

Local Systems Certification/Re-Certification



How to Start

introduction

The U.S. Number Portability Administration Center (NPAC) supports the implementation of Local Number Portability, which enables customers in the United States to keep their telephone number when switching Service Providers (SPs). iconectiv, as the Local Number Portability Administrator (LNPA), uses the NPAC/SMS platform to accurately manage porting activities. Vendors provide certified Local Systems, Service Order Administration (SOA) and Local Service Management System (LSMS) that are used by NPAC Users or Provider of Telecom Related Services (PTRS) Users to connect to the NPAC/SMS to perform porting activities. A Vendor may be an independent third party (not an NPAC User or PTRS User) that licenses Local System software to others, or an NPAC User or PTRS User that develops their own Local System. In either case the Local System must be certified in order to connect to the NPAC/SMS.

purpose

Certification or Re-Certification of a Local System is required for the following scenarios:

- When a version of a Local System (SOA or LSMS) has not completed certification testing with NPAC
- When the NPAC/SMS interface model version has been modified and the Local System has been modified accordingly
- When the Vendor has modified a previously certified SOA or LSMS

Local Systems licensed to or developed by a Telecom Service Provider (TSP) or a PTRS User can directly connect to the NPAC/SMS to perform porting activities once the Local System is certified by the NPAC/SMS. Vendors of Local Systems are responsible for completing Certification or Re-Certification with the NPAC/SMS before their systems can be connected to the NPAC/SMS. All required and optional features that Vendors plan to offer to their customers must be certified. The Certification/Re-Certification process includes the following steps.

Step 1: Initiation

Contact the iconectiv LNPA Account Management team by calling the iconectiv NPAC Help Desk at 844.820.8039 and request to be connected to LNPA Account Management, or email: lnpa-acct-mgmt@iconectiv.numberportability.com. The Vendor receives, completes, and returns the Vendor Testing and Confidentiality Agreement (VTCA), and gets access to required testing documentation. An Account Management Representative is assigned to guide the Vendor through the Certification/Re-Certification process. The Vendor and iconectiv will each pay for their own expenses associated with Certification/Re-Certification. If the Vendor requires extended technical support to complete Certification/Re-Certification, additional fees may apply.

Step 2: Establish and Test Connectivity

Connectivity must be established to the NPAC/SMS Test Bed. The Account Management Representative initiates a request to establish and schedule connectivity testing to NPAC/SMS Test Bed. The request also introduces the Vendor to the iconectiv NPAC Operations team, who conducts the connectivity testing with the Vendor.

Step 3: Schedule and Conduct Testing

The Account Management Representative opens a request to introduce Vendor and iconectiv Industry Test Engineering teams. Team Leads work together to schedule and conduct the required testing according to a documented test plan, which is based upon the NPAC SMS/ Vendor Certification and Regression Test Plan document. Testing is scheduled during normal business hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET. Once testing begins, Certification Testing typically takes seven to eight (7-8) weeks for a SOA, and three (3) weeks for an LSMS. Re-Certification Testing, also known as Regression Testing, typically takes two (2) weeks for a SOA and one (1) week for an LSMS.

Step 4: Assessment of Results

Once testing is complete, the Account Management Representative facilitates a call with the Vendor and the iconectiv Industry Test team to share the results. If Certified or Re-Certified, the Vendor will receive a Certification or Re-Certification letter from the LNPA Account Management team.