



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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By: Jessica Davison

FCC Announces Allocation Rules for 855 Numbers

On September 30, 2010, the FCC announced an allocation method for 855 numbers and a one week delay in the scheduled October 2, 2010 release date for 855 numbers.¹ The FCC also announced a daily cap on the quantity of 855 numbers that could be reserved during the first 30 days of the 855 code opening. It announced that each RespOrg could reserve one hundred 855 numbers per day. However, it reiterated that “RespOrgs may not reserve toll free numbers without having an actual toll free subscriber for whom those numbers are being reserved, and toll free numbers may not be reserved with the intent of selling the number for a fee.”

The FCC announced that it was convinced that “that larger RespOrgs with enhanced connectivity to the SMS/800 database would otherwise be able to quickly reserve sought-after vanity numbers” without a fair allocation method. Essentially, the FCC was concerned that larger RespOrg’s would engage in illegal number warehousing.

To remedy that problem, the FCC announced that there would be a limit on the quantity of 855 numbers that could be reserved during the first 30 days of the 855 code opening. “Such an allocation scheme gives all RespOrgs, regardless of their size and connectivity to the SMS/800 database, an equal opportunity to obtain 855 numbers when the new code opens.” Particularly, the FCC said that this allocation scheme would give RespOrgs an equal opportunity to reserve the most desirable 855 vanity numbers.

¹ To read the FCC’s Order please go here: http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0930/DA-10-1885A1.pdf

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The 855 numbers will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. However, in accordance with FCC rules, some deviation of this rule will occur only during the first 30 day period if good cause is shown in order to assure equitable distribution of 855 numbers.

The FCC also announced a one week delay in the release of 855 numbers. The FCC concluded, “that a week is sufficient time for DSMI to notify RespOrgs of our allocation scheme and allow them to make any necessary network and administrative preparations.”

Finally, the FCC stated that it was convinced that the DSMI had made sufficient system improvements to allow increased use of the system to reserve 855 numbers. Therefore, it expects that the first-come, first-served system should work well.

We welcome your thoughts! Please feel free to comment at our interactive blog at blog.tlgdc.com.

If you have questions about this issue, or if we may be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact us.

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