

ENJOINING ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS TO MAKE THEIR SYSTEMS RELATED TO SERVICE PROVISIONING BY YEAR 2000 COMPLIANT

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Recognizing the fact that telecommunication is a vital component of business and the lives of the public in general, all telecommunication service providers are hereby enjoined to make their equipment, systems and all other processes that may directly impact their subscribers, be Year 2000 compliant.

Considering that the telecommunications industry is composed of several service providers, interconnectivity and the continuance of communication flow between and among telecommunications service providers, must not be hampered. All providers, therefore, must coordinate with the Telecommunication Year 2000 Forum, which was established through this Commission, for the exchange of information on Year 2000 preparation.

As such, every telecommunication service provider is required to comply on the following:

1. Conduct a comprehensive inventory of all telecom equipment, items of software, computer hardware, operational and general equipment that may be date sensitive and liable to the Year 2000 problem.
2. Undertake all necessary precautionary and corrective measures to ensure internal readiness no later than March 31, 1999.
3. Use an acceptable worldwide standard, preferably that of the BSI (British Standard Institution).
4. Submit a status report on the matter as may be requested by the Telecommunication Year 2000 Forum from time to time.
5. Submit contingency plan to the Forum on or before December 31, 1998. This is to ensure the continuance of basic telecommunication service in all franchise areas.

Communication and data processing equipment including billing shall be tested on April 01, 1999 and shall end on the last day of June 1999. The purpose of testing is to correct dates processing beyond January 01, 2000; ensure applications correctly run in a Y2K environment; to show that no functional changes occur; to test internal and external interfaces; ensure system performance not degraded; and ensure archived data retrievable.

Any application for extension of Provisional Authority (PA) or new services shall be suspended pending Y2K compliance.

The Commission shall issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Guidelines for this purpose.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon completion of publication in a newspaper of general circulation and three (3) certified true copies furnished the U.P. Law Center.

(SGD.) PONCIANO V. CRUZ
Commissioner

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