

199—22.1(476) General information.

22.1(1) *Application and purpose of rules.* These rules shall apply to any telecommunications service provider operating within the state of Iowa subject to Iowa Code chapter 476. These rules are intended to govern the exercise of the commission's powers and duties relating to the provision of telecommunications service in the state of Iowa, and to govern the form, contents, and filing of registrations, tariffs, and other documents necessary to carry out the commission's powers and duties.

22.1(2) *Definitions.* For the administration and interpretation of these rules, the following words and terms shall have the meanings indicated below:

"Alternative operator services company" or *"AOS company"* means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 476.91(1)"a."

"Calls" means telephone messages attempted by customers or users.

"Code of Federal Regulations" or *"CFR"* means the Code of Federal Regulations, which contains the general administrative rules adopted by federal departments and agencies, in effect as of April 9, 2025, unless a separate effective date is identified in a specific rule.

"Commission" means the Iowa utilities commission.

"Competitive local exchange carrier" or *"CLEC"* means any local exchange carrier that is not an incumbent local exchange carrier.

"Customer" means any person as defined in Iowa Code section 4.1(20) responsible by law for payment for communications service from the telecommunications service provider.

"Exchange" means a unit established by a telecommunications service provider for the administration of communications services.

"Exchange area" means the general area in which the telecommunications service provider holds itself out to furnish local exchange service.

"High-volume access service" or *"HVAS"* means any service that results in an increase in total billings for intrastate exchange access for a local exchange carrier in excess of 100 percent in less than six months. By way of illustration and not limitation, HVAS typically results in significant increases in interexchange call volumes and can include chat lines, conference bridges, call center operations, help desk provisioning, or similar operations. These services may be advertised to consumers as being free or for the cost of a long distance call. The call service operators often provide marketing activities for HVAS in exchange for direct payments, revenue sharing, concessions, or commissions from local telecommunications service providers.

"Incumbent local exchange carrier" or *"ILEC"* means a local exchange carrier, or its successor, that was the historical provider of local exchange service pursuant to an authorized certificate of public convenience and necessity within a specific geographic area described in maps approved by the commission as of September 30, 1992.

"Interexchange carrier" means a telecommunications service provider, a resale telecommunications service provider, or other entity that provides intrastate interexchange services, without regard to how such traffic is carried. A local exchange carrier that provides interexchange service may also be considered an interexchange carrier. An interexchange carrier that provides local exchange service may also be considered a local exchange carrier.

"Interexchange service" means the provision of intrastate telecommunications services and facilities between local exchanges.

"InterLATA toll service" means toll service that originates and terminates between local access transport areas.

"Internet protocol-enabled service" means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 476.95(1)"a."

"IntraLATA toll service" means toll service that originates and terminates within the same local access transport area.

"Intrastate access services" means services of telecommunications service providers that provide the capability to deliver intrastate telecommunications services that originate from end users to interexchange carriers and the capability to deliver intrastate telecommunications services from interexchange carriers to end users.

"Local exchange carrier" means a telecommunications service provider that provides local exchange service or exchange access.

“*Local exchange service*” means telecommunications service furnished between customers or users located within an exchange area.

“*Message*” means a completed telephone call by a customer or user.

“*Rates*” means amounts billed to customers for alternative operator services or intrastate access services.

“*Retail services*” means those communications services furnished by a telecommunications service provider directly to end-user customers. For an alternative operator services company, the terms and conditions of its retail services are addressed in an approved intrastate tariff.

“*Tariff*” means such rates, classifications, rules, procedures, policies, etc., adopted and filed with the commission by a telecommunications service provider to the extent required by state or federal law.

“*Telecommunications*” means the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user’s choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.

“*Telecommunications Act*” or “*federal Telecommunications Act*” means the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as of October 17, 2020.

“*Telecommunications service*” means the offering of telecommunications to the public for compensation, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available to the public, regardless of facilities used.

“*Telecommunications service provider*” or “*service provider*” means a provider of telecommunications service, except for a provider of commercial mobile radio service. A telecommunications service provider or service provider includes without limitation alternative operator service companies and providers of wholesale services. The commission’s jurisdiction over any Internet-protocol enabled services or provider of Internet-protocol enabled services shall be limited as provided in Iowa Code section 476.95.

“*Traffic*” means telephone call volume, based on number and duration of calls.

“*Voice over Internet protocol service*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 476.95(1)“c.”

“*Wholesale services*” means those communications services furnished by one telecommunications service provider to another provider of communications services. The terms and conditions of wholesale services may be addressed in a telecommunications service provider’s approved intrastate access tariff, local interconnection tariff, interconnection agreement reached under Sections 251 and 252 of the federal Telecommunications Act (2020), or in a commercial agreement reached between the providers. Nothing in this chapter affects, limits, modifies, or expands an entity’s obligations under Sections 251 and 252 of the federal Telecommunications Act (2020); any commission authority over wholesale telecommunications rates, services, agreements, interconnection, providers, or tariffs; or any commission authority addressing or affecting the resolution of disputes regarding compensation between telecommunications service providers.

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