3GPP TSG-CN WG4   Tdoc 3GPP N4-000386
Rotenburg, Germany
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Source: TSG-CN WG4[1]

Title: Liaison statement on hexadecimal IMEI

To: TSG-SA WG1, TSG-CN

TSG CN WG4 thanks TSG SA WG1 for their liaison statement (TSG S1 (00) 370). N4 agrees to add appendix A to 23.003 and further N4 expects S1 to remove appendix A from 22.016.

Some concerns were raised in N4 about backward compatibility of hexadecimal IMEI. Special cutover date will be requested from TSG-CN. Before this date the usage of hexadecimal IMEI is not allowed. After this date all GSM/UMTS-networks shall support the usage of hexadecimal IMEI. This requires changes to earlier releases of 03.03 and that will be done by N4.

N4 decided to restrict the usage of "F" in hexadecimal IMEI because in the case of emergency call without SIM-card, the IMEI is used as calling party number. The calling party number is used in ISUP and according to ISUP specifications (Q.762, Q.763, and Q.764), "F" is not allowed in calling party number. N4 recognised that excluding of "F" reduces available IMEI's but it still leaves 11390625 possible IMEI's. The 23.003 will be changed to reflect this change.

It should be noted that with the exclusion of hexadecimal digit "F" the serial number field will, strictly speaking, use PENTADECIMAL digits.

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