(6) Time of use disclosure requirements. The PPCS provider must:

(a) Announce at the beginning of each call the time remaining on the prepaid account or prepaid calling card; and

(b) Announce the time remaining at least one minute before the prepaid account balance is depleted.

(7) When a PPCS provider has failed to provide service at rates disclosed prior to the sale or quoted at the time an account is recharged, or the PPCS provider has failed to meet performance standards, it must provide refunds for any unused service or provide equivalent service credit when requested by a customer. Refunds or credits must equal the value remaining on the prepaid calling account. The customer may choose either the refund or equivalent service credit option.

(8) Performance standards for prepaid calling services. Each PPCS provider must ensure that:

(a) Customers can complete a minimum of ninety-eight percent of all call attempts to the called party's number. The PPCS provider will consider any busy signals or unanswered calls as completed calls.

(b) Customers can complete a minimum of ninety-eight percent of all call attempts to the PPCS provider. The PPCS provider will not consider any busy signals or unanswered calls as completed calls.

WAC 480-120-265  Local calling areas. (1) Customers must make requests for expanded local calling areas under RCW 80.04.110 (the commission's complaint statute).

(2) The commission will order expansion of local calling areas only for compelling reasons. The commission will generally rely on long distance competition, local competition, and optional calling plans that assess additional charges only to participating customers, to meet customer demand for alternate or expanded calling.

In evaluating requests for expanded local calling, the commission will consider whether the local calling area is adequate to allow customers to call and receive calls from community medical facilities, police and fire departments, city or town government, elementary and secondary schools, libraries, and a commercial center.

The commission will consider the overall community-of-interest of the entire exchange, and may consider other pertinent factors such as customer calling patterns, the availability and feasibility of optional calling plans, and the level of local and long distance competition.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-265, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-266  Information about telecommunications services provided pursuant to competitive classification. (1) Rates, terms and conditions for telecommunications services offered pursuant to competitive classification must conform to all applicable laws, rules, and orders.

(a) The commission does not review or approve rates, terms and conditions of services offered pursuant to competitive classification.

(b) The commission will, when appropriate, investigate or complain against a rate, term or condition provided pursuant to competitive classification.

(c) If the commission determines that a rate, term or condition for service offered pursuant to competitive classification is ambiguous, there is a rebuttable presumption that the ambiguity should be construed in favor of the customer unless the rate, term or condition was not proposed by the company.

(2) Following an inquiry or complaint from the public concerning rates, terms and conditions for competitive telecommunications services, a carrier shall specify where to obtain pertinent information, and how to contact the commission.

(3) The rates, charges, and prices of services classified as competitive under RCW 80.36.330 must cover the cost of providing the service. Costs must be determined using a long-run incremental cost analysis, including as part of the incremental cost, the price charged by the offering company to other telecommunications companies for any essential function used to provide the service, or any other commission-approved cost method.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.040, 80.04.160 and chapter 80.04 RCW. WSR 07-08-027 and 07-10-017 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-540), § 480-120-266, filed 3/27/07 and 4/20/07, effective 4/27/07 and 5/21/07.]

PART VIII. FINANCIAL RECORDS AND REPORTING RULES

WAC 480-120-339  Streamlined filing requirements for Class B telecommunications company rate increases. (1) A Class B company, as defined in WAC 480-120-021 (Definitions), may use the streamlined treatment described in this section for seeking a general rate increase, as an alternative to the requirements in WAC 480-07-510 (General rate proceedings—Electric, natural gas, pipeline, and telecommunications companies).

(2) General information required. A Class B company seeking streamlined treatment for a proposed general rate increase must submit the following information at the time of filing or prior to its first notice to customers, whichever occurs first:

(a) A copy of its customer notice as specified in subsection (6) of this section.

(b) A results-of-operations statement, on a commission basis, demonstrating that the company is not presently exceeding a reasonable level of earnings. If the company is exceeding a reasonable level of earnings, the proposed increase must be reduced accordingly.

(c) All supporting documentation used to develop the results-of-operations statement, including supporting documentation for all adjustments.

(d) The results-of-operations statement filed under this subsection must include Washington intrastate results of operations and total Washington results of operations. If a company cannot provide Washington intrastate results of operations with reasonable accuracy, the commission may consider the total Washington results of operations including the interstate jurisdiction.

(3) Adjustments provided for in the results of operations.

(a) The results-of-operations statement must provide restating actual adjustments and pro forma adjustments in accordance with (b) of this subsection.

(b) Before the achieved return is calculated, a company must adjust the booked results of operations for restating actual and pro forma adjustments, including the following:

(i) Nonoperating items;

(ii) Extraordinary items;

(iii) Nonregulated operating items; and

(iv) All other items that materially distort the test period.

(4) Rate design. A Class B company filing pursuant to this section must clearly describe the basis for allocating any revenue requirement change proposed by customer class (e.g., residential, business, and interexchange).

(5) Customer notice. The company must notify customers consistent with the manner outlined in WAC 480-120-194 (Publication of proposed tariff changes to increase charges or restrict access to services), and must include the following information:

(a) The proposed increase expressed in:

(i) Total dollars and average percentage terms; and

(ii) The average monthly increases the customers in each category or subcategory of service might reasonably expect;

(b) The name and mailing address of the commission and public counsel;

[Ch. 480-120 WAC p. 39]
(c) A statement that customers may contact the commission or public counsel with respect to the proposed rate change; and

(d) The date, time, and place of the public meeting, if known.

(6) Final action. The commission will ordinarily take final action on a filing under this section within ninety days after the date of filing.

(7) The commission may decline to apply the procedures outlined in this section if it has reason to believe that:

(a) The quality of the company's service is not consistent with its public service obligations; or

(b) A more extensive review is required of the company's results of operations or proposed rate design.

(8) Nothing in this rule will be construed to prevent any company, the commission, any customer, or any other party from using any other procedures that are otherwise permitted by law.


WAC 480-120-349 Retaining and preserving records and reports. (1) Companies must keep all records and reports required by these rules or commission order for three years unless otherwise specified in subsection (2) of this section. No records may be destroyed before the expiration of three years or the time specified in subsection (2) of this section, whichever is applicable.


WAC 480-120-352 Washington Exchange Carrier Association (WECA). (1) The Washington Exchange Carrier Association (WECA) may:

(a) File petitions with the commission;

(b) Publish and file tariffs with the commission; and

(c) Represent before the commission those members that so authorize. WECA's rules of procedure are on file with the commission's records center.

(2) Subject to all the procedural requirements and protections associated with company filings before the commission, WECA must submit to the commission:

(a) All initial WECA tariffs; and

(b) All changes to the tariffs.

(3) A member of WECA may file directly with the commission:

(a) Tariffs and contracts;

(b) Revenue requirement computations;

(c) Revenue objectives or petitions for distribution from the "state universal communications services program" filed in accordance with WAC 480-123-110;

(d) Universal service support cost calculations;

(e) Total service long run incremental cost studies;

(f) Competitive classification petition;

(g) Other reports; or

(h) Any other item it or the commission deems necessary.

(4) The commission has the authority to supervise the activities of WECA. However, such supervision will not compromise the independent evaluation by the commission of any filing or proposal that must be submitted to the commission for approval.

(5) Each local exchange company in the state of Washington has the option of using WECA as its filing agent, tariff bureau, or both. Companies using WECA collectively may file intrastate rates, tariffs, or service proposals.

(6) Nothing in this section will be construed as amending or modifying WECA's current methods of administration.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.122 RCW, RCW 19.122.053, 80.01.040, and 80.04.160. WSR 15-08-043 (Docket UT-140680, General Order R-580), § 480-120-352, filed 3/26/15, effective 4/26/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.36.010, 80.36.110, 80.36.320, 80.36.330, 80.36.333, 80.36.338, 80.01.-040 and 80.04.160. WSR 07-08-027 (Docket UT-060676, General Order R-540), § 480-120-352, filed 2/27/07, effective 4/27/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160 and 34.05.353. WSR 05-06-051 (Docket No. A-021178 and TO-030288, General Order No. R-518), § 480-120-352, filed 2/28/05, effective 3/31/05.]

WAC 480-120-359 Accounting for telecommunications companies not classified as competitive. (1) (a) For accounting purposes, each company not classified as competitive must use the Uniform System of Accounts (USOA) for Class A and Class B Telephone Companies published by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and designated as Title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 32 (47 C.F.R. 32, or Part 32). The effective date for Part 32 is stated in WAC 480-120-999 (Adoption by reference).

(b) Class B companies may use Class A accounting, but Class A companies must not use Class B accounting.

(2) The commission modifies Part 32 as follows:


(b) Each company not classified as competitive must keep subsidiary records to reflect Washington intrastate differences when the commission imposes accounting or rate-making treatment different from the accounting methods required in subsection (1) of this section. Each company not classified as competitive must maintain subsidiary accounting records for:

(i) Residential basic service revenues;

(ii) Business basic service revenues;

(iii) Access revenues for each universal service rate element;

(iv) Special access revenues; and

(v) Switched access revenues.

(c) Each company not classified as competitive that has multistate operations must keep accounting records that provide Washington results of operations. The methods used to
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determine Washington results of operations must be acceptable to the commission.

(d) Part 32 section 32.11(a) is replaced by WAC 480-120-034 (Classification of local exchange companies as Class A or Class B).

(e) Part 32 section 32.11 (d) and (e) are replaced by WAC 480-120-034.

(f) Any reference in Part 32 to "Class A" or "Class B" means the classification as set out in WAC 480-120-034.

(3) This rule does not dictate intrastate ratemaking.

WAC 480-120-379 Transfers of property. Before selling, leasing, or assigning any of its property or facilities which are necessary or useful in the performance of its duties to the public, or before acquiring property or facilities of another public utility, a telecommunications company subject to the provisions of chapter 80.12 RCW must obtain from the commission an order authorizing such transaction in accordance with chapters 80.12 RCW (Transfers of property) and 480-143 WAC (Commission general—Transfers of property).

WAC 480-120-382 Annual report for competitively classified telecommunications companies. The commission will distribute an annual report form including a regulatory fee form. A competitively classified company must:

(1) Complete both forms, file them with the commission, and pay its regulatory fee, no later than May 1 of each year;

(2) Provide total number of access lines as required on the annual report form;

(3) Provide income statement and balance sheet for total company;

(4) Provide revenues for Washington and Washington intrastate operations subject to commission jurisdiction;

(5) Keep accounts using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), or any other accounting method acceptable to the commission. In addition, the accounts must allow for the identification of revenues supporting subsection (4) of this section; and

(6) Regulatory fees. The telecommunications annual regulatory fee is set by statute at one-tenth of one percent of the first fifty thousand dollars of gross intrastate operating revenue plus two-tenths of one percent of any gross intrastate operating revenue in excess of fifty thousand dollars.

(a) The maximum regulatory fee is assessed each year, unless the commission issues an order establishing the regulatory fee at an amount less than the statutory maximum.

(b) The minimum regulatory fee that a company must pay is one hundred fifty dollars.

(c) The commission does not grant extensions for payment of regulatory fees.

(d) If a company does not pay its regulatory fee by May 1, the commission will assess an automatic late fee of two percent of the amount due, plus one percent interest for each month the fee remains unpaid.

(e) The commission may take action to revoke a company's registration certificate if it fails to pay its regulatory fee.

WAC 480-120-385 Annual report for telecommunications companies not classified as competitive. (1) Annual reports for companies not classified as competitive.

The commission will distribute an annual report form, a regulatory fee form, and financial information templates. A telecommunications company not classified as competitive must:

(a) Return the annual report and regulatory fee forms and pay its regulatory fee, no later than May 1 of each year;

(b) Provide total number of access lines (as required on the annual report form referred to in (a) of this subsection); and

(c) Complete the financial information templates. The financial information templates include income statement, balance sheet, and rate base items. The templates also include sections on total company and results of operations for Washington and Washington intrastate. The commission will provide the templates each year and the company must return the completed templates as follows:

(i) Class A companies must file the required financial information templates no later than May 1st each year.

(ii) Class B companies must file the required financial information templates no later than July 1st of each year.

(iii) Class B companies are not exempt from these filing requirements.

(2) Methods used to determine Washington intrastate results of operations must be acceptable to the commission.

(3) This rule does not supersede any reporting requirements specified in a commission rule or order, or limit the commission's authority to request additional information.

(4) Regulatory fees. The telecommunications annual regulatory fee is set by statute at one-tenth of one percent of the first fifty thousand dollars of gross intrastate operating revenue plus two-tenths of one percent of any gross intrastate operating revenue in excess of fifty thousand dollars.

(a) The maximum regulatory fee is assessed each year, unless the commission issues an order establishing the regulatory fee at an amount less than the statutory maximum.

(b) The minimum regulatory fee that a company must pay is one hundred fifty dollars.

(c) The commission does not grant extensions for payment of regulatory fees.

(d) If a company does not pay its regulatory fee by May 1, the commission will assess an automatic late fee of two percent of the amount due, plus one percent interest for each month the fee remains unpaid.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.122 RCW, RCW 19.122.053, 80.01.040, and 80.04.160. WSR 15-08-043 (Docket UT-140680, General Order R-580), § 480-120-382, filed 3/26/15, effective 4/26/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040(4), 81.04.160, and 34.05.353. WSR 06-08-057 (Docket A-060085, General Order No. R-531), § 480-120-382, filed 3/31/06, effective 5/1/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160 and 34.05.353. WSR 05-06-051 (Docket No. A-021178 and TO-030288, General Order No. R-518), § 480-120-382, filed 2/28/05, effective 3/31/05.]
PART IX. SAFETY AND STANDARDS RULES

WAC 480-120-401 Network performance standards. (1) Each LEC must meet the applicable network performance standards set forth in this section. The standards applied to each service quality measurement are the minimum acceptable quality of service under normal operating conditions. All performance standards apply to each central office individually and must be measured at or below that level. The performance standards do not apply to abnormal conditions, including, but not limited to work stoppage directly affecting provision of service in the state of Washington, holidays, force majeure, or major outages caused by persons or entities other than the local exchange company (LEC) or its agents.

(2) Switches. End-office switches, in conjunction with remote switches where deployed, must meet the following standards:

(a) Dial service. For each switch, companies must meet the following minimum standards during the switch's average busy-hour of the average busy season:

(i) Dial tone must be provided within three seconds on at least ninety-eight percent of calls placed; and

(ii) Ninety-eight percent of calls placed must not encounter an intraswitch blocking condition within the central office, or blocking in host-remote, or interoffice local trunks.

(b) Intercept. Central office dial equipment must provide adequate access to an operator or to a recorded announcement intercept to all vacant codes and numbers. Less than one percent of intercepted calls may encounter busy or no-circuit-available conditions during the average busy-hour of the busy-season.

(3) Interoffice facilities. Blocking performance during average busy-hour for ninety-nine percent of trunk groups for any month must be less than one-half of one percent for intertoll and intertandem facilities and less than one percent for local and EAS interoffice trunk facilities. The blocking standard for E911 dedicated interoffice trunk facilities must be less than one percent during average busy-hour of the average busy season. Two consecutive months is the maximum that a single trunk group may be below the applicable standard.

(4) Outside plant.

(a) Local loops. Each LEC must design, construct, and maintain subscriber loops to the standard network interface or demarcation point as follows:

(i) For voice grade, local exchange service loops must meet all performance characteristics specified in Section 4 of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Standard Telephone Loop Performance Characteristics. Information about this standard regarding the version adopted and where to obtain it is set forth in WAC 480-120-999.

(ii) For voice grade service, the circuit noise level on customer loops measured at the customer network interface must be equal to or less than 20.0 dBmC, except that digitized loops and loops in excess of 18,000 feet must have a noise level objective of less than 25.0 dBmC, and noise levels must not exceed 30 dBmC.

(b) Special circuits. Off-premise station circuit loss must not exceed 5.0 dB at 1004 Hz when measured between the customer switch demarcation and the customer station demarcation. LECs with over fifty thousand access lines must maintain design criteria for special circuits. Companies must make channel performance criteria available to customers upon request.

(c) Digital services. LECs must meet the availability objectives for digital private line circuit performance specified in the American National Standards for Telecommunications, "Network Performance Parameters for Dedicated Digital Services for Rates Up To and Including DS3 - Specifications." Information about this standard regarding the version adopted and where to obtain it is set forth in WAC 480-120-999. Upon request of a customer, a LEC may provide to that customer digital services that do not meet the performance standards set forth in (b) of this subsection.

(5) Service to interexchange carriers. LECs must provide service to interexchange carriers at the grade of service ordered by the interexchange carrier. At a minimum, each interexchange carrier must order sufficient facilities from each LEC such that no more than two percent of all calls are blocked at the LEC's switch.

(6) Companies must monitor the network performance of the equipment they own, operate, or share at frequent intervals so that adequate facilities can be designed, engineered and placed in service when needed to meet the standards of this section.

(7) Each Class A LEC must arrange and design incoming trunks to the primary repair service center so that traffic overflows during service interruptions can be redirected or forwarded to an alternate repair or maintenance service center location.

WAC 480-120-402 Safety. The plant and all facilities of utilities must be constructed and installed in conformity with good engineering practice and comply with the minimum standards as set out in the National Electric Safety Code. Information about this standard regarding the version adopted and where to obtain it is set forth in WAC 480-120-999 (Adoption by reference). All instrumentalities and equipment, including, but not limited to work stoppage directly affecting provision of service in the state of Washington, holidays, force majeure, or major outages caused by persons or entities other than the local exchange company (LEC) or its agents.

(1) Each local exchange company (LEC) must:

(a) Provide adequate maintenance to ensure that all facilities are in safe and serviceable condition;
(b) Correct immediately hazardous conditions endangering persons, property, or the continuity of service when found, reported, or known to exist;

(c) Promptly repair or replace broken, damaged, or deteriorated equipment, when found to be no longer capable of providing adequate service; and

(d) Correct promptly transmission problems on any channel when located or identified, including noise induction, cross-talk, or other poor transmission characteristics.

(2) Each LEC must install and maintain test apparatus at appropriate locations to determine the operating characteristics of network systems and provide sufficient portable power systems to support up to the largest remote subscriber carrier site. For the safe and continuous operation of underground cables, each LEC must establish air pressurization policies and an air pressurization alarm-monitoring program where appropriate.

(3) Central offices equipped with automatic start generators must have three hours' reserve battery capacity. Central offices without automatic start generators must have a minimum of five hours' reserve battery capacity. Central offices without permanently installed emergency power facilities must have access to readily connectable mobile power units with enough power capacity to carry the load and that can be delivered within one half of the expected battery reserve time. The company must retain a reasonable inventory of portable generators to maintain peripheral electronic equipment that is not connected to standby generation, for example, digital loop carrier, servers, etc.


WAC 480-120-412 Major outages. (1) All companies must make reasonable provisions to minimize the effects of major outages, including those caused by force majeure, and inform and train pertinent employees to prevent or minimize interruption or impairment of service.

(2) Notice to commission and public safety answering point (PSAP). When a company receives notice of or detects a major outage, it must notify the commission and any PSAP serving the affected area as soon as possible.

(3) Notice to county and state emergency agencies and coordination of efforts. When a major outage affects any emergency response facility, a company must notify immediately the county E911 coordinator and the state emergency management authorities, and provide periodic updates on the status of the outage. The company must coordinate service restoration with the state emergency management authorities if it requests it, and, if requested to do so by the commission, report daily to it the progress of restoration efforts until the company achieves full network recovery.

(4) Major outages repair priorities.

(a) Outages affecting PSAPs and emergency response agencies must receive attention first and be repaired as soon as possible.

(b) Companies must restore other services within twelve hours unless conditions beyond a company's reasonable ability to control prevent service restoration within twelve hours.

(c) Companies must restore outages to their facilities affecting intercompany trunk and toll trunk service within four hours after the problem is reported unless conditions beyond a company's reasonable ability to control prevent service restoration within four hours. If the problem is not corrected within four hours, the company must keep all other affected companies advised of the status of restoration efforts on a twice-daily basis.

(5) Information to public. Unless heightened security concerns exist, during major outage recovery efforts all companies must implement procedures to disseminate information to the public, public officials, and news media. All companies must provide a statement about the major outage that includes the time, the cause, the general location and approximate number of affected access lines, and the anticipated duration.

(6) Notice of intentional outage. When a company intends to interrupt service to such an extent that it will cause a major outage, it must make a reasonable effort to notify all customers who will have their telephone service affected and the state emergency management authorities not less than seven days in advance if circumstances permit or as soon as it plans to interrupt service if circumstances do not permit seven days' advance notice. A notice is not required for planned service interruptions that have a duration of less than five minutes and occur between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

(7) Records. All companies must keep a record of each major outage and a statement about the interruption that includes the time, the cause, the location and number of affected access lines, and the duration.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-412, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-414 Emergency operation. (1) Each company must maintain, revise, and provide to the commission the following:

(a) The titles and telephone numbers of the company's disaster services coordinator and alternates; and

(b) Upon request of the commission, the company's current plans for emergency operation, including current plans for recovery of service to governmental disaster recovery response agencies within the state of Washington.

(2) For coordination of disaster response and recovery operations, each company must maintain on file with the Washington state emergency management division the titles and telephone numbers of the managers of the company's:

(a) Local network operations center;

(b) Regional network operations center; or
c) Emergency operations center.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT-040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-414, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05; WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-414, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-436 Responsibility for drop facilities and support structure. (1) Initial provision of service to a premise with no existing drop facilities. Companies are responsible for designating the route of the drop facility and the type of support structure.

(3/26/15)
(a) Provision of drop facilities. The company is responsible for all work and materials associated with drop facilities.

(b) Provision of support structure. The company may require the applicant to provide a support structure that meets company standards. Once the company provides service, the company is responsible for maintenance and repair of the existing drop facilities and support structure as provided for in WAC 480-120-437.

(c) Nothing in this rule prohibits the company from offering the applicant an alternative to pay the company a tariffed rate or rate pursuant to competitive classification for provision of the support structure.

(2) Requests for initial service or additional service at a premise where all existing pairs within a drop facility are not in use. A company is responsible for all work and materials associated with the drop facilities and if applicable the support structure so long as the total number of lines requested by the customer does not exceed the original capacity of the drop facility.

Any work or materials associated with repair of abandoned or defective pairs is considered maintenance and repair under WAC 480-120-437.

(3) Requests for additional service to premises where all existing pairs within a drop facility are not in use or where the total number of lines requested by a customer exceeds the original capacity of the existing drop facility.

(a) The company is responsible for all costs, including the costs of work and materials, associated with placement of additional drop facilities.

(b) The company may require the applicant to provide a support structure for placement of the new drop facility.

(c) A company must use an existing support structure for placement of the new drop facility when:

(i) The support structure it is large enough to support placement of the new facility; and

(ii) It follows a path which remains suitable to the company; and

(iii) The customer makes the support structure accessible to the company (e.g., uncovers the entry to the conduit and removes any items that would impede the use of the conduit, such as tree roots).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-436, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-437 Responsibility for maintenance and repair of facilities and support structures. (1) Companies are responsible for all work, materials, and costs associated with reinforcing existing distribution plant, and repairing and maintaining existing distribution and drop facilities and support structures up to and including the standard network interface (SNI).

(b) The customer is responsible for maintaining facilities on the customer’s side of the SNI.

(2) A company, in its sole discretion, may determine to replace or reinforce any existing facilities or support structures for which it is responsible for maintenance or repair. If the company decides to replace existing facilities or support structures, all the work and materials associated with the installation of facilities and support structures is considered repair and maintenance, and not new construction.

(3) With respect to cost, subsection (1)(a) of this section does not apply when damage has been caused by a customer or third party, in which case, the company may charge that individual the cost of repair, maintenance, or replacement of company facilities and, if applicable, support structure. Nothing in this subsection is intended to limit the company’s ability to recover damages as otherwise permitted by law.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-437, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-438 Trouble report standard. Trouble reports by central office must not exceed four trouble reports per one hundred access lines per month for two consecutive months, or per month for four months in any one twelve-month period. This standard does not apply to trouble reports related to customer premise equipment, inside wiring, force majeure, or outages of service caused by persons or entities other than the local exchange company.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-438, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]

WAC 480-120-439 Service quality performance reports. (1) All companies must retain, for at least three years from the date they are created, all records that would be relevant, in the event of a complaint or investigation, to a determination of the company’s compliance with the service quality standards established by WAC 480-120-133 (Response time for calls to business office or repair center during regular business hours), 480-120-401 (Network performance standards), 480-120-411 (Network maintenance), and 480-120-440 (Repair standards for service interruptions and impairments, excluding major outages).

(2) Major outages report. Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, any company experiencing a major outage that lasts more than forty-eight hours must provide a major outage report to the commission within ten business days of the major outage. The major outages report must include a description of each major outage and a statement that includes the time, the cause, the location and number of affected access lines, and the duration of the interruption or impairment. When applicable, the report must include a description of preventive actions to be taken to avoid future outages. This reporting requirement does not include company-initiated major outages that are in accordance with the contract provisions between the company and its customers or other planned interruptions that are part of the normal operational and maintenance requirements of the company.

The commission staff may request oral reports from companies concerning major outages at any time and companies must provide the requested information.

(3) The commission may choose to investigate matters to protect the public interest, and may request further information from companies that details geographic area and type of service, and such other information as the commission requests.

[Ch. 480-120 WAC p. 44]
(4) If consistent with the purposes of this section, the commission may, by order, approve for a company an alternative measurement or reporting format for any of the reports required by this section, based on evidence that:

(a) The company cannot reasonably provide the measurement or reports as required;

(b) The alternative measurement or reporting format will provide a reasonably accurate measurement of the company's performance relative to the substantive performance standard; and

(c) The ability of the commission and other parties to enforce compliance with substantive performance standard will not be significantly impaired by the use of the alternative measurement or reporting format.

(5) Subsection (4) of this section does not preclude application for an exemption under WAC 480-120-015 (Exemptions from rules in chapter 480-120 WAC).


WAC 480-120-445 Damage reporting requirements.

(1) Facility operators and excavators, as defined in RCW 19.122.020 (10) and (11), who observe or cause damage to an underground facility must report the damage event to the commission using either the commission's web-based damage reporting tool or its successor, or the damage reporting form located on the commission's web site.

(a) Each report must include the subject matter set forth in RCW 19.122.053 (3)(a) through (n).

(b) If the facility operator believes that the excavation was started before a facilities locate was completed, the facility operator must also report the name, address, and phone number of the person or entity that the facility operator has reason to believe may have caused the damage. The facility operator must include this information in the comment section of the web-based damage reporting tool or send it to the commission separately. If the facility operator chooses to send the information separately, it must include sufficient information to allow the commission to link the name of the party believed to have caused the damage with the damage event reported through the damage reporting tool.

(c) Each facility operator must retain for a period of two years all damage claim records it creates related to damage events, including photographs and documentation supporting any conclusion under (b) of this subsection that a facilities locate was not timely completed, and it must make those records available to the commission upon request.

(2) Each facility operator must provide to an excavator who damages an operator's facility the following information set forth in chapter 19.122 RCW:

(a) Notification requirements for excavators under RCW 19.122.050(1);

(b) A copy of RCW 19.122.053; and

(c) Information concerning the safety committee referenced under RCW 19.122.130, including committee contact information, and the process for filing a complaint with the safety committee.

(3) In determining a facility operator's compliance with subsection (2) of this section, the commission will consider whether the facility operator made reasonable efforts to comply in light of the particular circumstances. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, concern for the safety of an employee, whether an excavator accepts the information provided by the facility operator, and whether the facility operator knows, or reasonably should know, the identity of the excavator.

(4) A facility operator conducting an excavation, or a subcontractor conducting an excavation on the facility operator's behalf, that strikes the facility operator's own underground facility is not required to report that damage event to the commission, pursuant to RCW 19.122.053(2).

[WAC 480-120-445 Enhanced 9-1-1 (E911) obligations of local exchange companies. "Private branch exchange (PBX)" means customer premises equipment installed on the customer's premises that functions as a switch, permitting the customer to receive incoming calls, to dial any other telephone on the premises, to access a tie trunk leading to another PBX or to access an outside trunk to the public switched telephone network.

"Data base management system (DBMS)" means a data base used by local exchange companies (LECs) to provide automatic location information (ALI) to public safety answering points (PSAPs).

"Emergency location identification number (ELIN)" means a telephone number that is used to route the call to a PSAP and is used to retrieve the automatic location information (ALI) for a PSAP.

"Emergency response location (ERL)" means a location to which a 911 emergency response team may be dispatched.

(1) Local exchange companies (LECs) must provide enhanced 9-1-1 (E911) services including:

(a) For single line service, the ability for customers to dial 911 with the call and caller's ELIN transmitted to the E911 selective router serving the location associated with the ERL for that line;

(b) For multiline customers, the ability for customers to dial 911 with common signal protocols available which permit the call and caller's ELIN to be transmitted to the E911 selective router serving the location associated with the ERL for that line;

(c) For pay phones served by pay phone access lines (PALs) the ability for customers to dial 911 with the call and the ELIN transmitted to the E911 selective router serving the location of the ERL for that line. The ELIN must be that of the pay phone.

(2)(a) LECs that provide or make available E911 data base management, whether directly or through contract, must provide to all PBX owners or their agents (including LECs) a simple, internet-based method to maintain customer records in the E911 data base, and the LEC may provide an option of...
a secure dial up access method for the PBX owner or agent to maintain customer records in the E911 database. The method must use a generally accepted national format for customer record information.

(b) LECs that provide or make available E911 database management, whether directly or through contract, must provide or make available to all other LECs a simple, internet-based method to maintain customer records in the E911 database for their non-PBX customers, and the LEC may provide an option of a secure dial up access or direct data link method for LECs to maintain customer records in the E911 database. The LEC may offer methods for maintaining station location information that are not internet-based in addition to the required internet-based method.

(c) LECs that provide pay phone access lines must maintain customer record information, including E911 and ERL information, for those access lines using a method required by (b) of this subsection. The LEC must forward the records to the data base manager within one business day of a record's posting to the company record system.

(d) For single line services, PBX main station lines, and pay phone lines, LECs must transmit updated location information records to the data base management system (DBMS) within one business day of those records being posted to the company record system.

The LEC must correct records that do not post to the DBMS because of address errors within two working days. If modifications are necessary to the audit tables of the master street address guide, the LEC must resubmit the record within one business day of notification that the master street address guide has been updated.

(e) The LEC or its agent administering the data base must resolve E911 database errors and inquiries, including selective routing errors, reported by county E911 data base coordinators or PSAPs within five working days of receipt.

(3) LECs choosing to provide E911 services including selective routing, data base management and transmission of the call to a PSAP must file with the commission tariffs and supporting cost studies that specify the charges and terms for E911 services.

(4)(a) The LEC must permit PBX customers who choose to maintain their own E911 data base or contract that maintenance to a third party, if the customer maintains the data in a generally accepted national format for customer record information.

(b) PBX customers who choose to not use LEC data base management may transmit, or have a third-party transmit, customer record information to their LEC's national data service gateway at no additional charge.

WAC 480-120-451 Local exchange carrier contact number for use by public safety answering points (PSAPs). All local exchange carriers (LECs) must provide a telephone number, which may include a number for a paging device, that public safety answering points (PSAPs) may use to reach a company representative with questions related to the accuracy of station location records. LECs must accept calls to the provided number at all times. LECs that provide a number for the paging device must respond within three minutes of the page.

All LECs must provide an E911 database maintenance contact who is available during business day hours to the county E911 database coordinators in those counties in which they provide service.

WAC 480-120-452 Reverse search by enhanced 9-1-1 (E911) public safety answering point (PSAP) of ALI/DMS database—When permitted. (1) A public safety answering point (PSAP) may make a reverse search of information in the automatic location identification (ALI/DMS) database when, in the judgment of the PSAP representative, an immediate response to the location of the caller or to the location of another telephone number reported by the caller is necessary because of an apparent emergency.

(2) Absent a judicial order, reverse search must not be used for criminal or legal investigations or other nonemergency purposes.

WAC 480-120-999 Adoption by reference. In this chapter, the commission adopts by reference all or portions of regulations and standards identified below. They are available for inspection at the commission branch of the Washington state library. The publications, effective dates, references within this chapter, and availability of the resources are as follows:

(1) American National Standards for Telecommunications - "Network Performance Parameters for Dedicated Digital Services for Rates Up To and Including DS3 - Specifications" (ATIS 0100510) is published by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

(a) The commission adopts the version in effect on December 29, 1999, and reaffirmed 2008.

(b) This publication is referenced in WAC 480-120-401 (Network performance standards).

(c) The American National Standards for Telecommunications "Network Performance Parameters for Dedicated Digital Services for Rates Up To and Including DS3 - Specifications" is a copyrighted document. Copies are available from ANSI in Washington, D.C. and from various third-party vendors.

(2) The Institute of Electrical And Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Standard Telephone Loop Performance Characteristics (ANSI/IEEE Std 820-2005) is published by the ANSI and the IEEE.

(a) The commission adopts the version in effect as published in 2005.

(b) This publication is referenced in WAC 480-120-401 (Network performance standards).
(c) The IEEE Standard Telephone Loop Performance Characteristics is a copyrighted document. Copies are available from ANSI and IEEE in Washington, D.C. and from various third-party vendors.

(3) The National Electrical Safety Code is published by the IEEE.

(a) The commission adopts the 2012 edition.

(b) This publication is referenced in WAC 480-120-402 (Safety).

(c) The National Electrical Safety Code is a copyrighted document. Copies are available from IEEE in Washington, D.C. and from various third-party vendors.


(a) For this publication as referenced in WAC 480-120-359 (Accounting requirements for companies not classified as competitive) and WAC 480-120-349 (Retaining and preserving records and reports), the commission adopts the version of the relevant sections in effect on October 1, 2012.

(b) For this publication as referenced in WAC 480-120-202 (Customer proprietary network information), WAC 480-120-146 (Changing service providers from one local exchange company to another), and any other reference in chapter 480-120 WAC except for WAC 480-120-359 and 480-120-349, the commission adopts the version of the relevant sections in effect on October 1, 2011.


[Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.122 RCW, RCW 19.122.053, 80.01.040, and 80.04.160. WSR 15-08-043 (Docket UT-140680, General Order R-580), § 480-120-999, filed 3/26/15, effective 4/26/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.353. WSR 13-05-023 (Docket A-121496, General Order R-569), § 480-120-999, filed 2/11/13, effective 3/14/13; WSR 12-05-063 (Docket A-111722, General Order R-564), § 480-120-999, filed 2/15/12, effective 3/17/12; WSR 11-04-041 (Docket A-101466, General Order R-562), § 480-120-999, filed 1/25/11, effective 2/25/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 10-07-094 (Docket A-091124, General Order R-558), § 480-120-999, filed 3/19/10, effective 4/19/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.353. WSR 09-01-0171 (Docket A-081419, General Order R-554), § 480-120-999, filed 12/23/08, effective 1/23/09; WSR 06-17-087 (Docket A-060475, General Order No. R-537), § 480-120-999, filed 8/14/06, effective 9/14/06; WSR 05-21-022 (Docket No. A-050271, General Order No. R-521), § 480-120-999, filed 10/10/05, effective 11/10/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.04.160. WSR 05-03-031 (Docket No. UT 040015, General Order No. R-516), § 480-120-999, filed 1/10/05, effective 2/10/05; WSR 03-01-065 (Docket No. UT-990146, General Order No. R-507), § 480-120-999, filed 12/12/02, effective 7/1/03.]