ETSI/TC/SMG#30 **Tdoc P-99-557**
9-11 November 1999, Sophia Antipolis

SMG10 #3/99 **Tdoc SMG10 AP99-090**
Sophia Antipolis 3-6 August 1999
To: SMG
From: SMG10

Liaison Statement on SMS Abuse

SMG has expressed interest in some further information on problems and issues on SMS abuse; (see report of SMG#29).

There are two aspects to consider

- the potential threats to the network
- controls that the network may require to counter these threats.

Threats

Network Integrity Threat

Unplanned high volume of messages sent to the PLMN operators SMSC (or remote SMSC) is the key threat and can be caused by automated sending of messages destined to many customers such as:-

- Mass mailing
- Denial of service attacks
- Commercial opportunism such as inviting handset users to dial, Premium Rate Numbers (may be Fraud in some countries).

Possible legal threat

The second problem is that in some countries and the EU that the content carried or provision of uncontrolled message sending may be counter to the local national laws. In the above problems the operator may be liable to legal controls or actions taken against them.

Controls That Operators May Require

Control of access is a major problem from both internally in the network or from other operators portals such as internet ,indirect modem or via other GSM networks . The PLMN operator needs to control both direct and indirect access to the network to manage SMS volumes or source. This may involve restriction on SS7 connection for foreign (remote) networks.

Operators should realise that the source may not have come from the their own customers or gateway directly connected to their network.

The three areas for consideration by the PLMN are :-

- Network must consider the nature of the controls to prevent these network integrity threats which could have an internet source via another PLMN SMSC.
- Need to consider if the operator has legal controls placed on it in regard to control of content and delivery of messages. The issue is that operators may be held liable for the content of the messages that are delivered.
- That operators need to consider that they may them selves be providing unsolicited messages.

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End.