

Amendments to the General Provisions (GEN)

Chapter 7

Charging consumers for telephone calls

7.2 Call charges

Call charges rule

7.2.1 **R** A *firm* which operates a telephone line for the purpose of enabling a *consumer* to contact the *firm* in relation to a contract that has been entered into with the *firm*, must not bind the *consumer* to pay more than the basic rate for the telephone call.

7.2.2 **G** The contract entered into with the *firm* may be in writing or otherwise.

Meaning of basic rate

7.2.3 **R** For the purposes of the *call charges rule*, the basic rate is the simple cost of connection and must not provide the *firm* with a contribution to its costs or revenues.

7.2.4 **R** The following numbers, if used by *firms*, would comply with the *call charges rule*:

- (1) geographic numbers or numbers which are always set at the same rate, which usually begin with the prefix 01, 02 or 03;
- (2) calls which can be free of charge to call, for example 0800 and 0808 numbers; and
- (3) standard mobile numbers, which usually begin with the prefix 07, provided that the firm ordinarily uses a mobile number to receive telephone calls.

7.2.5 **R** The following numbers, if used by *firms*, would not comply with the *call charges rule*:

- (1) premium rate numbers that begin with the prefix 09;
- (2) other revenue sharing numbers in which a portion of the call charge can be used to either provide a service or make a small payment to the *firm*, such as telephone numbers that begin with the prefix 084 or 0871, 0872 or 0873; and
- (3) telephone numbers that begin with the prefix 0870 as the cost of making a telephone call on such numbers can be higher than a geographic cost and will vary depending on the *consumer's* telephone tariff.