

From: Megan Hayes
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2003 12:17 PM
To: 'Curtis Robinson'
Cc: Gary Richenaker (grichena@telcordia.com); Megan Campbell
Subject: RE: Use of *746 & *560 Codes

Mr. Curtis Robinson
Numbering Administrator
Office of Utilities Regulation
Jamaica

As you may be aware, there have been several attempts to coordinate the use of Vertical Service Codes (VSCs) in the countries served by the North American Numbering Plan and it is always in the best interests of the industry when coordination is accommodated.

However, to date the latest industry decision regarding the use and assignment of VSCs can be found in the Vertical Service Code Assignment Guidelines, 2000. The text below is extracted from the guidelines and addresses the points raised in your email:

VSCs are assigned to features or services to enable consistent accessibility throughout the PSTN. The purpose of common/standard VSCs is to minimize customer confusion and provide a standard service access approach for features and services within multiple individual networks (multi-network applications).

VSCs may be required and assigned for use across and/or among two or more networks on an inter-network basis (inter-network applications), where multiple networks must act upon a VSC in a consistent manner on a given call. Such assignments are to be made using the same VSC resource, but will be identified separately from multi-network applications. It is not the intent of these Guidelines to allocate any specific range of VSCs for exclusive inter-network or multi-network use.

These guidelines do not address VSCs used for single network applications (intra-network applications) within individual networks. Such proprietary usage is at the sole discretion and determination of the individual network.

In addition, Section 2.4 of the Assumptions and Constraints state that:

Inconsistency currently exists in the use of VSCs for specific features or services. These guidelines do not address or resolve this situation, but should be considered an attempt at standardizing future assignments to the extent possible or desirable. Therefore, the assignment of a VSC by NANPA for a particular service or feature should not be considered assurance the assigned code can be used without conflict anywhere in the NANP (North American Numbering Plan) area.

A complete text version of the Vertical Service Code Assignment Guidelines can be found at
<http://www.atis.org/pub/clc/inc/96080215.doc>.

In summary, there is no regulatory body that sanctions the use of VSCs and if the operators involved in the use of *746 and *560 have agreements amongst themselves to facilitate roaming in the Pam American Regional Consortium (PARC) they are not restricted nor are they in violation of the assignment guidelines. Any assignment conflicts that arise would need to be resolved with the operators themselves.

Megan Hayes
IOC and IFAST Secretariat