

ISSUE ALERT

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FCC Extension of LNP Port Validation Requirements

Yesterday, the FCC waived until July 31, 2008, the deadline to comply with its November 8, 2007, declaratory ruling that the validation process for local number portability (LNP) requests should be based on no more than four fields. The decision followed a request for an extension of time by Embarq. The Commission extended Embarq's deadline until September 30, 2008.

The extension of time specifically applies to the portion of the FCC's Order in which the FCC issued a declaratory ruling that the LNP validation should be based on no more than four fields for simple ports (i.e., wireline-to-wireline, wireless-to-wireless, and intermodal ports). The four fields are: (1) 10-digit telephone number; (2) customer account number; (3) 5-digit zip code; and (4) pass code (if applicable). This declaratory ruling would have gone into effect February 6, 2008, 90 days after the Order was released. But if you have a competing carrier to whom you regularly port numbers, you will now have an additional 176 days to comply with the four-field, simple port requirement.

On a related note, the LNP Order has still not been published in the Federal Register. The publication of the Order in the Federal Register will begin the 30-day clock for the effective date of the intermodal LNP (i.e., wireline-to-wireless) requirements. Since the Order hasn't been published in the Federal Register, the FCC's intermodal LNP requirement will not be effective for at least another 30 days.



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