



Telecommunications Newsletter Switzerland

The Swiss Communication Commission (ComCom) relaxes the carrier selection requirement for Voice over IP (VoIP) operators. Number Portability Also Applies to VoIP Operators. Identification of Location of Emergency Call Only Required for Principal VoIP Location

VoIP only then qualifies as public telephony services if the VoIP subscriber can reach a traditional telephone network (PSTN) and if in turn the VoIP subscriber can be reached via a "normal" telephone number.

For VoIP public telephony services the requirements for interoperability, real time voice transmission, identification of location for emergency calls, carrier selection, number portability, access to subscriber directories and lawful interception apply.

In its press conference of 28 November 2005, the ComCom announced that carrier preselection will not be mandatory for VoIP operators. This decision is based on the assumption that access to the internet is open and possible without discrimination. Call by call carrier selection is retained, as this can be implemented relatively easily.

The advantage of VoIP namely to make telephone calls worldwide from any broadband connection makes it impossible to determine the location of a customer in the case of an emergency call. The Swiss Federal Council introduced a pragmatic solution to this problem on 1 September 2005. Until a technical solution is found, location identification must be guaranteed only for calls made from the principal location. The VoIP provider must explicitly inform the customers about this problem.

For details see

www.fedcomcom.ch/comcom/docs/VoipPK28-11-2005_E.pdf

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