

## CHAPTER 164.

## TELEGRAPHS.

## TELEGRAPHS RULES

*made by the Governor in Council under section 33.*

P.N.  
24 of 1951  
113 of 1953.

1. These rules may be cited as the Telegraph Rules. Citation.
2. Telegrams shall be accepted during counter business hours at any Post Office or Railway station at which telegraph business is transacted. Transmission of telegrams.
3. Telegraph offices shall be open for the acceptance and delivery of telegrams during such hours as the Postmaster General and General Manager of the Railway as the case may be shall from time to time in respect of each office determine and publish in the *Gazette*. Hours of business.
4. The charge for the transmission of inland telegrams shall be at the rate of one penny per word, subject to a minimum charge of one shilling. Transmission charges.
5. The sender of an inland telegram may obtained priority in transmission and delivery by writing the word "Urgent" before the address and paying threepence for each word subject to a minimum charge of three shillings. The word "Urgent" shall be included in the number of words charged. Priority telegrams.
6. The charge for the transmission of inland Press telegrams shall be at the rate of one-half penny per word subject to a minimum charge of one shilling. International Press telegrams shall be subject to a minimum of ten words in respect of the overseas section of the route, and to a minimum charge of one shilling for transmission over the inland lines. Press telegrams.
7. (a) Delivery shall be free within a radius of one mile of a Telegraph Office. Delivery charges.  
(b) Over one mile and up to five miles inclusive, a delivery charge shall be made of sixpence for the first additional mile and threepence for every subsequent mile, to be prepaid by the sender.

(c) Beyond five miles, delivery shall be effected by special arrangement only, all charges to be prepaid by the sender.

(d) A deposit for boat hire shall be paid on all telegrams addressed to vessels in Freetown Harbour. Any surplus shall be refunded to the sender.

(e) A canoe charge of threepence shall be made on all telegrams conveyed between Bonthe and York Island in either direction and shall be prepaid by the sender.

(f) Telegrams for delivery by registered post from the nearest Telegraph Office shall be accepted if postage is prepaid by the sender.

Inter-  
national  
telegrams.

8. Telegrams shall be accepted at any telegraph office for any International Telegraph Office or Cable station shown in the Tariff of Cable and Wireless, Limited. The charge shall be at the rate specified therein in addition to the charge for transmission over the inland lines as prescribed in rule 4 of these rules; provided that in the case of International telegrams at reduced rates, the inland charge thereon shall be reduced in the same ratio to the ordinary inland charge as Cable and Wireless Limited reduced rates bear to their ordinary rates, subject to a minimum charge of sixpence for each telegram. In the case of urgent International telegrams the charges shall be treble the ordinary rate for transmission over the inland lines, subject to a minimum charge of one shilling and threepence for each telegram, and double the Cable and Wireless ordinary rate.

Multiple  
address  
telegrams.

9. An inland telegram may be accepted for delivery at several addresses in the same delivery area. The sender shall write before the first address the Paid Service Instruction—T.M.—together with the number of addresses to which the telegram is to be delivered. The whole instruction shall be counted as one word. The charge for a multiple address telegram is made up as follows—

The total number of words in the text and all addresses is counted and charged for at the rate appropriate to the class of telegram concerned. An additional charge of twopence is made for each extra copy when the number of words does not exceed fifty. A further charge of twopence per extra copy is made for every additional fifty words or part thereof in each such extra copy.

Proper  
names.

10. All proper names shall be counted as one word, if not written contrary to the usage of the language. Names of places, streets, etc., of a family or ship, and designation of aircraft, may

be joined up by the sender and shall be counted as one word. In the address the name of the Telegraph Office of destination such as Water Street, Cline Town, is chargeable as one word and when not so written must be joined up by the counter clerk before the telegram is transmitted. In the text of the telegram such words written as two or more and not joined up by the sender shall be counted and charged for as two or more words. Letters used to denote the name of a firm, a degree or rank shall be counted and charged for as one letter to a word when in the address and at five letters to a word in the text.

**11.** Combinations of two or more words shall be charged for as separate words but combined words which the usage of the language allows to be written together, or coupled by hyphens, and which are so written by the sender shall be charged for as single words, as for example "Fifty-five," "Father-in-Law," "To-night," Manifestly improper combinations such as "Very-well," "Allright," or "Alright" shall be charged for as two words each. Combined words.

**12.** Such common abbreviations as "cant," "wont," "dонт," "shant" and "couldnt" may be counted as single words. Common abbreviations.

**13.** Groups of figures shall be charged for at the rate of five figures to one word, thus "7," "12" and "36257" shall each be counted as one word and "327192" as two words. A bar or mark of division and ordinal numbers expressed in a combination of figures and letters shall be counted at the rate of five characters (signs) to a word. Thus "1st" and "16th" will be one word and "1353rd" two words. Groups of figures, groups of letters and ordinal numbers composed of figures and letters shall be counted at the rate of five characters to a word plus one word for any excess. Figures or groups.

**14.** The limit of each word for plain language telegrams is fifteen letters. Maximum number of letters as one word.

**15.** No telegram shall be accepted or transmitted which does not have a text, or which contains— Prohibition.

(a) Anything indecent, obscene or libellous or of a grossly offensive character. (a) Obscene etc. telegrams.

(b) Anything dangerous to the security or contrary to the laws or the public order of any State through the territory of which it is to be transmitted. (b) Contrary to laws or security.

Special instructions given by the sender.

16. When the sender of a telegram desires instructions such as "Private," "Confidential," "To be opened at once," etc., to be written on the envelope containing the copy delivered to the addressee, he must write these instructions immediately before the address, in which order they will be signalled throughout the whole course of transmission. The words comprising the instruction shall be counted and charged for as part of the telegram.

Reply paid telegram.

17. The charge for a reply shall be calculated at the same rate as for an ordinary message and must be prepaid. A reply shall not be prepaid for a sum less than the minimum charge for the class of telegram concerned. A sender who desires to prepay a reply shall insert before the address the Paid Service Instruction "RP" together with the specific number of words for which he desires to prepay thus "RP 12." The whole expression shall count as one word and be paid for by the sender. In the case of International telegrams the value of the words prepaid must be inserted, e.g. "RP 10s."

Reply paid forms.

18. Where a telegram is received to which a reply has been prepaid a form for the reply specifying the amount prepaid shall be issued by the office of delivery. The addressee may, within three months after the date of issue of the form, use it in payment or part payment of any telegram. When such a form has been issued for a period in excess of three months it cannot be accepted in payment or part payment of a telegram.

Refund on reply paid form.

19. Every application for the refund of the sum prepaid for a reply shall be accompanied in support thereof by the reply paid form supplied to the addressee, and must be made within three months of the issue of the form.

Repetitions.

20. If the addressee of a telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have the whole telegram or any part of it repeated by paying for the number of words to be repeated at the ordinary inland rate. This charge shall be refunded in the case of a telegram incorrectly transmitted. If no error has been made the amount paid for the repetition shall be retained and a receipt shall be given.

Re-directed telegrams.

21. When the sender of an undelivered telegram desires to send it to another address it must be re-written and shall be treated entirely as a fresh telegram.

22. When the telegram is finally accepted a receipt for the amount paid shall be handed to the sender. The Postmaster General shall not undertake enquiries concerning non-delivery of a telegram unless the aforesaid receipt is produced.

Receipts  
be given to  
sender.

23. When once a telegram has been accepted and signalled the sum collected from the sender shall not be refunded without the authority of the Postmaster General. Similarly in the case of a claim for the return of the cost of a message which has been rendered useless either by delay or inaccurate transmission, or which has failed to reach its destination, the applicant shall prefer his claim to the Postmaster General.

No refund  
after receipt  
has been  
given.

24. On no account shall enquiries be made by telegraph or telephone on behalf of any person, unless the cost of such enquiries has been paid.

Enquiries  
not made for  
public unless  
paid for.

25. The sender or addressee of a telegram may obtain a certified copy on application to the Postmaster General, and on payment of the sum of twopence in respect of an inland telegram, and in respect of an International telegram containing not more than one hundred words the sum of one shilling and threepence with an additional fivepence for every additional fifty words or part thereof.

Charge for  
copies of  
telegrams.

26. (1) Any person may register an abbreviated address upon paying in advance a registration fee of two pounds a year. Every such registration shall expire on the 31st day of December of the year in which it is taken out.

Registration  
of abbreviat-  
ed addresses

(2) Applications for registration must be forwarded to the Postmaster General for approval, together with the full or correct address of the applicant and the name of the office or station at which it is desired to effect registration. Each address must consist of not less than two words, one of which is to be the name of the town or place of delivery; the other must be a word containing not more than ten letters which is easy to pronounce.

(3) While such abbreviated address is registered, and during the period in respect of which the registration fee has been paid, telegrams addressed to such address and received at the office or station at which the registration has been effected shall be delivered at the corresponding full or correct address.

(4) No telegrams shall be forwarded to an abbreviated address which has not been registered in accordance with the provisions of this rule.

Non-liability  
of Post-  
master  
General.

27. The Postmaster General shall not be liable for any loss or damage which may be incurred or sustained by reason or on account of any mistake or default in the transmission or delivery of a telegram.

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