

RESOLVING SID CONFLICTS

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NOTICE

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SID CONFLICTS

- A SID conflict occurs when a carrier is using a SID to identify its network but it is not correctly assigned.
- SID code **ranges** are assigned to countries by IFAST (ifast.org) but **individual codes** are assigned to carriers by national assignment authorities (or IFAST is there is no authority). Cibernet Corporation assigns codes from the SID range as BID (Billing ID) codes for billing and accounting purposes.

RAMIFICATIONS OF CONFLICTS

- ✱ SID conflicts have a number of ramifications:
 - ✱ Roamers may try to access a system that cannot provide it with service, even though a valid system is available.
 - ✱ Roamers may lock on to a system other than that of the preferred roaming partner.
 - ✱ Calls may be billed to the wrong carrier.

RESOLUTION ALTERNATIVES

- ✻ There are three basic methods for eliminating a SID conflict:
 - ✻ Negotiation with affected carriers and authorities.
 - ✻ Over-the-air Modifications.
 - ✻ Gradual Transition.

NEGOTIATION

A conflict might be resolved through transfer if there is no carrier using the SID in the assigned country. Recommended steps are:

- ✿ Verify that the SID code is definitely **not** being used.
- ✿ Contact the assignment authority in the country that the SID is assigned to, or IFAST if the code is unassigned or there is no national assignment authority.
- ✿ If there is a national authority, obtain a letter from the national authority indicating that there is no objection to the reassignment of the code(s) in question.
- ✿ Provide this information to IFAST along with a SID application form (available on the IFAST website – <http://ifast.org>).

OVER THE AIR ACTIVATION METHOD

If the SID conflict cannot be resolved by negotiation but the majority of phones have OTASP (Over the Air Service Provisioning) capabilities then the following steps should be followed, in order:

- ✿ Obtain a valid SID code from your national assignment authority (or IFAST if there isn't one).
- ✿ Prepare new PRL databases that treat this SID code as a 'home' code.
- ✿ Update, via OTA, all capable mobiles with the new PRL.
- ✿ Recall all non-OTA phones for update by service technicians.
- ✿ Update all base stations to broadcast the validly assigned SID code.
- ✿ Inform IFAST that the SID conflict has been resolved.

GRADUAL TRANSITION

If the previous two methods are not applicable, a gradual transition should be undertaken. This could take several years before the conflict is resolved. Follow these steps, in order:

- ✿ Obtain a valid SID code from your national assignment authority (or IFAST if there isn't one).
- ✿ Prepare new PRL databases that treat this SID as a 'home' code.
- ✿ Start programming **all** new mobiles with this new PRL. This stops the problem from growing.
- ✿ Initiate a program to ensure that all phones that are brought in for service or other reasons to the carrier or authorized representatives are updated with the new PRL.
- ✿ Subtract the number of reprogrammed and disconnected mobiles from the original total of mobiles with the old PRL.
- ✿ Monitor the progress of the program until the number of mobiles with the old PRL have dropped below a defined threshold.
- ✿ Then recall all remaining mobiles for update.
- ✿ Update all base stations to broadcast the validly assigned SID code.
- ✿ Inform IFAST that the SID conflict has been resolved.

CONCLUSIONS

- ✿ SID conflicts have important ramifications for carriers, making international roaming in both directions very difficult.
- ✿ When there is a conflict it is more likely that the carrier with the correctly assigned SID code will be able to sign roaming agreements.
- ✿ Resolution of SID conflicts can eliminate this reason for roaming problems, increasing roaming revenues, customer satisfaction and improving relations with roaming partners.
- ✿ Resolving SID conflicts will not only facilitate roaming for voice and SMS services but also for 1X data, PTT, MMS and EVDO.