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~~2021~~ 2022 Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet Instructions (FCC Form 499-A)

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File the FCC Form 499-A online at https://forms.universalservice.org

I. INTRODUCTION

The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, requires that the Commission establish mechanisms to fund universal service (USF), interstate telecommunications relay services (TRS), the administration of the North American Numbering Plan (NANPA), and the shared costs of local number portability administration (LNPA).[1] To accomplish these congressionally directed objectives, the Commission requires telecommunications carriers and certain other providers of telecommunications (including Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) service providers) to report each year on the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet the revenues they receive from offering service.[2] The administrators of each of these programs use the revenues reported on this Worksheet to calculate and assess any necessary

[1] 47 U.S.C. §§ 151, 225, 251, 254, 616.

[2] *See* 47 CFR §§ 52.17(b), 52.32(b), 54.708, 54.711, 64.604(c)(5)(iii)(A) and (B).

contributions. The Commission also uses the revenue data reported on this Worksheet to calculate and assess Interstate Telecommunications Service Provider (ITSP) regulatory fees.[3]

Although some Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet filers may not need to contribute to each of the support and cost recovery mechanisms, all telecommunications carriers and certain additional telecommunications providers must file. These instructions explain which filers must contribute to particular mechanisms, but filers should consult the specific rules that govern contributions for each of the mechanisms.[4] In general, contributions are calculated based on each filer's end-user telecommunications revenue information, as filed in this Worksheet.

By filing this Worksheet, filers may also satisfy their obligations under section 413 of the Act to designate an agent in the District of Columbia for service of process[5] and their obligations to register with the Federal Communications Commission.[6]

[3] *See* 47 U.S.C. § 159(a), (b)(1)(A), (g) (authorizing the Commission to collect annual regulatory fees to recover the costs of enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities).

[4] *See* 47 CFR §§ 52.17 (numbering administration), 52.32 (local number portability), 54.706 (universal service), 64.604 (TRS).

[5] 47 U.S.C. § 413; *see* 47 CFR § 1.47(h).

[6] 47 CFR § 64.1195.

II. CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about the Worksheet or the instructions, you may contact:

Universal Service Administrator	form499@usac.org (888) 641-8722

If you have questions regarding contribution amounts, billing procedures, or the support and cost recovery mechanisms, you may contact:

Universal Service Administrator:	form499@usac.org (888) 641-8722
TRS Administrator:	trs@rolkaloube.com (717) 585-6605
NANPA Billing and Collection Agent:	nanp@welchllp.com (613) 760-4512
Local Number Portability Administrator:	NPACBilling@iconnectiv.numberportability.com (844) 560-8050
ITSP Regulatory Fees	(877) 480-3201

III. FILING REQUIREMENTS AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

A. WHO MUST FILE

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

With very limited exceptions, all intrastate, interstate, and international providers of telecommunications in the United States[7] must file this Worksheet.[8] In addition to filing this form most filers must contribute to the universal service, TRS, NANPA, and LNPA funding mechanisms. This section provides a short summary to assist carriers and service providers in determining whether they must contribute to one or more of the mechanisms. Filers should consult the Commission's rules and orders to determine whether they must contribute to one or more of the mechanisms.

FCC Form 499-A is a multi-purpose form. It is used for at least seven purposes:

Annual filing requirements:

1. Report revenues for purposes of the federal Universal Service Fund (USF);
2. Report revenues for purposes of the federal Telecommunications Relay Services Fund (TRS);
3. Report revenues for the administration of the North American Numbering Plan (NANPA);
4. Report revenues for the shared costs of local number portability administration (LNPA);
5. Report revenues for calculating and assessing Interstate Telecommunications Service Provider (ITSP) regulatory fees;

One-time filing requirements (with obligation to revise if information changes):

6. Satisfy obligations under section 413 of the Act to designate an agent in the District of Columbia for service of process;
7. Fulfill obligations to register with the Federal Communications Commission under 47 CFR § 64.1195.

If you are subject to one or more of the above requirements, you must file FCC Form 499-A.

1. Federal Universal Service Fund — Entities that provide interstate telecommunications to the public for a fee as well as certain other providers of interstate telecommunications must contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. *See* 47 CFR § 54.706.

[7] For this purpose, the United States is defined as the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Baker Island, Guam, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Island, Navassa Island, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palmyra, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Wake Island.

[8] Section 254(d) applies not only to "every telecommunications carrier that provides interstate telecommunications *services*" but also to certain "other provider[s] of interstate telecommunications." 47 U.S.C. § 254(d) (emphasis added). For more information on these terms, see: 47 U.S.C. §§ 153(50), (51); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776 (1997) (*Universal Service First Report and Order*); *Universal Service Contribution Methodology et al.*, WC Docket No. 06-122 *et al.*, Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 21 FCC Rcd 7518 (2006) (*2006 Contribution Methodology Reform Order*).

2. Telecommunications Relay Services — Every common carrier[9] providing telecommunications services and every VoIP provider (including interconnected and non-interconnected) must contribute to the TRS Fund. *See* 47 CFR §§ 64.601(b), 64.604.

3. Non-Interconnected VoIP Service Providers — All providers of "non-interconnected VoIP service" (as defined in section 64.601(a) of the Commission's rules) with end-user revenues subject to TRS contributions must file this Worksheet in order to register with the Commission and report their revenues for purposes of calculating TRS contributions.[10]

4. North American Numbering Plan Administration — All telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers in the United States shall contribute to meet the costs of establishing numbering administration. *See* 47 CFR § 52.17.

5. Shared Costs of Local Number Portability — The shared costs of long-term number portability attributable to a regional database shall be recovered from all telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers providing service in that region. *See* 47 CFR § 52.32.

6. ITSP Regulatory Fees – Congress requires the Commission to assess and collect regulatory fees "to recover the costs of …enforcement activities, policy and rulemaking activities, user information services, and international activities." *See* 47 CFR § 159(a).

7. Designation of Agent for Service of Process – For more information on this requirement, see the instructions for Block 2-B.

8. FCC Registration – For more information on this requirement, see the instructions for Block 2-C.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING USF CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

Entities that provide interstate telecommunications to the public for a fee as well as certain other providers of interstate telecommunications must contribute to the universal service support mechanisms.

- The term "telecommunications" refers to the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received.[11]

- For the purpose of filing, the term "interstate telecommunications" includes, but is not limited to, the following types of services: wireless telephony, including cellular and personal communications services (PCS); paging services; dispatch and operator services; mobile radio services;[12] access to interexchange service; business data services; wide area telecommunications

[9] "Common carrier" or "carrier" means "any person engaged as a common carrier for hire, in interstate or foreign communication by wire or radio or interstate or foreign radio transmission of energy. . ." 47 U.S.C. § 153(11).

[10] *See Contributions to the Telecommunications Relay Services Fund*, CG Docket No. 11-47, Report and Order, 26 FCC Rcd 14532, 14537, para. 12 (2011) (*2011 TRS Contributions Order*) (adding definition of "non-interconnected VoIP service" to the Commission's TRS rules at section 64.601(a)). *See* 47 C.F.R § 64.601(a).

[11] 47 U.S.C. § 153(50).

[12] *See Request for Review by Waterway Communication System, LLC and Mobex Network Services, LLC of a Decision of the Universal Service Administrator*, WC Docket No. 06-122, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 12836 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2008).

services (WATS); subscriber toll-free and 900 services; message telephone services (MTS); private line; telex; telegraph; video services; satellite services; resale services; Frame Relay services; asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) services; Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) services; audio bridging services;[13] and interconnected VoIP services.

- Note that all incumbent (ILEC) and competitive (CLEC) local exchange carriers provide access services and, therefore, provide interstate telecommunications. No filing exemptions exist for data or non-voice services.
- There is no filing exception for entities that offer services to a narrow or limited class of users. Thus filers include:
  - Entities that provide interstate telecommunications to entities other than themselves for a fee on a private, contractual basis.
  - Most telecommunications carriers and all interconnected VoIP providers including those that qualify for the *de minimis* exception under the Commission's universal service rules.[14]
  - Owners of pay telephones, also known as "pay telephone aggregators."
- Three types of non-common-carrier telecommunications providers may, under the circumstances set forth below, not be required to contribute to USF directly: (~~1~~a) *de minimis* telecommunications providers; (~~2~~b) government, broadcasters, schools, and libraries; and (~~3~~c) systems integrators and self-providers.

a. Exception for USF *de minimis* telecommunications providers

Telecommunications providers are not required to contribute directly to the universal service support mechanisms for a given year if their contribution for that year is less than $10,000.[15]

- Providers that offer telecommunications for a fee exclusively on a non-common carrier basis need not file this Worksheet if their contribution to the universal service support mechanisms would be *de minimis* under the universal service rules. Note that entities providing solely private line service may nevertheless be considered common carriers if they offer their services directly to the public or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public.[16]
- Telecommunications carriers providing telecommunications services on a common-carriage basis and interconnected VoIP providers need not contribute directly to the universal service support mechanism if they meet the *de minimis* standard.[17] However, they must file this Worksheet because they must contribute to other support mechanisms (TRS, NANPA or LNPA). *See* section

[13] *See Request for Review by InterCall, Inc. of Decision of Universal Service Administrator*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 10731, 10737–38, para. 22 (2008) (*Intercall Order*), *petition for reconsideration denied*, *Petitions for Reconsideration and Clarification of the InterCall Order*, WC Docket No. 06-122, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order on Reconsideration, 27 FCC Rcd 898 (2012), *subsequent history omitted*.

[14] *See* 47 CFR § 54.708.

[15] *See id*.

[16] *See* 47 U.S.C. § 153(53).

[17] A resale provider may contribute directly to the USF by signing a resale certificate or may be treated as an end user by its underlying carrier and therefore may contribute indirectly as a result of USF pass-through charges. *See, e.g.*, section IV.C.4 "Attributing Revenues from Contributing Resellers and From End Users."

III.A.1 for information regarding contribution requirements for TRS, NANPA, and LNPA. Such providers need not file an FCC Form 499-Q.[18]

Providers who may be *de minimis* should complete the table contained in Appendix A to determine whether they meet the *de minimis* standard.

- Use the table in Appendix A to calculate estimated universal service contributions for the period January ~~2020~~ 2021 through December ~~2020~~2021.
    - To complete this table, providers must first complete Block 4 of the Worksheet and enter the amounts from Lines 423(d) on Appendix A line 1, and 423(e) on Appendix A line 2.
- Providers whose estimated contributions to universal service support mechanisms would be less than $10,000 are considered *de minimis* for universal service contribution purposes and will not be required to contribute directly to universal service support mechanisms.

b. Exception for government, broadcasters, schools, and libraries

The following non-common-carrier entities are explicitly exempted from contributing directly to the universal service support mechanisms and need not file this Worksheet unless they contribute to TRS, LNP, or NANPA:[19]

- Government entities that purchase telecommunications services in bulk on behalf of themselves, such as state networks for schools and libraries.
- Public safety and local governmental entities licensed under Subpart B of Part 90 of the Commission's rules or any entity providing interstate telecommunications exclusively to public safety or government entities that do not offer services to others.
- Broadcasters, non-profit schools, non-profit libraries, non-profit colleges, non-profit universities, and non-profit health care providers.

c. Exception for systems integrators and self-providers

Systems integrators: Systems integrators that derive less than five percent of their systems integration revenues from the resale of telecommunications are not required to ~~file or~~ contribute directly to universal service. Systems integrators provide integrated packages of services and products that may include, but are not limited to computer capabilities, interstate telecommunications, remote data processing services, back-office data processing, management of customer relationships with underlying carriers and vendors,

[18] Sections 54.706, 54.711, and 54.713 of the Commission's rules require all telecommunications carriers providing interstate telecommunications services, interconnected VoIP providers that provide interstate telecommunications, providers of interstate telecommunications that offer interstate telecommunications for a fee on a non-common carrier basis, and payphone providers that are aggregators to contribute to the universal service fund and file a FCC Form 499-Q on February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 each year. 47 CFR §§ 54.706, 54.711, 54.713. The FCC Form 499-Q sets forth information that the contributor must submit, so that the Administrator of the universal service support mechanisms may calculate and assess contributions. *See* Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet, FCC Form 499-Q (~~2021~~2022) Instructions for Completing the Quarterly Worksheet for Filing Contributions to Universal Service Support Mechanisms, OMB Control Number 3060-0855 (~~November~~ XX ~~2020~~2021).

[19] *See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, 12 FCC Rcd 8776, 9187, para. 800 (1997) (*Universal Service First Report and Order*).

provision and maintenance of telecommunications and computer equipment, and help desk functions.[20] However, they must file this Worksheet because they may have contribution obligations to other support mechanisms (TRS, NANPA or LNPA).

Self-Providers: Entities that provide telecommunications only to themselves or to commonly-owned affiliates need not file.[21]

d. Filing Exemption for Marketing Agents

Marketing agents, i.e., entities that market services on behalf of a telecommunications provider, are not telecommunications providers and are not required to file this Worksheet. The amounts remitted to or retained by the marketing agent are treated as expenses of the underlying provider and may not be deducted from the provider's revenues. A telecommunications reseller is not a marketing agent and must file this Worksheet.

B. WHICH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDERS MUST CONTRIBUTE FOR WHICH PURPOSES

Table 1 summarizes which telecommunications carriers and service providers must directly contribute for particular purposes. This chart is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be exhaustive, nor is it intended to serve as legal guidance or precedent. Filers are instructed to consult the Commission's rules and orders to determine whether they must contribute to one or more of the mechanisms. *See* 47 CFR §§ 52.17, 52.32, 54.706, 64.604.

Table 1: Which Telecommunications Providers Must Contribute Directly for Which Purposes

Type of filer	**Universal Service**	**TRS**	**NANPA**	**LNPA**
Non-interconnected VoIP providers with no other telecommunications revenues		X		
De minimis payphone aggregators that do not also have telecommunications carrier revenues		X		
Other payphone aggregators that do not also have telecommunications carrier revenues	X	X		
De minimis telecommunications providers (including audio-bridging service providers) with no telecommunications service revenues				

[20] *See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Access Charge Reform, Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers, Transport Rate Structure and Pricing, End User Common Line Charge*, Fourth Order on Reconsideration, 13 FCC Rcd 5318, 5471-75 (1997).

[21] *See Universal Service First Report and Order*, 12 FCC Rcd at 9187, para. 800.

Other telecommunications providers (including audio-bridging providers) with no telecommunications service revenues	X			
Telecommunications carriers that provide only intrastate service		X	X	X
Telecommunications carriers that provide services only to other universal service contributors			X	X
Telecommunications carriers that provide only international services		X	X	X
De minimis interstate telecommunications carriers (including satellite carriers and common-carriage stand-alone audio-bridging service providers) and *de minimis* interconnected VoIP providers		X	X	X
All other interstate telecommunications carriers (including satellite carriers and common-carriage stand-alone audio-bridging service providers) and all other interconnected VoIP providers	X	X	X	X

As shown above, some providers may be exempt from contributing to USF, but nevertheless must file this Worksheet because they are required to contribute to TRS, NANPA, or LNPA. If an entity is not required to contribute to any of these support mechanisms, then it is not required to file this Worksheet.

- For USF purposes, these non-contributors must be treated as end users by their underlying carriers and therefore may end up contributing indirectly as a result of USF pass-through surcharges.
- Providers who do not file this Worksheet because they are *de minimis* for USF contribution purposes, and need not file for any other purpose, should retain the table contained in Appendix A and documentation of their contribution base revenues for <u>five</u> calendar years after the date each Worksheet is due.[22]
- Interconnected VoIP providers who are *de minimis* must file this Worksheet and retain the table and documentation of their contribution base revenues for <u>five</u> calendar years after the date each Worksheet is due.[23]

[22] *See* 47 CFR § 54.706(e) ("Any entity required to contribute to the federal universal service support mechanisms shall retain, for at least five years from the date of the contribution, all records that may be required to demonstrate to auditors that the contributions made were in compliance with the Commission's universal service rules"); *Comprehensive Review of the Universal Service Fund Management, Administration, and Oversight*, WC Docket No. 05-195, Report and Order, 22 FCC Rcd 16372, 16386–87, para. 27 (2007) (*USF Comprehensive Review Order*). Section § 54.711(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 54.711, also requires contributors to "maintain records and documentation to justify information reported in the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet, including the methodology used to determine projections, for three years and shall provide such records and documentation to the Commission or the Administrator upon request."

[23] *Id.*

FILING BY LEGAL ENTITY

Each legal entity providing interstate telecommunications for a fee or providing interstate interconnected VoIP service, including each affiliate or subsidiary of an entity, must separately complete and file a copy of the Worksheet, except as provided below.[24] Entities with distinct articles of incorporation, articles of formation, or similar legal documents are separate legal entities. All legal entities, affiliates, and subsidiaries must identify their ultimate controlling parent or entity on Block 1, Line 106.

As an alternative to each affiliate filing separately, entities may file on a consolidated basis but must certify each year that they meet all of the following conditions:[25]

- A single entity oversees the management of all affiliated systems;
- A single entity sends bills to customers identifying it (or a trade name) as the service provider, rather than identifying the individual legal entities;
- All revenues are posted to a single general ledger;[26]
- If separate revenue and expense accounts exist, they are derived from one consolidated set of books and the consolidated filing must cover all revenues contained in the consolidated books;
- Customers have a single point of contact;
- The consolidated filer acknowledges that process served on it would represent process served on any or all of the affiliated legal entities;
- The consolidated filer agrees to document and resolve all slamming complaints that might be served on either it or any of the affiliated legal entities;[27]
- The consolidated filer obtains a separate FCC Registration Number (FRN) from those assigned to its affiliated legal entities;
- The consolidated filer acknowledges that its universal service, TRS, LNP, NANPA, and regulatory fee obligations will be based on data provided in the consolidated Worksheet filings, that it bears the responsibility of satisfying those obligations, and that all legal entities covered by the filing are jointly and severally liable for such obligations; and
- The consolidated filer acknowledges that it: (1) was not insolvent on the date it undertook to make payments on a consolidated basis or on the date of actual payments to universal service, TRS, LNP, NANPA, and regulatory fees, and did not become insolvent as a result of such undertaking or payments; (2) was not left with unreasonably small capital as a result of such

[24] *See* 47 CFR § 64.1195 (outlining the Commission's registration requirements).

[25] *See 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review—Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Services, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms*, CC Docket 98-171, Report and Order, 14 FCC Rcd 16602 (1999) (*Consolidated Reporting Order*); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service et al.*, CC Docket No. 96-45 *et al.*, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Report and Order, 17 FCC Rcd 3752 (2002) (*2002 First Contribution Methodology Order and FNPRM*).

[26] The FCC Form 499 Filings for the consolidated filer must reflect all revenues in this general ledger.

[27] A Commercial Mobile Radio Service (CMRS) carrier that is not subject to certain slamming regulations is not required to certify that it will document and resolve all slamming complaints that might be served on either the filer or any of its affiliated legal entities that also are not subject to the slamming regulations.

undertaking or payments; and (3) was not left unable to pay debts as they matured as a result of such undertaking or payments.[28]

This certification should be filed with the Commission's Data Collection Agent (*see* address in Table 3) and must also include:

- A list of the legal names of all the legal entities covered by the filing. See instructions to Line 112 regarding the reporting of these legal names on the Worksheet.
- The FCC Form 499 Filer IDs of all the legal entities covered by the filing
- The consolidated filer's FRN
- For wireless carriers, a list of all radio licenses (call signs) issued to each legal entity covered by the filing

Filers filing on a consolidated basis should be aware that any penalties associated with failure to pay or underpayment of any of its obligations will be assessed on the total revenue reported on the consolidated basis, rather than on a separate legal entity basis.

C. HOW TO FILE

1. NO FILING FEE

There is no fee to file this form.

2. WHEN TO FILE

This section provides the filing schedule and relevant filing addresses. If a filing date is a holiday (as defined in section 1.4(e)(1) of the Commission's rules), Worksheets are due the next business day. *See* 47 CFR § 1.4(e)(1).

[28] For purposes of this certification, the term "insolvent" means either unable to pay debts when due or having liabilities greater than assets. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 101(32).

Table 2: Filing Schedule for One-Time Requirements

What to file	When to file	Where to file
New telecommunications carriers and other telecommunications providers must register with the Commission when they begin to provide service.[29] Registration with the Commission includes obtaining an FCC registration number ("FRN") from the Commission registration system ("CORES") and obtaining a Filer ID from USAC's E-File system. If a new filer had already started providing telecommunications services prior to its registration with the FCC and obtaining a 499 Filer ID from USAC, it must file FCC Forms 499-A for all prior applicable years in which it provided telecommunications services and/or VoIP. New carriers and VoIP providers (including interconnected and non-interconnected) must identify an agent for service of process within the District of Columbia. Although alternate agents may be included in the filing, a resident D.C. agent must be designated.	Upon beginning to provide service, but no later than 30 days after beginning to provide service.	FCC (to obtain an FRN) https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do USAC (to obtain a 499 Filer ID) https://www.usac.org/service-providers/contributing-to-the-usf/register-for-a-499-id/ Such information is provided at Page 2, Block 2 of the FCC Form 499-A.
Filers must update their registration information, including a DC Agent for Service of Process in accordance with these instructions to the FCC Form 499-A.	Within one week of the contact information change.	Filers wishing to update Preparer information, headquarter address, billing contact information, or DC Agent for Service of Process, can submit either an FCC Form 499-A or an FCC Form 499-Q or, for billing-related matters only, email USAC's billing department.[30] Filers wishing to update any other information must submit a revised FCC Form 499-A. For more information, see https://www.usac.org/service-providers/contributing-to-the-usf/making-revisions/

[29] Registration information includes information reported in Blocks 1 and 2 of the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet.

[30] Filers seeking to update limited DC agent information such as an address and/or telephone number change for more than twenty registrations at one time may contact USAC and request permission to submit a summary Excel-styled document containing these changes. Generally, changing an agent requires submission of an FCC Form 499-A with the accompanying officer certification.

What to file	When to file	Where to file
Filers that cease providing telecommunications must deactivate their Filer ID with USAC by submitting a letter with termination date and information on their successor entity to USAC. Filers must also update their CORES ID information with the Commission	Within 30 days of the date that the company ceased providing service.	FCC https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do USAC https://www.usac.org/service-providers/contributing-to-the-usf/manage-your-499-id/

Table 3: Filing Schedule for Annual Reporting Requirements

What to file	When to file	Where to file
Completed FCC Form 499-A	April 1	Data Collection Agent https://forms.universalservice.org
Completed FCC Form 499-Q (universal service contributors only)	February 1 May 1 August 1 November 1	Data Collection Agent c/o Universal Service Administrative Company https://forms.universalservice.org
Traffic studies relied on by providers to report interstate and/or international revenues on FCC Form 499-A *See* section IV.C.5.h for format and content requirements for traffic studies	April 1	Data Collection Agent - via Email c/o Universal Service Administrative Company form499@usac.org
Consolidated filer certification *See* section III.B for format and content requirements for consolidated filer certification	April 1	Data Collection Agent - via Email c/o Universal Service Administrative Company form499@usac.org

Do not send universal service, TRS, NANPA or LNPA contributions with the Worksheet or to any of the above listed addresses. The appropriate administrators will calculate the amount of contribution due and send a bill to the billing contact person and billing address identified on Line 208 of the FCC Form 499-A. *See* Table 4 for contribution bases used by the USF, TRS, NANPA and LNPA administrators to determine contribution obligations.

3. ELECTRONIC FILING

Filers capable of accessing the Internet are required to file this form electronically. For information on filing electronically, go to https://www.usac.org/service-providers/contributing-to-the-usf/forms-to-file/.

Filers may file the consolidated filer certifications, and traffic studies by submitting paper copies to: **Form 499 Data Collection Agent c/o USAC, 700 12th Street N.W., Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20005**.

D. OBLIGATION TO FILE REVISIONS

Line 612 provides check boxes to show whether the Worksheet is the original April 1 filing for the year, a registration form for a new filer, a revised filing with updated registration information, or a revised filing with updated revenue data for the year.

Filers must submit a revised Form 499-A if there is any change in any of the following types of information:

- Filer identification in Block 1
- Regulatory contact information in Block 2-A
- Agent for service of process in Block 2-B
- FCC registration information in Block 2-C

Filers must also submit revised worksheets if they discover an error in their revenue data.

- Since companies generally close their books for financial purposes by the end of March, such filers should base the April filing on closed books.
- In filing a revised Worksheet, filers should not include routine out-of-period adjustments to revenue data unless such adjustments would affect a reported amount by more than ten percent.
- **Filers must submit any revised Worksheet <u>that would result in decreased contributions</u> by March 31 of the year after the original filing due date.**[31]

Filers should <u>not</u> file revised revenue information to reflect mergers, acquisitions, or sales of operating units.

- If a filer that submitted a Form 499-A no longer exists, its successor company is responsible for continuing to make assessed contribution or true-up payments, if any, for the funding period and must notify the Form 499 Data Collection Agent.
- If the operations of an entity ceased during the previous calendar year and are now part of a successor, the successor must include the previous calendar year revenues of the now-defunct entity with its own Worksheet. Thus, it is the successor company's responsibility to ensure that the revenues for both companies for the previous calendar year are accounted for in their entirety.
- The entity that ceased operations may owe, or its successor may owe, additional universal service contributions or may be due refunds, depending on how its FCC Form 499-A Worksheet compares to previously filed FCC Form 499-Q Worksheets.
    - Such entities are not liable for TRS, LNP, or NANPA contributions for the upcoming year. Check the appropriate boxes on Line 603 and write "Not in business as of filing date" on the explanation line.

E. RECORDKEEPING

Filers shall maintain records and documentation to justify information reporting on the Worksheet, including the methodology used to determine projections and to allocate interstate revenues, for five years.[32] Additionally, filers must make available all documents and records that pertain to them, including those of contractors and consultants working on their behalf, to the Commission's Office of Inspector General, to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), and to auditors upon request.[33] Review by the Commission or USAC may cover any existing corporate records, not just those

[31] *See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service et al.*, CC Docket No. 96-45 *et al.*, Order, 20 FCC Rcd 1012, 1013, para. 2 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2004), *pet. for recon. and applications for review pending*.

[32] *See* 47 CFR § 54.706(e) ("These records shall include without limitation the following: Financial statements and supporting documentation; accounting records; historical customer records; general ledgers; and any other relevant documentation.").

[33] *See id.*; 47 CFR § 54.711(a).

specifically maintained for these purposes.[34] Entities acquiring carrier operations through consolidation, merger, etc., must maintain the records of the acquired entity.[35]

F. COMPLIANCE

Failure to file the Worksheet, submit traffic studies (if applicable), submit supporting documentation upon request, and pay contributions in a timely fashion may subject entities to the enforcement provisions of the Communications Act and any other applicable law.[36] In addition, entities may be billed by the administrators for reasonable costs, including interest and administrative costs that are caused by late, inaccurate, or untruthful filing of the Worksheet or overdue contributions.[37] Inaccurate or untruthful information contained in the Worksheet may lead to prosecution under the criminal provisions of Title 18 of the United States Code.[38]

G. ROUNDING OF NUMBERS AND NEGATIVE NUMBERS

Dollar Amounts. — Reported revenues in Blocks 3, 4, and 5 greater than one thousand dollars may be rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. Dollar amounts may be reported in whole dollars. For example, $2,271,881.93 could be reported at $2,271,882 or $2,272,000, but not $2272 thousand, $2,270,000.00, or $2.272 million. Enter $0 in any line for which the filer had no revenues for the year.

Negative Numbers. — Filers are directed to provide billed revenues without subtracting any expenses, allowances for uncollectibles, or settlement payments and without making out-of-period adjustments. Therefore, do not enter negative numbers on any billed revenue lines on the Worksheet. *See* instructions for Lines 421 and 422 regarding uncollectibles.

IV. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

A. BLOCK 1: FILER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Block 1 of the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet reports identification information.

Line 101	499 Filer ID

USAC assigns an FCC Form 499 Filer ID number once a company completes the online registration process at https://efile.universalservice.org/ContributorRegistration/V2/. This number is then used for the company to file subsequent FCC Forms 499. Filer 499 ID numbers can be found at:

- FCC Form 499 Filer Database (http://apps.fcc.gov/cgb/form499/499a.cfm)
- Telecommunications Provider Locator (https://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/telecommunications-provider-locator)

Line 102	Legal Name of Filer

[34] *See* 47 U.S.C. § 218.

[35] *See* 47 CFR § 42.1.

[36] In addition, pursuant to the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, the Commission shall withhold action on applications or other requests for benefits by delinquent debtors and dismiss those applications or other requests if the delinquent debt is not paid or satisfactory arrangement for payment is not made. *See* 47 CFR § 1.1910; *Amendment of Parts 0 and 1 of the Commission's Rules, Implementation of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and Adoption of Rules Governing Applications or Requests for Benefits by Delinquent Debtors*, MD Docket No. 02-339, 19 FCC Rcd 6540 (2004).

[37] *See* 47 CFR § 54.713 (universal service); 47 CFR § 64.604(c)(5)(iii)(A) and (B) (TRS); *see also* 47 CFR § 52.17(b) (NANPA); 47 CFR § 52.32(c) (LNPA).

[38] *See* 47 CFR § 54.711.

Enter the legal name of the filer as it appears on articles of incorporation or articles of formation and other legal documents. Each legal entity must file a separate Worksheet unless affiliated entities are filing on a consolidated basis. *See* section III.B.

Line 103	**IRS Employer Identification Number**

Enter the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) employer identification number (EIN) for the filer, which should be the same EIN that the company uses to file any federal taxes, if the filer offers services subject to such taxes.

- Do not use individual social security numbers for the federal EIN.
- If a filer lacks an EIN (*i.e.* has no taxpayer identification number to provide other than an individual social security number), it should contact USAC (see section II for contact information) so that it can be assigned an alternative identification number.
- Consolidated filers must provide the EIN of the holding company.

Line 104	**Doing Business As Name**

Enter the principal name under which the filer conducts telecommunications activities, typically the name that appears on customer bills or the name used when service representatives answer customer inquiries.

Line 105	**Telecommunications Activities of Filer**

Mark the boxes that describe the telecommunications activity or activities of the filer. If more than one is appropriate, label the activities in order of importance to the filer's business. Enter a 1 in the box that is the most important activity, a 2 in the next most important, etc., but select no more than 5 categories. An explanation of the categories appears in Appendix B.

Line 106	**Affiliated Filers/ Holding Company Information**

Enter a common identifier for all affiliated filers (the "Affiliated Filers Name"). This is typically the name of the filer's holding company or controlling entity, if any. Amongst a large group of affiliates, this may be the name of the predominant commonly owned or controlled entity. All reporting affiliates or commonly owned entities should have the same Affiliated Filers Name and IRS employer identification number appearing on Line 106.1 and 106.2 respectively. For those entities also required to file FCC Form 477, use the same single name that is used in the FCC Form 477 to indicate common ownership or control.

- Unless otherwise specifically provided, an affiliate is a "person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person."[39] For this purpose, the term 'owns' means "to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than 10 percent."[40]
- If the filer has no affiliates, check the appropriate box on Line 106.

Line 107	**FCC Registration Number**

Enter the FCC Registration Number (FRN) of the filer. The FRN is a ten-digit number that includes a check-digit and is used to identify an entity within all Commission Licensing/Filing systems and the Commission's Revenue Accounting Management Information System (RAMIS). The number is assigned by the Commission Registration System (CORES). For more information, *see* https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do.

[39] *See* 47 U.S.C. § 153(2).

[40] *Id.*

Line 108	Management Company

Enter the name of the management company if the filer is managed by an entity other than itself. If the filer and one or more telecommunications provider(s) are commonly managed, then each should show the same management company on Line 108. Filers need not be affiliated to have a common management company. The management company would typically be the point of contact for the administrators of the support mechanisms.

Line 109	Mailing Address of Corporate Headquarters

Enter the complete mailing address of the corporate headquarters of the filer.

Lines 110-111	Business Address/ Telephone Number for Customer Inquiries and Complaints

Line 110. — Enter a business address for the filer that could be used either for customer inquiries or that parties could use to contact the filer in order to resolve complaints. Check the box if this address is the same as the mailing address of the corporate headquarters on Line 109.

Line 111. — Enter a telephone number that can be used to resolve customer complaints, for customer service, or for billing inquiries, such as a customer toll-free number.

Line 112	Trade Names

Enter all names that the filer used in the past three years for providing telecommunications.

- Enter all names by which the filer would be known to customers, government bodies, creditors, the press, etc.
- Consolidated filers should provide all names used by all telecommunications affiliates covered by the filing.
- The list must include the filer's billing agents if those parties, rather than the filer, are identified on customer bills.
- The list should also include names of predecessor companies that would have contributed to universal service, TRS, NANP, or LNP or filed a Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet in the prior year. In such cases, include the prior Filer 499 ID as part of the name, as this information will be used by the administrators in instances where other information indicates that a non-filer might exist and also to ensure that entities are not billed improperly for predecessor companies that no longer exist.
- If there is insufficient space to enter all names, contact USAC.

B. BLOCK 2: CONTACT INFORMATION

Block 2 of the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet reports contact information for regulatory and billing purposes.

1. BLOCK 2-A: REGULATORY CONTACT INFORMATION

Line 201	499 Filer ID

Enter the Filer 499 ID from Line 101.

Line 202	Legal Name of Filer

Enter the legal name of the filer from Line 102.

Line 203-206	Person Who Completed This Worksheet/ Contact Information

Enter the name, telephone number, and fax number of the person who filled out the FCC Form 499. An email address is also required and will not be publicly released. This person should be able to provide clarifications or additional information and, if necessary, serve as the first point of contact if either the Commission or an administrator should choose to verify or audit information provided in the Worksheet.

Line 207	Corporate Office to Which Correspondence Should Be Sent

Enter the contact person name, office name, and mailing address of a corporate office to which correspondence regarding this Worksheet should be sent. An email address is also required and will not be publicly released. USAC does NOT send Worksheets to this address; all Worksheets must be filed using USAC's electronic filing system. Failure to receive a Worksheet from an administrator or the FCC does not relieve the filer from its obligation to file in a timely fashion.

Line 208	Billing Contact Information

Line 208 — Enter a billing contact person name and address for administrators to send billing information for contributions. An email address is also required and will not be publicly released. Information on establishing electronic fund transfer and bills for universal service, TRS, NANPA, or LNPA contributions will be sent to this address unless other arrangements are made via written request.

Line 208.1 — An FCC ITSP regulatory fee bill, if due, will be sent to the email address specified on Line 208.1. FCC inquiries regarding ITSP regulatory fees will also be sent to this email address. Carrier questions regarding ITSP regulatory fee bills should be directed to the FCC Financial Operations Help Desk, 877-480-3201.

Although a filer may or may not use the same contact information for Lines 207 and 208, it is the filer's responsibility to ensure that accurate information is provided on both lines. A filer will be responsible for any late fees, interest or penalties incurred as a result of its failure to provide accurate contact information on this form.

2. BLOCK 2-B: AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS

Section 413 of the Act requires each common carrier "to designate in writing an agent in the District of Columbia" upon whom all notices, process, orders, and decisions made by the Commission may be served on behalf of that carrier in any proceeding pending before the Commission. The Commission has also extended this requirement to interconnected and non-interconnected VoIP providers.[41]

Lines 209-218	Agent for Service of Process

Carriers, interconnected VoIP providers, and non-interconnected VoIP providers must enter the company name, contact person name, business address, telephone or voicemail number, fax number, and, if available, email address for their designated D.C. Agent.

Carriers, interconnected VoIP providers, and non-interconnected VoIP providers *must* designate a *single* agent for service of process in D.C. for all Commission business. Service of any notice, process, orders, decisions, and requirements of the Commission may be made upon the filer by leaving a copy thereof with this designated agent during normal business hours at the agent's office or other usual place of residence.

In addition to this information, the filer may elect to provide a local or alternate agent for service of process located outside D.C. Filers other than carriers, interconnected VoIP providers, and non-interconnected VoIP providers need only report one agent for service of process, whether located inside D.C. or otherwise. Although the FCC Form 499-A permits carriers, interconnected VoIP providers, and

[41] 47 U.S.C. § 413; *see* 47 CFR § 1.47(h) (interconnected VoIP providers); *Contributions to the Telecommunications Relay Services Fund*, CG Docket No. 11-47, Report and Order, 26 FCC Rcd 14352, 14542, para. 21 (2011) (non-interconnected VoIP providers).

non-interconnected VoIP providers to designate a preferred alternate or local agents for service of process, each designated agent for a particular carrier, interconnected VoIP provider or non-interconnected VoIP provider must accept service for all purposes relating to Commission business. A carrier, interconnected VoIP provider or non-interconnected VoIP provider may not limit a designated agent's ability to accept service on behalf of the carrier, interconnected VoIP provider or non-interconnected VoIP provider by subject matter, jurisdiction, affiliate or any other grounds. The Commission may assume that the local or alternate agent is the filer's preferred destination for all service of process.

New carriers and VoIP providers (including interconnected and non-interconnected) must identify an agent for service of process, must register with the FCC within 30 days of providing service, and all carriers or VoIP providers (including interconnected and non-interconnected) must notify USAC within one week if the contact information changes for their D.C. Agent. *See* Table 2 for more information.

3. BLOCK 2-C: FCC REGISTRATION INFORMATION

New telecommunications carriers and other telecommunications providers must register with the Commission when they begin to provide service. Carriers and other telecommunications providers must update registration information within one week of a material change. Registration information includes information reported in Blocks 1 and 2 of the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet.

Lines 219-226	**FCC Registration Information**

As explained above, virtually all carriers filing the FCC Form 499 are considered to be interstate carriers. They, along with interconnected and non-interconnected VoIP providers, must provide the names and business addresses of their Chief Executive Officer, Chairman, and President.

Refer to the following list for instructions for different types of providers:

- If the filer does not have one or more of these officers, then names should be supplied for the three most senior-level officers of the filer
- If the same person occupies more than one position, then names should be supplied for the three most senior-level officers of the filer
- If the filer is a sole proprietorship, list only one name
- If the filer is a partnership, list the managing partner on Line 221
- If the filer is owned by two partners, list the second partner on Line 223
- If there are three or more partners, list information for the managing partner and the two other partners with the greatest financial interest in the partnership

For purposes of this filing, an officer is an occupant of a position listed in the article of incorporation, articles of formation, or other similar legal document.

Line 227	**Jurisdictions in Which Filer Provided/ Will Provide Service**

Check those jurisdictions where the filer provided telecommunications service or interconnected VoIP service in the past 15 months, and any additional jurisdictions in which the filer expects to provide such services in the next 12 months. Identify jurisdictions where customers physically obtain service, and for switched services, identify jurisdictions where customers can originate calls. For services where the called party pays, however, also identify jurisdictions where calls terminate.[42] For example, an operator service provider that handled inmate calls originating in New Jersey and terminating collect in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania would identify those three states as jurisdictions served.

[42] Both parties to a collect call are "consumers." 47 C.F.R § 64.708; *see* 47 C.F.R § 64.710(b)(1).

Line 228	Year and Month that Filer First Provided/ Will Provide Service

Enter the year and month that the filer first provided telecommunications or interconnected VoIP service. If not yet providing either type of service, then the filer should indicate the year and month it expects to begin operations. If operations began prior to January 1, 1999, the filer may so indicate by using the check box rather than entering the specific date.

C. BLOCKS 3 AND 4-A: FILER REVENUE INFORMATION

Blocks 3 and 4-A of the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet report revenue information for calendar year ~~2020~~2021.

For most filers, completing Lines 303–314 and 403–418 is a three-step process.

First, the filer must assign its gross billed revenues to reporting categories (generally, the rows on Form 499-A), which includes allocating revenues from bundled services between their telecommunications and non-telecommunications components. *See* Section IV.C.2.

Second, the filer must attribute telecommunications revenues derived from sales to contributing resellers (Block 3 on Form 499-A) or from sales to end users (Block 4 on Form 499-A). *See* Section IV.C.4.

Third, the filer must apportion its telecommunications revenues between the intrastate, interstate, and international jurisdictions (generally, the columns on the FCC Form 499-A). *See* Section IV.C.5.

1. FILER IDENTIFICATION

Line 301 Line 401	499 Filer ID

Enter the Filer 499 ID from Line 101.

Line 302 Line 402	Legal Name of Filer

Enter the legal name of the filer from Line 102.

2. GROSS BILLED REVENUES – GENERAL

Report gross billed revenues as directed.

- Note on Gross Earned Revenues Reporting. — Filers that maintain records in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and that record revenues when earned instead of when billed, may use earned revenues to represent billed revenues as long as they do so consistently from reporting period to reporting period. These revenues should not include amounts that cannot be billed to customers. Filers using earned revenues to represent billed revenues need not impute earned revenue for redeemed credits if no earned revenue is recorded when credits are redeemed. To the extent that earned revenues are net of any uncollectible amounts, these uncollectible amounts must not be included on Line 421 or Line 422.

Gross billed revenues include:

- Revenues from all sources, including non-regulated telecommunications offerings, information services, and other non-telecommunications services.
- Total revenues billed to customers during the filing period with no allowances for uncollectibles, settlements, or out-of-period adjustments.
- Gross billed revenues include:

- Account set-up
- Connection
- Service restoration
- Termination
- Revenues derived from the activation and provision of interstate, international, and intrastate telecommunications and non-telecommunications services
- Collection overages and unclaimed refunds for telecommunications and telecommunications services when not subject to escheats
- Surcharges on telecommunications services or interconnected VoIP services that are billed to the customer and either retained by the filer or remitted to a non-government third party under contract
- Any other non-recurring charges.

These charges should be reported on the same line that the filer reports any associated recurring revenue.

Gross billed revenues do NOT include:

- Deposits
- Amounts that cannot be billed to customers and may be distinct from booked revenues
- Taxes
- Surcharges that are not recorded on the company books as revenues and are remitted to government bodies
  - BUT any charge on a customer bill represented to recover or collect contributions to federal and state universal service support mechanisms must be shown separately on Line 403.

Special cases:

- National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) pool companies should report the actual gross billed revenues (CABS Revenues) reported to the NECA pool and not settlement revenues received from the pool.
- Entities making consolidated filings must include in their FCC Form 499 Filings all revenue on the consolidated books of account.
- Credits should not be deducted from billed revenues when the credit is issued. Instead, filers should include redeemed credits with uncollectible amounts reported on Line 421 and Line 422.
- Mergers and acquisitions: When two filers merge, the successor company should report total revenues for the reporting period for all predecessor operations, unless the filers maintain separate corporate identities and both continue to operate. In that special case, each filer should continue to report its revenues separately.[43] Where an entity obtains, by any means whatsoever, the telecommunications operations or customer base of a filer, and the acquired company does not file its own FCC Form 499-A, the acquiring company must report all telecommunications revenues associated with such operations or customer base including revenues billed in the calendar year prior to the date of acquisition.
- International Services: For international services, gross billed revenues consist of gross revenues billed by U.S. telecommunications providers with no allowances for settlement or settlement-like payments. International settlement and settlement-like receipts for foreign-billed service should

[43] *See* Section III.C.

not be included in U.S. telecommunications revenues, but should be reported on Line 418.[44] Note that if the filer receives the foreign-bound traffic in the United States, then it is providing ordinary international service from the United States to a foreign point; receipts from the originating carrier should be reported as revenue on Line 414.

- Revenue from circuits within the United States that connect a customer to an international circuit should be reported as interstate. Revenue from circuits that connect two foreign points should be reported on Line 418.
- Reporting of international revenues should be consistent with the definitions provided in Appendix C below.[45]

3. APPORTIONING REVENUES AMONG REPORTING CATEGORIES

a. General Information

Good-faith estimates

If revenue category breakout cannot be determined directly from corporate books of account or subsidiary records, filers may provide on the Worksheet a good-faith estimate of the breakout.

- Good-faith estimates should be based on information that is current for the filing period.
- Filers should maintain documentation for good-faith estimates and entities may not simply report all revenues on one of the "other revenue" lines.

Column (a) required

Filers with any revenues for Lines 303–314 and 403–420 may not omit the dollar amounts from column (a), even if all of the revenues are for interstate or international services.

Block 3 vs. Block 4 revenues

Filers may report revenues from contributing resellers (i.e., universal service contributors) on Lines 303 through 314 and must report all other revenues on Lines 403 through 418. *See* Section IV.C.4 for additional information on reporting revenues from resellers.

- In many cases, the line-item categories are duplicated in Block 3 and Block 4.
- *Intercarrier compensation and universal service support:* The following categories of revenues are not end-user revenue and are reported in Block 3. For these revenue items, the filer is not required to retain Filer 499 ID information or verify that the customer is a reseller.

Category of Revenue	**Report on**
Per-minute switched access charges and reciprocal compensation	Line 304

[44] For example, if a filer receives payment from a foreign carrier for traffic that the filer receives outside of the United States, brings into the United States, and then reoriginates and carries to a foreign point, the filer would not include those settlement-like payments as revenues on Line 414 of the FCC Form 499-A. Instead, those amounts would be reported on Line 418.

[45] The definitions in Appendix C were derived from the 2016 Filing Manual for Section 43.62 Annual Reports, consistent with past FCC Form 499 filing requirements.

Revenues received from carriers as payphone compensation for originating toll calls	Line 306
Charges for physical collocation of equipment pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(c)(6)	Line 307
Revenues that filers receive as universal service and other similar support from either states or the federal government	Line 308
Revenues received from another U.S. carrier for roaming service provided to customers of that carrier	Line 309

- *Carriers required to use the USOA:* Carriers that are required to use the Uniform System of Accounts (USOA) prescribed in Part 32 of the Commission's rules should base their responses on their USOA account data and supplemental records, dividing revenues into those received from universal service contributors and those received from end users and other non-contributors.[46]
- *Certain international switched service revenues*: An underlying carrier also may include as carrier's carrier revenues any international switched service revenues received from another U.S. reselling carrier where that reselling carrier is using the underlying carrier's service to reoriginate the foreign-billed traffic of a foreign telephone operator. In this case, the reselling carrier must certify to the underlying carrier that it is using the resold international switched service to handle traffic that both originates and terminates in foreign points.

All filers should report revenues based on the following descriptions.

b. **Fixed local service revenue categories**

Fixed local services connect a specific point to one or more other points. These services can be provided using either wireline, fixed wireless, or interconnected VoIP technologies and can be used for local exchange service, private communications, or access to toll services.

Line 303 (Carrier's carrier) **Line 404 (End user)**	**Monthly service, local calling including message and local toll charges, connection charges, vertical features, and other local exchange services**

Lines 303 and 404 should include the basic local service revenues, except for:

- local private line revenues (reported on Lines 305 and 406);
- business data services revenues (reported on Lines 305 and 406);
- revenues from providing mobile or cellular services (reported on lines 309, 409, and 410);
- subscriber line charges levied under a tariff filed by the filer or placed on customer bills as a pass-through of underlying carrier subscriber line charges (reported on line 405).

[46] *See* section IV.C.4.

Lines 303 and 404 should include charges for:

- optional extended area service;
- dialing features;
- local directory assistance;
- added exchange services such as automatic number identification (ANI) or teleconferencing;
- LNP surcharges;
    - Revenues from federally tariffed LNP surcharges should be reported on Line 404, and should be identified as interstate revenues.
- connection charges;
- charges for connecting with mobile service; and
- local exchange revenue settlements.

Interconnected VoIP providers not reporting based on the safe harbor that bundle fixed local exchange service with interstate toll services at a unitary price must determine the appropriate portion of revenues to allocate to interstate and international toll service, in a manner that is consistent with their supporting books of account and records.

Filers should break out Line 303/404 revenues as follows:

<u>Carrier's Carrier Revenue</u>	
Line 303.1	Revenues for services provided to carriers as unbundled network elements (UNEs).
Line 303.2	Revenues for services provided to carriers under tariffs or arrangements other than unbundled network elements (for example, resale). Line 303.2 should also include Presubscribed Interexchange Carrier Charge (PICC) charges levied on carriers.
<u>End-User Revenue</u>	
Line 404.1	Local service portion of revenues from local exchange service plans (other than interconnected VoIP plans) that include interstate calling as part of the flat monthly fee.
Line 404.2	Toll portion of revenues from local exchange service plans (other than interconnected VoIP plans) that include interstate calling as part of the flat monthly fee. (Note: if the revenue from the toll portion of such service is attributed to an affiliate, that affiliate must report such revenues on Line 404.2, not on Line 414).
Line 404.3	Revenues from local exchange services plans (other than interconnected VoIP plans) that do not include interstate calling.
Line 404.4	Revenues from local service provided via interconnected VoIP service offered in conjunction with a broadband connection.

Line 404.5	Revenues from local service provided via interconnected VoIP service offered independent of the broadband connection.[47]

Line 304	**Per–minute charges for originating or terminating calls**

This line includes:

- Per–minute charges for originating or terminating calls, including charges related to originating or terminating VoIP-PSTN traffic.[48]
- Revenues to the local exchange carrier for messages between a cellular customer and another station within the mobile service area.
- Any other gross charges to other carriers for the origination or termination of toll or non-toll traffic.
- Direct trunk transport, port charges, mileage charges and rearrangement charges that are normally treated as access charge revenues.[49]

Do not deduct or net payments to carriers for origination or termination of traffic on their networks.

This line does not include:

- International settlement or settlement-like receipts or transiting fees from international toll services.

Filers should break out Line 304 revenues as follows:

Line 304.1	Revenues for originating and terminating minutes provided under state or federal access tariffs.
Line 304.2	Revenues for originating and terminating minutes provided as unbundled network elements or other contract arrangements.

Line 405	**Tariffed subscriber line charges, Access Recovery Charges, and PICC charges levied by a local exchange carrier on a no-PIC customer**

Line 405 should include charges to end users specified in access tariffs, such as tariffed subscriber line charges (SLCs), Access Recovery Charges (ARCs),[50] and Primary Interexchange Carrier Charges

[47] Bundled offerings include those offered directly by the filer and those offered by the filer through an affiliate.

[48] *See Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663, 18005-08, paras. 940-42 (2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order)*, aff'd.,*sub nom.* In re: FCC 11-161, 753 F.3d 1015 (10th Cir. 2014) (setting forth default intercarrier compensation rates for VoIP-PSTN traffic); *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Second Order on Reconsideration, 27 FCC Rcd 4648, 4659-4663, paras. 30-35 (2012) (the Commission allowed local exchange carriers (LECs) to tariff default rates equal to their intrastate originating access rates for originating intrastate toll VoIP traffic until June 30, 2014, after which time LECs are to tariff default rates for such traffic equal to their interstate originating access rates).

[49] 47 CFR Part 69.

[50] The Commission allowed incumbent LECs to assess an ARC on certain wireline telephone customers, a rule adopted as part of comprehensive intercarrier compensation reform. *See USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17956-17961, 17987-17994, paras. 847-853, 905-916. The ARC is tariffed separately from the SLC;

(continued . . .)

(PICCs) levied by a local exchange carrier on customers that are not presubscribed to an interexchange carrier (i.e., a no-PIC customer). Note that federal SLCs are separate from toll revenues.

Line 405 should not include charges to end users for business data services (which are reported on Line 406).

The Commission does not regulate how non-incumbent LECs recover the costs of the local loop, nor does it require non-incumbents to assess a non-traffic sensitive charge for the costs of providing interstate or interstate access service from their customers through a separately stated end user charge. To the extent non-incumbent contributors choose to assess a separately stated charge for the interstate portion of fixed local exchange service or interstate exchange access, they should report such revenues on Line 405 and allocate those revenues to the interstate jurisdiction, for USF contribution reporting purposes, in a manner that is consistent with their supporting books of account and records.[51]

Telecommunications providers that do not have SLC, ARC or PICC tariffs on file with the Commission or with a state utility commission, that are not reselling such tariffed charges, or that do not have separately stated charges for the interstate portion of fixed local exchange service or interstate exchange access should report $0 on Line 405.

Line 305 (Carrier's Carrier) **Line 406 (End User)**	**Local Private Line and Business Data Service**

Line 406 should include:

- Revenues from providing local services that involve dedicated circuits, private switching arrangements, digital subscriber lines, and/or predefined transmission paths, including those services that provide dedicated point-to-point transmission of data at certain guaranteed speeds and service levels using high-capacity connections.
- Revenues from special access lines resold to end users unless the service is bundled with and charged as part of a toll service, in which case the revenues should be reported on the appropriate toll service line.
- Revenues from offering dedicated capacity between specified points even if the service is provided over local area switched, multi-protocol label switching (MPLS), asynchronous transfer mode (ATM), or frame relay networks.
- Revenue from broadband transmission service, including consumer broadband-only loop service, voluntarily provided on a common carrier basis to providers of retail broadband Internet access except as set forth below. This provision does not include revenue from broadband transmission service offered on a common-carrier basis by rate-of-return carriers that are exempt from the contribution obligations on those services pursuant to Commission order.[52]

however, the Commission permitted carriers to combine the ARC and SLC as a single line item on a customer bill. *Id.,* 26 FCC Rcd at 17958, para. 852. For purposes of reporting revenues on Line 405, incumbent LECs should include all revenues collected from ARCs.

[51] For example, to the extent that a contributor's tariff filing (or equivalent) indicates that a non-traffic sensitive charge is for interstate access, then revenues for such charge (or a portion thereof) must be allocated to interstate revenues for USF reporting purposes.

[52] *See Petition of NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association and the United States Telecom Association for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from the Application of Contribution Obligations on Broadband Internet Access Transmission Services*, WC Docket No. 17-206, Order, FCC 18-75 (rel. June 8, 2018) (*Rate--of-Return Forbearance Order*).

- Filers should report on Line 406 revenues derived from the sale of special access service on a common carrier basis to providers of retail broadband Internet access service.[53]
- All other revenues from local private line service and business data service billed to end users must be reported on Line 406.
- Mixed-use private or WATS lines: If over ten percent of the traffic carried over a private or WATS line is interstate, then the revenues and costs generated by the entire line are classified as interstate and must be reported.[54]

Line 418 should include:

- Revenues from the provision of broadband transmission service offered on a non-common-carrier basis to providers of broadband Internet access or
- Revenues from the provision of broadband transmission service offered on a common-carrier basis by rate-of-return carriers that are exempt from contribution obligations on those services pursuant to Commission order.[55]

Amounts reported on Line 305 should be divided between:

Line 305.1	Revenues for service provided to contributing resellers for resale as telecommunications.
Line 305.2	Revenues for service provided to contributing resellers for resale as interconnected VoIP.

~~Mixed-use private or WATS lines: If over ten percent of the traffic carried over a private or WATS line is interstate, then the revenues and costs generated by the entire line are classified as interstate.~~[56]

Line 306 (Carrier's Carrier) **Line 407 (End User)**	**Payphone Revenues**

Line 306 should include revenues received from carriers as payphone compensation for originating toll calls.

Line 407 should include revenues received from customers paid directly to the payphone service provider, including all coin-in-the-box revenues. Do not deduct commission payments to premises' owners.

Line 307 (Carrier's Carrier) **Line 408 (End User)**	**Other Local Telecommunications Service Revenues**

[53] *See Universal Contribution Methodology, Application for Review of Decision of the Wireline Competition Bureau filed by Global Crossing Bandwidth, Inc., et al.*, WC Docket No. 06-122, Order, 27 FCC Rcd 13780, 13797, para. 39 n.109 (2012) (*2012 Wholesaler-Reseller Clarification Order*); *Wireline Broadband Internet Access Services Order,* 20 FCC Rcd at 14915-16, paras. 112-113 & n.357; *2006 Contribution Methodology Reform Order*, 21 FCC Rcd at 7549, para. 62 n.206.

[54] *See Universal Service Order*, 12 FCC Rcd at 9173, para. 778 (citing 47 CFR § 36.154(a)).

[55] *Rate--of--Return Forbearance Order*. ~~*See Petition of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association and the United States Telecom Association for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from the Application of Contribution Obligations on Broadband Internet Access Transmission Services*, WC Docket No. 17-206, Order, FCC 18-75 (rel. June 8, 2018).~~

[56] ~~*See Universal Service Order*, 12 FCC Rcd at 9173, para. 778 (citing 47 CFR § 36.154(a)).~~

Include local telecommunications service revenues that reasonably would not be included with one of the other fixed local service revenue categories. Report any revenues from offering switched capacity on local area data networks such as ATM or frame relay networks.

Line 307 should include charges for physical collocation of equipment pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 251(c)(6).

Line 308	**Universal Service and Similar Support Amounts Received from Federal or State Government Sources**

- Universal service support revenues may include:
- Any amounts that filers receive as universal service support from either states or the federal government.
  - Filers may include the following as revenues on Line 308:
    - Lifeline and Link Up reimbursement from the Fund;
    - High Cost universal service support from the Fund;
    - Subsidy amounts for discounted services provided to schools, libraries, and rural healthcare providers. This includes (1) revenue received directly from the Fund and (2) revenue received from a school, library, or rural healthcare provider to the extent such revenue is attributable to universal service subsidy amounts paid to the school, library, or rural healthcare provider.
  - Include amounts received as cash as well as amounts received as credit against contribution obligations.
- Any non-universal service support amounts that filers receive as support from either the states or federal government.
  - Filers may include as revenues on Line 308:
    - Subsidy amounts from the Emergency Connectivity Fund, Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and the COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

Do not include:

- Any amounts charged to customers to recover universal service or similar contributions.
- Any amounts schools, libraries, and rural health-care providers pay for the non-discounted portion of services. Such charges are properly reported as end user revenue.
- Any amounts end users pay for non-discounted portion of services. Such charges are properly reported as end user revenue.

c. Mobile service categories

Mobile services are wireless communications between mobile wireless equipment, such as cellular phones and other points.

Line 309 (Carrier's Carrier) **Line 409 and 410 (End User)**	**Mobile Services**

Data reported on these lines should contain mobile service revenues, except:

- Toll charges to mobile service customers

  - Itemized toll charges to mobile service customers should be included in Lines 413 or 414, as appropriate.
- Charges associated with customer premises equipment
  - Itemized charges for customer premises equipment should be included in Line 418.3.
- Roaming charges for service provided by foreign carriers operating in foreign points. These charges are not U.S. telecommunications revenues and therefore should be reported on Line 418.

Filers should break out Line 309/409/410 revenues as follows:

Line 309	Revenues for all mobile service provided to contributing resellers, including revenues received from another U.S carrier for roaming service, whether or not it includes toll charges, provided to customers of that carrier.
Line 409	Revenues for mobile service provided to end users, including monthly charges, activation fees, service restoration, and service order processing charges, etc. End–user prepaid wireless service revenues attributable to activation and daily or monthly access charges should be reported on Line 409.
Line 410	Revenues for mobile service provided to end users, including any roaming charges assessed on customers for calls placed out of customers' home areas and local directory assistance charges. Revenues received from a foreign carrier for roaming services provided in the U.S. to customers of that carrier. End–user prepaid wireless service revenues attributable to airtime should be reported on Line 410.

d. Toll service revenue categories

Toll services are telecommunications services, wireline, wireless, or interconnected VoIP services, that enable customers to communicate outside of local exchange calling areas. Toll service revenues include intrastate, interstate, and international long-distance services.

For wireless providers, toll services are telecommunications services that enable customers to communicate outside the customer's plan-defined home calling area.[57] The term "home calling area" is used generally by wireless carriers to denote the plan-defined area in which a subscriber may make calls and incur no additional charges beyond the plan-specific per month charge, assuming the subscriber does not exceed the plan allotted minutes.[58]

Line 411	**Prepaid Calling Cards**

Include:

- Revenues from prepaid calling cards provided either to customers, distributors, or to retail establishments.
- Prepaid service where the customer utilizes the service provider's switching platform and a personal identification number (PIN) for purposes of verification and billing, even if the customer does not receive a physical card.[59]

Gross billed revenues should represent the amounts actually paid by end user customers and not the amounts paid by distributors or retailers, and should not be reduced or adjusted for discounts provided to distributors or retail establishments. All prepaid card revenues are classified as end–user revenues. For purposes of completing this Worksheet, prepaid card revenues should be recognized when end–user customers purchase the cards.

Line 310 (Carrier's carrier) **Line 413 (End User)**	**Operator and toll calls with alternative billing arrangements**

Operator and toll calls with alternative billing arrangements should include:

- All calling card or credit card calls, person-to-person calls, and calls with alternative billing arrangements such as third–number billing, collect calls, and country-direct type calls that either originate or terminate in a U.S. point
- All charges from toll or long-distance directory assistance
- Revenues from all calls placed from all coin and coinless, public and semi-public, accommodation and prison telephones, except that:

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[57] *See Universal Service Contribution Methodology, Petition for Declaratory Ruling of CTIA – The Wireless Association on Universal Service Contribution Obligations, Petition for Declaratory Ruling of Cingular Wireless, LLC*, WC Docket No. 06-122, Declaratory Order, 23 FCC Rcd 1411, 1414, para. 5 (2008) (*Separately Stated Toll Order)*.

[58] *Id.* at 1415, para. 7, n.28.

[59] *See AT&T Corp. Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Enhanced Prepaid Calling Card Services; Regulation of Prepaid Calling Card Services*, WC Docket Nos. 03-133, 05-68, Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 20 FCC Rcd 4826, 4827–4827, para. 3 (2005) (*AT&T Prepaid Calling Card Services Declaratory Ruling*); *see also Universal Service Contribution Methodology; Request for Review of Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Network Enhanced Telecom, LLP,* WC Docket No. 06-122, Order, 25 FCC Rcd 14533, 14538–39, paras. 12–13 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2010) (*Network IP Order*), *petition for partial reconsideration denied*, *Request for Review of a Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Network Enhanced Telecom, LLP*, WC Docket No. 06-122, Order on Reconsideration, 26 FCC Rcd 6169 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2011).

- Calls that are paid for via prepaid calling cards should be included on Line 411.
- Calls paid for by coins deposited in the phone should be included on Line 407.

Line 412	**International Calls that Originate and Terminate in Foreign Points**

International calls that traverse the United States but both originate and terminate in foreign points ("traditional transiting traffic" revenues) are excluded from the universal service contribution base.

- Carrier's carrier (reseller) transit revenues should be reported on Line 311.
- End-user transit revenues should be segregated from other toll revenues by showing them on Line 412.

Telecommunications providers should only include traditional transiting revenues and should not report international settlement revenues from traditional settlement transiting traffic on the Worksheet

Line 311 (Carrier's carrier) **Line 414 (End User)**	**Ordinary Long Distance**

Filers should report ordinary long distance revenues on these lines, including:

- Revenues from most toll calls placed for a fee
- Flat monthly charges billed to customers, such as account maintenance charges, PICC pass-through charges, and monthly minimums
- Ordinary message telephone service (MTS), WATS, subscriber toll-free, 900, "WATS-like," and similar switched services
- Separately stated toll revenue from wireline, wireless, and interconnected VoIP services.[60]

Do not include:

- Revenues for the toll portion of flat rated local service (other than interconnected VoIP service), regardless of whether this portion of revenue is reported by a local exchange carrier or by its toll affiliate. Report such revenues on Line 404.2.
- Revenue for the toll portion of flat rated interconnected VoIP local service. Report such revenues on Line 404.4 or Line 404.5, as appropriate.

Ordinary long distance revenues should be reported as follows:

Line 311	Ordinary long distance provided to contributing resellers.
Line 414.1	Ordinary long distance provided to end users using technologies other than interconnected VoIP, including toll service that employs Internet Protocol but that is not provided on an interconnected VoIP basis.[61]
Line 414.2	Separately billed revenue for ordinary long distance provided to end users using interconnected VoIP.

Line 312 (Carrier's Carrier) **Line 415 (End User)**	**Long Distance Private Line Services**

[60] *See 2006 Contribution Methodology Reform Order*, 21 FCC Rcd at 7534, para. 29.

[61] *See Petition for Declaratory Ruling that AT&T's Phone-to-Phone IP Telephony Services are Exempt from Access Charges*, WC Docket No. 02-361, Order, 19 FCC Rcd 7457 (2004) (*AT&T IP-in-the-Middle Order*).

Long distance private line service should include:

- Revenues from dedicated circuits, private switching arrangements, and/or predefined transmission paths, extending beyond the basic service area.
- Frame relay and similar services where the customer is provided a dedicated amount of capacity between points in different basic service areas.
- Revenues from the resale of business data services if they are included as part of a toll private line service.

For international private line services, U.S. providers must report on Line 415 or Line 312, as appropriate, revenues from the U.S. portion of the circuit to the theoretical midpoint of the circuit regardless of whether such revenues were billed to the customer by the reporting carrier or by a partner carrier in a foreign point.

Line 313 (Carrier's carrier) **Line 416 (End User)**	**Satellite Services**

Include:

- Revenues from providing space segment service and earth station link-up capacity used for providing telecommunications or telecommunications services via satellite.

Do not include:

- Revenues derived from the lease of bare transponder capacity.

Line 314 (Carrier's carrier) **Line 417 (End User)**	**All Other Long-Distance Services**

Include:

- All other revenues from providing long distance communications services.
- Toll teleconferencing.[62]
- Switched data, frame relay and similar services where the customer is provided a toll network service rather than dedicated capacity between two points.

[62] Audio bridging service providers should report all audio bridging revenues as telecommunications revenues. *See Intercall Order*, 23 FCC Rcd at 10734, 10739, paras. 8, 25 - 26.

e. Other revenue categories

Line 403	Surcharges or other amounts on bills identified as recovering State or Federal universal service contributions

Itemized charges levied by the filer in order to recover contributions to state and federal universal service support mechanisms should be classified as end-user billed revenues and should be reported on Line 403.

- Any charge identified on a bill as recovering contributions to federal universal service support mechanisms must be shown on Line 403 and should be identified as either interstate or international revenues, as appropriate. Amounts billed to customers to recover federal universal service contribution obligations should be attributed as either interstate or international revenues, as appropriate, but may not be reported as intrastate revenues.
- Any charge identified on a bill as recovering contributions to state universal service support mechanisms must be shown on Line 403 and included in column (a) in the total.
- Filers should report intrastate revenues on line 403 only to the extent that actual payments to state universal service programs were recovered by pass-through charges itemized on customer bills.

Line 418	Other revenues that should not be reported in the contribution bases Non-interconnected VoIP revenues (TRS only)

Line 418 should include all non-telecommunications service revenues on the filer's books, including non-telecommunications service revenues received from contributing resellers, as well as some revenues that are derived from telecommunications-related functions, but that should not be included in the universal service or other fund contribution bases. Line 418.4 should include non-interconnected VoIP revenues, which are included in the TRS contribution base only.

Line 418 includes revenues from:

- Information services.
  - Information services offering a capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, utilizing, or making available information via telecommunications are not included in the universal service or other fund contribution bases. ~~Information services do not include any use of any such capability for the management, control, or operation of a telecommunications system or the management of a telecommunications service.~~ For example, wireless text messaging services including Short Message Service (SMS) and Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS), voice mail, call moderation, and call transcription services are information services. ~~Revenues allocated to these services should be reported on Line 418.~~ Information services do not include any use of any such capability for the management, control, or operation of a telecommunications system or the management of a telecommunications service.
- ~~Revenues for t~~The provision of broadband transmission offered on a non-common-carrier basis to providers of broadband Internet access
- The provision of broadband transmission service offered on a common-carrier basis by rate-of-return carriers that are exempt from contribution obligations on those services pursuant to Commission order
- ~~Revenues for t~~The provision of broadband Internet access
- Published directory services
- Billing and collection services

- Inside wiring
- Inside wiring maintenance insurance
- Pole attachments
- Open video systems (OVS)
- Cable leased access
- Cable service
- Direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service
- ~~Revenues from t~~The sale, lease, installation, maintenance, or insurance of customer premises equipment (CPE)
- ~~Revenues from t~~The sale or lease of transmission facilities, such as dark fiber or bare transponder capacity, that are not provided as part of a telecommunications service or as a UNE.
- Late payment charges
- Charges imposed by the filer for customer checks returned for non-payment
- Revenues from telecommunications provided in a foreign country where the traffic does not transit the United States or where the provider is offering service as a foreign carrier, i.e., a carrier licensed in that country.

Revenue reported on Line 418 should be divided into four categories:

Line 418.1	Revenues from other non-telecommunications goods or services that are bundled with U.S. wireline or wireless circuit switched exchange access services.
Line 418.2	Revenues from other non-telecommunications goods or services that are bundled with U.S. interconnected VoIP service.
Line 418.3	All other revenues properly reported on line 418 except those reported in Lines 418.1, 418.2, and 418.4, including broadband Internet access service subject to forbearance and broadband transmission service provided on a non-common carrier basis to a broadband Internet access provider.
Line 418.4	Revenues from non-interconnected VoIP services sold to end users that are not otherwise includable on Lines 403 to 417. Non-interconnected VoIP service is defined in Appendix B, under non-interconnected VoIP service provider.[63]

[63] For TRS purposes, "providers of non-interconnected VoIP services that are offered with other (non-VoIP) services that generate end-user revenues [are required] to allocate a portion of those end-user revenues to the non-interconnected VoIP service in two circumstances: (1) when those providers also offer the non-interconnected VoIP service on a stand-alone basis for a fee; or (2) when those providers also offer the other (non-VoIP) services without the non-interconnected VoIP service feature at a different (discounted) price." *See 2011 TRS Contributions Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 14538-39, para. 15. For example, a video gaming service may integrate chat functions that utilize non-interconnected VoIP services, but use of such functions may not be readily identifiable or separable from the gaming service components. *Id.* at 14538-41, paras. 15-17.

f. Reporting revenues from bundled offerings

Allocation of revenues between either wireline or interconnected VoIP telecommunications and bundled non-telecommunications, such as information services and consumer premises equipment (CPE), are governed by the Commission's bundling rules.

The Commission adopted two safe harbor methods for allocating revenue when telecommunications services and CPE/enhanced services are offered as a bundled package.

- The first option is to report revenues from bundled telecommunications and CPE/enhanced service offerings based on the unbundled service offering prices, with no discount from the bundled offering being allocated to telecommunications services.
- Alternatively, filers may elect to treat all bundled revenues as telecommunications service revenues for purposes of determining their universal service obligations.

Filers may choose to use allocation methods other than the two described above. Filers should realize, however, that any other allocation method may not be considered reasonable and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in an audit or enforcement context.

Prepaid calling card providers may avail themselves of the bundled service safe harbors for separating revenue between telecommunications and information services.[64]

Similarly, providers of non-interconnected VoIP services that are offered with end-user revenue generating (non-VoIP) services may avail themselves of the bundled service safe harbors for allocating revenue.[65]

g. Notes for carriers that use the USOA

The revenue accounts in the USOA generally correspond to specific revenue lines in Block 3 and Block 4.

- For example, revenue amounts recorded in accounts 5001, 5002, 5050, 5060 and 5069 should be reported on Line 303 or Line 404, as appropriate.
- Similarly, revenues recorded in account 5280 should be reported on Line 407.

There are some exceptions.

- For example, local exchange carrier revenues from mobile carriers for calls between wireless and wireline customers should be reported on Line 304.
- Monthly and connection revenues from mobile services provided to end users in account 5004 should be reported on Line 409.
- Per-minute revenues from end users in account 5004 should be reported on Line 410. However, revenues in account 5004 from exchanging traffic with mobile service carriers should be reported on Line 304.

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[64] *Policy and Rules Concerning the Interstate, Interexchange Marketplace; Implementation of Section 254(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended; 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review—Review of Customer Premises Equipment and Enhanced Services Unbundling Rules in the Interexchange, Exchange Access and Local Exchange Markets*, CC Docket Nos. 96-61, 98-183, Report and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 7418, 7446–48, paras. 47–54 (2001); *see Regulation of Prepaid Calling Card Services*, WC Docket No. 05-68, Declaratory Ruling, Report and Order, 21 FCC Rcd 7290, 7298, para. 22 (2006) (*Prepaid Calling Card Services Order*), *vacated in part*, *Qwest Servs. Corp. v. FCC*, 509 F.3d 531 (D.C. Cir. 2007).

[65] *See 2011 TRS Contributions Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 14538-41, paras. 15-17.

- Similarly, state per-minute access revenues recorded in account 5084 should be reported on Line 304; state special access revenues recorded in account 5084 should be reported on Line 305 and Line 406, as appropriate; and state subscriber line charge revenues recorded in account 5084 should be reported on Line 405.
- Uncollectible revenue recorded in account 5300 should be reported on Line 421. The portion of these revenues that correspond to contribution base revenues should be reported on Line 422.

Revenues classified in account 5200, miscellaneous revenues, should be divided into several lines for reporting purposes.

- For example, account 5200 includes revenues derived from unbundled network elements, which should be reported on Line 303 and, reciprocal compensation, which should be reported on Line 304.
- Some types of incidental regulated revenues contained in account 5200, miscellaneous revenues, will continue to be reported on Lines 403 through 408. These include collection overages and non-refundable prepaid amounts that are not used by the customer.
- Note that late payment charges, bad check penalties imposed by the company, enhanced services, billing and collection, customer premises equipment sale, lease or insurance, and published directory revenues should continue to be reported on Line 418.

Revenues recorded in account 5100, long distance network service revenues, should be reported on Line 310 through Line 314 and Line 411 through Line 417, as appropriate.

Revenues from account 5100, long distance message revenues, are normally revenues from ordinary long distance and other switched toll services and should be reported on Lines 311, 414.1, and 414.2 except for amounts properly reported on Lines 310, 407, 411, 412, and 413.

4. ATTRIBUTING REVENUES FROM CONTRIBUTING RESELLERS AND FROM END USERS

Filers must report revenues using two broad categories: (1) revenues reported in Block 3 (revenues from contributing resellers, intercarrier compensation, and universal service support) and (2) revenues reported in Block 4 (revenues from all other sources). Taken together, these revenues should include all revenues billed to customers and should include all revenues on the filers' books of account.

Except as noted below, most categories of revenues require the filer to determine whether the customer purchasing the telecommunications is a contributing reseller or instead an end user.[66] Revenues from services provided by underlying carriers to other entities that meet the definition of "reseller" (*see* below) are referred to herein as "carrier's carrier revenues" or "revenues from resellers." Revenues from all other sources consist primarily of revenues from services provided to end users, referred to here as "end-user revenues." This latter category includes foreign and non-telecommunications revenues.

[66] *See 2012 Wholesaler-Reseller Clarification Order*, 27 FCC Rcd at 13786-87, para. 12; *Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration, 12 FCC Rcd 18400, 18507 (1997) ("For this purpose, a reseller is a telecommunications service provider that 1) incorporates purchased telecommunications services into its own offerings and 2) can reasonably be expected to contribute to support universal service based on revenues from those offerings"); *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Request for Review of Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Global Crossing Bandwidth, Inc.*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order, 24 FCC Rcd 10824, 10825-26, para. 5 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2009) (*Global Crossing Order*).

a. Definition of "Reseller"

For purposes of completing Block 3, a "reseller" is a telecommunications carrier or telecommunications provider that: (1) incorporates purchased telecommunications into its own offerings; *and* (2) can reasonably be expected to contribute to federal universal service support mechanisms based on revenues from those offerings.[67] Specifically, a customer is a reseller if it incorporates purchased wholesale service into an offering that is, at least in part, assessable telecommunications and can be reasonably expected to contribute to the federal universal service support mechanisms for that portion of the offering.[68]

b. Revenues from Entities Exempt from USF Contributions

For the purposes of filling out this Worksheet—and for calculating contributions to the universal service support mechanisms—certain telecommunications carriers and other providers of telecommunications may be exempt from contribution to the universal service support mechanisms.

- These exempt entities, including "international only" and "intrastate only" providers and providers that meet the *de minimis* universal service threshold, should not be treated as contributing resellers for the purpose of reporting revenues in Block 3.
- That is, filers that are underlying carriers should report revenues derived from the provision of telecommunications to exempt carriers and providers (including services provided to entities that are *de minimis* for universal service purposes) on Lines 403–417 of Block 4 of the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet, as appropriate.
    - Underlying carriers must contribute to the universal service support mechanisms on the basis of such revenues.
    - In Block 5, Line 511, however, filers may elect to report the amounts of such revenues (i.e., those revenues from exempt entities that are reported as end-user revenues) so that these revenues may be excluded for purposes of calculating contributions to TRS, LNPA, and NANPA.

c. "Reasonable Expectation" Standard

Pursuant to the *2012 Wholesaler-Reseller Clarification Order*, a filer may demonstrate that it has a "reasonable expectation" that a customer contributes to federal universal service support mechanisms based on revenues from the customer's offerings by following the guidance in these instructions or by submitting other reliable proof.[69]

Filers that comply with the procedures specified in this section of the instructions will be afforded a "safe harbor"- *i.e.,* that filer will be deemed to have demonstrated a reasonable expectation. If a wholesale provider follows procedures that deviate in any way from the guidance in this section, the wholesale provider will have to demonstrate a reasonable expectation via "other reliable proof."[70] USAC shall

[67] *2012 Wholesaler-Reseller Clarification Order*, 27 FCC Rcd at 13781-82, para.3.

[68] Thus, for example, if a customer purchases a DSL line and incorporates that service into an offering of both telephone service and broadband Internet access service, it may certify that it is a reseller for purposes of that purchased service so long as it contributes on the assessable revenues from the telephone service. *See id.* at 13796, para. 34 n.98.

[69] *2012 Wholesaler-Reseller Clarification Order,* 27 FCC Rcd at 13794, para. 32, and 13801-02, paras. 51-52; *see Global Crossing Order*, 24 FCC Rcd at 1028-29, para. 14.

[70] *See id.* at 13801-02, paras. 51-52.

evaluate the use of "other reliable proof" to demonstrate a "reasonable expectation" on a case-by-case basis, based on the reasonableness of the utilized method or proof.[71]

Filers that do not comply with the safe harbor procedures or that do not otherwise meet the reasonable expectation standard will be responsible for any additional universal service assessments that result if their revenues must be reclassified as end user revenues.[72]

d. Safe Harbor Procedures for Meeting the "Reasonable Expectation."

Each filer should have documented procedures to ensure that it reports as "revenues from resellers" only revenues from entities that meet the definition of reseller. The procedures must include, at a minimum, the following information on resellers:

1. Filer 499 ID;
2. Legal name;
3. Legal address;
4. Name of a contact person;
5. Phone number of the contact person; and,
6. As described below, an annual certification by the reseller regarding its reseller status;

Filers shall provide this information to the Commission or the Administrator upon request.

e. Certifications

Annual Certificates. A filer may demonstrate that it had and has a reasonable expectation that a particular customer is a reseller with respect to purchased service(s) by providing a certificate signed each calendar year by the customer that:[73]

(1) specifies which services the customer is or is not purchasing for resale pursuant to the certificate;[74] and

[71] This requirement is further discussed in the *2012 Wholesaler-Reseller Clarification Order,* 27 FCC Rcd at 13801-2, para. 52.

[72] If a wholesale provider's customer (or another entity in the downstream chain of resellers) actually contributed to the federal universal service support mechanisms for the relevant calendar year on offerings that incorporate purchased wholesale services, the wholesale provider will not be obligated to contribute on revenues for the wholesale services, even if the wholesale provider cannot demonstrate that it had a reasonable expectation that its customer would contribute when it filed its FCC Form 499-A for the relevant calendar year. *Id.* at 13799, paras. 43-44.

[73] Reseller certifications must be signed by the "customer" (*i.e.*, the resale provider itself rather than a third-party representative or consultant). *See, e.g., 2012 Wholesaler-Reseller Clarification Order.*

[74] At the filer's discretion, the filer may, for example, rely on certificates that specify any of the following: (1) that all services purchased by the customer are or will be purchased for resale pursuant to the certificate ("entity-level certification"); (2) that all services associated with a particular billing account, the account number for which the customer shall specify, are or will be purchased for resale pursuant to the certificate ("account-level certification"); (3) that individual services specified by the customer are or will be purchased for resale pursuant to certification ("service-specific certification"); or (4) that all services except those specified either individually or as associated with a particular billing account, the account number(s) for which the customer shall specify, are or will be purchased for resale pursuant to the certificate. A customer may certify that additional services will be purchased for resale pursuant to the certificate if the customer (or another entity in the downstream chain of resellers) will contribute to the federal universal service support mechanisms on revenues attributed to such services for the

(continued . . .)

(2) is consistent with the following sample language:

I certify under penalty of perjury that the company is purchasing service(s) for resale, at least in part, and that the company is incorporating the purchased services into its own offerings which are, at least in part, assessable U.S. telecommunications or interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol services. I also certify under penalty of perjury that the company either directly contributes or has a reasonable expectation that another entity in the downstream chain of resellers directly contributes to the federal universal service support mechanisms on the assessable portion of revenues from offerings that incorporate the purchased services.[75]

Services Purchased After Date of Annual Certificate. A filer may sell additional service(s) to a customer after the date that the annual certificate is signed. If the annual certificate does not cover those additional services, the filer may demonstrate a reasonable expectation that a customer is a reseller with respect to a service purchased after the date of the annual certificate signed by the customer by relying on either of these received prior to the filing of the applicable FCC Form 499-A:

(1) a verifiable notification from the customer that the customer is purchasing the service for resale consistent with the valid, previously signed annual certificate, or

(2) a subsequent certificate covering the purchased service signed by the customer.

5. ALLOCATING REVENUES BETWEEN THE JURISDICTIONS

Columns (b), (c), (d), and (e) are provided to identify the part of gross revenues that arise from interstate and international services for each entry on Lines 303 through 314 and Lines 403 through 417.

a. Definitions

Intrastate telecommunications means: communications or transmission between points within the same State, Territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia.

Interstate and international telecommunications means: communications or transmission between a point in one state, territory, possession of the United States or the District of Columbia and a point outside that state, territory, possession of the United States or the District of Columbia.

b. General Requirements

Where possible, filers should report their amount of total revenues that are intrastate, interstate, and international by using information from their books of account and other internal data reporting systems.

- Where a filer can determine the precise amount of revenues that it has billed for interstate and international services, it should enter those amounts in columns (d) and (e), respectively.
    - Total revenues entered in column (a) include revenues billed for intrastate service even though intrastate revenues are not reported separately on the FCC Form 499-A.
- If the allocation of revenues cannot be determined directly from corporate books of account or subsidiary records, filers may provide on the Worksheet good-faith estimates of these figures.

relevant calendar year.

[75] In some instances, reselling carriers are themselves selling the underlying service to another (non-contributing) reseller, which then sells the same service to another (non-contributing) reseller, and so on until the service is ultimately sold to an entity that is a contributing "reseller." In these instances, an underlying carrier also may include as carrier's carrier revenue any revenues received from service ultimately provided to entities that meet the definition of "reseller" for purposes of the FCC Form 499-A.

- In such cases, the filer should ~~enter~~ determine the good-faith estimates of the ~~percentage of~~ interstate and the ~~percentage of~~ international. revenues ~~in columns (b) and (c), respectively~~. ~~Using the good-faith estimate, calculate the amount of interstate revenues as the amount in column (a) times~~Enter the interstate ~~percentage and report that number~~amount in column (~~b~~d)~~,~~ and ~~calculate the amount of international revenues as the amount in column (a) times~~ the international ~~percentage and report that number~~amount in column (~~c~~e). Enter zero dollars in columns (d) and (e) if and only if there were no interstate or international revenues for the line for the reporting period.
- A reporting entity may not submit a good-faith estimate lower than one percent unless the correct figure should be $0.
- Good-faith estimates must be based on information that is current for the filing period.
- Information supporting good-faith estimates must be made available to either the FCC or to the administrators upon request.

For example, if a prepaid calling card provider collects a fixed amount of revenue per minute of traffic, and 65 percent of minutes are interstate, then interstate revenues would include 65 percent of the per-minute revenues. Similarly, if a local exchange carrier bills local measured service charges for calls that originate in one state and terminate in another, these billings should be classified as interstate even though the charges are covered by a state tariff and the revenues are included in a local service account.

c. Services Offered Under Interstate Tariffs

Revenues from services offered under interstate tariffs, such as revenues from federal subscriber line charges and from federally tariffed LNP surcharges, should be identified as interstate revenues. This includes amounts incorporated in or bundled with other local service charges.

d. Flat-rate Unbundled Network Access Elements

In general, flat-rated unbundled network access elements should be classified according to the regulatory agency that has primary jurisdiction over the contracts.

e. Mixed-Use Private or WATS Lines

If over ten percent of the traffic carried over a private or WATS line is interstate, then the revenues and costs generated by the entire line are classified as interstate.[76]

f. Bundled Local and Toll Services

Many carriers and other providers of telecommunications now offer packages that bundle fixed local exchange service with interstate toll service (*i.e.*, voice long distance) for a single price.

- Revenues for the whole bundle, except for tariffed subscriber line, ARC and PICC charges, should be reported on Line 404, as described more fully above.
- The portion of revenues associated with interstate and international toll services must be identified in columns (d) and (e), respectively.[77]
- Filers should make a good-faith estimate of the amounts of intrastate, interstate, and international revenues from bundled local/toll service if they cannot otherwise determine these amounts from corporate records, and must make their methodology available to the Commission or the Administrator, upon request.

[76] *See Universal Service Order*, 12 FCC Rcd at 9173, para. 778 (citing 47 CFR § 36.154(a)).

[77] *See Separately Stated Toll Order,* 23 FCC Rcd at 1414, para. 5 (defining "toll service").

g. Safe Harbors

Wireless telecommunications providers, interconnected VoIP providers, and non-interconnected VoIP providers that choose to avail themselves of safe harbor percentages for interstate revenues may assume that the FCC will not find it necessary to review or question the data underlying their reported percentages.

Wireless Safe Harbor: The FCC provides the following safe harbor percentages of interstate revenues associated with Line 309, Line 409, and Line 410:[78]

37.1% of cellular and broadband PCS telecommunications revenues
12.0% of paging revenues
1.0% of analog SMR dispatch revenues

These safe harbor percentages may not be applied to universal service pass-through charges, fixed local service revenues, or toll-service charges. All filers must report the actual amount of interstate and international revenues for these services. For example, toll charges for itemized calls appearing on mobile telephone customer bills should be reported as intrastate, interstate or international based on the origination and termination points of the calls.

Interconnected and Non-Interconnected VoIP Safe Harbor: The FCC provides the following safe harbor percentage of interstate revenues associated with Line 303.2, Line 311, Line 404.4, Line 404.5, Line 414.2, and Line 418.4:

64.9% of interconnected VoIP and non-interconnected VoIP telecommunications revenues[79]

This safe harbor percentage may not be applied to universal service pass-through charges or other fixed local service revenues.

Single Election for Affiliated Entities: All affiliated wireless telecommunications providers and VoIP providers (including interconnected and non-interconnected) must make a single election, each quarter, whether to use a traffic study or to use the current safe harbor within the same safe harbor category.[80]

- So, for example, if in a calendar quarter a wireless telecommunications provider uses a traffic study to report interstate revenues for its cellular and broadband PCS telecommunications services, all of its affiliated legal entities must also use traffic studies to report interstate telecommunications revenues for cellular and broadband PCS offerings.

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[78] *See 2006 Contribution Methodology Reform Order*, 21 FCC Rcd at 7532–33, 7545–46, paras. 25–27, 53–55; *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service et al.*, CC Docket No. 96-45 *et al.*, Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 17 FCC Rcd 24952 (2002) (*2002 Second Contribution Methodology Order and FNPRM*); *see also Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 13 FCC Rcd 21252, 21258–60, paras. 11-15 (1998).

[79] *2006 Contribution Methodology Reform Order*, 21 FCC Rcd at 7545, para. 53; *2011 TRS Contributions Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 14544, para. 25.

[80] *See Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service et al.*, CC Docket No. 96-45 *et al.*, Order and Order on Reconsideration, 18 FCC Rcd 1421, 1424-25, para. 6 (2003) ("wireless telecommunications providers are 'affiliated' for purposes of making the single election whether to report actual interstate telecommunications revenues or use the applicable interim wireless safe harbor if one entity (1) directly or indirectly controls or has the power to control another, (2) is directly or indirectly controlled by another, (3) is directly or indirectly controlled by a third party or parties that also controls or has the power to control another, or (4) has an 'identity of interest' with another contributor"). *See also* 47 CFR § 1.2110(c)(5).

- The same wireless telecommunications provider and all affiliates, however, could use the safe harbor for paging services.

Same Methodology for the FCC Form 499-A and the FCC Form 499-Q: Filers should use the same methodology (traffic study or safe harbor) to report interstate and international jurisdictions on the FCC Form 499-A as used on the FCC Form 499-Qs to forecast revenue in each quarter of the applicable calendar year.

- For example, if a filer projected revenue based on a safe harbor for the first two quarters and based on traffic studies for the final two quarters, the amounts reported in the FCC Form 499-A for the first two quarters would be based on actual billings for those quarters and the relevant safe harbors, and the amounts reported for the final two quarters would be based on actual billings for those quarters and the traffic studies for those quarters.

Filers Not Required to File an FCC Form 499-Q: For filers who were not required to file the FCC Form 499-Q, the interstate and international jurisdictions reported on the FCC Form 499-A must be based on information that is current for the filing period.

h. Traffic Studies

Wireless telecommunications providers, interconnected VoIP providers, and non-interconnected VoIP providers may rely on traffic studies if they are unable to determine their actual interstate and international revenues.[81]

- In developing their traffic studies, such providers may rely on statistical sampling to estimate the proportion of minutes that are interstate and international.
- Any revenues associated with charges on customer bills that are identified as interstate or international must effectively be accounted for (e.g., through proper weighting in a traffic study) as 100 percent interstate or international when reporting revenues.[82]
- Sampling techniques must be designed to produce a margin of error of no more than one percent with a confidence level of 95%. If the sampling technique does not employ a completely random sample (e.g., if stratified samples are used), then the respondent must document the sampling technique and explain why it does not result in a biased sample.
- Traffic studies should include, at a minimum: (1) an explanation of the sampling and estimation methods employed and (2) an explanation as to why the study results in an unbiased estimate with the accuracy specified above.
- Mobile telecommunications providers, interconnected VoIP providers and non-interconnected VoIP providers should retain all data underlying their traffic studies as well as all documentation necessary to facilitate an audit of the study data and be prepared to make this data and documentation available to the Commission upon request.
- In addition, filers that rely on traffic studies must submit those studies to USAC at the time of the FCC Form 499-A filing. (S*ee* Table 3 for filing instructions – including address for filing traffic studies and filing deadlines). To enable USAC to match traffic studies filed by contributors with

[81] *See 2006 Contribution Methodology Reform Order*, 21 FCC Rcd at 7534–36, 7547, paras. 29–33, 57; *2011 TRS Contributions Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 14544, para. 25.

[82] *See Separately Stated Toll Order*, 23 FCC Rcd at 1418, para. 15. In developing traffic studies, toll service traffic must be identified and treated in a manner that recognizes that such traffic is more likely to be interstate or international than intrastate. *See id*. Additionally, appropriate weighting of the higher revenue that is often associated with toll service must be reflected in the traffic study or studies. *See id*.

their FCC Form 499 filings, include the following identifying information at the top of each page of the traffic study: Filer ID; Company Name; Affiliated Filers Name (where applicable).

D. BLOCK 4-B: TOTAL REVENUE AND UNCOLLECTIBLE REVENUE INFORMATION

The Administrator relies on the detail line information on the Worksheet to arrive at the totals shown in Block 4-B. The Administrator will attempt to resolve conflicts between any sums that differ from the information entered into the totals on Block 4-B.

Line 419	Gross Billed Revenues from All Sources

Gross billed revenues from all sources should equal the sum of revenues by type of service reported on Lines 303 through 314 and Lines 403 through 418.

Line 420	Gross Universal Service Contribution Base Amounts

Universal service contribution base revenues should equal the subtotal of Lines 403 through 411 and Lines 413 through 417 for each column. The totals on this line represent gross end-user revenues for the purpose of determining contributions to universal service support mechanisms. *See* section IV.E (Line 511 instructions).

Line 421	Uncollectible revenue/ bad debt associated with Line 419 (Gross Billed Revenues)

Show the uncollectible revenue/bad debt expense associated with gross billed revenues amounts reported on Line 419.

- For those using billed revenues, this line may include redeemed credits.
- Reported uncollectible amounts should:
  - Be the amount reported as bad debt expense in the filer's income statement for the year.
  - Cover uncollectibles associated with all revenue on the filer's books (Line 419), including uncollectible carrier's carrier revenues, end-user telecommunications revenues, and revenues reported on Line 418.
  - Represent the portion of gross billed revenues that the filer reasonably expects will not be collected.
- Uncollectibles may not include any amounts associated with unbillable revenues.[83]
- Filers that operate on a cash basis should report $0 on this line.
- Filers that used earned revenue to represent billed revenues should not report as uncollectible any billings that are not included in earned revenues.

Filers that maintain separate detail of uncollectibles by type of business should rely on those records in dividing uncollectible expense between carrier's carrier, contribution base and other revenues, and for dividing uncollectibles associated with contribution base revenues between intrastate, interstate and international categories. Filers that do not have such detail should make such assignments in proportion to reported gross revenues.

Line 422	Uncollectible revenue/ bad debt associated with Line 420 (Universal Service Contribution Base Amounts)

[83] *See 2002 Second Contribution Methodology Order and FNPRM*, 17 FCC Rcd at 24970 n.95.

Show the portion of the uncollectible revenue/bad debt expense reported on Line 421 that is associated with just the universal service contribution base amounts reported on Line 420.

- Filers that maintain separate detail of uncollectibles by type of business should rely on those records in determining the portion of gross uncollectibles reported on Line 421 that should be reported on Line 422.
- Filers that do not have such detail should make such assignments in proportion to reported gross revenues.
- Filers must be able to document how the amounts reported on Line 422 relate to the uncollectible revenue/bad debt expense associated with gross billed revenues reported on Line 421.

In exceptional circumstances, amounts reported on Line 422 may exceed amounts reported on Line 421 or either amount might actually be negative. These situations can arise where amounts previously written off as uncollectible subsequently are collected.

Filers that maintain separate detail of uncollectibles by type of business should rely on those records in dividing uncollectible expense between carrier's carrier, contribution base and other revenues, and for dividing uncollectibles associated with contribution base revenues between intrastate, interstate and international categories. Filers that do not have such detail should make such assignments in proportion to reported gross revenues.

Line 423	**Net universal service contribution base revenues**

Net universal service contribution base revenues should equal the amounts reported on Line 420 minus the amounts reported on Line 422.

E. BLOCK 5: ADDITIONAL REVENUE BREAKOUTS FOR NON-USF MECHANISMS

Line 501	**Filer 499 ID**

Enter the Filer 499 ID from Line 101.

Line 502	**Legal Name of Filer**

Enter the legal name of the filer from Line 102.

Line 503-510	**Percentages of Telecommunications Revenues by LNPA Region**

In these lines, filers should identify the percentages of their telecommunications revenues by LNPA region.

- Payphone service providers, private service providers, and shared-tenant service providers that have certified that they are exempt from contributing to the shared costs of LNP need not provide these breakdowns.

Carriers and interconnected VoIP providers should calculate or estimate the percentage of revenues that they billed in each region based on the amount of service they actually provided in the parts of the United States listed for each region.

- Customer billing addresses may be used to calculate or estimate this percentage.
- The percentages in column (a), representing Block 3 revenues billed in each region of the country, should add to 100% unless the filer did not provide any services for resale by other contributors to the federal universal service support mechanisms.

- The percentages in column (b), representing Block 4 telecommunications service revenues billed in each region of the country (excluding non-telecommunications revenues reported on Line 418) should add to 100% unless the filer did not provide any telecommunications services to end users or non-contributing carriers.
- Filers may use a proxy based on the percentage of subscribers a provider serves in a particular region for reaching an estimate for allocating their end-user revenues to the appropriate regional LNPA.

Line 511	Revenues from Resellers that Do Not Contribute to Universal Service Support Mechanisms and Are Included in Block 4

Identify revenues from resellers that do not contribute directly to universal service support mechanisms and that are included in Block 4. Revenues from resellers that do not contribute to universal service support mechanisms are included on Line 420 but may be excluded from a filer's TRS, NANPA, LNP, and FCC interstate telephone service provider regulatory fee contribution bases. To have these amounts excluded, the filer has the option of identifying such revenues on Line 511.

Line 420 may contain revenues from some FCC Form 499 filers that are exempt from contributing directly to universal service support mechanisms. For example, these would include filers that meet the universal service *de minimis* exception or that provide "international only" service. Since these universal service exempt entities generally do contribute directly to the TRS, LNP, and NANPA mechanisms, revenues from these entities need not be included in the underlying service provider contribution bases for those mechanisms. Filers choosing to report revenues on Line 511 must have the FCC Filer 499 ID for each customer whose revenues are so reported.

Line 512	Gross TRS Contribution Base Amounts

TRS contribution base revenues reportable on Line 512(a) should equal the subtotal of Lines 403(a) through 417(a) and Line 418.4(a) less Line 511(a).

TRS contribution base revenues reportable on Line 512(b) should equal the subtotal of Lines 403(d) through 417(d), Lines 403(e) through 417(e), Line 418.4(d), and Line 418.4(e) less Line 511(b). The totals on this line represent gross end-user revenues for the purpose of determining contributions to TRS.

Line 513	Uncollectible Revenue/ Bad Debt Expense Associated with TRS Contribution Base Amounts

Show the portion of the uncollectible revenue/bad debt expense reported on Line 421 that is associated with just the TRS contribution base amounts reported on Line 512.

- Filers that maintain separate detail of uncollectibles by type of business should rely on those records in determining the portion of gross uncollectibles reported on Line 421 that should be reported on Line 513.
- Filers that do not have such detail should make such assignments in proportion to reported gross revenues.

Filers must be able to document how the amounts reported on Line 513 relate to the uncollectible revenue/bad debt expense associated with gross billed revenues reported on Line 421.

- In exceptional circumstances, amounts reported on Line 513 may exceed amounts reported on Line 421 or either amount might actually be negative. These situations can arise where amounts previously written off as uncollectible subsequently are collected.

Line 514	Net TRS Contribution Base Revenues

Net TRS contribution base revenues should equal the amounts reported on Line 512 less the amounts reported on Line 513.

F. BLOCK 6: CERTIFICATION

Line 601	Filer 499 ID

Copy the Filer 499 ID from Line 101.

Line 602	Legal Name of Filer

Copy the legal name of the filer from Line 102.

Line 603	Certifications – Exemptions from Contribution Requirement(s)

In this line, filers may certify that they are exempt from one or more contribution requirement(s) by checking the box next to the mechanism(s) from which they are exempt.

- As explained above, the FCC Form 499 Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet enables telecommunications carriers and service providers to satisfy a number of requirements in one consolidated form.
- Not all entities that file the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet must contribute to all of the support and cost-recovery mechanisms (universal service, LNP, TRS, and NANPA). For example, certain telecommunications providers that are not telecommunications carriers must contribute to the universal service support mechanisms, but not to the TRS, LNP, and NANPA mechanisms.
- Section III.A provides summary information on which filers must contribute and which filers are exempt from particular contribution requirements.

Filers that certify that they are exempt from one or more mechanism(s) should use the space provided on Line 603 to explain the exemption.

Note: It is not necessary for a filer to certify that it is *de minimis* for universal service purposes because the universal service administrator can determine whether a filer meets the contribution threshold from other information provided on the form. If, however, a reseller or other provider of telecommunications qualifies for the *de minimis* exemption, it must notify its underlying carriers that it is not contributing directly to universal service. Such a reseller or other provider of telecommunication must be treated as an end user when the underlying carrier(s) file an FCC Form 499.

Line 604	Regulatory Fee Exemptions

In this line, filers indicate whether they are exempt from FCC regulatory fees or the filer is an "exempt telecommunications company."[84]

- A state or local governmental entity is any state, possession, city, county, town, village, municipal corporation, or similar political organization.[85]

[84] 47 CFR § 1.1162(c). The FCC will presume that otherwise exempt carriers prefer to pay FCC regulatory fees unless they check this box.

[85] 47 CFR § 1.1162(b).

- The second check box identifies organizations duly qualified as a nonprofit, tax exempt entity under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501 or by state certification.[86] These organizations typically qualify for non-profit status under sections 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(12).

Note that such entities are not exempt from universal service, TRS, LNP, or NANPA contributions unless they qualify under some other exemption.

Line 605	**Request for Nondisclosure of Revenue Information**

Filers may use the box in Line 605 to request nondisclosure of the revenue information contained on the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet.

- By checking this box, the officer of the company signing the Worksheet certifies that the information contained on the Worksheet is privileged or confidential commercial or financial information and that disclosure of such information would likely cause substantial harm to the competitive position of the company filing the Worksheet.
- This box may be checked in lieu of submitting a separate request for confidentiality pursuant to section 0.459 of the Commission's rules.[87]

All decisions regarding disclosure of company-specific information will be made by the Commission. The Commission regularly makes publicly available the names (and Block 1 and 2-B contact information) of the entities that file the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet and information on which filers contribute to which funding mechanisms, including entities that checked the boxes in Line ~~603~~605.

Line 606-611	**Officer Certification**

An officer of the filer must examine the data provided in the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet and certify that the information provided therein is accurate and complete.

- Officers of entities making consolidated filings should refer to Section III.B and must certify that they comply with the conditions listed in that section.
- An officer is a person who occupies a position specified in the corporate by-laws (or partnership agreement. Preferably, the signing officer would be a vice-president for finance, comptroller, treasurer, or a comparable officer holding a financial position. Alternatively, the officer signing the Form preferably would be the president or vice president of operations. If the filer is a sole proprietorship, the owner must sign the certification.

Capable filers must enter data, and verify, submit, and certify FCC Forms 499-A and 499-Q online via USAC's web-based data entry system, E-File.

- An electronic signature in the signature block of each form certified by that officer will be considered the equivalent to a handwritten signature on the form.
- By entering his or her electronic signature into the signature block of each form, the officer, therefore, acknowledges that such electronic signature certifies his or her identity and attests under penalty of perjury as to the truth and accuracy of the information contained in each electronically signed form.

[86] 47 CFR § 1.1162(c).

[87] 47 CFR § 0.459; *see Examination of Current Policy Concerning the Treatment of Confidential Information Submitted to the Commission*, GC Docket No. 96-55, Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 24816 (1998) (listing the showings required in a request that information be withheld and stating that the Commission may defer action on such requests until a formal request for public inspection has been made).

- Visit https://www.usac.org/service-providers/contributing-to-the-usf/forms-to-file/ for more information and access to the online filing system.

A person who willfully makes false statements on the Worksheet can be punished by fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code.[88]

Line 612	Type of Filing

Indicate whether this filing is an original filing for the year, due on April 1, a registration filing for a new service provider, a filing with revised registration information, or a filing with revised revenue information. *See* section III.D for information on the obligation to file revisions.

V. CALCULATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Filers do not calculate the amounts that they must contribute in this Worksheet. The administrators will use the revenue information on the Worksheet to calculate a funding base and individual contributions for each support mechanism. Individual contributions are determined by the use of "factors"—factors reflect the total funding requirement of a particular mechanism divided by the total contribution base for that mechanism. Information on the contribution bases and individual filer contributions are shown below in Table 4.

Table 4: Contribution Bases

Support Mechanism	Funding Basis
Universal service	Line 423(d) + Line 423(e)* less revenues corresponding to universal service contributions**
TRS (Filers with end-user revenues must pay a minimum of $25)	Line 514(a) for contributions funding IP CTS[89] Line 514(b) for contributions funding all other forms of TRS
NANPA (Filers with end-user revenues must pay a minimum of $25. Filers with no end-user revenues must pay $25.)	Line 420(a) plus Line 412(a) less Line 511(a)
LNPA - by region (Filers with only carrier's carrier revenue in a region must pay $100 for that region)	Line 420(a) plus Line 412(a) less Line 511(a) times percentages on Lines 503 through 509

[88] *See* 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

[89] *See* 47 CFR 64.601(a)(19).

* Line 423(e) is excluded from the contribution base if the total of amounts on Line 423(d) for the filer consolidated with all affiliates is less than 12% of the total of Line 423(d) + Line 423(e) for the filer consolidated with all affiliates. *See* 47 CFR § 54.706(c).

** The contribution base for an individual filer is the projected collected interstate and international revenues for the quarter, reduced by an imputed amount of universal service support pass-through charges, based on the actual factor for the quarter. *See Contribution Methodology Order*, 17 FCC Rcd 24952; *see, e.g.*, Proposed First Quarter 2004 Universal Service Contribution Factor, CC Docket No. 96-45, Public Notice, 18 FCC Rcd 25111 (2003). *See also* FCC, Contribution Factor & Quarterly Filings - Universal Service Fund (USF) Management Support, https://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/contribution-factor-quarterly-filings-universal-service-fund-usf-management-support.

Monthly billings for universal service are based on projected collected revenue information filed on the quarterly FCC Form 499-Q.

- Historical amounts reported on FCC Form 499-Q Line 116(b) and (c) correspond to FCC Form 499-A Line 420(d) and (e), respectively.
- Projected collected revenues on FCC Form 499-Q Line 120(b) and (c) correspond to net universal service base revenues on FCC Form 499-A Line 423(d) and (e), respectively.
- The FCC Form 499-Q provides instructions for projecting revenues, and for removing uncollectible amounts from billed revenue projections.
- The amounts filed on the FCC Form 499-A are used to review and true-up FCC Form 499-Q filings and associated contributions.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. REMINDERS

- File the FCC Form 499-A online at https://forms.universalservice.org.
- Contributors are required to maintain records and documentation to justify information reported on the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet for five years. *See* section III.E.
- Is the filer affiliated with another telecommunications provider? Each legal entity must file separately unless they qualify for filing on a consolidated basis. *See* section III.B. Each affiliate or subsidiary must show the same Affiliated Filers information on Lines 106.1 and 106.2.
- Provide data for all lines that apply. Show a zero for services for which the filer had no revenues for the filing period.
- Be sure to include on Line 112 all names by which the filer is known to customers, including the names of agents or billers if those names appear on customer bills.
- Telecommunications providers that are required to contribute to universal service support mechanisms must also file quarterly FCC Forms 499-Q. *See* section III.C.
- Wherever possible, revenue information should be taken from the filer's financial records.
- The Worksheet must be signed by an officer of the filer. An officer is a person who occupies a position specified in the corporate by-laws (or partnership agreement), and would typically be president, vice president for operations, comptroller, treasurer, or a comparable position.
- Do not mail the Worksheet to the FCC. *See* section III.C.

- Filers must re-file parts of the Worksheet if the Agent for Service of Process or FCC Registration information changes during the year.

FCC Form 499 is one of several forms that telecommunications carriers and other providers of interstate telecommunications may need to file. Information concerning common filing requirements for such providers may be found on the Commission's web site, at ~~https://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/information-firms-providing-telecommunications-services-0.~~ https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/guides/common-carrier-filing-requirements-information-firms-providing-telecommunications-services.

B. PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE

Section 52.17 of the Federal Communications Commission's rules require all telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers to contribute to meet the costs of establishing numbering administration, and directs that contributions shall be calculated and paid in accordance with the FCC Form 499-A or Worksheet. 47 CFR § 52.17. Section 52.32 requires the local number portability administrators shall recover the shared costs of long-term number portability from all telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers. 47 CFR § 52.32. Sections 54.706, 54.711, and 54.713 require all interstate telecommunications carriers, interconnected VoIP providers, providers that offer interstate telecommunications for a fee on a non-common carrier basis, and payphone providers that are aggregators to contribute to universal service and file this Worksheet once a year and the FCC Form 499-Q four times a year. 47 CFR §§ 54.706, 54.711, 54.713. Section 64.604 requires that every common carrier, interconnected VoIP provider, and non-interconnected VoIP provider contribute to the TRS Fund on the basis of its relative share of end-user revenues that are subject to contributions based on information provided in this Worksheet. 47 CFR §§ 64.601(b), 64.604(c)(5)(iii)(A) and (B). Section 64.1195 and the Commission's orders require all telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP providers to register using the FCC Form 499-A. 47 CFR § 64.1195(a).

This collection of information stems from the Commission's authority under sections 151(i), 225, 251, 254, 258, and 715 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151(i), 225, 251, 254, 258, 616. The data in the Worksheet will be used to calculate contributions to the universal service support mechanisms, the TRS support mechanism, the cost recovery mechanism for numbering administration, and the cost recovery mechanism for shared costs of long-term number portability. Selected information provided in the Worksheet will be made available to the public in a manner consistent with the Commission's rules.

We have estimated that each response to this collection of information will take, on average, 13.5 hours. Our estimate includes the time to read the instructions, look through existing records, gather and maintain the required data, and actually complete and review the form or response. If you have any comments on this estimate, or how we can improve the collection and reduce the burden it causes you, you may write the Federal Communications Commission, AMD-PERM, Washington, D.C. 20554, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0855). We also will accept your comments via the Internet if you send them to pra@fcc.gov. DO NOT SEND COMPLETED WORKSHEETS TO THIS ADDRESS.

You are not required to respond to a collection of information sponsored by the federal government, and the government may not conduct or sponsor this collection, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. This collection has been assigned an OMB control number of 3060-0855.

The Commission is authorized under the Communications Act to collect the information we request on this form. We will use the information that you provide to determine contribution amounts. If we believe there may be a violation or potential violation of a statute or a Commission regulation, rule, or order, your Worksheet may be referred to the Federal, state, or local agency responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing the statute, rule, regulation, or order. In certain cases, the information in your Worksheet may be disclosed to the Department of Justice, court, or other adjudicative

body when (a) the Commission; or (b) any employee of the Commission; or (c) the United States government, is a party to a proceeding before the body or has an interest in the proceeding.

With the exception of your employer identification number, if you do not provide the information we request on the Worksheet, the Commission may consider you in violation of rules 1.47, 52.17, 52.32, 54.713, 64.604, and 64.1195. 47 CFR §§ 1.47, 52.17, 52.32, 54.713, 64.604, 64.1195.

The foregoing notice is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, P.L. No. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. § 3501, *et seq*.

Appendix A

How to determine if a filer met the universal service *de minimis* standard for calendar year ~~2020~~2021

(1)	*Interstate contribution base for filer* Enter Line 423(d) from FCC Form 499-A.	$
(2)	*International contribution base for filer* Enter Line 423(e) from FCC Form 499-A.	$
(3)	*Interstate contribution base for all affiliates** Enter sum of Line 423(d) from FCC Forms 499-A of all affiliates.	$
(4)	*International contribution base for all affiliates* Enter sum of Line 423(e) from FCC Forms 499-A of all affiliates.	$
(5)	*Consolidated interstate contribution base* Enter Line (1) + Line (3).	$
(6)	*Consolidated interstate and international contribution base* Enter Line (2) + Line (4) + Line (5).	$
(7)	*Consolidated interstate contribution base as a percentage of consolidated interstate and international contribution base* Enter Line (5) / Line (6).	%
(8)	*LIRE Exemption* ** If Line (7) > 12%, enter Line (2). If Line (7) ≤ 12%, enter $0.	$
(9)	*Contribution base to determine de minimis qualification* Enter Line (1) + Line (8).	$
(10)	*~~2021~~ 2022 Form 499-A de minimis estimation factor*	0.226 ***
(11)	*Estimated annual contribution* Enter Line (9) x Line (10)	$

* Unless otherwise specifically provided, an affiliate is a "person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person." For this purpose, the term "owns" means to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than 10 percent. *See* 47 U.S.C. § 153(2).

** Line 423(e) is excluded from the contribution base if the total of amounts on Line 423(d) for the filer consolidated with all affiliates is less than 12% of the total of Line 423(d) + Line 423(e) for the filer consolidated with all affiliates. *See* 47 CFR § 54.706(c).

*** The estimation factor is based on a contribution factor of 0.291, which is higher than the contribution factor announced for any quarter of 2020, and a corresponding circularity factor of 0.223759. Actual contribution and circularity factors for calendar year 2021 may have increased or decreased depending on quarterly changes in program costs and the projected contribution base. Using the estimation factor, filers whose actual contribution requirements total less than $10,000 for the calendar year will be treated as *de minimis* and will receive refunds, if necessary. Filers whose actual contribution requirements total $10,000 or more are required to contribute directly to the universal service support mechanisms. Note that telecommunications carriers and interconnected VoIP service providers must file this Worksheet regardless of whether they qualify for the *de minimis* exemption. Telecommunications providers may qualify for one of the exemptions to filing as detailed in Sections II.A.2.

Appendix B

Explanation of categories listed in Line 105

CAP/CLEC (Competitive Access Provider/Competitive Local Exchange Carrier). — Competes with incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) to provide local exchange services, or telecommunications services that link customers with interexchange facilities, local exchange networks, or other customers, other than Coaxial Cable providers.

Cellular/PCS/SMR (Cellular, Personal Communications Service, and Specialized Mobile Radio). — Provides primarily wireless telecommunications services (wireless telephony). This category includes all providers of real-time two-way or push-to-talk switched voice services that interconnect with the public switched network, including providers of prepaid phones and public coast stations interconnected with the public switched network. *See* 47 CFR § 80.451. This category includes the provision of wireless telephony by resale. An SMR provider would select this category if it primarily provides wireless telephony rather than dispatch or other mobile services.

Coaxial Cable. — Uses coaxial cable (cable TV) facilities to provide local exchange services or telecommunications services that link customers with interexchange facilities, local exchange networks, or other customers.

ILEC (Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier). — Provides local exchange service. An incumbent LEC or ILEC generally is a carrier that was at one time franchised as a monopoly service provider or has since been found to be an incumbent LEC. *See* 47 U.S.C. § 251(h).

IXC (Interexchange Carrier). — Provides long distance telecommunications services substantially through switches or circuits that it owns or leases.

Interconnected VoIP Provider. — Provides "interconnected VoIP service," which is a service that (1) enables real-time, two-way voice communications; (2) requires a broadband connection from the user's location; (3) requires Internet protocol compatible customer premises equipment (CPE); and (4) permits users generally to receive calls that originate on the public switched telephone network and to terminate calls to the public switched telephone network.

Local Reseller. — Provides local exchange or fixed telecommunications services by reselling services of other carriers.

Non-Interconnected VoIP Provider. — Provides non-interconnected VoIP service, which is a service that (i) enables real-time voice communications that originate from or terminate to the user's location using Internet protocol or any successor protocol and (ii) requires Internet protocol compatible customer premises equipment, but (iii) is not an interconnected VoIP service.

Operator Service Provider (OSP). — Serves customers needing the assistance of an operator to complete calls or needing alternate billing arrangements such as collect calling.

Paging — Provides wireless paging or wireless services. This category includes the provision of paging services by resale.

Payphone Service Provider. — Provides customers access to telephone networks through payphone equipment, special teleconference rooms, etc. Payphone service providers also are referred to as payphone aggregators.

Prepaid Calling Card Provider. — Provides prepaid calling card services by selling prepaid calling cards to the public, to distributors or to retailers. Prepaid card providers provide consumers the ability to place long distance calls without presubscribing to an interexchange carrier or using a credit card. Prepaid card providers typically resell the toll service of other carriers and determine the price of the

service by setting the price of the card, assigning personal identification numbers (PINs) and controlling the number of minutes that the card can be used for. Companies who simply sell cards created by others are marketing agents and do not file.

Private Service Provider. — Offers telecommunications to others for a fee on a non-common carrier basis. This would include a company that offers excess capacity on a private system that it uses primarily for internal purposes. This category does not include SMR or Satellite Service Providers.

Satellite Service Provider. — Provides satellite space segment or earth stations that are used for telecommunications service.

Shared-Tenant Service Provider /Building LEC. — Manages or owns a multi-tenant location that provides telecommunications services or facilities to the tenants for a fee.

SMR (dispatch) (Specialized Mobile Radio Service Provider). — Primarily provides dispatch services and mobile services other than wireless telephony. While dispatch services may include interconnection with the public switched network, this category does not include carriers that primarily offer wireless telephony. This category includes LTR dispatch or community repeater systems.

Stand-Alone Audio Bridging Provider /Integrated Teleconferencing Service Provider. — Allows end users to transmit a call (using telephone lines), to a point specified by the user (the conference bridge), without change in the form or content of the information as sent and received (voice transmission).

Toll Reseller. — Provides long distance telecommunications services primarily by reselling the long distance telecommunications services of other carriers.

Wireless Data. — Provides mobile or fixed wireless data services using wireless technology. This category includes the provision of wireless data services by resale.

The Worksheet also provides boxes for "Other Local," "Other Mobile," and "Other Toll." If one of these categories is checked, the filer should describe the nature of the service it provides under the check boxes. For example, filers that provide toll service that: (1) uses ordinary customer premises equipment with no enhanced functionality; (2) originates and terminates on the public switched telephone network and (3) undergoes no net protocol conversion and provides no enhanced functionality to end users due to the provider's use of IP technology should enter "VoIP toll" in the explanation field.[90]

Appendix C – Definitions for International Reporting

Country-Beyond Service is an International Calling Service (ICS) provided and billed by a U.S. International Service Provider to a customer located in a foreign point in which case the customer, using a credit card or calling card issued by the U.S. International Service Provider, calls a telephone number in another foreign point.

Country-Direct Service is ICS provided by a U.S. International Service Provider to a customer located in a foreign point in which case the customer, using a credit card or calling card issued by the U.S. International Service Provider, calls a telephone number in the United States.

Foreign-Billed (ICS) refers to ICS that originates or terminates with an end-user in the United States, and that is billed by a Foreign Service Provider.

Foreign Carrier refers to any entity that is authorized within a foreign country to engage in the provision of international telecommunications services offered to the public in that country within the meaning of

[90] *See AT&T IP-in-the-Middle Order,* 19 FCC Rcd 7457.

the International Telecommunication Regulations, see Final Acts of the World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference, Melbourne, 1988 (WATTC-88), Art. 1, which includes entities authorized to engage in the provision of domestic telecommunications services if such carriers have the ability to originate or terminate telecommunications services to or from points outside their country. The term "Foreign Carrier" does not refer to the nationality of the employees or owners of a communications entity. An affiliate of a Foreign Carrier that operates in the United States as a common carrier is a U.S. Carrier.

Foreign Service Provider refers to a Foreign Carrier; or any person or entity in a foreign point that provides VoIP service connected to the PSTN in a foreign point or between a foreign point and the United States; or any person or entity in a foreign point that provides International Call Completion Service to a U.S. International Service Provider or obtains International Call Completion Service from a U.S. International Service Provider.

International Calling Service (ICS) refers to International Message Telephone Service (IMTS) and International VoIP Service Connected to the PSTN, including International Call Completion Service for IMTS or International VoIP Service Connected to the PSTN.

International VoIP Service Connected to the PSTN refers to service between the United States and any foreign point that: (1) enables real-time, two-way voice communications; (2) requires a broadband connection from the user's location; (3) requires Internet Protocol-compatible customer premise equipment; and (4) permits users generally to receive calls that originate on the public switched telephone network (PSTN) or to terminate calls to the PSTN. International VoIP Service Connected to the PSTN consists of Interconnected VoIP Service and "one-way" VoIP services, between the United States and any foreign point. (One-way VoIP services enable users to terminate calls to the PSTN but do not permit users to receive calls that originate on the PSTN, or enable users to receive calls from the PSTN but do not permit the user to make calls terminating to the PSTN.) International Call Completion Service for International VoIP Service Connected to the PSTN is included within the definition of International VoIP Service Connected to the PSTN.

Re-originated Foreign ICS refers to ICS traffic from a foreign point that is transmitted to the United States for retransmission to a destination foreign point, but that is not handled as Traditional Transiting ICS.

Settlement Payout refers to the expense (including any transiting fees) that a U.S. International Service Provider incurs for International Call Completion Service to a foreign point obtained from a Foreign Service Provider.

Settlement Receipt refers to the revenue that a U.S. International Service Provider bills for International Call Completion Service to the United States provided to a Foreign Service Provider.

Traditional Transiting ICS refers to ICS from a foreign point that (a) transits the United States prior to completion at a foreign point and (b) is settled at a rate agreed upon by the Foreign Service Provider in the origination foreign point and the Foreign Service Provider in the destination foreign point. The U.S. International Service Provider that provides the transiting service is reimbursed for its handling and transmission of the traffic by the Foreign Service Provider in the origination foreign point.

U.S.-Billed Facilities ICS refers to U.S.-Billed ICS that a U.S. International Service Provider provides as Facilities ICS.

U.S.-Billed ICS refers to an ICS call that originates or terminates in the United States and that is billed by a U.S. International Service Provider to an end-user customer or to a U.S. International Service Provider that is taking the service for resale; or a Reorginated Foreign ICS call that is billed by a U.S. International Service Provider to a Foreign Service Provider; or a country-beyond call.