



PUBLIC NOTICE

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WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU STREAMLINES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERCONNECTED VOIP PROVIDERS AND ANNOUNCES OMB APPROVAL OF NEW FCC FORMS 499-A AND 499-Q

On June 21, 2006, the Commission adopted the *2006 Interim Contribution Methodology Order*, which included proposed revised FCC Forms 499-A and 499-Q and their instructions.¹ In pertinent part, the *Order* requires that interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (“interconnected VoIP”) providers contribute to the universal service fund (USF) and raises the wireless safe harbor from 28.5 percent to 37.1 percent. The revised Forms and their instructions reflect the changes to the contribution methodology adopted in the *2006 Interim Contribution Methodology Order*.

On June 28, 2006, the Commission requested emergency approval of the information collection requirements from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). On July 27, 2006, the Commission received OMB approval.

For the convenience of new filers, particularly interconnected VoIP providers, we provide these instructions and special accommodations to simplify the process for the filing due August 1:

- For all filers, the FCC Form 499-Q filing must be filed with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) by August 1, 2006. For providers who have not previously filed, FCC Form 499-A also must be filed with USAC by August 1, 2006. USAC has made the Forms available on its website at <http://www.usac.org/fund-administration/forms/>. They are also available on the Commission’s website at <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>.
- Interconnected VoIP providers that have not previously contributed to the USF can obtain a FCC Registration Number (FRN) from the Commission’s web site at <https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do> for use in filing both Forms.
- Normally, filers obtain a Filer 499 ID for use on the Forms by filing their initial Form 499-A and then receiving the Filer 499 ID from USAC. Out of consideration of the deadlines for interconnected VoIP providers to file both Forms by August 1, we have directed USAC to accept the Forms without the Filer 499 ID (for those providers who do not already have a Filer 499 ID).

¹ See *Universal Service Contribution Methodology*, WC Docket Nos. 06-122 and 04-36, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 98-171, 90-571, 92-237, 99-200, 95-116, and 98-170, Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 06-94 (rel. Jun. 27, 2006) (*2006 Interim Contribution Methodology Order*).

USAC will provide the Filer 499 ID to the providers later and will fill in the Filer 499 ID on the Forms filed by August 1 on behalf of these providers. New filers that use this process should submit the two Forms together to USAC in a single filing. (Although new filers have the option of sending FCC Form 499-A either to USAC or to the Office of the Secretary, we encourage new filers to send FCC Form 499-A (along with FCC Form 499-Q) to USAC.).

- We clarify that interconnected VoIP providers filing for the first time *need only complete limited portions of the Forms for the August 1 filing*, which include only two lines of revenue information in total:
 - On the FCC Form 499-A, interconnected VoIP providers need only complete block 1 (contributor identification information), block 2 (contact information, agent for service of process, and registration), and block 6 (certification). Interconnected VoIP providers need not complete block 3 (carrier's carrier revenue information), block 4 (revenue information), or block 5 (additional revenue breakouts).
 - On the FCC Form 499-Q, interconnected VoIP providers that have not previously contributed need only complete block 1 (contributor identification information), block 2 (contact information), block 4 (certification), and lines 114, 119, and 120 of block 3. *They do not need to complete lines 113, 115, 116, 117, or 118 of block 3.*

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty).

For further information, please contact Amy Bender, Wireline Competition Bureau, Amy.Bender@fcc.gov, (202) 418-1469.

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