Sponsored by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS)

1200 G Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: +1-202-662-8653
Fax: +1-202-393-5453
www.ifast.org

International Forum on ANSI-41
Standards Technology

December 14, 2001

To: National Regulatory Authorities

From: International Forum on ANSI-41 Standards Technology (IFAST)

Introduction

The International Forum on ANSI-41 Standards Technology (IFAST) was formed to resolve technical issues relating to the international implementation of the AMPS, D-AMPS, CDMA and other systems relying on TIA/EIA-41 networking, with an emphasis on International Roaming issues and implementation, through voluntary, non-binding discussions between wireless telecommunications companies. The IFAST is an international forum open to network operators, wireless service providers, equipment vendors, and regulatory authorities involved in the offering of wireless services using the above referenced technologies and in the offering of International Roaming service. Its membership includes more than 100 entities from more than 50 countries. This forum has held 3-4 meetings each year since 1996. IFAST created and assigns International Roaming MIN codes (IRM) for AMPS-based carriers interested in International Roaming. An IRM is a Mobile Identification Number (MIN) that starts with the digit 0 or 1, and thus will not conflict with directory-number based MIN codes that are used within the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) area. The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) performs the IFAST Secretariat function. More information on IFAST can be obtained from its website (www.ifast.org) or by contacting:

> Megan Hayes (ATIS)
> IFAST Secretariat
> c/o ATIS
> 1200 G Street NW, Suite 500
> Washington, DC 20005 USA
>
>
> Tel No.   +1 202 662 8653
> Fax No.   +1 202 285 8804
> Email   mhayes@atis.org

IFAST is also the international administrator of the Wireless System Identification Numbers (SID codes). This responsibility includes SID block allocation, management, reclamation, and conflict resolution. IFAST coordinates the assignment of blocks of SID codes to countries when their currently assigned block is exhausted or when new countries are formed. The responsibility to assign individual SID codes to carriers usually lies with national regulatory authorities.

SID Reclamation Effort

IFAST is attempting to determine the usage of SID codes by wireless service providers worldwide. SID codes are required by systems that are based on TIA analog cellular standards (EIA/TIA-553, TIA/EIA/IS-88, TIA/EIA/IS-91), D-AMPS TDMA digital cellular (TIA/EIA/IS-54, TIA/EIA/IS-136, TIA/EIA-136 and TIA/EIA-627) and CDMA digital cellular (TIA/EIA/IS-95, TIA/EIA-95 and TIA/EIA/IS-2000). SID codes are also used by network standards that support these air interfaces, particular the TIA/EIA-41 (formerly IS-41) intersystem operations standard and the CIBER billing record format. SID codes are not required by systems based on GSM, NMT or other cellular/PCS standards not produced by the TIA (Telecommunications Industry Association).

SID codes were originally assigned by allocating an arbitrary and contiguous block to each country in the world based largely on its population and telephone density. In other cases, a block of SID codes was allocated to a country under the assumption that every regional license would be assigned a separate SID. In many cases, SID codes have been used by carriers nationwide, meaning that many of the allocated SID coeds are not actually required. Since then, there have been several political and economic changes that may soon result in a shortage of SID codes. It is believed, however, that many SID code assignments are not required by the countries to which they were made, specifically in those countries where the above referenced technologies are not deployed.

This letter is transmitted to all national regulatory authorities in an effort to reclaim SID codes not currently required by wireless service providers in their country and to identify potential assignment conflicts. Assignment conflicts arise when a national regulatory authority has assigned SID codes to service providers within their country other than those allocated to it. Countries that return SID codes will not be denied access to the SID resource in the future, if they later require it. The IFAST will coordinate the resolution of any SID code conflicts. It is IFAST's understanding that SID codes are currently assigned by national regulatory authorities, or a designated representative, to individual wireless service providers.

Request for Assistance

As the national regulatory authority in your country, your cooperation and support in completing the following questionnaire will be greatly appreciated by the IFAST and its members.

To facilitate this activity certain information needs to be provided to IFAST by your organization. Please provide your assistance by answering the questions contained in Attachment A and mail or fax your response to Megan Hayes (see above contact information) by March 31, 2002. Attachment B provides further information on SID codes including their use and administration. Attachment C provides your country's current list of internationally recognized SID Code Assignments. A current list of all internationally recognized SID Code Assignment can be found on the IFAST web site at http://www.ifast.org.

Fred Gaechter (Telcordia)
IFAST Chairman

ATTACHMENT A: SID Questionnaire

Please answer the following questions:

1. Based on the information contained in this letter and discussions with entities within your wireless telecommunications sector, are SID codes currently required and utilized by wireless service providers in your country?

   1a. If "**NO**", can the SID codes allocated to your country be reclaimed for reassignment to another country? If IFAST can reassign the SID codes allocated to your country, please state that fact and provide your signature here (there is no need to answer any additional questions). If IFAST cannot reassign the SID codes allocated to your country, even though they are not required or utilized, please explain and answer the following questions.

   1b. If "**YES**", please answer the following questions.

2. What organization is responsible for SID assignment in your country?

3. Please provide full contact information for future correspondence, including business address, email address, phone and fax number.

4. For what types of wireless systems are the present SID allocations being used (see above system descriptions)?

5. Is there a need for additional SID codes in your country? When is this need expected to arise, and why is the current allocation insufficient?

6. Can some of the SID codes allocated to your country, but not forecasted to be needed, be returned? Returning SID codes would not prevent your country from requesting an additional allocation in the future. If "YES", please list ranges of SID codes that you no longer require.

7. Are any SID codes outside of your allocated range being used in your country? If so, please specify the SID codes being used, the service provider(s) using them, and a point of contact for the service provider(s). (The IFAST will contact the service provider[s] in an effort to resolve the assignment conflict.)

ATTACHMENT B: Background Information

The SID code is used in AMPS networks to identify one system from all others. An AMPS network uses any combination of cellular or PCS phones based on TIA analog cellular standards (EIA/TIA-553, TIA/EIA/IS-88, TIA/EIA/IS-91), D-AMPS TDMA digital cellular (TIA/EIA/IS-54, TIA/EIA/IS-136, TIA/EIA-136 and TIA/EIA-627) and CDMA digital cellular (TIA/EIA/IS-95, TIA/EIA-95 and TIA/EIA/IS-2000). SID codes are both broadcast over the radio coverage area of such systems and programmed into handsets used by that carrier. This combination enables the handset to indicate whether or not roaming is occurring. When the broadcast SID matches the SID programmed into the handset, the roaming indicator is not activated. When the broadcast SID does not match the SID programmed into the handset, the roaming indicator is activated. In many digital mobiles, SID codes may be used to select among multiple wireless carriers when roaming. SID codes are also used in related network protocols to identify call processing and billing entities.

Until IFAST was formed, there was limited coordination of SID assignments. Within the 18 countries of the North American Numbering Plan area, assignments were generally coordinated with the United States. Countries outside of this area were not always aware of the SID allocations in TIA TSB-29, which caused a number of conflicts.

The best interim step to resolve these SID conflicts is for one carrier to agree not to use an allocated SID. This is often possible when the SID is not in current use. Failing that, the two carriers can both use the SID, by agreeing not to use abbreviated home-SID signaling that could prevent some international roamers from making calls. Problems that will remain include the fact that the ROAM indicator will not always be correct on phones roaming internationally and that phones might not access the preferred system due to the inability to associate a SID with the correct carrier.

**Attachment C – Current Internationally Recognized SID Code
Assignment**

Country: Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of)

Quantity Reserved: 32
SID Range (s): 8288 to 8319