

All-IP Telephony Industry Guidance and Lessons Learnt

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Foreword

This NICC Document (ND) has been produced by the NICC All-IPT Task Group.

Introduction

This document provides information to CPs and the wider industry on the lessons learnt during testing of and migration to All-IPT network solutions.

1 Scope

The present document highlights issues which have been experienced by CPs and Service Providers since IP migration started in earnest in 2018. This document is a repository for industry lessons learnt. However, there may be issues highlighted in this document that no longer apply, typically where services have moved away from using Voice Band Data or in Band DTMF signalling over All-IPT networks.

This ND provides key scenarios to test when implementing voice over IP networks.

This document will be frequently updated in light of experience gained.

2 References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For non-specific references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

2.1 Normative references

Reference	Title
[1]	ND1704 – End to End Performance Rules
[2]	ND1704 – Performance Calculator
[3]	ND1444 – DTMF Best Practice Guide
[4]	ND1431 – Guidance on CPE Compatibility
[5]	ND1657 – SIP Overload Control
[6]	BS8521 – Establishment of a common signalling protocol for social alarm systems
[7]	ITU-T Specification v.22bis – Data communication over the telephone network
[8]	ITU-T Rec. V.25 – Automatic answering equipment
[9]	ITU-T Rec. G.168 – Digital network echo cancellers
[10]	BS EN 81-28:2003 – Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts. Lifts for the transport of persons and goods Remote alarm on passenger and goods passenger lifts

3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

All-IPT	-	All IP Telephony
ARC	-	Alarm Receiving Centre
ATA	-	Analogue Terminal Adapter
ATM	-	Automatic Teller Machine
BB	-	BroadBand
BS	-	British Standard
BSIA	-	British Security Industry Association
CP	-	Communications Provider
CPE	-	Customer Premises Equipment
d.c.	-	Direct Current
DNO	-	Distribution Network Operators
DJB	-	De Jitter Buffer
DTMF	-	Dual Tone Multi Frequency
E2E	-	End to End
ECS	-	Emergency Communication System
ENISA	-	European Network and Information Security Association
EPOS	-	Electronic Point Of Sale
FTTC	-	Fibre To The Cabinet
FTTP	-	Fibre To The Premises
IOT	-	Internet of Things
IP	-	Internet Protocol
IPX	-	IP Exchange
ITU	-	International Telecommunications Union
NGA	-	Next Generation Access
NGN	-	Next Generation Network
NLP	-	Non Linear Processor
PCI	-	Payment Card Industry
SIA	-	Security Industry Association signalling format protocol
SIN	-	Supplier Information Note
SIP	-	Session Initiation Protocol
SLIC	-	Subscriber's Line Interface Circuit
SOGEA	-	Single Order Generic Ethernet Access
SOGFAST	-	Single Order GFAST
TDM	-	Time Division Multiplexing
TSA	-	TEC(Technology Enabled Care) Services Association
VBD	-	Voice Band Data
VoBB	-	Voice over BroadBand
xDSL	-	A variant of DSL (Digital Subscriber Line)

4 Test guidance

This section documents some of the customer scenarios and test cases that should be considered when determining the suitability of an All-IPT implementation.

4.1 Pre-test requirements

The following aspects need to be addressed before testing can be started:–

- Understanding supplier and users' requirements from testing
- Identifying groups of devices with common characteristics and having a suitable subset available for test
- Expected outcomes defined and agreed
- Existing standards documentation should be referred to and their relevance understood, such as:-
 - International, e.g. ITU specification V.22bis
 - National standards, e.g. ND1431 [4]
 - CP specific documentation, e.g. BT SINS

4.2 Customer scenarios and test cases

A number of CPs offer free of charge test facilities for customers / vendors to evaluate their equipment in an All-IPT network, including Virgin Media O2, Openreach and BT.

The following are the suggested customer scenarios and test cases from the BT's Test Lab facility that are currently available to industry.

Test	Customer Scenario	Test Case
0a	Benchmark supplier equipment validation test - Supplier equipment connected to a Narrowband Circuit Switched connection on a standard xDSL Broadband enabled line. <i>(Repeat for various equipment types)</i>	Outbound call / connection to receiving centre over a Circuit Switched Line
		Inbound call / connection from receiving centre over Circuit Switched Line
0b	Benchmark line validation demo - SOGEA BB performance and IP Voice service working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSLab infinity lines speeds up to 80M/10M 	Register devices Speed test / downloads Basic voice calls and other tests
1a	Simulated conversion from Circuit Switched Line to Consumer IP Voice service over SOGEA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Off-the-shelf' service at Adastral Park • New Openreach faceplate • No Circuit Switched Line 	Equipment response on withdrawal of dial tone / voltage on line
1b	Initial tests of equipment on IP Voice service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the ATA port on the Smart Hub 	Outbound call / connection to receiving centre over IP Voice
		Inbound call / connection from receiving centre over IP Voice
2	General use of supplier equipment connected to the ATA port using IP Voice service	Service response under normal Hub and normal line conditions
3a	Loaded Hub (busy home) simulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simulation of busy home (Hub CPU load), internet and Wi-Fi • Various conditions (Low/Medium/High) 	Service response under loaded Hub conditions
3b	Loaded BB line (traffic) simulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simulation of loaded line (BB traffic load) • Various conditions (Low/Medium/High) 	Service response under loaded BB line conditions

4	Degraded BB line simulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce packet loss • Introduce E2E delay • Various conditions (Low/Medium/High) 	Service response under degraded line conditions (Impairments and combinations of impairments to be agreed)
5	Use of the Voice Reinjection Solution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extension wiring integration • Openreach faceplate and cable to ATA on hub 	Service response and various calls / connections from/to equipment on an extension socket
6	Opportunity to consider supplier 'Native IP' equipment solutions over IP Voice or standard FTTC/Infinity lines	

5 Lessons learned

The following sections contain key points currently observed in Test Labs. In addition, the following two general observations have been made.

- To reduce the instances of service failure, interconnects as well as network resources should be dimensioned for extraordinary load as defined in section 6 of ND1657 [5].
- Consideration must be given to the traffic profile assumptions made by manufactures and the actual traffic profile experienced on the network end to end for each call scenario. Instances have been noted when these profiles vary significantly, and packet loss has been encountered.

As well as these general lessons learnt there are currently four service types that test data is available for. Links to relevant trade associations' testing guidance and lessons learnt are included at the end of the relevant sub sections, where available.

5.1 Voice Band Data

Outside of the service sectors mentioned in later sections, there are CP regulatory requirements such as the Text Relay service. The legacy Text Relay service implementations utilise VBD. It has been found during testing that legacy Text Relay services behave as most other VBD services and will generally work. However, as with other VBD services using dial-up modems, such as vending and franking machines, and also building management services, these cannot be guaranteed to work.

It should be noted that VBD cannot be supported on 4G and 5G mobile networks, as the codecs in use on these networks cannot support VBD. It is also worth noting that although codecs with 2G and 3G mobile networks claim to support VBD, in practical implementations these networks have been found to provide a very poor customer experience.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Implementers of VBD services should take care to check that as voice networks evolve to All-IPT, they make use of network providers' lab environments to evaluate their equipment to ensure their services still work.

5.2 TeleCare supplier/service sector

The following bullets summarise some key observations following evaluation from 48 organisations whilst using ALL-IPT test facilities.

- Some suppliers already have Native IP based products which cope better with IP packet loss.
- Power resilience is seen as an issue as existing end devices normally have back-up batteries that last in excess of 24 hours, whereas the requirement on CPs is to ensure at least 1 hour of battery backup for network components supporting voice.
- DTMF based protocols are generally quite robust to impairment.
- Most equipment and protocols are reasonably robust to low/medium levels of packet loss.
- Most equipment and protocols are robust to significant packet delay:

- Tests have demonstrated that the BS8521 [6] protocol is less resilient to larger delays (300/550/1100ms) and packet loss levels;
 - CPC protocol (as used by the telecare industry) was seen to cope well with even larger delays.
- The use of higher impairment levels to demonstrate that all devices can fail is proving useful to suppliers to understand at which level equipment ceases to function correctly.
- Most suppliers are moving towards either native IP based products or mobile (Voice and Packet Data) SIM solutions.
- As of December 2023, some ARCs are still transitioning from Circuit Switched to Voice over IP.
- Protocol choice is the most significant factor when comparing different implementations.
- Supplier testing with 3 h/w devices, 3 protocols and 3 different ARCs:
 - ARC implementation as well as communications path (e.g. multiple CPs / non-geo / other factors) can have significant impact on performance under impairment conditions;
 - CPC protocol performed well with extreme delays and very high packet loss.
- Phones with amplified audio (for the hard of hearing), have been found to be unimpacted by All-IPT, since there are no network level functions for the amplified voice feature.

The TSA (TEC. Technology, enabled care, Services Association) is the recognised trade body for the TeleCare sector with over 350 organisation members and have been active in the space of voice and VBD testing, producing a test specification for their market sector, and is available from the following location:- <https://www.tsa-voice.org.uk/>

5.3 Alarm and security suppliers/service sector

The following summarises the key observations that have been seen through the industry testing conducted at the BT All-IPT Test facility where 48 external organisations conducted testing.

- Most suppliers already have native IP based products.
- DTMF based protocols are generally quite robust to packet loss.
 - Better than SIA.
- V.22 bis modem protocol is not very resilient to packet loss [7].
- Most protocols are robust to significant packet delay.
 - DTMF is not resilient to very high delay levels, as timings are tighter; SIA is more robust.
 - There is variance between manufacturers equipment.
- The use of higher impairment levels to demonstrate that all devices can fail. This is proving useful to suppliers to understand at which level equipment will cease to function correctly.
- Majority of suppliers are moving towards Native IP based products.

- As of December 2023, some ARCs are both Circuit Switched and IP (Voice and Data) capable.
- Concerns about battery back-up during power cut conditions.
 - Alarm providers generally use either 12 or 24 hour back up for their alarms depending on whether it is a fire or security alarm.
- Concerns about local line disconnections on migration.
 - Security/fire system methods of connectivity may differ by location/premises and may be left disconnected dependent on the Hub installed and/or connectivity via existing extension wiring.
 - Alarm installer visit is likely to be required following migration.

The BSIA (British Security Industry Association) is the recognised trade association for the alarm and security sector and have been very active in the space of voice and VBD testing producing two test specification for their market sector.

5.4 EPOS and ATM suppliers/service providers

The following summarises the key observations experienced by industry.

- EPOS terminals that have been configured to use Circuit Switched networks should be re-configured to use native IP, if capable.
- EPOS suppliers have tested with BT Consumer's Digital Voice Service and the BT Enterprise Business ATA.
 - Testing with BT Digital Voice lines, EPOS devices “generally work” but are not very resilient under impairment conditions.
 - Typically, older modem protocols (e.g. V32) are not resilient to packet loss.
 - Longer term downloads only successful on error free All-IPT voice lines.
- Latest EPOS models can switch between GPRS/Wi-fi/Bluetooth/Circuit Switched.
 - Hence EPOS industry should migrate to native IP connectivity to avoid potential problems with All-IPT.
 - If terminals are not being regularly changed out by End Users or as part of the natural upgrades managed by Acquires (banks), Merchants should contact their payments services provider to discuss options for migrating to native IP solutions.
- ATM equipment tested primarily with Business ATA / All-IPT voice lines.
 - Testing with Business IP Voice lines, ATM devices “generally work” but are not very resilient under impairment conditions.
 - Typically, older modem protocols (e.g. V22) are not resilient to any impairments.
- Newer ATM machines work over native IP.
 - There is concern that several thousand machines in operation do not support native IP or mobile connectivity.

- PCI Compliance
 - PCI compliance is a matter for the Service Provider (for example, the Acquirer / payments provider, i.e. Barclaycard) and the Customer (Merchant) buying the payment product set.
 - Therefore, an EPoS terminal Service is between the Merchant of the shop and the provider of the Point of Sale (EPoS) service. If the Merchant then connects their PoS terminal to a router/hub and it supports no other service there is no issue with PCI compliance as it is dedicated for that service. If the hub supports multiple services, it effectively becomes a ‘shared’ device and the Merchant would have to take steps, such as encryption to ensure segregation of the EPoS terminal.
 - In the instance that there is one EPoS terminal for a corner shop, the onus will be on the Merchant to ensure / self-certify compliance. As networks and the number of terminals becomes more complex (the service taken by the Merchant) there will be varying degrees of compliance which the Service Provider will advise on given the product.

6 Case studies

In addition to the case studies summarised below, users and operators are encouraged to read ND1431 [4] Guidance on CPE Compatibility on NGNs and NGAs [6] as it includes valuable details regarding the sensitivity of CPE (in particular Voice Band Data CPE) to IP Access and Core Networks. The case studies below are likely to serve as a practical illustration of the types of issues raised in ND1431 [4].

6.1 Case study: V.22/V.22 bis modem call failures

Description:

A leading provider of end-user devices obtained evidence of an increase in the number of Voice Band modem transaction failures, as calls were routed via the BT IPX platform (and as such, subject to TDM/IP conversion). Such issues were not evident on calls routed only via Circuit Switched infrastructure.

It is understood that end-user devices were connected to Circuit Switched lines, with TDM to IP and IP to TDM conversions occurring on IPX media gateways.

Status:

Investigation showed that the provider had taken steps to adapt communication between modem and terminal. This included reducing the duration of ITU-T Rec. V.25 [8] 2100 Hz ANS tone to ~100 ms to minimise call duration, which is below the recommended value of 3.3 seconds (+/- 700 ms) according to ITU-T Rec. V.25, section 4.3. Once this was increased in line with the ITU-T Rec. V.25 [8] recommendation, errors and call failures dropped to an acceptable level.

Although the fault was cleared, users and operators should be aware of the technical detail below.

Explanation:

Upon detection of ITU-T Rec. V.25 [8] ANS tone, it is common for TDM/IP Media Gateways (MGWs) to transition to a state referred to as VBD (Voice Band Data) mode to minimise potential harm to data carried in audio signals. This includes some, or all, of the following:

- Renegotiation of codec (on the IP 'leg') to G.711 if the current session is not using G.711 (including appropriate choice of A-Law or μ -law with Voice Activity Detection disabled): G.711 is normally required for reliable conveyance of VBD (as specified in ND1704 [1] for VBD Capable services).

Note, TDM/IP gateways may also switch from DTMF relay to in-band (although this is not applicable to V.22bis). It is also assumed VBD relay was not in use in this case.

- Disablement of the NLP (Non-linear Processor) component of the MGW echo canceller (if used) to avoid signal clipping at the onset of VBD signals. ITU-T Rec. G.168 [9] compliant echo cancellers are designed to ensure such clipping does not adversely impact voice quality, but it is acknowledged that 'NLPs may affect the transmission of data through an enabled echo canceller'.

It is assumed that in this case ITU-T Rec. V.25 [8] ANS tone without phase reversals was used where the NLP component is normally disabled until there is 100-400 ms of bidirectional silence.

High speed modems (e.g. V.32bis and above) that have their own echo cancellers use ITU-T Rec. V.25 [8] ANS tone with periodic phase reversals to disable both linear

echo cancellation and the NLP network components. This is not applicable in this case.

Note: The behaviour described above applies to network echo cancellers on traditional switched networks as well as IP/TDM MGW echo cancellers. However, the removal of the NLP component on detection of 2100 Hz tone is optional in G.168 [9] and therefore may not be implemented even if G.168 [9] compliance is stipulated.

- Transition of the IP packet de-jitter buffer (DJB) from an adaptive state to a fixed state (adaptations during a data call are likely to corrupt the data stream, whereas for voice signals they can normally take place in periods of silence without impacting user experience and at the same time allowing end-to-end delay to be minimised).

Depending on the configuration of the DJB prior to transitioning to a fixed state and what the fixed setting is, this will result in a gap (for an 'upward' transition to a longer buffer) or loss of signal (for a 'downward' transition to a shorter buffer).

This is required by ND1704 [1] for VBD Capable services.

One explanation for the fault is that 100 ms ITU-T Rec. V.25 [8] ANS tone duration is not long enough for any G.168 [9] echo canceller to disable its NLP component. G.168 [9] specifies a 1 second operation time to distinguish between ANS tone with and without phase reversals (to facilitate correct linear echo canceller disablement as discussed above) and to avoid accidental removal during speech or music signals that may contain 2100 Hz (or similar) frequency components.

This means that NLP was almost certainly not disabled. However, the same can be said for calls routed only via TDM, therefore this alone probably doesn't sufficiently explain the increase in failed calls over IPX (although it does mean the subsequent solution may have had an additional benefit in reducing call failures in Circuit Switched routing scenarios as well).

A more likely explanation is the behaviour of the IP de-jitter buffers and/or codec negotiation.

There is no formal specification for the required ANS tone duration before an IP/TDM gateway transitions to a fixed DJB and/or carries out any necessary codec renegotiation. It does not need to distinguish between ITU-T Rec. V.25 [8] ANS tone with or without phase reversals, therefore the main technical requirements are to wait for a sufficiently long tone such that false triggering on speech or music is avoided, whilst ensuring it happens quickly enough to avoid corrupting critical handshaking or data transmission. It is possible 100 ms was too short, the de-jitter buffer was not fixed and/or codec was not renegotiated, with calls subsequently failing because of de-jitter buffer adaptations and/or codec distortion.

One further explanation is that the gateway did transition to a fixed DJB and did carry out any necessary codec renegotiation, however, because of the short ANS tone duration, this did not occur/complete before the transmission of critical data (e.g. during the transmission of unscrambled binary 1s). When the ANS tone duration was increased, any corruption due to the time taken to transition to a fixed buffer or to G.711 coding occurred whilst ANS tone was still being transmitted and subsequent data transmission was unaffected.

Note: performance related issues have been discounted in this case on the basis that the issue was resolved by extending the ITU-T Rec. V.25 [8] ANS tone duration, which suggests most calls are free from packet loss and unaffected by any increase in end-to-end delay as a result of traversing an IP network(s).

Lessons Learnt

Overall, this case should serve to illustrate the complexity and scope for functional issues in supporting VBD over IP. It also exposes how a historical lack of standardisation leaves implementations open to interpretation; therefore, it is often hard to identify the exact root cause of an issue even when it has been satisfactorily resolved (in fact, there may be multiple causes).

It should also be noted that in this case there was a feasible solution (at least from a technical standpoint) since extending the ITU-T Rec. V.25 [8] ANS tone duration gave a reasonable amount of time for the associated network components to adapt to a state with the best possible chance of reliably conveying VBD. However, the only VBD discrimination tone for which behaviour is 'mostly' standardised is 2100 Hz tone. Some manufacturers may implement additional tone detectors, but there will inevitably be VBD calls for which IP/TDM gateways do not or cannot reliably transition to VBD mode before critical data transmission occurs. Unless the signal transmitted by the related CPE can be changed, there will be no technical solution for this.

6.2 Case study: DC phone line characteristics

Description:

For Circuit Switched based voice services, the Subscriber's Line Interface Circuit (SLIC) is located in a central site within part of the CPs network, providing the d.c. power for the CPE (telephony equipment) to operate. For All-IPT services the SLIC and associated power feed will be contained within the ATA at the customer's home.

Status:

Some ATAs are known to operate SLIC devices at the lower end of the d.c. line characteristics defined in the ETSI EN standards. i.e. they operate with a reduced On-Hook line voltage and/or reduced Off-Hook constant current.

Lessons Learnt - Voltage

- A number of CPEs make use of the On-hook -50Vd.c. line voltage to trickle charge an internal battery (or capacitor). With a reduced On-Hook line voltage the trickle charge current will be reduced and thus limit the charging capability of the CPE.
 - Some CPEs store address book (and/or configuration) data in volatile memory which is permanently powered from the small internal rechargeable battery (or capacitor). Failure of the battery (or capacitor) to charge will result in address book (and/or configuration) data to be lost.
 - Some wholly line powered CPE use an internal battery to fully operate in the Off-Hook state. If this battery fails to charge during On-Hook periods, the CPE will fail to operate fully when Off-Hook.
- Upon receipt of an incoming call, the FSK modem signaling is transmitted to the CPE to convey the Caller Display information. This occurs during short periods whilst different balance impedances are applied to the line by the SLIC and CPE. Observations have shown that some CPE and ATAs/SLICs become incompatible, particularly when lower On-Hook line voltages are used, preventing the calling number from being displayed.
- Some CPE have an On-Hook line voltage detection circuit. This is used to draw attention to the owner that the CPE has been unplugged, or that there is a fault with the telephone line. For some CPE with a fixed voltage detection threshold, a lower voltage from an ATA/SLIC, may constantly trigger the warning from the CPE.

Lessons Learnt – Constant Line Current

- From experience CPs have observed that some CPE does not operate as expected with lower line currents, i.e. lower than 30mA. It is highly recommended that ATAs should be selected or configured to operate with constant line currents, i.e. >40mA, similar to those used on Circuit Switched networks.

Note: operating at lower constant line currents has the effect of dissipating more power into the SLIC rather than into the CPE. As a result, the CPE has less available power to function. Operating at higher line currents has the opposite effect, that of lowering the power dissipated in the SLIC, and making more power available for the CPE.

- Some examples of issues observed when operating with lower constant line currents:
 - Lower speech quality. The lower line current mimics the CPE working on a long line. It in turn increases its internal dynamic gains associated with the Send and Receive speech levels. Where these are not fully matched to the dynamic gains of the ATA/SLIC, speech quality can be compromised. This problem can also produce unexpected changes to the Sidetone levels, which again manifests as poor speech quality.
 - Answering machines. Answering machines use a number of techniques to detect a call is in progress. One being to detect if line current is above a predetermined level. At the end of a message recording, failure to detect a reduction in line current can cause an answering machine to continue recording for an extended period.

Although the CPE is not in an Off-Hook state during the caller display FSK transmission period, there is a d.c. load resistance applied to the line, known as the wetting current. With lower line voltages, it has been observed that lower constant current feeds can also have an impact on the reception of caller display data.

6.3 Case study: Payment services sector number block move

A CP moved an 0800 1k number block from terminating CP A to CP B at specific date and time to ensure rollback was available in case of traffic failure. The traffic consisted of high priority, short duration calls.

6.3.1 Change:

To re-route all CP B on-net originated 0800 X directly to the terminating point therefore not breaking out across the interconnect to CP A via TDM interconnect. This change routed traffic directly across various direct SIP trunks into the terminating service provider. Therefore, taking both a TDM interconnection and BT transit (overflow) out of the routing.

6.3.2 Issue:

One originating Merchant, whose calls originated on an IP network transited CP B via SIP interconnect and routed out via their direct TDM interconnect had a 100% success rate before the change. After the change the site had 100% failure rate.

6.3.3 Cause:

At that time, the originating CP configuration only supported G711u and G729. Prior to CP B building data to catch 08000 xxxxx to be captured on-net, this traffic was routed via the TDM interconnect – this call path negotiated G711u with the originating CP and the switch then carried out the SIP>ISUP interworking, resulting in an uncompressed audio path. Once CP B had implemented the routing to keep traffic on-net and point it directly at the terminating SIP trunks the problem emerged with the terminating CP trunks which did not support G711u – this resulted in the network choosing the common codec between ingress/egress which was G729 which in turn led the final termination to fail due to latency. This was solved by the originating CP adding G711a into their IPIC configuration, allowing calls to set up in G711a and therefore an uncompressed audio path.

6.4 Lift sector case study

6.4.1 Overview

There are approximately 300,000 lifts in the UK

- Risk of Passenger Entrapment in event of failure (e.g. electrical on loss of DNO supply) or Installer/Maintainer Person Injury in Motor Room / Carriage Top / Pit. See Figure 1.
- Cannot rely on mobile phones within lift carriages / shaft as they can often be effectively a Faraday Cage and hence any reliance on mobile communications will need to come back to a point within coverage – be it via an internal/external antenna.
- Provide two-way communication for Passenger and/or Lift Company Personnel to communicate between Carriage Interior / Carriage Top / Motor Room / Pit and the Alert Centre.
- Provision of an Emergency Communication System (ECS) mandated for all lifts installed from 1999. See Figure 2.
- Obligation and Reference Architecture documented BS EN 81-28:2003 [10]. See Figure 3.
- Answering Points comprise typically analogue lines for (1) on one number (hunt group) for handling speech calls and (2) PCs with proprietary hardware/software on another number for handling DTMF sending/receiving.

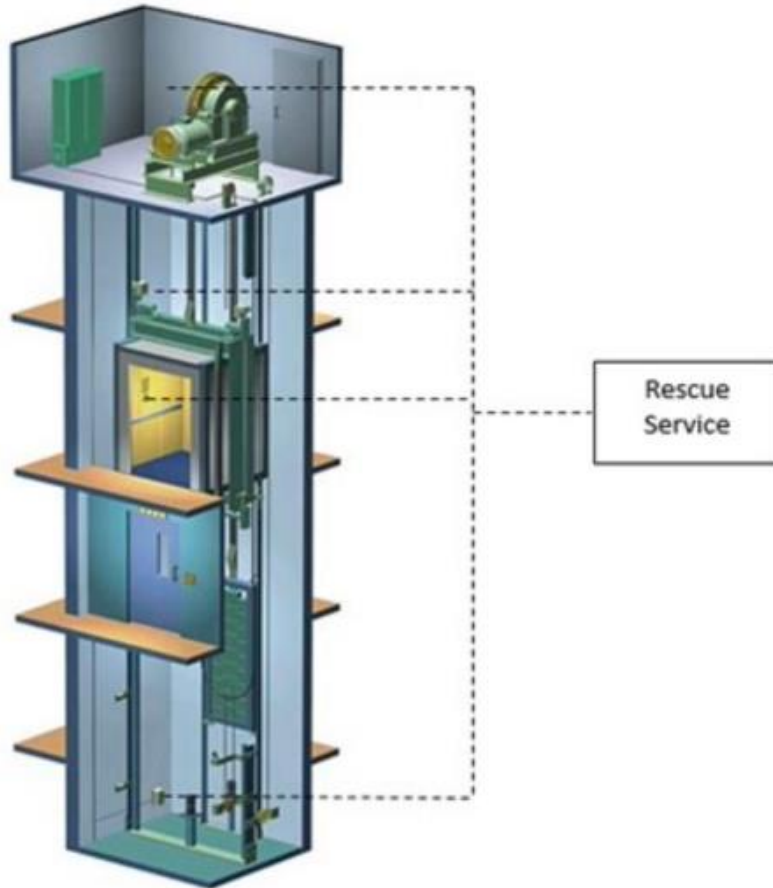


Figure 1: Rescue communicator locations



Figure 2: Example Evacuation Intercom located in Lift Carriage

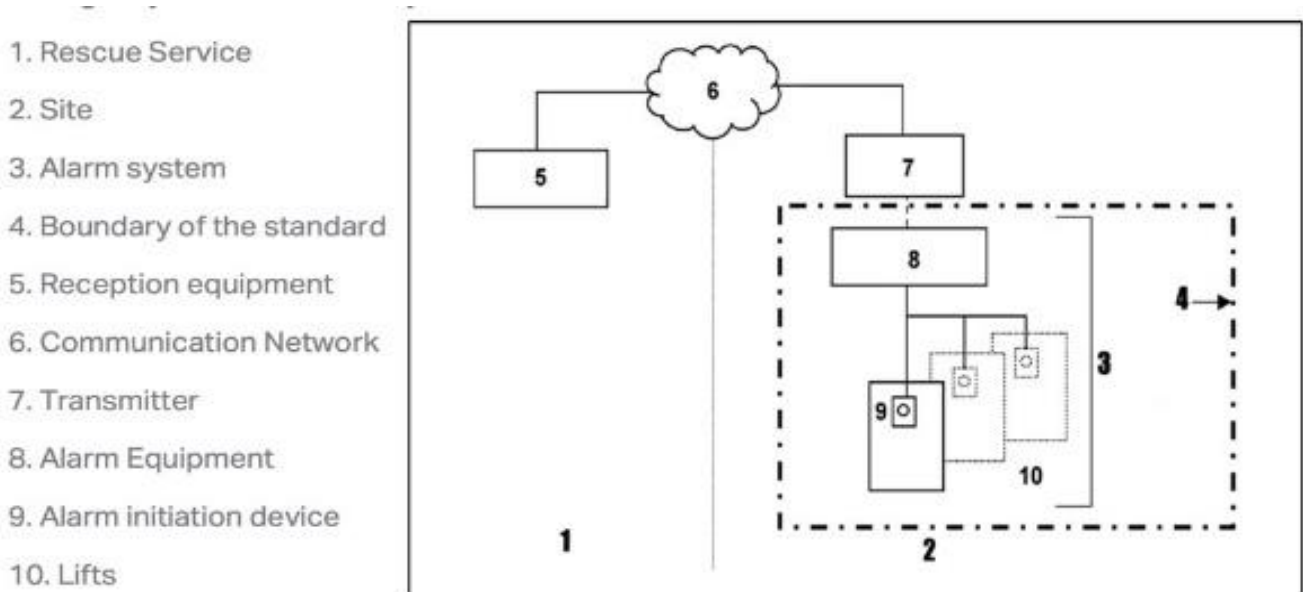


Figure 3: Reference Architecture contained in British Standard

6.4.2 Parties involved

- **Trade Associations:** Industry body – i.e. Lift and Escalator Industry Association.
- **Lift Manufacturer:** Provides lift solution.
- **ECS Manufacturer:** Provides ECS equipment fitted to the lift system – e.g. lift manufacturer themselves or 3rd Party.
- **Lift Maintainer:** Provides maintenance of the lift system and Maintenance Contract including provision of ECS and Rescue Service - where alarm calls are handled by the lift maintainer and possibly an “out of hours” call centre.
- **Facilities Management Companies:** Provides building maintenance as a whole including maintenance of lift system.
- **Property Owner:** Owns the building in which lift(s) deployed – e.g. Local Council for a Tower Block, Health Trust for a Hospital, Company Owner for Care Home.

6.4.3 Key requirements

- Lift communications works during a power outage.
- Provides quality conveyance of 2-way speech (i.e. Voice); to
 - summon assistance,
 - call-back to reassure,
 - call-back to give commands/instructions etc.
- Provides quality conveyance of 2-way M2M commands and information (i.e. Voice Band Data); to
 - pass information (e.g. site code, carriage number),
 - trigger speech “wraparound” test (mandated every 72 hours),

- telematics related to the health and performance of the machinery.
- Separate numbers for Alert Centres for Voice and Voice Band Data.

6.4.4 Key concerns

- Complexity of the many different parties involved and ensuring that they are properly educated, engaged and they understand the issues of responsibility.
- Uninterrupted functioning during a DNO power outage (i.e. need for Battery Backup).
- Uncorrupted passing of data over non ITU-T Proprietary DTMF signalling protocol (e.g. P100) that fast and long (e.g. passing ~60 digits in ~6 seconds); no generic industry protocol for IP Access and IP Network use.
- Harsh environment due to Electro Magnetic Interference (EMI), e.g. as a result of presence of High Voltage, Inductive Motors, Florescent Lighting.
- Spurious calling (e.g. “hyperactivity”) can result in significant bills for bill payer if connectivity not reliable.

6.4.5 Situation today (2022)

- Of ~300,000 lift systems in the UK, ~200,000 wireline (Fixed Copper Line) and ~100,000 wireless (Mobile PLMN) connected; with Mobile being preferred in recent years, but nevertheless a significant proportion on Fixed.
- Cellular Gateways in Control Panels are mostly 2G based. These pass Speech and Data by Circuit Switched (in-band) on older units. Newer Units pass Speech by Circuit Switched (in-band) and Data by GPRS (out-of-band).
- Some manufacturer Cellular Gateways are capable of providing interworking between a legacy fixed wireline and a newer mobile wireless connection; interworking the Speech and Data in both directions.
- Getting a reliable mobile signal can be an issue in more rural areas.
- Increasingly in metro areas there will be a challenge with reliable mobile signals with the withdrawal of 2G/3G by MNOs. Newer technologies like 4G/5G operating at higher frequencies, don’t penetrate well into buildings.

6.4.6 Solution for existing installations

It is recommended that lift intercoms be migrated onto cellular based replacement with battery backup and external antennas, if needed, to obtain reliable coverage. One cost effective approach being an ATA with a mobile backhaul that takes analogue line presentation and interworks Speech and DTMF into Cellular.

6.4.7 Future installations

Native IP based installations which will include connections to local Broadband services and will be required to have battery back-up. For additional resilience mobile Backhaul might also be considered.

6.5 Warden call

For the purposes of this document, we are defining the warden call as the functionality being provided in a closed environment to enable hot line functionality where, for example, in the residential environment, the resident initiates a call to an onsite warden for assistance.

Because this is traditionally not provided by CPs, it is unlikely to be affected by carrier migration to All-IPT.

6.6 Access systems (doors / car parks)

This case covers where there are remote access or egress controls at the entrance/exit where doors or barriers are controlled from a central point.

These systems are typically used over traditional telephone lines (including the use of VBD), they will exhibit the same issues associated with migration to All-IPT. In particular, the issues faced by other services using VBD would apply in this instance. Care needs to be taken to ensure an IP equivalent data service is put in place.

6.7 Fax

The requirement to support Fax in an IP environment has been withdrawn by the UK Regulator. All IP Telecoms networks offer no more than a best-efforts approach to supporting Fax.

It should be noted that in an All-IPT environment, Fax suffers some significant issues with regards to synchronisation as well as the previously highlighted VBD issues contained in this ND. A suitable replacement solution should be sought.

7 Industry solutions

7.1 Routeing / differentiating of VBD and voice capable calls.

While Circuit Switched networks are in existence, there are interim solutions that CP's may employ to overcome the issue of preserving a Circuit Switched path for the successful transmission of legacy VBD. However, as Circuit Switched networks are retired in favour of IP networks, these solutions become impractical. Typical Circuit Switched solutions might have included:

- Routeing on number differentiation
- CPs maintaining a database of endpoints and routeing calls accordingly
- Using a prefix code from the CPE.

NOTE: These options were considered, but over the course of time, were discounted as practical options and are included here for completeness only.

7.2 Guidance on the transmission of DTMF and STMF within IP networks

The support of DTMF both in band and out of band has been reviewed in the context of support across IP Networks. It is recommended that, to ensure the successful transmission of DTMF signalling, Native IP CPE manufactures configure all CPE connected to IP Networks to initiate DTMF signalling out of band using Telephony Events. The use of TE removes the need to transition to TE at the NNI which has been found to introduce significant service issues. In the context of VBD, DTMF will only be supported for IVR Human to Machine interaction. For further details refer to ND1704 – End to End Performance Rules[1], ND1444 – DTMF Best Practice Guide [3] and ND1431 – Guidance on CPE Compatibility [4]

STMF is a proprietary signalling method described in European Patent Application EP 2 160 038 A1. STMF has been found to be unreliable and cannot be guaranteed across All-IPT networks. Due to the short tone length and minimal separation between tones, reliable detection and encoding of SMTF or reliable translation into out of band signalling for STMF signalling has been found to be problematic. It is recommended that where connectivity cannot be guaranteed to remain Circuit Switched end to end, the Customer's CPE is configured to use DTMF.

8 Frequently asked questions

8.1 Consumer FAQ

- Does this mean my phone connection will be over fibre?
 - Not necessarily. Your broadband may still be over copper but your phone **will** use IP to make and receive phone calls over your broadband connection.
- Will my phone still work during a power outage?
 - All-IP Telephony requires CPE (both CP provided and customer owned equipment) to be battery powered during a mains power failure. The facilities available to customers to maintain the power to their CP provided equipment in the event of a power cut will be CP dependent. Maintaining power to Customer owned equipment (e.g. DECT phones) will be the customers responsibility.
- Phone connections for critical services have an SLA of “fix within 4 hours”. Will this still apply?
 - It is expected that critical broadband connections will be available from some (but not all) operators with a similar SLA but this will be CP dependent.
- How do you get a simple phone to make calls?
 - You should be able to use your existing phone, however this will need to be confirmed with your CP.
- When will ISDN30 primary interconnects be withdrawn and what will replace them?
 - Most ISDN30 services are hosted from Circuit Switched exchanges which are planned for withdraw by 2025. ISDN30 can also be hosted from IP voice platforms and presented to the customer via IP/ISDN30 gateways (or ATAs). It maybe that some CPs may offer this as services beyond 2025.

8.2 Communications provider FAQ

- What will happen if I am served by a poor performing fixed broadband connection.
 - CP’s may wish to offer a mobile alternative where a fixed line solution is no longer practical.
- What will be in place to assist customers that wish to continue to use existing legacy (Non-IP Based) equipment?
 - This will be CP dependent; some may choose to offer a degree of legacy support through the use of ATA technology. It is suggested that in the first instance that an approach to the relevant CP is made.
- Will the IP Voice calls over fibre be encrypted by default from day one?

- For most CPs their All-IPT voice services will operate using private IP networks. Where private IP networks are used, voice service will be inaccessible from the ‘public broadband internet’.
- The requirement for encryption, although highly recommended in NICC standards and guidelines, will be a CP dependent feature. Following the NICC standards and guidelines, it is expected that all CPs will encrypt and / or segregate voice services to provide secure services.

History

Document History		
Version	Date	Milestone
1.1.1	21 st November 2019	Initial publication.
2.1.1	21 st December 2020	2 nd Publication.
3.1.1	25 th November 2022	3 rd Publication, new sections on ‘Lift cases study’ and ‘Guidance on the transmission of DTMF and STMF within IP networks’.
4.1.1	16 th April 2024	4 th publication with updates to the Scope; sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.4; new sections 6.5, 6.6, 6.7; and editorial clarifications throughout.