68.504 Universal patent license agreement.
68.506 Configurations used to connect multi-line communications systems such as Private Branch Exchange (PBX) and key telephone systems.

AUTHORITY: 47 U.S.C. 154, 303.

Subpart A—General

AUTHORITY: Secs. 4, 5, 303, 48 Stat., as amended, 1066, 1068, 1082; (47 U.S.C. 154, 155, 303).

SOURCE: 45 FR 20841, Mar. 31, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

§ 68.1 Purpose.

The purpose of the rules and regulations in this part is to provide for uniform standards for the protection of the telephone network from harms caused by the connection of terminal equipment and associated wiring thereto, and for the compatibility of hearing aids and telephones so as to ensure that persons with hearing aids have reasonable access to the telephone network.

(47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 201–205, 218, 220, 313, 403, 412, and 5 U.S.C. 553)

[49 FR 21733, May 23, 1984]

§ 68.2 Scope.

(a) *General.* Except as provided for in paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k) of this section, the rules and regulations apply to direct connection:

(1) Of all terminal equipment to the public switched telephone network, for use in conjunction with all services other than party line service;

(2) Of all terminal equipment to channels furnished in connection with foreign exchange lines (customer-premises end), the station end of off-premises stations associated with PBX and Centrex services, trunk-to-station tie lines (trunk end only) and switched service network station lines (CCSA and EPSCS); and

(3) Of all of PBX (or similar) systems to private line services for tie trunk type interfaces, off-premises station lines, automatic identified outward dialing, and message registration. Services may only be added to this section as a result of rulemaking proceedings and the equipment connected to such added services is afforded a reasonable transition period.

(4) Of all customer premises wiring associated with one and two-line (non-system) residential and business telephone service.

(5) Of all terminal equipment to subrate and 1.544 Mbps digital services.

(6) Of registered terminal equipment or registered protective circuitry to Local Area Data Channels and to channels which are similar to Local Area Data Channels that are obtained as special assemblies.

(7) Of all terminal equipment or systems to voiceband private line channels for 2-point and multipoint private line services (excluding those identified in Category II, AT&T Tariff F.C.C. No. 260 or subsequent revisions) that utilize loop start, ringdown or inband signaling; or voiceband metallic channels.

(8) Of the types of test equipment specified in §68.3, Definitions.

(9) Of all terminal equipment to Public Switched Digital Service (PSDS) Type I, II or III.

(10) Of all terminal equipment to the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) Basic Rate Access (BRA) or Primary Rate Access (PRA).

(b) *Grandfathered terminal equipment (other than PBX and key telephone systems) and protective circuitry.* All terminal equipment (other than PBX and key telephone systems) and protective circuitry of a type directly connected to the public switched telephone network and services identified in §68.2(a)(2) as of October 17, 1977, may be connected thereafter up to July 1, 1979—and may remain connected for life—without registration unless subsequently modified.

(c) *Grandfathered systems (including, but not limited to, PBX and key telephone systems).* (1) Entire systems, including their equipment, premises wiring, and protective apparatus (if any) directly connected to the public switched telephone network and services identified in §68.2(a)(2) on June 1, 1978, may remain connected to the public switched telephone network and services identified in §68.2(a)(2) for life without registration, unless subsequently modified, except for modifications allowed under §68.2(c)(3).

(2) New installations of equipments may be performed (including additions to existing systems) up to January 1, 1980, without registration of any equipments involved, provided that these equipments are of a type directly connected to the public switched telephone network or services identified in §68.2(a)(2) as of June 1, 1978. These equipments may remain connected to the public switched telephone network or services identified in §68.2(a)(2) for life without registration, unless subsequently modified, except for modifications allowed under §68.2(c)(3).

(3) Modifications to systems and installations involving unregistered equipment:

(i) Use of other than fully-protected premises wiring is a modification under §68.2. As an exception to the general requirement that no modification is permitted to unregistered equipment whose use is permitted under §68.2, certain modifications are authorized herein.

(ii) Other than fully-protected premises wiring may be used if it is qualified in accordance with the procedures and requirements of §68.215. Since there is no ''registrant'' of unregistered equipment, the training and authority required by §68.215(c) will have to be received from the equipment's manufacturer.

(iii) Existing separate, identifiable and discrete protective apparatus may be removed, or replaced with apparatus of lesser protective function, provided that any premises wiring to which the public switched telephone network or service identified in §68.2(a)(2) is thereby exposed conforms to §68.2(c)(2) above. Minor modifications to existing unregistered equipments are authorized to facilitate installation or premises wiring, so long as they are performed under the responsible supervision and control of a person who complies with §68.215(c). Since there is no ''registrant'' of unregistered equipment, the training and authority required by §68.215(c) will have to be received from the manufacturer of the equipment so modified.

(d) *Grandfathered private branch exchange (or similar) systems for connection to private line type services (tie trunk type interfaces, off-premises station lines, automatic identified outward dialing, and message registration).* (1) PBX (or similar) systems, including their equipments, premises wiring, and protective apparatus (if any) directly connected to a private line type service on April 30, 1980 may remain connected to the private line type service for life without registration unless subsequently modified, except for modifications allowed under §68.2(d)(3).

(2) New installations of equipments may be performed (including additions to existing systems) up to May 1, 1983 without registration of any equipments involved, provided that these equipments are of a type directly connected to a private line type service as of April 30, 1980. These equipments may remain connected to the private line type service for life without registration, unless subsequently modified, except for modifications allowed under §68.2(d)(3).

(3) Modifications to systems and installations involving unregistered equipment:

(i) Use of other than fully-protected premises wiring is a modification under §68.2. As an exception to the general requirement that no modification is permitted to unregistered equipment whose use is permitted under §68.2, certain modifications are authorized herein.

(ii) Other than fully-protected premises wiring may be used if it is qualified in accordance with the procedures and requirements of §68.215. Since there is no ''registrant'' of unregistered equipment, the training and authority required by §68.215(c) will have to be received from the equipment's manufacturer.

(iii) Existing separate, identifiable and discrete protective apparatus may be removed, or replaced with apparatus of lesser protective function, provided that any premises wiring to which the private line type service is thereby exposed conforms to §68.2(d)(ii) above. Minor modifications to existing unregistered equipments are authorized to facilitate installation or premises wiring, so long as they are performed under the responsible supervision and control of a person who complies with §68.215(c). Since there is no ''registrant'' of unregistered equipment, the

training and authority required by §68.215(c) will have to be received from the manufacturer of the equipment so modified.

(e) *Grandfathered terminal equipment for connection to local area data channels.* All terminal equipment of a type directly connected to Local Area Data Channels or directly connected under special assembly tariff provisions to telephone company-supplied, non-loaded, metallic, greater-than-voiceband circuits for the purpose of providing limited distance data transmission as of February 10, 1986, may be connected thereafter up to August, 10, 1987, and may remain connected for life, without registration unless subsequently modified.

(f) *Grandfathered terminal equipment for connection to subrate and 1.544 Mbps digital services.* (1) Terminal equipment including premises wiring and protective apparatus (if any) directly connected to subrate or to 1.544 Mbps digital services on January 2, 1986, may remain connected and be reconnected to such digital services for life without registration, unless subsequently modified.

(2) New installations of terminal equipments, including premises wiring and protective apparatus (if any) may be installed (including additions to existing systems) up to June 30, 1987, without registration of any terminal equipment involved, provided that these terminal equipments are of a type directly connected to subrate or 1.544 Mbps digital services as of January 2, 1986. These terminal equipments may remain connected and be reconnected to such digital services for life without registration, unless subsequently modified.

(g) *Grandfathered test equipment.* (1) Test equipment directly connected to the telephone network on February 10, 1986, is considered to be grandfathered and may remain connected to the telephone network for life without registration unless subsequently modified.

(2) New installations of test equipment may be performed up to August 10, 1987 without registration, provided that the test equipment is of a type directly connected to the public switched network or services identified in §68.2(a)(1), (2), (3), (5), (6), and (7) for life without registration unless subsequently modified.

(h) *Grandfathered terminal equipment or systems for connection to voiceband private line channels for 2-point and multipoint private line services that utilize loop start, ringdown, or inband signaling; or voiceband metallic channels.* (1) Terminal equipment or systems, including premises wiring and protective apparatus (if any), directly connected to voiceband private lines for 2-point or multipoint service on February 10, 1986, may remain connected to that private line type service for life without registration unless subsequently modified, except for modifications allowed under §68.2(h)(3).

(2) New installations of equipments may be installed (including additions to existing systems) up to August 10, 1987 without registration of any equipments involved, provided that these equipments are of a type directly connected to voiceband private lines for 2-point or multipoint services. These equipments may remain connected to the private line-type service for life without registration, unless subsequently modified, except for modifications allowed under §68.2(h)(3).

(3) Modification to systems and installations involving unregistered equipment:

(i) Use of other than fully-protected premises wiring is a modification under §68.2. As an exception to the general requirements that no modification is permitted to unregistered equipment whose use is permitted under §68.2, certain modifications are authorized herein.

(ii) Other than fully-protected premises wiring may be used if it is qualified in accordance with procedures and requirements of §68.215. Since there is no ''registrant'' of unregistered equipment, the training and authority required by §68.215(c) will have to be received from the equipment's manufacturer.

(iii) Existing separate, identifiable, and discrete protective apparatus may be removed or replaced with apparatus of lesser protective function, provided that any premises wiring to which the private line service is thereby exposed conforms to §68.2(h)(3)(ii) of this section. Minor modifications to existing

unregistered equipments are authorized to facilitate installation of premises wiring, so long as they are performed under the responsible supervision and control of a person who complies with § 68.215(c). Since there is no ''registrant'' of unregistered equipment, the training and authority required by § 68.215(c) will have to be received from the manufacturer of the equipment so modified.

(i) *National defense and security.* Where the Secretary of Defense or authorized agent or the head of any other governmental department, agency, or administration (approved in writing by the Commission to act pursuant to this rule) or authorized representative, certifies in writing to the appropriate common carrier that compliance with the provisions of part 68 could result in the disclosure of communications equipment or security devices, locations, uses, personnel, or activity which would adversely affect the national defense and security, such equipment or security devices may be connected to the telephone company provided communications network without compliance with this part, provided that each written certification states that:

(1) The connection is required in the interest of national defense and security;

(2) The equipment or device to be connected either complies with the technical requirement of this part or will not cause harm to the nationwide telephone network or telephone company employees; and

(3) The installation is performed by well-trained, qualified employees under the responsible supervision and control of a person who meets the qualifications stated in § 68.215(c).

(j)(1) Terminal equipment, including its premises wiring directly connected to PSDS (Type I, II or III) on or before November 13, 1996, may remain for service life without registration, unless subsequently modified. Service life means the life of the equipment until retired from service. Modification means changes to the equipment that affect compliance with part 68 rules.

(2) New installation of terminal equipment, including its premises wiring, may occur until May 13, 1998, without registration of any terminal equipment involved, provided that the terminal equipment is of a type directly connected to PSDS (Type I, II or III) as of November 13, 1996. This terminal equipment may remain connected and be reconnected to PSDS (Type I, II or III) for service life without registration unless subsequently modified.

(k)(1) Terminal equipment, including premises wiring directly connected to ISDN BRA or PRA on November 13, 1996, may remain connected to ISDN BRA or PRA for service life without registration, unless subsequently modified.

(2) New installation of terminal equipment, including premises wiring, may occur until May 13, 1998, without registration of any terminal equipment involved, provided that the terminal equipment is of a type directly connected to ISDN BRA or PRA as of November 13, 1996. This terminal equipment may remain connected and be reconnected to ISDN BRA or PRA for service life without registration unless subsequently modified.

(l) *Grandfathered centeral office implemented payphone equipment.* (1) Terminal equipment, including its premises wiring, that is directly connected to a central-office-implemented telephone on or before October 8, 1997, may remain for service life without registration, unless subsequently modified. Service life means that life of the equipment until retired from service. Modification means changes to the equipment that affect the part 68-related characteristics of that equipment at the network interface.

(2) New installation of terminal equipment, including its premises wiring, may occur until April 8, 1999, without registration of any central-office-implemented telephone equipment involved, provided that the terminal equipment is of a type directly connected to a central-office-implemented telephone as of October 8,1997. This terminal equipment may remain connected and be reconnected to a central-office-implemented telephone.

Governmental departments, agencies, or administrations that wish to qualify for interconnection of equipment or security devices pursuant to this section shall file a request with the Secretary

of this Commission stating the reasons why the exemption is requested. A list of these departments, agencies, or administrations that have filed requests shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Commission may take action with respect to those requests 30 days after publication. The Commission action shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. However, the Commission may grant, on less than the normal notice period or without notice, special temporary authority, not to exceed 90 days, for governmental departments, agencies, or administrations that wish to qualify for interconnection of equipment or security devices pursuant to this section. Requests for such authority shall state the particular fact and circumstances why authority should be granted on less than the normal notice period or without notice. In such cases, the Commission shall endeavor to publish its disposition as promptly as possible in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(Secs. 4, 5, 303, 48 Stat. 1066, 1068, 1082, as amended (47 U.S.C. 154, 155, 303) (47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 154(j), 201–205, 218, 220, 313, 403, 412, and 5 U.S.C. 553)

[40 FR 20841, Mar. 31, 1980, as amended at 49 FR 21734, May 23, 1984; 49 FR 48719, Dec. 14, 1984; 50 FR 48208, Nov. 22, 1985; 51 FR 937, Jan. 9, 1986; 51 FR 16689, May 6, 1986; 61 FR 42387, Aug. 15, 1996; 61 FR 52324, Oct. 7, 1996; 62 FR 24587, May 6, 1997; 62 FR 47371, Sept. 9, 1997]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 62 FR 47371, Sept. 9, 1997, §68.2 was amended by adding paragraph (l), effective Oct. 5, 1997.

§ 68.3 Definitions.

As used in this part:

AIOD data channel simulator: A test circuit that simulates a telephone line during the idle and data-receiver-attached conditions of central office AIOD circuits. The schematic of Figure 68.3(g) is illustrative of the type of circuit that will be required; alternative implementations may be used provided that the same dc voltage and current characteristics and ac impedance characteristics will be presented to the AIOD equipment under test. When used, the simulator circuit shall be operated over the entire range of resistance, polarities and voltage limits indicated in Figure 68.3(g). Whenever dc current is changed, sufficient time shall be allocated for the current to reach a steady-state condition before continuing the test.

AIOD leads: Terminal equipment leads at the interface solely to transmit Automatic Identified Outward Dialing (AIOD) data from a PBX to the public switched telephone network or to switched service networks (e.g. EPSCS) so that a telephone company can provide a PBX customer with a detailed monthly bill identifying long distance usage by individual PBX stations, tie trunks or the attendant. Data on the channel is transmitted in only one direction, from the PBX to the central office, and consists of a trunk number and a station number for each outgoing call. Two-way dc simplex signaling, as defined for the terminal equipment by the data channel simulator circuit, is used to coordinate the transmitting and receiving functions. One or more pairs of AIOD leads, each designated T (AI) and R (AI) to distinguish them from other tip and ring leads, may appear at an interface, depending on the number of central offices that process AIOD calls for the PBX. However, unless otherwise stated, these leads at the interface should be treated as telephone connections as defined in (x) of this section or as tip and ring where the term ''telephone connection'' is not used.

Auxiliary leads: Terminal equipment leads at the interface, other than telephone connections and leads otherwise defined in these Rules, which leads are to be connected either to common equipment or to circuits extending to central office equipment.

Central-office implemented telephone: A telephone executing coin acceptance requiring coin service signaling from the central office.

Channel equipment: Equipment in the private line channel of the telephone network that furnishes telephone tip and ring, telphone tip 1 and ring 1, and other auxiliary or supervisory signaling leads for connection at the private line channel interface (where tip 1 and ring 1 is the receive pair for 4-wire telephone connections).

Coin-implemented telephone: A telephone containing all circuitry required to execute coin acceptance and related functions within the instrument itself