

TELECOMMUNICATIONS RULES

(SECTION 59)³

[Commencement 19th June, 1948]

G.N. 118/1948
G.N. 191/1954
G.N. 185/1955
G.N. 103/1958
G.N. 12/1959
G.N. 48/1960
G.N. 79/1960
G.N. 282/1960
G.N. 106/1961
G.N. 226/1961
G.N. 68/1962
S.I. 134/1965

1. These Rules may be cited as the Telecommunica-
tions Rules.

Short title.
2. The various terms used in these Rules shall, if not
defined in the Telecommunications Act, have the meanings
assigned to them by the International Telecommunication
Convention, the International Telegraph Regulations,
Telephone Regulations, Radio Regulations, and regulations
concerning Aeronautical Telecommunications as in force
from time to time.

Interpretation.

PART I
TELEPHONE SERVICE ON THE
ISLAND OF NEW PROVIDENCE

3. Any person who desires to be supplied by the
Minister with telephone service shall make application
therefor in the Form A in the Schedule to these Rules.

Application.

Form A.
4. All equipment supplied by the Minister in pursu-
ance of a telephone service agreement shall remain the
property of the Department.

Equipment
remains property
of Department
5. The Director shall install service lines from an
existing cable junction box to the subscriber's premises for
the charge prescribed by these Rules if the distance does
not exceed three hundred feet where poles and an overhead
route are available or one hundred feet where such
facilities are not available.

Charge.

³ Originally made under section 29 of the Telecommunications Act, 1947, (No 18 of 1947) and continued in force by virtue of the provisions of section 59 of The Bahamas Telecommunications Act (Ch. 277 — Rev. Ed. 1987) which section is not reproduced in this Edition but which provides that rules so made and in force at the date of coming into operation of that Act shall, until repealed or replaced, be deemed regulations made by the Corporation under that Act and shall be read and construed with such adaptations and modifications as are necessary to bring them into conformity with the provisions of that Act. The Telecommunications Act (Ch. 304), which superseded The Bahamas Telecommunications Act, makes similar provision in section 40.

Charge in special circumstances.

6. Where the distance from an existing cable junction box to the subscriber's premises exceeds the distance mentioned in rule 5 the charge for installation of service lines shall be such as may be agreed upon between the Director and the subscriber.

Underground service lines.

7. Underground service lines may be installed from an existing cable junction box to the nearest point of entry to a subscriber's premises by the most direct route and where such underground service lines are specified these will be installed without extra charge for a length up to one hundred feet. Lines exceeding one hundred feet in length will be installed upon payment of such additional sum as may be agreed between the Director and the subscriber.

Nobody may alter telephone installation.

8. No person, whether a subscriber or not, shall add an extension or extra telephone to or alter the Department telephone installation in any premises.

Telephone contractor's licence.

9. A contractor desiring to undertake the wiring of buildings for installation of telephone service shall obtain from the Director a licence which the Director is hereby empowered to issue in the Form B in the Schedule to these Rules.

Form B.

Application for contractor's licence Form C.

10. Application for a contractor's licence shall be submitted in the Form C in the Schedule to these Rules.

To whom a licence may be issued.

11. The Director may issue a licence to any person of or over the age of twenty-one years who —

- (a) produces to him satisfactory evidence of proficiency in telephone installation work;
- (b) has been regularly employed as an electrician by an electrical contractor for a period of three years and has had experience of telephone wiring; and
- (c) in every way satisfies him that he is a fit and proper person satisfactorily to conduct the business of a licensed telephone contractor.

Duration of licence.

12. Every licence shall be issued for a period of six months in the first instance, at the termination of which the Director may in his absolute discretion continue or refuse to continue the licence. If the Director continues the licence it shall remain valid until the thirty-first day of December next following, and thereafter may be renewed annually upon application.

- 13.** Every licensed telephone contractor shall exhibit his licence at all times and such licence shall be exhibited at his usual place of business.

Licence to be exhibited.
- 14.** The director may cancel or refuse to renew the licence of a licensed telephone contractor who fails, in his opinion, to maintain the standards required of a licensed telephone contractor by these Rules.

Licence may be cancelled.
- 15.** No alteration, addition or removal of any part of any installation between the cable boxes of the Department and an instrument, shall be done by any person other than a licensed telephone contractor or a telephone linesman of the Department.

Alterations only to be done by certain persons.
- 16.** Upon completion of any such work the subscriber on whose behalf the work was effected shall notify the Director and unless and until the work passes such test as may seem necessary to the Director no connection shall be made to the telephone system.

Work must pass test before being connected.
- 17.** No alteration, addition or removal of any part of any installation on a subscriber's premises shall be made by any person other than a licensed telephone contractor or a telephone linesman of the Department and until the Department has been advised. The cost of any such alteration, addition or removal shall in all cases be borne by the subscriber.

Cost of alterations to be borne by subscriber.
- 18.** (1) On the termination of a telephone service agreement the subscriber shall surrender to the Minister the subscriber's line and all fixtures and accessories in as good condition as when received, ordinary wear and tear only excepted.

Termination of telephone service agreement.
- (2) A subscriber shall not, except with the written consent of the Director, assign, underlet or otherwise dispose of his agreement or any advantage or benefit thereunder.
- (3) When a subscriber's premises are occupied by a tenant such subscriber may request the Director in writing that the telephone service to the premises be discontinued but that the installation remain and the normal rental charges be made.

G.N. 68/1962.

5 of 1987, s. 2.
Form G.

(4) Where service is discontinued under paragraph (3) of this Rule tenants or occupiers may obtain telephone service on payment of a deposit fixed by the Director not being less than forty dollars. Thereupon all such tenants or occupiers may make overseas calls or may telephone telegrams to be charged to the appropriate telephone numbers. Application for such telephone service as aforesaid shall be made as prescribed in Form G in the Schedule to these Rules.

(5) The Director may withdraw any telephone service at any time due to non-payment of accounts.

Tenant may have right of transfer.

19. Where the tenant of any premises is the subscriber to the telephone, having himself requested and paid for the installation of the service, the tenant may on vacating the premises request the transfer of the service to any other premises. If such a transfer is not required the owner of the premises shall have the option of taking over the installation and of being listed as the subscriber. Where an installation has been made at the request of the owner who has paid the cost of installation, the tenant shall have no right of transfer even though the tenant is responsible for the telephone rent and is listed in the directory.

Notification of premises changing hands.

20. It shall be the responsibility of every subscriber to notify the Department in writing if the house or premises in which his telephone is installed is sold or otherwise changes hands, failing which he will continue to be liable for accounts and shall be deemed responsible for all charges.

Service may be disconnected.

21. The Director may disconnect temporarily the service wires to any premises at any time for the purpose of testing or for effecting alterations in the service and may cut off the service of any subscriber who is convicted of any offence against the Telecommunications Act or these Rules or against whom a complaint is laid to the Director that he is using the telephone system so as to cause annoyance to other subscribers.

No responsibility for delay.

22. Neither the Minister nor the Director shall be responsible for any delay in the service.

Report at once when telephone out of order.

23. Whenever a subscriber becomes aware that his telephone is out of order or is in any way defective he shall at once report the matter to Telephone Complaints (Dial 14).

24. A subscriber whenever required in writing by the Director shall furnish a correct written statement containing particulars of all telephones in his office, business place or residence.

Correct written statement
25. Every subscriber shall be responsible for the care and custody of all apparatus installed or supplied by the Department and situate on his premises or upon premises where his telephone is installed and shall pay on demand the certified cost of making good any loss, damage, removal, alteration or destruction of such apparatus.

Subscriber to be responsible for apparatus.
26. Any person who in a public call box does any of the following things —

 - (a) commits a nuisance;
 - (b) damages or defaces any part of the call box or any apparatus therein;
 - (c) removes any wire, instrument or book or other thing the property of the Minister,

shall be guilty of an offence against these Rules.

Offences in public call boxes.
- ⁴27. (1) When a subscriber requests that his telephone be transferred from one place to another, and because of a scarcity of lines or for any other reason, the transfer cannot be done, the subscriber may request that the telephone be disconnected and stored and the telephone number retained for him until such transfer can be effected. For this, the rental will be one-half of the normal rental.

(2) All telecommunications services supplied to a telephone subscriber shall be associated with the subscriber's telephone bills, and if any of these be not paid, as defined in rule 31, the telephone service will be disconnected.

(3) The business rate shall apply where the use of the telephone is of a business, professional, institutional or occupational nature.

(4) The residence rate shall apply where the telephone is used primarily for social or domestic purposes. Advertising residence class telephone numbers for business purposes automatically places the telephone in the business rate category.

Charges for service.
G.N. 12/1959.

⁴ See the Bahamas Telecommunications (Fees) Regulations.