



Notification Number: 2006/238/UK

## ICSTIS Code of Practice (eleventh edition)

Date received : 22/05/2006  
End of Standstill : 23/08/2006 ( **25/09/2006**)  
Issue of comments by : Commission  
Issue of detailed opinion by : Commission

### Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - SG(2006) D/51166

Directive 98/34/EC

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação - Hlásenie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan : 2006/0238/UK.

No abre el plazo - Nezahajuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist.

(MSG: 200601166.EN)

#### 1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2006 0238 UK EN 23-08-2006 22-05-2006 UK NOTIF 23-08-2006

#### 2. Member State

United Kingdom

#### 3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards and Technical Regulations Directorate

#### 3. Originating Department

Department of Trade and Industry: Communications and Content Industries Unit

#### 4. Notification Number

2006/0238/UK – SERV 60



## 5. Title

ICSTIS Code of Practice (eleventh edition)

## 6. Products Concerned

Information Society Services

## 7. Notification Under Another Act

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## 8. Main Content

The Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services (ICSTIS) regulates Premium Rate Services (PRS) via its Code of Practice. The Code needs to be updated because of advances in technology platforms for delivering PRS, and market developments. These changes toughen up the regulatory regime for PRS which should deter fraudulent PRS service providers from causing consumer harm. The main innovations are:

- i. An amended definition of a network operator for the purposes of the Code of Practice including a provision for VoIP services;
- ii. In specific circumstances allowing an information provider to take responsibility for breaches raised against its service provider;
- iii. Making some categories for Live Services exempt from having to apply for prior permission;
- iv. Including specific provisions for Directory Enquiries services, subscription services and SMS chat services;
- v. Simplified key requirements on pricing and on how they apply to television promotions and in other media;
- vi. Changes throughout the Code ensure it is technology and platform neutral, as far as is practicable;

## 9. Brief Statement of Grounds

In recent years a number of scams especially involving Internet diallers which hijack consumers' Internet settings and reconnect them to expensive premium rate websites and reverse SMS which continue to bill consumers for mobile services they have not used, have tarnished the reputation of PRS and eroded consumer confidence in them.

This new edition of the ICSTIS Code will toughen up regulation to enable ICSTIS to take more effective action against those that break the rules and improve mechanisms for consumer redress and consumer information.

## 10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

- a) Statement on the results of the consultation exercise.

## 11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No



**12. Grounds for the Emergency**

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**13. Confidentiality**

No

**14. Fiscal measures**

No

**15. Impact assessment**

Impact Assessment not available

**16. TBT and SPS aspects**

TBT Aspect

No

The draft does not have a significant effect on international trade.

SPS Aspect

No

The draft is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure in the sense of Annex A of the SPS Agreement.

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