**3GPP TSG-RAN WG2 Meeting #109 electronic Draft R2-2001748**

**Elbonia, 24 Feb – 6 Mar 2020**

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| *CR--Form--v12.0* |
| **CHANGE REQUEST** |
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|  | **38.300** | **CR** | **0172** | **rev** | **3** | **Current version:** | **16.0.0** |  |
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| *For* [***HELP***](http://www.3gpp.org/3G_Specs/CRs.htm#_blank)*on using this form: comprehensive instructions can be found at* [*http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests*](http://www.3gpp.org/Change-Requests)*.* |
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| ***Proposed change affects:*** | UICC apps |  | ME | **X** | Radio Access Network | **X** | Core Network |  |

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| ***Title:***  | Introduction of NR mobility enhancement |
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| ***Source to WG:*** | Intel Corporation |
| ***Source to TSG:*** | R2 |
|  |  |
| ***Work item code:*** | NR\_Mob\_enh-Core |  | ***Date:*** | 2020-02-13 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Category:*** | B |  | ***Release:*** | Rel-16 |
|  | *Use one of the following categories:****F*** *(correction)****A*** *(mirror corresponding to a change in an earlier release)****B*** *(addition of feature),* ***C*** *(functional modification of feature)****D*** *(editorial modification)*Detailed explanations of the above categories canbe found in 3GPP [TR 21.900](http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Specs/html-info/21900.htm). | *Use one of the following releases:Rel-8 (Release 8)Rel-9 (Release 9)Rel-10 (Release 10)Rel-11 (Release 11)Rel-12 (Release 12)Rel-13 (Release 13)Rel-14 (Release 14)Rel-15 (Release 15)Rel-16 (Release 16)* |
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| ***Reason for change:*** | To capture agreements for NR mobility enhancement into stage 2 specification. |
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| ***Summary of change:*** | To capture agreements for NR mobility enhancement into stage 2 specification:RAN2-109e1 Removed Annex on agreements;2 Removed comments mark;3 RRC re-establishment shall not be triggered due to source link RLF after successful RA and before the release of source link.  RAN2#108 (Based on R2-1913995):DAPS Handover:1 Use the term “source” and “target” to indicate the configuration common for all cells in source and target.2 Confirm working assumption on per-DRB DAPS.3 Specify in 38.331 how the QoS flow remapping is triggered after UL switching.4 DAPS HO for FR2 to FR2 case is not supported in Rel-16CHO:1 After successful reconfiguration with sync (with or without key change) (NR) or handover (LTE), UE releases stored CHO configurations.2All event combinations (i.e. A3+A5, A3+A3 and A5+A5) are supported.Fast failure recovery:1 Confirm the working assumption to Introduce T312 based mechanism on PSCell for fast declaration of SCG failureRAN2#107bis:1 editorial change:- 9.2.3.2a.1 to 9.2.3.x.2; - 9.2.3.2a.2 to 9.2.3.x.3; - Figure 9.2.3.2.1-1a to 9.2.3.x.2-1- 9.2.3.x.1, added “(s)” for “execution condition”, change “condition component” to “CHO configuration”- 9.2.3.x.2, step 6, removed “CHO” before “the configuration of CHO candidate cell(s) and CHO execution condition(s).”Removed step 9, and updated figure, change step 9 to step 8. 2 Update the figure 9.2.3.x.2-1 based on the tool;3 add DAPS and DAPS HO in 3.1 and 3.2 based on “RAN2 adopts DAPS HO as the feature name used in all running CRs and LSs.”;4 RLF/HO failure handling for CHO and DAPS based HO in 9.2.3.1, 9.2.75 The UE continues the DL reception in source during DAPS HO, and UE switches the UL PDCP data transmission upon successful RACH procedure (Msg2 for CFRA or Msg4 for CBRA). In 9.2.3.1 and 9.2.3.2.16 in 9.2.3.1, capture DRB handling for DAPS HO as agreed below:*- For each DRB configured with DAPS, upon reception of handover command with DAPS, UE establishes a RLC entity, MAC entity and an associated DTCH logical channel for the target cell. UE keeps the RLC bearer configuration for the source cell.* *- For DRBs, upon reception of handover command with DAPS, UE reconfigures the PDCP entity for DAPS instead of performing PDCP re-establishment.* *- Upon release of the source cell, UE releases the physical channel configuration; reset MAC of the source cell and release the source MAC configuration; release all RLC entities and logical channels associated to the source cell.***RAN2#107:**- Reuse the RRCReconfiguration/RRCConnectionReconfiguration procedure to signal CHO configuration to UE.- UE is not required to continue evaluating the triggering condition of other candidate cell(s) during CHO execution.- For the scenario of multiple CHO cells being triggered the cell selected by the UE considering beams and beam quality. We will not specify normative requirements for the selection process but can be captured in an informative note in stage 3 spec.- For FR1, we will leave it up to UE implementation to select the target cell if more than one candidate cell meets the triggering condition (same as for FR2).- S1/N2-based CHO is not supported for Release 16. RAN3 impacst to be discussed in RAN3. If we want to support this, the WID has to be updated and SA2 impacts identified.- A RRC complete message is required for UE to confirm receipt and proper comprehension of CHO configuration (execution condition, FFS target cell configuration) to the source eNB/gNB. - Allow having multiple triggering conditions (using “and”) for CHO execution of a single candidate cell. Only single RS type per CHO candidate is supported. At most two triggering quantities (e.g. RSRP and RSRQ, RSRP and SINR, etc.) can be configured simultnaeously. FFS on UE capability.- Editorial changes;**RAN2#106:**-The source cell adds the condition for the execution of CHO to the RRC message sent to UE.- Deconfiguration of CHO candidates is performed by RRC signalling (we will not introduce timer based mechanism for the UE to deconfiguration of the CHO candidates)- On cell level A3/A5-like CHO execution condition shall be specified (other events will not be specified without clear justifications)**RAN2#105b:**- CHO is defined as UE having network configuration for initiating access to a target cell based on configured condition(s). - Usage of conditional handover is decided by network. UE evaluates when the condition is valid.- Support configuration of one or more candidate cells for conditional handover;- The baseline operation for Conditional HO procedure assumes HO command type of message contains HO triggering condition(s) and dedicated RRC configuration(s). UE accesses the prepared target when the relevant condition is met.- The baseline operation for Conditional HO assumes the source RAN remains responsible for RRC until UE successfully sends RRC Reconfiguration Complete message to target RAN. - Ax events (entry condition) are used for CHO execution condition and A3/5 as baseline. FFS: on other events |
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| ***Consequences if not approved:*** | NR moiblity enhancement is missing in stage 2. |
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| ***Clauses affected:*** | 3.1, 3.2, 9.2.3.1, 9.2.3.x, 9.2.7 |
|  |  |
|  | **Y** | **N** |  |  |
| ***Other specs*** |  | **X** |  Other core specifications  | TS/TR 38.331 ... CR TBD ... Others TBD |
| ***affected:*** |  | **X** |  Test specifications | TS/TR ... CR ...  |
| ***(show related CRs)*** |  | **X** |  O&M Specifications | TS/TR ... CR ...  |
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| ***Other comments:*** | Based on the 16.0.0. |
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| ***This CR's revision history:*** | Revision of R2-2000460 |

# 3 Abbreviations and Definitions

## 3.1 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in TR 21.905 [1], in TS 36.300 [2] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in TR 21.905 [1] and TS 36.300 [2].

5GC 5G Core Network

5QI 5G QoS Identifier

A-CSI Aperiodic CSI

AKA Authentication and Key Agreement

AMBR Aggregate Maximum Bit Rate

AMC Adaptive Modulation and Coding

AMF Access and Mobility Management Function

ARP Allocation and Retention Priority

BA Bandwidth Adaptation

BCH Broadcast Channel

BPSK Binary Phase Shift Keying

C-RNTI Cell RNTI

CBRA Contention Based Random Access

CCE Control Channel Element

CD-SSB Cell Defining SSB

CFRA Contention Free Random Access

CHO Conditional Handover

CMAS Commercial Mobile Alert Service

CORESET Control Resource Set

DAPS Dual Active Protocol Stack

DFT Discrete Fourier Transform

DCI Downlink Control Information

DL-SCH Downlink Shared Channel

DMRS Demodulation Reference Signal

DRX Discontinuous Reception

ETWS Earthquake and Tsunami Warning System

GFBR Guaranteed Flow Bit Rate

I-RNTI Inactive RNTI

INT-RNTI Interruption RNTI

LDPC Low Density Parity Check

MDBV Maximum Data Burst Volume

MIB Master Information Block

MICO Mobile Initiated Connection Only

MFBR Maximum Flow Bit Rate

MMTEL Multimedia telephony

MNO Mobile Network Operator

MU-MIMO Multi User MIMO

NCGI NR Cell Global Identifier

NCR Neighbour Cell Relation

NCRT Neighbour Cell Relation Table

NGAP NG Application Protocol

NR NR Radio Access

P-RNTI Paging RNTI

PCH Paging Channel

PCI Physical Cell Identifier

PDCCH Physical Downlink Control Channel

PDSCH Physical Downlink Shared Channel

PO Paging Occasion

PRACH Physical Random Access Channel

PRB Physical Resource Block

PRG Precoding Resource block Group

PSS Primary Synchronisation Signal

PUCCH Physical Uplink Control Channel

PUSCH Physical Uplink Shared Channel

PWS Public Warning System

QAM Quadrature Amplitude Modulation

QFI QoS Flow ID

QPSK Quadrature Phase Shift Keying

RA-RNTI Random Access RNTI

RACH Random Access Channel

RANAC RAN-based Notification Area Code

REG Resource Element Group

RIM Remote Interference Management

RMSI Remaining Minimum SI

RNA RAN-based Notification Area

RNAU RAN-based Notification Area Update

RNTI Radio Network Temporary Identifier

RQA Reflective QoS Attribute

RQoS Reflective Quality of Service

RS Reference Signal

RSRP Reference Signal Received Power

RSRQ Reference Signal Received Quality

SD Slice Differentiator

SDAP Service Data Adaptation Protocol

SFI-RNTI Slot Format Indication RNTI

SIB System Information Block

SI-RNTI System Information RNTI

SLA Service Level Agreement

SMC Security Mode Command

SMF Session Management Function

S-NSSAI Single Network Slice Selection Assistance Information

SPS Semi-Persistent Scheduling

SR Scheduling Request

SRS Sounding Reference Signal

SS Synchronization Signal

SSB SS/PBCH block

SSS Secondary Synchronisation Signal

SST Slice/Service Type

SU-MIMO Single User MIMO

SUL Supplementary Uplink

TA Timing Advance

TPC Transmit Power Control

UCI Uplink Control Information

UL-SCH Uplink Shared Channel

UPF User Plane Function

URLLC Ultra-Reliable and Low Latency Communications

Xn-C Xn-Control plane

Xn-U Xn-User plane

XnAP Xn Application Protocol

## 3.2 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in TR 21.905 [1], in TS 36.300 [2] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in TR 21.905 [1] and TS 36.300 [2].

**Cell-Defining SSB:** an SSB with an RMSI associated.

**Conditional Handover (CHO):** a handover procedure that is executed only when the configured execution condition(s) are met.

**CORESET#0**: the control resource set for at least SIB1 scheduling, can be configured either via MIB or via dedicated RRC signalling.

**DAPS Handover**: a handover procedure that maintains the source gNB connection after reception of RRC message for handover and until releasing the source cell after successful random access to the target gNB.

gNB: node providing NR user plane and control plane protocol terminations towards the UE, and connected via the NG interface to the 5GC.

Intra-system Handover: Handover that does not involve a CN change (EPC or 5GC).

**Inter-system Handover:** Handover that involves a CN change (EPC or 5GC).

**MSG1**: preamble transmission of the random access procedure.

**MSG3**: first scheduled transmission of the random access procedure.

**ng-eNB**: node providing E-UTRA user plane and control plane protocol terminations towards the UE, and connected via the NG interface to the 5GC.

**NG-C**: control plane interface between NG-RAN and 5GC.

**NG-U**: user plane interface between NG-RAN and 5GC.

**NG-RAN node**: either a gNB or an ng-eNB.

**Numerology**: corresponds to one subcarrier spacing in the frequency domain. By scaling a reference subcarrier spacing by an integer *N*, different numerologies can be defined.

**Xn:** network interface between NG-RAN nodes.

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| Next change |

### 9.2.3 Mobility in RRC\_CONNECTED

#### 9.2.3.1 Overview

Network controlled mobility applies to UEs in RRC\_CONNECTED and is categorized into two types of mobility: cell level mobility and beam level mobility.

**Cell Level Mobility** requires explicit RRC signalling to be triggered, i.e. handover. For inter-gNB handover, the signalling procedures consist of at least the following elemental components illustrated in Figure 9.2.3.1-1:



Figure 9.2.3.1-1: Inter-gNB handover procedures

1. The source gNB initiates handover and issues a Handover Request over the Xn interface.

2. The target gNB performs admission control and provides the RRC configuration as part of the Handover Acknowledgement.

3. The source gNB provides the RRC configuration to the UE in the Handover Command. The Handover Command message includes at least cell ID and all information required to access the target cell so that the UE can access the target cell without reading system information. For some cases, the information required for contention-based and contention-free random access can be included in the Handover Command message. The access information to the target cell may include beam specific information, if any.

4. The UE moves the RRC connection to the target gNB and replies the Handover Complete.

NOTE: User Data can also be sent to target gNB in step 4 if the grant allows.

In case of DAPS handover, the UE continues the downlink user data reception from the source gNB until releasing the source cell and continues the uplink user data transmission to the source gNB until successful random access procedure to the target gNB.

The handover mechanism triggered by RRC requires the UE at least to reset the MAC entity and re-establish RLC, except for DAPS handover, where upon reception of the handover command, the UE:

- Creates a MAC entity for target;

- Establishes an RLC entity and an associated DTCH logical channel for target for each DRB configured with DAPS;

- For the DRB configured with DAPS, reconfigures the PDCP entity with separate security and ROHC functions for source and target and associates them with the RLC entities configured by source and target respectively;

- Retains the rest of the source configurations until release of the source.

NOTE1: The handling on RLC and PDCP for DRBs without DAPS is same as in normal handover.

RRC managed handovers with and without PDCP entity re-establishment are both supported. For DRBs using RLC AM mode, PDCP can either be re-established together with a security key change or initiate a data recovery procedure without a key change. For DRBs using RLC UM mode and for SRBs, PDCP can either be re-established together with a security key change or remain as it is without a key change.

Data forwarding, in-sequence delivery and duplication avoidance at handover can be guaranteed when the target gNB uses the same DRB configuration as the source gNB.

Timer based handover failure procedure is supported in NR. RRC connection re-establishment procedure is used for recovering from handover failure except in certain CHO or DAPS scenarios:

* When DAPS HO fails, the UE reports DAPS HO failure via the source without triggering RRC connection re-establishment if the source link has not been released.
* When initial CHO execution attempt fails or HO fails, the UE performs cell selection, and if the selected cell is a CHO candidate and if network configured the UE to try CHO after HO/CHO failure, then the UE attempts CHO execution once, otherwise re-establishment is performed.

DAPS handover for FR2 to FR2 case is not supported in this release of the specification.

**Beam Level Mobility** does not require explicit RRC signalling to be triggered. The gNB provides via RRC signalling the UE with measurement configuration containing configurations of SSB/CSI resources and resource sets, reports and trigger states for triggering channel and interference measurements and reports. Beam Level Mobility is then dealt with at lower layers by means of physical layer and MAC layer control signalling, and RRC is not required to know which beam is being used at a given point in time.

SSB-based Beam Level Mobility is based on the SSB associated to the initial DL BWP and can only be configured for the initial DL BWPs and for DL BWPs containing the SSB associated to the initial DL BWP. For other DL BWPs, Beam Level Mobility can only be performed based on CSI-RS.

#### 9.2.3.2 Handover

##### 9.2.3.2.1 C-Plane Handling

The intra-NR RAN handover performs the preparation and execution phase of the handover procedure performed without involvement of the 5GC, i.e. preparation messages are directly exchanged between the gNBs. The release of the resources at the source gNB during the handover completion phase is triggered by the target gNB. The figure below depicts the basic handover scenario where neither the AMF nor the UPF changes:



Figure 9.2.3.2.1-1: Intra-AMF/UPF Handover

0. The UE context within the source gNB contains information regarding roaming and access restrictions which were provided either at connection establishment or at the last TA update.

1. The source gNB configures the UE measurement procedures and the UE reports according to the measurement configuration.

2. The source gNB decides to handover the UE, based on *MeasurementReport* and RRM information.

3. The source gNB issues a Handover Request message to the target gNB passing a transparent RRC container with necessary information to prepare the handover at the target side. The information includes at least the target cell ID, KgNB\*, the C-RNTI of the UE in the source gNB, RRM-configuration including UE inactive time, basic AS-configuration including *antenna Info and DL Carrier Frequency*, the current QoS flow to DRB mapping rules applied to the UE, the SIB1 from source gNB, the UE capabilities for different RATs, PDU session related information, and can include the UE reported measurement information including beam-related information if available. The PDU session related information includes the slice information (if supported) and QoS flow level QoS profile(s).

NOTE: After issuing a Handover Request, the source gNB should not reconfigure the UE, including performing Reflective QoS flow to DRB mapping.

4. Admission Control may be performed by the target gNB. Slice-aware admission control shall be performed if the slice information is sent to the target gNB. If the PDU sessions are associated with non-supported slices the target gNB shall reject such PDU Sessions.

5. The target gNB prepares the handover with L1/L2 and sends the HANDOVER REQUEST ACKNOWLEDGE to the source gNB, which includes a transparent container to be sent to the UE as an RRC message to perform the handover.

6. The source gNB triggers the Uu handover by sending an *RRCReconfiguration* message to the UE, containing the information required to access the target cell: at least the target cell ID, the new C-RNTI, the target gNB security algorithm identifiers for the selected security algorithms. It can also include a set of dedicated RACH resources, the association between RACH resources and SSB(s), the association between RACH resources and UE-specific CSI-RS configuration(s), common RACH resources, and system information of the target cell, etc.

7. The source gNB sends the SN STATUS TRANSFER message to the target gNB.

8. The UE synchronises to the target cell and completes the RRC handover procedure by sending *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to target gNB. In case of DAPS HO, the UE does not detach from the source cell upon receiving the *RRCReconfiguration* message. The UE releases the source SRB resources, security configuration of the source cell and stops DL/UL reception/transmission with the source upon receiving an explicit release from the target node.

9. The target gNB sends a PATH SWITCH REQUEST message to AMF to trigger 5GC to switch the DL data path towards the target gNB and to establish an NG-C interface instance towards the target gNB.

10. 5GC switches the DL data path towards the target gNB. The UPF sends one or more "end marker" packets on the old path to the source gNB per PDU session/tunnel and then can release any U-plane/TNL resources towards the source gNB.

11. The AMF confirms the PATH SWITCH REQUEST message with the PATH SWITCH REQUEST ACKNOWLEDGE message.

12. Upon reception of the PATH SWITCH REQUEST ACKNOWLEDGE message from the AMF, the target gNB sends the UE CONTEXT RELEASE to inform the source gNB about the success of the handover. The source gNB can then release radio and C-plane related resources associated to the UE context. Any ongoing data forwarding may continue.

The RRM configuration can include both beam measurement information (for layer 3 mobility) associated to SSB(s) and CSI-RS(s) for the reported cell(s) if both types of measurements are available. Also, if CA is configured, the RRM configuration can include the list of best cells on each frequency for which measurement information is available. And the RRM measurement information can also include the beam measurement for the listed cells that belong to the target gNB.

The common RACH configuration for beams in the target cell is only associated to the SSB(s). The network can have dedicated RACH configurations associated to the SSB(s) and/or have dedicated RACH configurations associated to CSI-RS(s) within a cell. The target gNB can only include one of the following RACH configurations in the Handover Command to enable the UE to access the target cell:

i) Common RACH configuration;

ii) Common RACH configuration + Dedicated RACH configuration associated with SSB;

iii) Common RACH configuration + Dedicated RACH configuration associated with CSI-RS.

The dedicated RACH configuration allocates RACH resource(s) together with a quality threshold to use them. When dedicated RACH resources are provided, they are prioritized by the UE and the UE shall not switch to contention-based RACH resources as long as the quality threshold of those dedicated resources is met. The order to access the dedicated RACH resources is up to UE implementation.

##### 9.2.3.2.2 U-Plane Handling

The U-plane handling during the Intra-NR-Access mobility activity for UEs in RRC\_CONNECTED takes the following principles into account to avoid data loss during HO:

- During HO preparation, U-plane tunnels can be established between the source gNB and the target gNB;

- During HO execution, user data can be forwarded from the source gNB to the target gNB;

- Forwarding should take place in order as long as packets are received at the source gNB from the UPF or the source gNB buffer has not been emptied.

- During HO completion:

- The target gNB sends a path switch request message to the AMF to inform that the UE has gained access and the AMF then triggers path switch related 5GC internal signalling and actual path switch of the source gNB to the target gNB in UPF;

- The source gNB should continue forwarding data as long as packets are received at the source gNB from the UPF or the source gNB buffer has not been emptied.

**For RLC-AM bearers**:

- For in-sequence delivery and duplication avoidance, PDCP SN is maintained on a per DRB basis and the source gNB informs the target gNB about the next DL PDCP SN to allocate to a packet which does not have a PDCP sequence number yet (either from source gNB or from the UPF).

- For security synchronisation, HFN is also maintained and the source gNB provides to the target one reference HFN for the UL and one for the DL i.e. HFN and corresponding SN.

- In both the UE and the target gNB, a window-based mechanism is used for duplication detection and reordering.

- The occurrence of duplicates over the air interface in the target gNB is minimised by means of PDCP SN based reporting at the target gNB by the UE. In uplink, the reporting is optionally configured on a per DRB basis by the gNB and the UE should first start by transmitting those reports when granted resources are in the target gNB. In downlink, the gNB is free to decide when and for which bearers a report is sent and the UE does not wait for the report to resume uplink transmission.

- The target gNB re-transmits and prioritizes all downlink data forwarded by the source gNB (i.e. the target gNB should first send all forwarded PDCP SDUs with PDCP SNs, then all forwarded downlink PDCP SDUs without SNs before sending new data from 5GC), excluding PDCP SDUs for which the reception was acknowledged through PDCP SN based reporting by the UE.

NOTE: Lossless delivery when a QoS flow is mapped to a different DRB at handover, requires the old DRB to be configured in the target cell. For in-order delivery in the DL, the target gNB should first transmit the forwarded PDCP SDUs on the old DRB before transmitting new data from 5GCN on the new DRB. In the UL, the target gNB should not deliver data of the QoS flow from the new DRB to 5GCN before receiving the end marker on the old DRB from the UE.

- The UE re-transmits in the target gNB all uplink PDCP SDUs starting from the oldest PDCP SDU that has not been acknowledged at RLC in the source, excluding PDCP SDUs for which the reception was acknowledged through PDCP SN based reporting by the target.

**For RLC-UM bearers**:

- The PDCP SN and HFN are reset in the target gNB;

- No PDCP SDUs are retransmitted in the target gNB;

- The target gNB prioritises all downlink SDAP SDUs forwarded by the source gNB over the data from the core network;

NOTE: To minimise losses when a QoS flow is mapped to a different DRB at handover, the old DRB needs to be configured in the target cell. For in-order delivery in the DL, the target gNB should first transmit the forwarded PDCP SDUs on the old DRB before transmitting new data from 5GCN on the new DRB. In the UL, the target gNB should not deliver data of the QoS flow from the new DRB to 5GCN before receiving the end marker on the old DRB from the UE.

- The UE does not retransmit any PDCP SDU in the target cell for which transmission had been completed in the source cell.

##### 9.2.3.2.3 Data Forwarding

The following description depicts the data forwarding principles for intra-system handover.

The source NG-RAN node may suggest downlink data forwarding per QoS flow established for a PDU session and may provide information how it maps QoS flows to DRBs. The target NG-RAN node decides data forwarding per QoS flow established for a PDU Session.

If "lossless handover" is required and the QoS flows to DRB mapping applied at the target NG-RAN node allows applying for data forwarding the same QoS flows to DRB mapping as applied at the source NG-RAN node for a DRB and if all QoS flows mapped to that DRB are accepted for data forwarding, the target NG-RAN node establishes a downlink forwarding tunnel for that DRB.

For a DRB for which preservation of SN status applies, the target NG-RAN node may decide to establish an UL data forwarding tunnel.

The target NG-RAN node may also decide to establish a downlink forwarding tunnel for each PDU session. In this case the target NG-RAN node provides information for which QoS flows data forwarding has been accepted and corresponding UP TNL information for data forwarding tunnels to be established between the source NG-RAN node and the target NG-RAN node.

If QoS flows have been re-mapped at the source NG-RAN node and user packets along the old source mapping are still being processed at handover preparation, and if the source NG-RAN node has not yet received the SDAP end marker for certain QoS flows when providing the SN status to the target NG-RAN node, the source NG-RAN node provides the old side QoS mapping information for UL QoS flows to the target NG-RAN node for which no SDAP end marker was yet received. The target NG-RAN will receive for those QoS flows the end marker when the UE finalises to send UL user data according to the old source side mapping.

The source NG-RAN node may also propose to establish uplink forwarding tunnels for some PDU sessions in order to transfer SDAP SDUs corresponding to QoS flows for which flow re-mapping happened before the handover and the SDAP end marker has not yet been received, and for which user data was received at the source NG-RAN node via the DRB to which the QoS flow was remapped. If accepted the target NG-RAN node shall provide the corresponding UP TNL information for data forwarding tunnels to be established between the source NG-RAN node and the target NG-RAN node.

As long as data forwarding of DL user data packets takes place, the source NG-RAN node shall forward user data in the same forwarding tunnel, i.e.

- for any QoS flow accepted for data forwarding by the target NG-RAN node and for which a DRB DL forwarding tunnel was established for a DRB to which this QoS flow was mapped at the source NG-RAN node, any fresh packets of this QoS flow shall be forwarded as PDCP SDUs via the mapped DRB DL forwarding tunnel.

- for DRBs for which preservation of SN status applies, the source NG-RAN node may forward in order to the target NG-RAN node via the DRB DL forwarding tunnel all downlink PDCP SDUs with their SN corresponding to PDCP PDUs which have not been acknowledged by the UE.

NOTE: The SN of forwarded PDCP SDUs is carried in the "PDCP PDU number" field of the GTP-U extension header.

- for any QoS flow accepted for data forwarding by the target NG-RAN node for which a DL PDU session forwarding tunnel was established, the source NG-RAN node forwards SDAP SDUs as received on NG-U from the UPF.

As long as data forwarding of UL user data packets takes place for DRBs for which preservation of SN status applies the source NG-RAN node either:

- discards the uplink PDCP PDUs received out of sequence if the source NG-RAN node has not accepted the request from the target NG-RAN node for uplink forwarding or if the target NG-RAN node has not requested uplink forwarding for the bearer during the Handover Preparation procedure; or

- forwards to the target NG-RAN node via the corresponding DRB UL forwarding tunnel, the uplink PDCP SDUs with their SN corresponding to PDCP PDUs received out of sequence if the source NG-RAN node has accepted the request from the target NG-RAN node for uplink forwarding for the bearer during the Handover Preparation procedure, including PDCP SDUs corresponding to user data of those QoS flows, for which re-mapping happened for a QoS flow before the handover and the SDAP end marker has not yet been received at the source NG-RAN node.

As long as data forwarding of UL user data packets takes place for a PDU session, the source NG-RAN node forwards via the corresponding PDU session UL forwarding tunnel, the uplink SDAP SDUs corresponding to QoS flows for which flow re-mapping happened before the handover and the SDAP end marker has not yet been received at the source NG-RAN node, and which were received at the source NG-RAN node via the DRB to which the QoS flow was remapped.

Handling of end marker packets:

- The source NG-RAN node receives one or several GTP-U end marker packets per PDU session from the UPF and replicates the end marker packets into each data forwarding tunnel when no more user data packets are to be forwarded over that tunnel.

- End marker packets sent via a data forwarding tunnel are applicable to all QoS flows forwarded via that tunnel. After end marker packets have been received over a forwarding tunnel, the target NG-RAN node can start taking into account the packets of QoS flows associated with that forwarding tunnel received at the target NG-RAN node from the NG-U PDU session tunnel.

#### 9.2.3.3 Re-establishment procedure

A UE in RRC\_CONNECTED may initiate the re-establishment procedure to continue the RRC connection when a failure condition occurs (e.g. radio link failure, reconfiguration failure, integrity check failure…).

The following figure describes the re-establishment procedure started by the UE:



Figure 9.2.3.3-1: Re-establishment procedure

1. The UE re-establishes the connection, providing the UE Identity (PCI+C-RNTI) to the gNB where the trigger for the re-establishment occurred.

2. If the UE Context is not locally available, the gNB, requests the last serving gNB to provide UE Context data.

3. The last serving gNB provides UE context data.

4/4a. The gNB continues the re-establishment of the RRC connection. The message is sent on SRB1.

5/5a. The gNB may perform the reconfiguration to re-establish SRB2 and DRBs when the re-establishment procedure is ongoing.

6/7. If loss of user data buffered in the last serving gNB shall be prevented, the gNB provides forwarding addresses, and the last serving gNB provides the SN status to the gNB.

8/9. The gNB performs path switch.

10. The gNB triggers the release of the UE resources at the last serving gNB.

#### 9.2.3.X Conditional Handover

##### 9.2.3.x.1 General

A Conditional Handover (CHO) is defined as a handover that is executed by the UE when one or more handover execution conditions are met. The UE starts evaluating the execution condition(s) upon receiving the CHO configuration, and stops evaluating the execution condition(s) once the execution condition(s) is met.

The following principles apply to CHO:

- The CHO configuration contains the configuration of CHO candidate cell(s) generated by the candidate gNB(s) and execution condition(s) generated by the source gNB.

- An execution condition may consist of one or two trigger condition(s) (CHO events A3/A5, as defined in [12]). Only single RS type is supported and at most two different trigger quantities (e.g. RSRP and RSRQ, RSRP and SINR, etc.) can be configured simultaneously for the evalution of CHO execution condition of a single candidate cell.

- Before any CHO execution condition is satisfied, upon reception of HO command (without CHO configuration), the UE executes the HO procedure as described in clause 9.2.3.2, regardless of any previously received CHO configuration.

- While executing CHO, i.e. from the time when the UE starts synchronization with target cell, UE does not monitor source cell.

CHO is not supported for N2 based handover in this release of the specification.

##### 9.2.3.x.2 C-plane handling

As in intra-NR RAN handover, in intra-NR RAN CHO, the preparation and execution phase of the conditional handover procedure is performed without involvement of the 5GC; i.e. preparation messages are directly exchanged between gNBs. The release of the resources at the source gNB during the conditional handover completion phase is triggered by the target gNB. The figure below depicts the basic conditional handover scenario where neither the AMF nor the UPF changes:



Figure 9.2.3.x.2-1: Intra-AMF/UPF Conditional Handover

0/1. Same as step 0, 1 in Figure 9.2.3.2.1-1 of section 9.2.3.2.1.

2. The source gNB decides to use CHO.

3. The source gNB issues a Handover Request message to one or more candidate gNBs.

Editor’s note: FFS on the details of Handover Request message for CHO, and whether multiple candidate gNBs are allowed. RAN3 scope.

4. Same as step 4 in Figure 9.2.3.2.1-1 of section 9.2.3.2.1.

5. The candidate gNB sends HANDOVER REQUEST ACKNOWLEDGE message including configuration of CHO candidate cell to the source gNB.

Editor’s note: FFS on the details of HANDOVER REQUEST ACKNOWLEDGE for CHO message. RAN3 scope.

6. The source gNB sends an *RRCReconfiguration* message to the UE, containing the configuration of CHO candidate cell(s) and CHO execution condition(s).

7. UE sends an *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to the source gNB.

8. UE maintains connection with source gNB after receiving CHO configuration, and starts evaluating the CHO execution conditions for the candidate cell(s). If at least one CHO candidate cell satisfies the corresponding CHO execution condition, the UE detaches from the source gNB, applies the stored corresponding configuration for that selected candidate cell, synchronises to that candidate cell and completes the RRC handover procedure by sending *RRCReconfigurationComplete* message to the target gNB. The UE releases stored CHO configurations after successful completation of RRC handover procedure.

Editor’s note: FFS how to perform data forwarding, RAN3 scope.

##### 9.2.3.x.3 U-plane handling

Editor’s note: FFS based on RAN3 decisions

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| Next change |

### 9.2.7 Radio Link Failure

In RRC\_CONNECTED, the UE performs Radio Link Monitoring (RLM) in the active BWP based on reference signals (SSB/CSI-RS) and signal quality thresholds configured by the network. SSB-based RLM is based on the SSB associated to the initial DL BWP and can only be configured for the initial DL BWP and for DL BWPs containing the SSB associated to the initial DL BWP. For other DL BWPs, RLM can only be performed based on CSI-RS. In case of DAPS handover, the UE continues the RLM at the source cell until the successful completion of the random access procedure to the target cell.

The UE declares Radio Link Failure (RLF) when one of the following criteria are met:

- Expiry of a radio problem timer started after indication of radio problems from the physical layer (if radio problems are recovered before the timer is expired, the UE stops the timer); or

- Expiry of a timer started upon triggering a measurement report for a measurement identity for which the timer has been configured while another radio problem timer is running; or

- Random access procedure failure; or

- RLC failure.

In case of regular handover, after RLF is declared, the UE:

- stays in RRC\_CONNECTED;

- selects a suitable cell and then initiates RRC re-establishment;

- enters RRC\_IDLE if a suitable cell was not found within a certain time after RLF was declared.

In case of DAPS handover, if RLF is declared in source cell, the UE:

- stays in RRC\_CONNECTED;

- stops any data transmission or reception via the source link and releases the source link, but maintains the source RRC configuration;

In case of DAPS handover, when handover failure is declared at the target cell after source cell RLF was declared, the UE:

- stays in RRC\_CONNECTED;

- selects a suitable cell and then initiates RRC re-establishment;

- enters RRC\_IDLE if a suitable cell was not found within a certain time after handover failure was declared.

In case of CHO, after RLF is declared in source cell, the UE:

- stays in RRC\_CONNECTED;

- selects a suitable cell and if the selected cell is a CHO candidate and if network configured the UE to try CHO after RLF then the UE attempts CHO execution once, otherwise re-establishment is performed;

- enters RRC\_IDLE if a suitable cell was not found within a certain time after RLF was declared.

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| **End Text Proposal Change** |