

PORTUGUESE REGULATION ON SUB-ASSIGNMENT OF NUMBERS

ANACOM has approved a regulation on the sub-assignment of numbers from the national numbering plan to companies other than operators in the communications sector.

After several months of [public consultation](#), the Portuguese National Authority for Communications (ANACOM) has published on 14 December the draft [Regulation](#) on sub-assignment of E.164 numbers of the National Numbering Plan.

Under this Regulation, numbers assigned by ANACOM to companies offering electronic communications networks and services may be sub assigned to other companies, which may then offer electronic communications services using those numbers from their own retail offers and assigning them to beneficiary end users.

This means that these retail companies will present themselves to their own customers as providers of the service and will be responsible to them for its provision and quality. In this scheme, any contractual relationship is excluded between the customers and the companies on whose networks and services the offers are based.

Regarding the conditions for the sub-assignment, we highlight the following aspects:

- a) The beneficiary and the electronic communications companies must inform ANACOM the start of the retail offer of the electronic communications services;
- b) A contract between the electronic communications companies and the beneficiary must exist, providing for beneficiary support and the criteria for sub assignment, recovery and return of the numbers;
- c) The beneficiary can only allocate the sub assigned numbers to end-users of its own retail offers, being forbidden to sub assign them;
- d) Information reporting obligations to ANACOM are increased and obligations for the management and use of assigned and sub-assigned numbers are strengthened.

This business model is expected to reduce costs and charges associated with the use of numbers, which is especially relevant for companies with less national presence or operating in niche markets, promoting the competition in the provision of electronic communications networks and services.

The regulation is awaiting publication in the Portuguese official journal and will enter into force on the day following its publication.

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