

Numbering plan (0)18 – numbers for virtual private networks (VPNs)

1. Legal basis

Numbers for virtual private networks (VPNs) are numbers as defined in section 3 para 13 of the Telecommunications Act (TKG) of 22 June 2004 (Federal Law Gazette I page 1190), as amended by Article 4(108) of the Act of 7 August 2013 (Federal Law Gazette I page 3154).

This Administrative Order sets out, as required by section 66(1) second sentence of the Telecommunications Act and the Telecommunications Numbering Ordinance (TNV) of 5 February 2008 (Federal Law Gazette I page 141), as amended by Article 4(110) of the Act of 7 August 2013 (Federal Law Gazette I page 3154), how the numbering range for VPNs is to be structured and configured.

A separate Official Gazette Communication (see Communication No 902/2014, Bundesnetzagentur Official Gazette No 16 of 3 September 2014) sets out the application procedure.

2. Number format

The German numbering space for public telecommunications is defined by Recommendation E.164 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In this numbering space the (0)182 to (0)189 number range is provided for VPNs.

VPN numbers are structured as follows:

Prefix 0	VPN number (11 digits)	
	Service code (4-9 digits)	Terminal equipment number (2-7 digits)
	Digit string 18 (2 digits)	

The number of digits in the terminal equipment number depends on the number of digits in the service code and vice versa (if the service code has four digits, the terminal equipment number has seven digits; if the service code has five digits, the terminal equipment has six digits, and so on).

The user identifier can begin with a digit from 2 to 9.

3. Purpose of use

VPN numbers may be used exclusively for VPNs. A VPN within the meaning of this numbering plan is a telecommunications network which connects the network operator's terminals with each other and whose numbers cannot be reached by third parties via the public telephone network. It may be possible to reach the individual terminals using other numbers.

4. Type of assignment, determination of block size, and requirements for assignment

4.1 Type of assignment

VPN numbers are assigned in blocks identified by a particular service code. Numbers are assigned upon application in the form of direct assignments for the assignee's own use within the meaning of section 4(2) para 1 of the Telecommunications Numbering Ordinance.

4.2 Determining the size of the number block to be assigned

The size of the number block to be assigned is based on either the total number of terminals to be addressed (method 1) or the capacity of the number blocks used for existing private branch exchanges (PBXs) (method 2).

The applicant decides which method should be used to determine the size of the block.

4.2.1 Method 1

The number of terminals to be addressed at a VPN location is taken to be 50% more than the number of terminals at the location as proven by the applicant, unless the applicant proves his demand for terminal equipment numbers by other means ("proven demand").

If the applicant anticipates an increase in demand, an addition of up to 100% of the proven demand can be allowed.

The size of the number block for a location is derived by rounding up the demand as determined above to the next number wholly divisible by 10, 100, 1,000 or 10,000, depending on the number of digits of the number block.

The size of the number block for a VPN is equal to the total capacity of the number blocks for the individual locations rounded up to the next block of 100, 1,000, 10,000, 100,000, 1,000,000 or 10,000,000 numbers.

4.2.2 Method 2

The size of the number block for a VPN is equal to the total capacity of the number blocks currently used by the individual PBXs rounded up to the next block of 100, 1,000, 10,000, 100,000, 1,000,000 or 10,000,000 numbers.

4.3 Material requirements for assignment

Applicants are eligible for assignment if they plan to request a telecommunications network operator to activate a number block for a VPN corresponding to the intended purpose of use (cf 3 above).

The request for activation can be made to the telecommunications network operator either directly or indirectly through a service provider.

Assignments can also be made to telecommunications network operators provided that the operators intend to activate a number block for a VPN corresponding to the intended purpose of use for themselves in their own telecommunications network.

4.4 Formal requirements for assignment

4.4.1 Address for service in Germany

The applicant must give an address for service (residential or business address and (if the applicant is a legal entity) legal representative) in Germany. Applicants with headquarters in another country must specify an authorised recipient with an address for service in Germany.

4.4.2 Proof of identity

Applicants must provide proof of identity as follows:

a) natural persons must provide a copy of their identity card, passport or similar official identity document;

b) legal entities and partnerships must provide an extract from the commercial register or, if not available, other proof of identity (eg extract from the official register of societies and associations, business registration);

c) officially registered civil law companies must provide their official registration; if a civil law company is not officially registered, the company's managing partners must each provide proof of identity as required in a) above.

5. Other conditions of use

5.1 Deadline for beginning of use

Assignees must request a telecommunications network operator either directly or indirectly through a service provider to activate their numbers and must use the numbers no later than 180 calendar days after the assignment becomes effective.

5.2 Changes in the format of numbers

The use of a longer number by an assignee for his own purposes is permitted.

It is not permissible to use shortened VPN numbers.

5.3 Return of numbers

If – contrary to 5.1 above – a number is not used within 180 days after assignment or if its use is not planned for 180 days beginning with the time of assignment or for twelve months beginning with the last time the number was used, the number must be returned without delay by making a written declaration to the Bundesnetzagentur as required by section 9(1) in conjunction with subsection (4) first sentence of the Telecommunications Numbering Ordinance.

5.6 Notification of changes of name or address

Assignees must inform the Bundesnetzagentur in writing, without delay and on their own initiative, of any change in their name, their address for service or their legal representative. Applicants with headquarters in another country must also inform the Bundesnetzagentur of any change in their authorised recipient or the authorised recipient's address for service in Germany.

If any changes are made to an entry in the commercial register or equivalent of another country, up-to-date extracts must be submitted to the Bundesnetzagentur immediately.

The information should be sent to:

Bundesnetzagentur für Elektrizität, Gas,
Telekommunikation, Post und Eisenbahnen
Nummernverwaltung
Postfach 80 01
55003 Mainz

or

Bundesnetzagentur für Elektrizität, Gas,
Telekommunikation, Post und Eisenbahnen
Nummernverwaltung
Canisiusstr. 21
55122 Mainz.

6. Effective date

This Administrative Order will take effect on 1 October 2014.

Rights of appeal

An appeal against this Administrative Order may be lodged within one month of its issue. The appeal must be filed in writing with the Bundesnetzagentur, Tulpenfeld 4, 53113 Bonn or any other Bundesnetzagentur office, or placed on record.

The requirement of written form is met if electronic media are used. In this case, the electronic document must be signed with a qualified electronic signature as defined in the Electronic Signatures Act (SigG). Attention is drawn to the information on the Bundesnetzagentur's website at www.bundesnetzagentur.de – Die Bundesnetzagentur > Über die Agentur > Elektronische Kommunikation.

An appeal does not have suspensory effect. Filing an appeal does not change the effect or enforceability of the Administrative Order in any way.

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