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Suppliers' Information Note

For The BT Network

Private Circuit Services Evolving Network Modernisation And Its Effect On Analogue Private Circuits Technical Information For Suppliers

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 1990 BT restricted the availability of d.c. paths, and therefore its private circuit products that support d.c. path functionality, to the access [local] network - also BT reclassified Baseband and the services that support automatic d.c. signalling as “own exchange” products (“Own exchange” means the area served by a particular exchange building).

This SIN establishes the current status of, and BT's current thinking for, the core and access networks and as a consequence the future availability of BT's d.c. based private circuit products.

2. CORE NETWORK

The present situation within the core network, i.e. the network of cables and transmission systems that link exchange buildings, can be categorised by the circuit make-up (2-wire or 4-wire), by distance, and by whether the circuit is new or existing.

2.1 New 4-wire circuits

All new analogue 4-wire private circuits, irrespective of main link distance (inter-exchange building links), are routed over the Digital Private Circuit Network (DPCN). The circuit is always presented to customer's end terminal equipment with an analogue interface.

2.2 New 2-wire circuits

2.2.1 Over 15 kilometre circuits

All new analogue 2-wire private circuits with main links in excess of 15 kilometres are routed over the DPCN. The circuit is always presented to customer's end terminal equipment with an analogue interface.

2.2.2 Under 15 kilometre circuits

New circuits with a main link of less than 15 kilometres will continue to be provided over the core network according to the prevailing network topography and BT's ongoing operational needs. It is possible that BT may decide to route all new analogue private circuits with a main link over the DPCN.

2.3 Existing circuits [2-wire & 4-wire]

2.3.1 Over 15 kilometre circuits

In September 1993 BT ceased re-routing existing circuits over the FDM (Frequency Division Multiplex) network. At the same time, BT also embarked upon a programme to proactively upgrade existing private circuits from the FDM network to the DPCN. Consequently the vast majority of these circuits are now routed over the DPCN.

2.3.2 Under 15 kilometre circuits

BT will continue to support the installed circuit base including those with end to end d.c. path functionality provided before 1990. However, where BT has an operational need to replace high liability high maintenance cost copper cables and/or introduce a programme to proactively upgrade the core network onto the DPCN, the means of support may change.

In these situations customers wishing to retain d.c. path functionality for signalling purposes will be offered a range of options that support both manual and automatic d.c. signalling. In some circumstances, this will necessitate the accommodation of d.c./AC15 signalling converters in customer premises.

In the unlikely situation that a cable replacement affects a Baseband data circuit, the customer will be advised to upgrade to Analogue Standard, Premier, or Network and to purchase an appropriate modem.

2.4 020 7 dial code area (Central London Zone (CLZ))¹

Because of the preponderance of copper cable and the special nature of the cable network within the City of London, BT continues to support existing installations of d.c. paths within the 020 7 dial code area. With the exception of some CLZ located Baseband circuits (where the two local ends are served by different but geographically very close and copper connected exchanges) BT does not provide new d.c. based private circuits between exchange areas, nor does BT facilitate the rearrangement of existing d.c. based private circuits.

(Rearrangement is a term used within BT to mean that a customer relocating within the same "city" and/or its environs, will require his circuit to be moved from one exchange building area to another exchange building area).

BT will continue to support the installed circuit base subject to the provisos outlined in Section 2.3.2.

3. ACCESS NETWORK [including those within the 020 7 dial code area]

The status of a d.c. circuit within the access network, i.e. where it is wholly routed within the same exchange building area, is unchanged. Other than operational needs, e.g. to replace a damaged cable, BT does not have immediate plans to modernise access networks.

3.1 NEW: BT will continue to supply and rearrange a d.c. circuit as stated above. However, despite a reduction in the number of telephone exchange buildings increasing the geographical size of telephone exchange building areas, this may not always be possible. The availability of d.c. paths remains restricted by the ongoing and future availability of suitable copper line plant, the technical requirements of customer's end terminal equipment and the exclusions set out below.

For Baseband, the additional and overriding maxim is the continued availability of a suitable and continuous unloaded copper *cable* route between the two customer premises.

Orders for d.c. paths will not be met in the following circumstances:

1. where the network has been modernised
2. where the access network is in the process of modernisation
3. where modernisation of the access network is anticipated to occur within 12 months of receipt of the order
4. where the customer location is either a "green-field" site or undergoing redevelopment

¹ Enquiries relating to whether a customer premises falls within the 020 7 dial code area (CLZ) should be directed to the BT Private Circuit Helpdesk: 0800 800 977.

3.2 EXISTING: Subject to the same caveats as detailed in Section 2.3.2 for the existing under 15 kilometre circuit base, BT will continue to support own exchange d.c. circuits.

4. GLOSSARY

CLZ	Central London Zone
DPCN	Digital Private Circuit Network
FDM	Frequency Division Multiplex
SIN	Suppliers' Information Note

5. HISTORY

Issue 1.0	March 1995	First issued
Issue 1.1	April 2001	Issued in revised format. Content not updated.
Issue 1.2	April 2002	Content review.
Issue 1.3	March 2003	Clause 2.4, text added to clarify Baseband provision policy in CLZ.
Issue 1.4	May 2004	Footnote 1 added – CLZ queries to be directed to the BT Private Circuit Helpdesk

-END-

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