



## Alliance Communication Solutions Ltd

South House  
21 – 37 South Street  
Dorking  
Surrey  
RH4 2JZ  
Tel. 01306 877600  
Fax. 01306 877606  
[www.acstelecom.co.uk](http://www.acstelecom.co.uk)

### ALLIANCE COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS LTD CODES OF PRACTICE

#### Including our Basic Code of Practice and our Code of Practice for Premium Rate Services and NTS calls

#### **Part 1 – Alliance Communication Solutions Ltd Code of Practice for Small Business Customers**

##### **Introduction to our company and services**

ALLIANCE COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS LTD is an independent company that delivers communications services to business customers. While we may not provide all the component parts of our services ourselves, we do take responsibility for the services delivered to you. So we will liaise with our suppliers to ensure that any problems with their services are resolved promptly.

##### **Purpose of this Code of Practice**

This code informs you about our products, services, customer-care policies and where to find information about our charges and terms and conditions. This code of practice is published on our website [www.acstelecom.co.uk](http://www.acstelecom.co.uk). Additional copies are available on request free of charge to any small business customers. It is also available in larger print.

##### **How to contact us**

Please contact our Customer Service Team

##### **By phone:**

From 9am until 5:30pm Monday-Friday

Please call the appropriate number for your query below:

- General Enquiries 01306 877600
- Maintenance Calls (24hr) – the telephone numbers specified on your contract

**By email:** [info@acstelecom.co.uk](mailto:info@acstelecom.co.uk)

**By fax:** 01306 877606

**By letter:** ALLIANCE COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS LTD, South House, 21-37 South Street, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 2JZ

**Website** [www.acstelecom.co.uk](http://www.acstelecom.co.uk)

##### **Our commitment to you**

We are committed to giving you the highest quality of customer service. When we purchase our services from wholesale providers, we choose those providers carefully to ensure that you get a high-quality service. We make every reasonable effort to supply services that satisfy your requirements. We work to all relevant laws and regulations.

##### **Our products and services**

- Landline telephones
- Landline calls
- CPS – Carrier Pre-Selection
- WLR – Wholesale Line Rental
- ISDN – digital telephone lines
- Broadband access
- VoIP & IP telephony services



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- Non-geographic numbers
- Intelligent Call Routing
- Internet
- Data services
- Equipment and maintenance service
- Mobile telephony and broadband

For more details on any of our products and services, or to place an order immediately, please contact our Customer Service Team on 01306 877600

### **Marketing**

We work to the principles in the British Code of Advertising, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing, which are set out on the website [www.cap.org.uk](http://www.cap.org.uk)

### **Terms and conditions**

When you subscribe to a service from ALLIANCE COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS LTD, we will send you our Standard Terms and Conditions and ask you to sign a contract, if applicable. If you have any questions, please phone our Customer Service Team on 01306 877600. We may carry out a credit check as part of our assessment procedures.

Where applicable, the minimum contract term for our services is 30 days. We aim to provide services within ten working days of your original request, subject to the availability and installation of any equipment and, where appropriate, lines to your premises. If we need to carry out a survey of your premises or lay additional cabling, we will inform you of the revised timescales as soon as we can.

### **Cancellation**

If you decide to cancel your order or agreement before we have provided the services, you may do so without charge within 10 working days after your order is placed. After 10 working days we will charge you an administration fee as set out in your contract. If you wish to terminate your contract within the minimum term, we will charge a reconciliation charge as set out in your contract. After the minimum term you can cancel any service by calling our Customer Service Helpdesk on 01306 877600, giving us 30days notice.

### **Faults and repairs**

Please call our Fault Service Team on 01306 877600 if you experience a fault with any of our services. We aim to have this investigated and repaired the next working day, subject to contract terms.

### **Compensation and refund policy**

Our policy is to assess each claim for compensation on a case by case basis.

### **Price lists**

Our pricing structure is available from our Customer Service Team on 01306 877600. We will write to you in advance if we change the pricing structure on your products and services.

### **Billing**

We will bill you monthly

You can choose to pay us via a range of options including credit card, cheque and direct debit. These are agreed at the start of your contract. If you wish to change your method of payment at any time, please call our Customer Service Team 01306 877600

We provide itemised bills as part of our service to you.

If you have difficulty paying your bill, please contact us on 01306 877600 and we will try to arrange a different method of payment. We will do all we can to help our customers to manage their bills and avoid disconnection.



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### ***If you are moving home or office***

Please call our Customer Service Team on 01306 877600 no later than 20 days before your move date. We will amend your account and billing requirements as necessary. We will endeavour to offer you the same telephone number to minimise disruption but please note that for geographic numbers this is not always possible.

### ***Number porting***

ALLIANCE COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS LTD recognise that keeping your existing telephone numbers may be important to you. If you move your business to us and wish to keep the number that you have with your old provider, we will arrange it if you ask us. We will work with you to ensure that the services are switched over at a convenient and appropriate time. For more information, please call our Customer Service Team on 01306 877600.

### ***Directory Entries***

You are entitled to a Directory Enquiry listing (including an entry in The Phone Book) for both your fixed and mobile telephone numbers. If you do want your details included, please contact our Customer Service Team on 01306 877600

### ***Complaints***

We make every effort to ensure that our customers are happy with the level of service, and the products and service they receive from us. However, despite our best efforts, things can go wrong. We take customer complaints very seriously and aim to resolve them quickly and efficiently.

Our Code of Practice on Complaint Handling and Dispute Resolution explains how customers can complain. The code also provides information on how we deal with complaints and your right to take unresolved complaints to Alternative Dispute Resolution. You can find a copy of our Complaints Code on our website at [www.acstelecom.co.uk](http://www.acstelecom.co.uk). Alternatively, copies are available free of charge and on request from our Customer Service Team on 01306 877600.

### ***Nuisance calls***

We take the problem of nuisance calls and malicious communications very seriously. We tackle it by working closely with the police and others in the communications industry. If you have been a victim of this activity, please call the Customer Service Team on 01306 877600 to report the incident and for information on how to deal with it.

### ***Services for people with special needs***

We are committed to helping all our customers to communicate easily. We offer the following additional services on request for customers who are older or who may have a disability, including:

- Priority access to the Customer Service Team 01306 877600
- Priority fault repair and assistance
- Additional help and support if you have difficulty paying your bill
- A free Directory Enquiries service for people who are unable to use the printed phone book
- Copies of bills in large print, on computer disc

Copies of this Code are available in larger print and other formats on request

### ***Data protection***

We comply fully with our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998.

## ***Part 2 – Alliance Communication Solutions Ltd Code of Practice for Premium Rate Services and NTS Calls***

### ***Purpose of this Code of Practice***



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This code informs you about our policies on providing information about Premium Rate Service (PRS) calls and on our charging policy for calls to NTS and PRS numbers.

### **Premium rate services**

Premium rate services (PRS) are telephone numbers that offer some form of information or entertainment that is charged to your phone bill. UK-based PRS numbers are normally prefixed by “09”. Typical services include TV votelines, mobile ringtone downloads, technical helplines, charity fund-raising and adult entertainment.

Charges for these services are added to your telephone bill. Calling a PRS number generally costs between 8.51 pence and £1.2766 per minute, per call or per text (excl. vat). Calling these services from, for example, mobile phones, cable networks or public payphones will generally cost more than the advertised rate. Our charges for calling these services are shown in our price list, which is available on request from our Customer Services Team on 01306 877600

If you have a problem with PRS, we can help. We can provide advice on checking the number of PRS charges that appear on your bill and will try to help you identify the premium rate service provider. We can use call barring to restrict access to “09” numbers. Please call our Customer Service Team on 01306 877600 for advice on this.

You can also ask for help from PhonepayPlus, which is the industry-funded regulatory body for Premium Rate Services. PhonepayPlus operates a code of practice that sets out standards for the operation of PRS. You can use the PhonepayPlus website at [www.phonepayplus.org.uk](http://www.phonepayplus.org.uk) check PRS numbers direct or to download a complaint form. PhonepayPlus has legal powers to require a provider of PRS to amend its service or promotional material (or both) and can also impose penalties on content service providers. For other ways to contact PhonepayPlus, see the “Useful addresses” section below.

### **Number translation services**

Number translation services (NTS) are based on numbers that are normally pre-fixed “08”. For example, 0800 and 0808 are used to provide freephone services (some freephone services are also provided on 0500 numbers). 0844 and 0845 numbers are used for dial-up pay-as-you-go Internet access and customer service helplines. 0870 and 0871 numbers are used for information services, technical helplines and telephone banking. They are also used by organisations to help them provide call-management features such as intelligent call routing and fax-to-email services.

Charges for calling services on NTS numbers are added to your telephone bill and standard prices range from free up to 4.2p per minute or per call (excl. vat). Calling these services from, for example, mobile phones, cable networks or public payphones will generally cost more than the advertised rate. Our charges for calling these services are shown in our price list, which is available on request from our Customer Services Team 01306 877600

If you are unhappy with the help you have received from us on a problem with PRS or NTS, please contact Joe Eldridge or 01306 877600 or email [joe@acstelecom.co.uk](mailto:joe@acstelecom.co.uk), who has responsibility for compliance to our code of practice for PRS and NTS. You may also complain using the complaints procedure set out in our complaints code including, ultimately, referring your complaint to Otelo. PO Box 730 Warrington Cheshire WA4 6WU Tel: 01925 430870 email: [enquires@otelo.org.uk](mailto:enquires@otelo.org.uk) Web site: [www.otelo.org.uk](http://www.otelo.org.uk)

### **Internet diallers**

If you use the Internet, it is possible for software to be placed on your computer without you knowing - using the same methods as for computer viruses. This type of software (known as Internet or rogue diallers) can then make calls to PRS and NTS numbers without your knowledge. Software is available to detect this activity and we can help you to access this - please contact our Customer Services Team on 01306 877600 for details. PhonepayPlus has been given responsibility for policing this type of activity and you can contact them via [www.phonepayplus.org.uk](http://www.phonepayplus.org.uk) to ask for help or to report examples of this type of abuse. For other ways to contact PhonepayPlus, see the “Useful addresses” section below.

We can also help by barring calls to 09 numbers.



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### ***The Telephone Preference Service***

If you don't want to get sales and marketing calls you have not requested, you can add your details to a list run by the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). If your number is on the list, it is illegal for a company to call you for marketing purposes. You can contact the Telephone Preference Service via [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk) or by telephoning 0845 070 0707.

### **Useful addresses**

**Otelo** – PO Box 730, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 6WU. Tel: 01925 430870 or 0845 050 1614  
email: [enquiries@otelo.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@otelo.org.uk) Website: [www.otelo.org.uk](http://www.otelo.org.uk)

**Ofcom** - Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA. Tel: 020 7981 3040 or 0300 123 3333 email: [contact@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:contact@ofcom.org.uk) Website: [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk)

**PhonepayPlus** (Formerly ICSTIS) Clove Building, 4 Maguire Street, London, SE1 2NQ. Tel: 0800 500212 or 020 7940 7474 Website: [www.phonepayplus.org.uk](http://www.phonepayplus.org.uk)

**Telephone Preference Service**, DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London W1W 8SS Tel: 0845 0700707 Website: [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)

**Federation of Communication Services (FCS)**, Burnhill Business Centre, Provident House, Burrell Row, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1AT. Tel: 020 8249 6363 email: [fcs@fcs.org.uk](mailto:fcs@fcs.org.uk) Website: [www.fcs.org.uk](http://www.fcs.org.uk)

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