

# Wireless Application Service Providers' Association

## Code of Conduct

[Annotated version]

Version 8.0

2009-10-13

### History of ratified versions of the WASPA Code of Conduct:

- Version 3.2 (2005-09-01 - 2006-04-20)
- Version 4.3 (2006-04-20 - 2006-08-25)
- Version 4.6 (2006-08-25 - 2006-11-10)
- Version 4.7 (2006-11-10 - 2007-01-18)
- Version 4.8 (2007-01-18 - 2007-03-27)
- Version 4.92 (2007-03-27 - 2007-06-14)
- Version 5.2 (2007-06-14 - 2007-07-20)
- Version 5.3 (2007-07-20 - 2007-12-13)
- Version 5.7 (2007-12-13 - 2008-07-01)
- Version 6.1 (2008-07-01 - 2008-08-14)
- Version 6.2 (2008-08-14 - 2009-03-25)
- Version 7.0 (2009-03-25 - 2009-06-17)
- Version 7.4 (2009-06-17 - 2009-10-13)
- Version 8.0 (2009-10-13 - present)

## 1. Introduction

This document is a code of practice governing the members of the South African Wireless Application Service Providers' Association (WASPA). It is binding on all members and contains accepted procedures to be followed in the event of a complaint lodged against any WASPA member.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### 1.1. About WASPA

WASPA is an independent, non-profit organisation representing the interests of organisations providing mobile application services in South Africa. The Association aims to provide a neutral forum for members to address issues of common interest and interact with industry stakeholders, network operators and government bodies. WASPA aims to ensure that end-users receive world-class services and industry participants earn a fair return on their investments. The association was founded in August 2004.

Membership of WASPA is voluntary. Voting members are required to have an existing business relationship with one or more of the network operators. All members are required to accept the WASPA Code of Conduct and related procedures as binding.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

In version 4.3, the second paragraph was amended to accommodate non-voting members. Prior to this change, this paragraph stated: "Membership of WASPA is voluntary, with members required to have an existing business relationship with one or more of the network operators. Members are also required to accept the WASPA Code of Conduct and related procedures as binding."

### 1.2. Objectives of the Code of Conduct

The primary objective of the WASPA Code of Conduct is to ensure that members of the public can use mobile services with confidence, assured that they will be provided with accurate information about all services and the pricing associated with those services. The Code aims to equip customers and consumers with a mechanism for addressing any concerns or complaints relating to services provided

by WASPA members, and a framework for impartial, fair and consistent evaluation and response to any complaints made.

The Code of Conduct also sets standards for advertising mobile application services, and includes a framework for the provision of adult services, to ensure adequate protection of children from potentially harmful content.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### **1.3. Revisions to the Code of Conduct**

In order to ensure that this Code of Conduct remains relevant in the face of constantly evolving technology, the provisions of the Code are reviewed regularly. The latest version of the WASPA Code of Conduct is always available on the organisation's web site, <http://www.waspa.org.za>.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### **1.4. Scope of the Code**

Unless otherwise specified, this Code of Conduct applies to all wireless application services accessed by a customer in South Africa, transmitted by a wireless application service provider and carried by a South African network operator.

Where the Code addresses services provided by members, it applies only to wireless application services provided by a WASP, and not to other types of services that the member may provide.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### **1.5. Existing agreements with operators**

As well as complying with this Code, WASPA members must also comply with any existing contracts and agreements they have with network operators.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### **1.6. Applicability of the Code to non-members**

Some companies may be required to comply with the WASPA code by virtue of a contract with one or more network operators and/or a contract with one or more voting WASPA members. In such cases, all clauses in the Code of Conduct and the *WASPA Advertising Rules* that are binding on WASPA members shall be deemed to be binding on those companies, irrespective of whether or not those companies are members of WASPA.

This clause was introduced in version 4.3.

### **1.7. Disclaimer**

The members of WASPA, the WASPA Management Committee, all other WASPA Committees, the WASPA Secretariat, WASPA's employees and contractors, and Independent Adjudicators shall not be held liable for any consequences that may arise from the implementation of this Code of Conduct or for the failure to implement the Code. This Code of Conduct does not constitute legal advice, nor is it warranted as legal advice. All members are strongly advised to seek proper legal counsel.

This clause was introduced in version 4.3.

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## **2. Definitions**

The terms below have the following meaning throughout this document:

2.1. An “**adult service**” is any service where the content or product is of a clearly sexual nature, or any service for which the associated promotional material is of a clearly sexual nature, or indicates directly, or implies that the service is of a sexual nature.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2 and has remained unchanged.

2.2. An “**adult content service**” is any service for the provision of content which has been classified as suitable only for persons 18 years or older by an appropriate body (such as the Film and Publications Board), or content reasonably likely to be so classified.

This clause was introduced in version 4.3.

2.3. An “**adjudicator**” is a person, independent of any member, who is appointed to review formal complaints.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.2 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.3 in version 4.3.

2.4. A “**beneficiary**” is a charity or organisation benefiting from a charitable promotion.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.3 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.4 in version 4.3.

#### **Bundling**

The following definition was inserted in version 4.8: “Bundling mean automatically subscribing a consumer to a subscription service in response to a request from that consumer for a single content item.”  
This definition was removed in version 6.1.

2.5. A “**charitable promotion**” is any promotion which has a primary goal of benefiting a registered charitable organisation.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.4 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.5 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.6 in version 4.8.  
It was renumbered back to 2.5 in version 6.1.

2.6. A “**child**” refers to a natural person under 18 years of age.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.5 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.6 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.7 in version 4.8.  
It was renumbered back to 2.6 in version 6.1.

2.7. “**Children’s services**” are those which, either wholly or in part, are aimed at, or would reasonably be expected to be particularly attractive to children.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.6 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.7 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.8 in version 4.8.  
It was renumbered back to 2.7 in version 6.1.

2.8. A “**commercial message**” is a message sent by SMS or MMS or similar protocol that is designed to promote the sale or demand of goods or services whether or not it invites or solicits a response from a recipient.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.7 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.8 in version 4.3.

It was renumbered to 2.9 in version 4.8.  
It was renumbered back to 2.8 in version 6.1.

2.9. A "**competition service**" is any competition or game with prizes or entry mechanism into a draw. Where an auction or a reverse auction has the characteristics of a competition service, it is considered to be a competition service.

The first sentence of this definition was introduced as clause 2.8 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.9 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.10 in version 4.8.  
It was renumbered back to 2.9 in version 6.1.  
The second sentence ("Where an auction...") was added in version 7.0.

2.10. A "**contact and dating**" service is any service intended to enable people previously unacquainted with each other to make initial contact and arrange to meet in person.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.9 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.10 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.11 in version 4.8.  
It was renumbered back to 2.10 in version 6.1.

2.11. A "**content subscription service**" includes any subscription service providing or offering access to content including, by way of example only and not limitation: sound clips, ring tones, wallpapers, images, videos, games, text or MMS content or information. This includes any subscription service which describes itself as a "club" or which otherwise allows access to content to subscribers, at a cost which includes both a subscription element and a per content item element. Services which are not considered to be content subscription services include: dating services, chat services, location-based services, GSM terminal device services, corporate application services, reminder services, synchronisation applications, corporate communications applications, VOIP, etc.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.11 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.12 in version 4.8.  
It was renumbered back to 2.11 in version 6.1.

2.12. A "**customer**" is a user of a mobile cellular telecommunications service that has indicated a willingness to access or utilise a service provided by a wireless application service provider.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.10 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.11 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.12 in version 4.7.

2.13. An "**information provider**" is any person on whose behalf a wireless application service provider may provide a service, and includes message originators.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.11 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.12 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.13 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.14 in version 4.8.  
It was renumbered back to 2.13 in version 6.1.

2.14. A "**keyword**" is any word used in an SMS or MMS sent by a customer to request a service.

This clause was introduced in version 6.1.

2.15. A "**member**" is a member in good standing of WASPA.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.12 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.13 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.14 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.15 in version 4.8.

2.16. A “**message originator**” is the entity sending a commercial message and can be any person with a commercial arrangement with a WASP to send commercial messages, or a WASP directly.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.13 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.14 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.15 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.16 in version 4.8.

2.17. A “**network operator**” is a mobile cellular telecommunication service provider, or any other category of telecommunication service provider as determined by WASPA’s Management Committee.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.14 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.15 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.16 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.17 in version 4.8.

2.18. The “**originating number**” is the number allocated to the WASP by the network operator from which a commercial message is sent.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.15 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.16 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.17 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.18 in version 4.8.

2.19. A “**person**” means any natural or legal person.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.16 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.17 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.18 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.19 in version 4.8.

2.20. A “**premium-rated service**” is any service charged at a higher rate than the standard rate set by the network operator for that particular service.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.17 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.18 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.19 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.20 in version 4.8.

2.21. “**Secretariat**” refers to the persons employed by WASPA to handle the administration of the organisation, including the handling of Code of Conduct complaints.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.18 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.19 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.20 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.21 in version 4.8.

2.22. “**Spam**” means unsolicited commercial communications, including unsolicited commercial messages as referred to in section 5.2.1.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.19 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.20 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.21 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.22 in version 4.8.

2.23. A “**subscription service**” is any service for which a customer is billed on a repeated, regular basis without necessarily confirming each individual transaction.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.20 in version 3.2.

It was renumbered to 2.21 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.22 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.23 in version 4.8.

2.24. "**WASPA web site**" refers to the Internet web site located at <http://www.waspa.org.za>.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.21 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.22 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.23 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.24 in version 4.8.

2.25. A "**wireless application service provider**" is any person engaged in the provision of a mobile service, including premium-rated services, who signs a WASP contract with a network operator for bearer services enabling the provision of such services.

This clause was introduced as clause 2.22 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 2.23 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 2.24 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 2.25 in version 4.8.

### **3. General provisions**

#### **3.1. Professional and lawful conduct**

3.1.1. Members will at all times conduct themselves in a professional manner in their dealings with the public, customers, other wireless application service providers and WASPA.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

3.1.2. Members are committed to lawful conduct at all times.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

#### **3.2. Freedom of expression**

3.2.1. WASPA and its members respect the constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

#### **3.3. Service levels**

3.3.1. Members will not offer or promise services that they are unable to provide.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

3.3.2. Services must not be unreasonably prolonged or delayed.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

3.3.3. A member is not liable for any failure to provide a service due to circumstances beyond that member's control.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

#### **3.4. Intellectual property**

3.4.1. Members will respect the intellectual property rights of their clients and other parties and will not knowingly infringe such rights.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### 3.5. Content control

3.5.1. Members must not knowingly transmit or publish illegal content.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

3.5.2. If a member becomes aware of illegal content under that member's control, the member must, immediately suspend access to that content. Where required to do so by law, the member must report the illegal content to the relevant enforcement authority.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
Two words originally before "immediately" were deleted in version 4.3. Previous this clause read "...the member must, **where possible**, immediately suspend access..."

3.5.3. Members must co-operate with any content orders lawfully issued by enforcement authorities.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### 3.6. Data protection

3.6.1. Members will take all reasonable measures to prevent unauthorised or unlawful access to, interception of, or interference with any data.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### 3.7. Decency

3.7.1. Members will not provide any services or promotional material that:

- (a) contains a visual presentation of explicit violent sexual conduct, bestiality, incest or rape or extreme violence which constitutes incitement to cause harm;
- (b) results in any unreasonable invasion of privacy;
- (c) induces an unacceptable sense of fear or anxiety;
- (d) encourages or incites any person to engage in dangerous practices or to use harmful substances;
- (e) induces or promotes racial disharmony;
- (f) causes grave or widespread offence; or
- (g) debases, degrade or demeans.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### 3.8. Number re-use

3.8.1. A service must not be replaced on the same number by another service that might give offence to or might be inappropriate for customers reasonably expecting the original service.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### 3.9. Information providers

3.9.1. Members must bind any information provider with whom they contract for the provision of services to ensure that none of the services contravene the Code of Conduct.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

3.9.2. Where any service provider that is not a WASPA member conducts any activity governed by the provisions of this Code, and makes use of the facilities of a WASPA member to do so, that member must ensure that the service provider is made fully aware of all relevant provisions of the Code and the member shall remain responsible and vicariously liable for any breach of the Code resulting from the actions or omissions of any such service provider.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.  
It was added in order to spell out members' liability for services or campaigns operated by third parties who are not also WASPA members.

3.9.3. The member may suspend or terminate the services of any information provider that provides a service in contravention of this Code of Conduct.

This clause was introduced as clause 3.9.2 in version 3.2.  
The second word "may" was changed from "must" in version 4.6.  
It was renumbered to 3.9.3 in version 8.0.

3.9.4. The member must act in accordance with the WASPA complaints and appeal process and if appropriate, suspend or terminate the services of any information provider.

This clause was introduced as clause 3.9.3 in version 4.6.  
It was renumbered to 3.9.4 in version 8.0.

**3.10. Nominated representatives**

3.10.1. Each member must supply WASPA with contact information (including at least a telephone number and an email address) for a primary and a secondary Code of Conduct representative.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

3.10.2. Should the nominated representatives change, or the contact information for the representatives change, the member must notify WASPA of the changes.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

**3.11. Provision of numbering information**

3.11.1. WASPA members shall provide WASPA, on request, with a list of all short codes, long codes and alphanumeric identifiers assigned for use with that member's services or the services of any of the member's information providers.

This clause was introduced in version 4.3.

**3.12. Employee awareness**

3.12.1. Members must ensure that any relevant employees are made aware of this Code of Conduct and the requirements and procedures associated therewith.

This clause was introduced as clause 3.11.1 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 3.12.1 in version 4.3.

**3.13. Alterations**

3.13.1. WASPA reserves the right to make alterations to this Code of Conduct from time to time, following due consultation with members.

This clause was introduced as clause 3.12.1 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 3.13.1 in version 4.3.

3.13.2. WASPA will notify its members and network operators of any alteration to the Code of Conduct.

This clause was introduced as clause 3.12.2 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 3.13.2 in version 4.3.

3.13.3. Any alterations to the Code of Conduct are binding on all members. The current Code of Conduct will always be available on the WASPA web site.

This clause was introduced as clause 3.12.3 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 3.13.3 in version 4.3.

3.13.4. WASPA reserves the right to immediately amend or alter this Code of Conduct if directed to do so by a court of law.

This clause was introduced in version 4.3.

### **3.14. WASPA identity**

3.14.1. Members will abide by any rules and regulations governing the use of any WASPA brand, logo, seal or other identifying mark.

This clause was introduced as clause 3.13.1 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 3.14.1 in version 4.3.

## **4. Customer relations**

### **4.1. Provision of information to customers**

4.1.1. Members must have honest and fair dealings with their customers. In particular, pricing information for services must be clearly and accurately conveyed to customers and potential customers.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
It was changed in version 7.4 with "Members **must have**" replacing "Members **are committed to**". This change places a positive obligation on WASPs to have honest and fair dealings, instead of merely requiring a commitment to do so.

4.1.2. Members must not knowingly disseminate information that is false or deceptive, or that is likely to mislead by inaccuracy, ambiguity, exaggeration or omission.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

4.1.3. Each member must provide their full contact details on the member's web site, including the registered company name, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address and physical address.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

4.1.4. Members must make the terms and conditions of any of their services available to customers and potential customers, on request.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

4.1.5. Terms and conditions of members' services may not contain clauses that contradict the requirements of the WASPA Code of Conduct.

This clause was introduced in version 7.4. Previously, it was not a specific breach of the Code for a WASP to insert contradictory conditions in their terms and conditions. It would only have been a breach of the Code in such cases if the WASP exercised the contradictory clauses. This situation could have caused confusion for consumers, who might not be sure whether the WASPA Code applied if the SP's T&Cs claimed otherwise. This addition was intended to close this loophole.

4.1.6. Members must have a complaints procedure allowing their customers to lodge complaints regarding the services provided. Members must acknowledge receipt of complaints expeditiously, and must respond to any complaints within a reasonable period of time.

This clause was introduced as clause 4.1.5 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.6 in version 7.4.

4.1.7. Customer support must be easily available, and must not be limited to a medium that the customer is unlikely to have access to (for example, support should not be limited to email if a significant number of customers do not have access to email).

This clause was introduced as clause 4.1.6 in version 5.2, based on what had previously been clause 11.2.1: "Assistance, such as 'help' information, for subscription services must be easily available to customers, and must not be limited to a medium that the customer is unlikely to have access to."  
Members were given until 2007-07-01 to comply with this clause.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.7 in version 7.4.

4.1.8 . Any telephonic support must be provided via a South African telephone number and must function effectively. Should the member be unable to provide immediate support, a customer should be provided with the ability to leave a message. Support numbers may not forward to full voice mailboxes.

This clause was introduced as clause 4.1.7 in version 5.2.  
Members were given until 2007-07-01 to comply with this clause.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.8 in version 7.4.

4.1.9. Customer support may not be provided via premium rated numbers, and may only be provided via standard-rate or VAS-rate numbers.

This clause was introduced as clause 4.1.8 in version 6.1.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.9 in version 7.4.

4.1.10. Members undertake to inform their wireless application service customers that they are bound by this Code of Conduct. Members also undertake to make these customers aware of the WASPA complaints procedure and the mechanism for making a complaint, should any customer wish to do so.

This clause was introduced as clause 4.1.6 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.8 in version 5.2.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.9 in version 6.1.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.10 in version 7.4.

4.1.11. Members' web sites must include a link to the WASPA web site and/or this Code of Conduct.

This clause was introduced as clause 4.1.7 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.9 in version 5.2.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.9 in version 6.1.  
It was renumbered to 4.1.11 in version 7.4.

## 4.2. Privacy and confidentiality

4.2.1. WASPA and its members must respect the constitutional right of consumers to personal privacy and privacy of communications.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

4.2.2. Members must respect the confidentiality of customers' personal information and will not sell or distribute such information to any other party without the explicit consent of the customer, except where required to do so by law.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### 4.3. Refunds

4.3.1. Any refunds provided by members to customers must be provided in a form acceptable to the customer which must be either South African Rands or air-time useable on a South African mobile network.

This clause was introduced in version 7.4. See explanatory note below.

4.3.2. Refunds must not cause the customer to incur any bank charges, or alternatively must compensate the customer for any bank charges incurred.

This clause was introduced in version 7.4. This was to address the situation of SPs outside of South Africa posting refunds in foreign currency, and consequently causing customers to incur bank charges sometimes in excess of the value of the refund.

4.3.3. Refunds must not be unreasonably delayed.

This clause was introduced in version 7.4.  
Interpretation notes for this clause: One calendar month would constitute an unreasonable delay.

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## 5. Commercial communications

### 5.1. Sending of commercial communications

5.1.1. All commercial messages must contain a valid originating number and/or the name or identifier of the message originator.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

5.1.2. Any message originator must have a facility to allow the recipient to remove his or herself from the message originator's database, so as not to receive any further messages from that message originator.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

5.1.3. For SMS and MMS communications, a recipient should be able to stop receiving messages from any service by replying with the word 'STOP'. If a reply could pertain to multiple services, either all services should be terminated, or the recipient should be given a choice of service to terminate. The reply 'STOP' procedure should be made clear to the recipient at the start of any messaging service, for example by including "reply STOP to opt out" in the first message sent. If it is not technically feasible for the recipient to reply to a specific message then clear instructions for unsubscribing must be included in the body of that message.

As originally introduced as clause 5.1.3 in version 3.2, this clause read simply: "Where feasible, customers should be able to unsubscribe from any subscription service using no more than two words, one of which must be 'STOP'."

This was amended in version 4.3 to read: "Where feasible, persons receiving commercial messages should be able to remove themselves from the database of a message originator using no more than two words, one of which must be 'STOP'."

It was renumbered to 5.1.4 in version 4.92 (switching places with the clause below) and redrafted entirely as follows: "Notwithstanding 5.1.3, for SMS and MMS communications: (a) A recipient should be able to stop receiving messages from any service by replying with the word 'STOP'. If a reply could pertain to multiple services, either all services should be terminated, or the recipient should be given a choice of service to terminate. The reply 'STOP' procedure must be included at the start of any messaging service, for example: "reply STOP to opt out". (b) Recipients of premium rate or non-replyable messages must have the option to opt out at a cost of R1 or less. This opt-out instruction must be included in every commercial premium rate or non-replyable message, for example. "sms STOP to 32xxx to opt out".

Members were given until 2007-08-01 to comply with this clause.

In version 6.1 it was amended with "must have the option to opt out at the lowest tariffed rate available (with the exception of reverse billed rates)" replacing "must have the option to opt out at a cost of R1 or less".

Members were given until 2008-10-01 to comply with this revised clause.

It was renumbered back to 5.1.3 in version 6.2 (again switching places with the clause below), and redrafted into its current form, minus the last sentence.

In version 7.4 the last sentence ("If it is not technically [...] body of that message") was added to accommodate cases where there are technical reasons that a customer cannot simply reply to a message. A specific example of this is when a SP inserts an alphanumeric description in the "From" field of the message, rather than a number to which a reply can be sent. However, at the time version 7.4 was ratified, modifying the "From" field in this way was only permitted on Cell C's network, and was prohibited by both Vodacom and MTN.

5.1.4. For SMS and MMS communications, a message recipient must be able to opt out at the lowest tariffed rate available (with the exception of reverse billed rates). If replying 'STOP' as set out in 5.1.3 will result in a charge greater than the lowest tariffed rate available, then instructions for the lowest tariffed rate opt-out must be included in every message sent to the customer.

As originally introduced as clause 5.1.4 in version 3.2, this clause read simply: "Any mechanism for allowing a recipient to remove his or herself from a database may not be premium rated.

It was renumbered to 5.1.3 in version 4.92 (switching places with the clause above).

It was renumbered back to 5.1.4 in version 6.2 (again switching places with the clause above), and redrafted into its current form.

5.1.5. Once a recipient has opted out from a service, a message confirming the opt-out should be sent to that recipient. This message must reference the specific service that the recipient has opted-out from, and may not be a premium rated message.

This clause was introduced in version 5.7.

5.1.6. Where the words 'END', 'CANCEL', 'UNSUBSCRIBE' or 'QUIT' are used in place of 'STOP' in an opt-out request, the service provider must honour the opt-out request as if the word 'STOP' had been used.

This clause was introduced in version 5.7.

5.1.7. Upon request of the recipient, the message originator must, within a reasonable period of time, identify the source from which the recipient's personal information was obtained.

This clause was introduced as clause 5.1.5 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 5.1.7 in version 5.7.

5.1.8. Commercial communications may not be timed to be delivered between 20:00 and 06:00, unless explicitly agreed to by the recipient, or unless delivery during this period forms part of the up-front description of the service.

This clause was introduced as clause 5.1.6 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 5.1.8 in version 5.7.

## 5.2. Identification of spam

5.2.1. Any commercial message is considered unsolicited (and hence spam) unless:

- (a) the recipient has requested the message;
- (b) the message recipient has a direct and recent (within the last six months) prior commercial relationship with the message originator and would reasonably expect to receive marketing communications from the originator; or
- (c) the organisation supplying the originator with the recipient's contact information has the recipient's explicit consent to do so.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
In version 6.1 a definition of recent was added in parentheses "(within the last six months)".

5.2.2. WASPA, in conjunction with the network operators, will provide a mechanism for consumers to determine which message originator or wireless application service provider sent any unsolicited commercial message.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

## 5.3. Prevention of spam

5.3.1. Members will not send or promote the sending of spam and will take reasonable measures to ensure that their facilities are not used by others for this purpose.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

5.3.2. Members will provide a mechanism for dealing expeditiously with complaints about spam originating from their networks.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

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## 6. Advertising and pricing

### 6.1. WASPA advertising rules

6.1.1. In addition to the provisions listed below all members are bound by the *WASPA Advertising Rules*, published as a separate document.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
It was amended in version 4.3. to refer to the "*WASPA Advertising Rules*" (instead of "*WASPA Advertising Guidelines*") which were published between version 3.2 and 4.3 of the Code.

6.1.2. The latest version of the *WASPA Advertising Rules* will always be available on the WASPA web site.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
It was amended in version 4.3. to refer to the "*WASPA Advertising Rules*" (instead of "*WASPA Advertising Guidelines*") which were published between version 3.2 and 4.3 of the Code.

6.1.3. In the case of any conflict between the *WASPA Advertising Rules* and the WASPA Code of Conduct, the Code of Conduct takes priority over the *Advertising Rules*.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.

### 6.2. Pricing of services

6.2.1. All advertised prices must include VAT.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

6.2.2. All advertisements for services must include the full retail price of that service.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

6.2.3. Pricing must not contain any hidden costs. Where applicable, pricing for content services must include the cost of the content and indicate any bearer costs that may be associated with downloading, browsing or receiving that content.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

6.2.4. Pricing contained in an advertisement must not be misleading. If multiple communications are required to obtain content, then the advertised price must include the cost for all communications required for that transaction. A clear indication must always be given that more premium messages are required.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

6.2.5. The price for a premium rated service must be easily and clearly visible in all advertisements. The price must appear with all instances of the premium number display.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

It was amended in version 4.3. with "The price **must** appear" replacing "The price **should** appear".

6.2.6. Unless otherwise specified in the advertising guidelines, the name of the WASP or the information provider providing the service must appear in all advertisements for premium rated services.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

6.2.7. For menu-driven services such as USSD, the price for the service must be clearly stated at the top of the first page. Any additional costs associated with specific menu selections must be clearly indicated.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

6.2.8. Pricing on any promotional material must use one of the following generally accepted formats for prices in Rands: "Rx" or "Rx.xx".

This clause was introduced in version 5.2.

Members were given until 2007-08-01 to comply with this clause.

6.2.9. During any calendar month, if the total cost of any service exceeds R200 for that month:

(a) Where the WASP is in control of the billing (e.g. an OBS), an additional communication is required from the customer, confirming acceptance of any costs over this amount, prior to any additional costs being billed.

(b) Where the WASP is not in control of the billing (e.g. the customer sends an SMS to a premium rated number), the member must send a notification to the customer once they have reached this limit.

This clause was introduced in version 6.1, with an initial threshold of "R100".

Members were initially given until 2008-10-01 to comply with this clause, this was extended to 2008-11-01, and since this clause was amended before that date, the "R100" threshold never applied in practice.

The limit was amended to "R300" in version 6.2.

The same compliance date (2008-11-01) remained in place.  
The limit was amended to "R200" in version 7.0.  
Members were given until 2009-06-30 to comply with the amended threshold.

6.2.10. During any calendar month, when the total cost of any service reaches R400, and when it reaches any multiple of R200 thereafter, an additional notification must be sent to the customer notifying them of the total cost incurred for that service so far.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.  
Members were given until 2009-06-30 to comply with this clause.

6.2.11. The member providing the service must keep a record of the confirmation provided by the customer (for 6.2.9 (a)) or the notification sent to the customer (for 6.2.9 (b)).

This clause was introduced as clause 6.2.10 in version 6.1.  
Members were given until 2008-10-01 to comply with this clause, this was extended to 2008-11-01.  
It was renumbered to 6.2.11 in version 7.0.

6.2.12. For any transaction initiated via WAP, USSD, web-browsing, a link in an MMS or by an application:

- (a) If the transaction is billed at R10 or more, the member initiating this transaction must obtain specific confirmation from the customer and keep a record of such confirmation.
- (b) If the transaction is billed at less than R10, the price for the transaction must be clearly indicated as part of, or immediately next to, the link or option that will initiate the transaction and must be visible on the same screen as the link.
- (c) If the transaction is to initiate a subscription service, then the price and frequency of the service must be included directly in the text of the WAP link or immediately adjacent to it and must be visible on the same screen as the link.

This clause was introduced as clause 6.2.11 in version 6.1 without part (c) and with a short part (b).  
Members were given until 2008-08-01 to comply with this clause.  
It was renumbered to 6.2.12 in version 7.0, and the last portion of (b) ("and must be visible on the same screen as the link") and the whole of (c) were added.

6.2.13. A customer may enter into a contract with a WASPA member to opt-out of the reminders specified in clauses 6.2.9 and 6.2.10 for a specified service provided that:

- (a) Any such contract between the service provider and the customer is clear and easily understood.
- (b) The provisions in the contract which deal with opting out from reminders must be obvious to the customer and not hidden in the general terms and conditions or otherwise.
- (c) The contract contains a description of the service provided, the duration for which the service will be provided, the frequency and amount of any billing, and information on the mechanism the customer can use to terminate the service.
- (d) A copy of the contract is retained by the service provider.
- (e) A copy of the contract is made available to WASPA in the case of any dispute.
- (f) The contract must provide the customer with the ability to request the resumption of the reminders specified in clause 6.2.9 and 6.2.10.
- (g) This contract cannot be concluded via WAP, USSD, SMS or a web page.
- (h) This contract must be legal, must not be against public policy and must not limit the consumer's rights under any law.

This clause was introduced in version 7.4. There was demand from both WASPs and customers to be able to opt-out from the threshold reminders. This clause is intended to provide a mechanism for opting out, whilst preventing WASPs from abusing this possibility.

### 6.3. General provisions

6.3.1. For services such as MMS, that have specific handset requirements, advertisements must make it clear that the customer needs to have a compatible handset that has been correctly configured to use that service.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

6.3.2. For services which are likely to have a shelf-life of three months or more, a statement must be included in any advertisement that the information given is correct as at the date of publication, and that date must also be stated.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

6.3.3. Promotional material must not be of a nature that unduly encourages unauthorised calls or use of services.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

#### **6.4. Use of a short code as a brand**

6.4.1. Where a short code is used as a brand, there is no requirement to display pricing information next to the short code, provided there is no directly associated call to action.

This clause was introduced in version 5.7.

6.4.2. Where a short code is used as a brand and there is an associated call to action, the standard requirements for the display of pricing information are required, as set out in the *Advertising Rules*.

This clause was introduced in version 5.7.

#### **6.5. Use of the word “free”**

6.5.1. The keyword “free” or words with the same or similar meaning (in any language) may not be used for any service unless that service has no associated charges whatsoever, excluding network bearer charges.

This clause was introduced in version 6.1.  
Members were given until 2008-10-01 to withdraw existing non-compliant adverts, but new adverts were required to comply immediately.

### **7. Children’s services**

#### **7.1. Parental permission**

7.1.1. The terms and conditions for children’s services must indicate that the service should only be used with the permission of the child’s parent or guardian.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

7.1.2. The terms and conditions for children’s services must indicate that the service should only be used with the agreement of the person responsible for paying the phone bill.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

#### **7.2. Prohibited practices**

7.2.1. Children’s services must not contain anything that is likely to result in harm to children or which exploits their credulity, lack of experience or sense of loyalty.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

7.2.2. Children's services must not include anything that a reasonable parent would not wish their child to hear or learn about in this way.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

7.2.3. Children's services must not involve an invasion of privacy of any child.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

7.2.4. Children's services must not unduly encourage children to ring or procure other premium rate services or the same service again.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

7.2.5. Promotional material for children's services must not make use of adult themes or adult material.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

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## **8. Adult services**

### **8.1. Required practices**

8.1.1. Any adult service must be clearly indicated as such in any promotional material and advertisements.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

8.1.2. Promotions for adult services must be in context with the publication or other media in which they appear. Services should be in context with the advertising material promoting them. The content of a service should not be contrary to the reasonable expectation of those responding to the promotion.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

8.1.3. Members must take reasonable steps to ensure that only persons of 18 years of age or older have access to adult content services. Explicit confirmation of a user's age must be obtained prior to the delivery of an adult content service.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

8.1.4. Marketing messages (including commercial communications) may no longer be sent to a customer of an adult service if that customer has not made use of the service during the preceding three months. This is to prevent the accidental marketing of such services to children as a result of a recycled telephone number.

This clause was introduced in version 5.7.

8.1.5. A marketing message sent to initiate or re-initiate adult services may not:

- (a) include any graphical or photographic content that includes full frontal images or portrayal of intimate parts of the body; or
- (b) include any words or phrases that may be considered profane, including common popular or slang terms for excretory functions, sexual activity and genitalia; or

(c) include any links to any content described in (a) or (b).

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.  
It is intended to govern how explicit ongoing marketing messages may be for adult services. This is to provide additional protections against accidental marketing of adult services to children, for instance as a result of prematurely recycled SIMs.

## **8.2. Prohibited practices**

8.2.1. Adult services must not contain references that suggest or imply the involvement of children.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

8.2.2. Promotions for adult services must not appear in publications or other media specifically targeted at children.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

8.2.3. Adult services may not be marketed via direct communications with a customer of non-adult services, unless that customer has explicitly given permission for such marketing to take place and the customer has confirmed that they are, in fact, an adult.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.  
It is intended to provide additional protection against accidental marketing of adult services to children, for instance as a result of prematurely recycled SIMs.

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## **9. Competitions**

### **9.1. Provision of information**

9.1.1. Any promotional material for a competition service must clearly display the full cost to enter the competition and any cost to the user to obtain the prize.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

9.1.2. Any promotional material for a competition service must include details of how the competition operates.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

9.1.3. Interactive competition services with an ongoing incremental cost, must, at reasonable intervals, inform the customer of any additional costs, and must require the customer to actively confirm their continued participation.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

9.1.4. Promotional material must clearly state any information which is likely to affect a decision to participate, including:

- (a) the closing date;
- (b) any significant terms and conditions, including any restriction on the number of entries or prizes which may be won;
- (c) an adequate description of prizes, and other items offered to all or a substantial majority of participants, including the number of major prizes;
- (d) any significant age, geographic or other eligibility restrictions;
- (e) any significant costs which a reasonable consumer might not expect to pay in connection with collection, delivery or use of the prize or item;
- (f) the entry mechanism and workings of the competition.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
It was amended in version 5.7 with the addition of part (f).

9.1.5. The following additional information must also be made readily available on request, if not contained in the original promotional material:

- (a) how and when prize-winners will be informed;
- (b) the manner in which the prizes will be awarded;
- (c) when the prizes will be awarded;
- (d) how prize-winner information may be obtained;
- (e) any criteria for judging entries;
- (f) any alternative prize that is available;
- (g) the details of any intended post-event publicity;
- (h) any supplementary rules which may apply;
- (i) the identity of the party running the competition and responsible for the prizes.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

9.1.6. Competition services and promotional material must not:

- (a) use words such as 'win' or 'prize' to describe items intended to be offered to all or a substantial majority of the participants;
- (b) exaggerate the chance of winning a prize;
- (c) suggest that winning a prize is a certainty;
- (d) suggest that the party has already won a prize and that by contacting the promoter of the competition, that the entrant will have definitely secured that prize.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

9.1.7. Any customer entering an IVR, SMS or MMS competition after the competition has closed must be sent a reply indicating that the competition has already closed. This is in order to prevent a customer from spending unnecessary time on a call or submitting repeated entries for a competition after the closing date or time.

This clause was introduced in version 5.7.

9.1.8. If a competition closes at a specific time of day, then that time must be clearly communicated to all entrants. For live television competitions, an appropriate count down or advanced warning must be provided.

This clause was introduced in version 5.7.

## **9.2. Children's competitions**

9.2.1. Competition services that are aimed at, or would reasonably be expected to be particularly attractive to children must not offer cash prizes.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

9.2.2. Competition services that are aimed at, or would reasonably be expected to be particularly attractive to children must not feature long or complex rules.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

## **9.3. General provisions**

9.3.1. Competition services must have a specific closing date, except where there are instant prize-winners. An insufficient number of entries or entries of inadequate quality are not acceptable reasons for changing the closing date of a competition or withholding prizes. Once the closing date for a competition is reached, the advertised prizes must be awarded, notwithstanding the number of entries.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

9.3.2. Prizes must be awarded within 28 days of the closing date, unless a longer period is clearly stated in the promotional material.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

9.3.3. All correct entries must have the same chance of winning.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

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## **10. Contact and dating services**

### **10.1. Provision of information**

10.1.1. Contact and dating services with an ongoing incremental cost, must, at reasonable intervals, inform the customer of any additional costs, and must require the customer to actively confirm their continued participation.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

10.1.2. Providers of contact and dating services must warn users of the service of the risks involved when contact information is given out to other individuals and must give clear advice on sensible precautions to take when meeting people through such services.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

10.1.3. Providers of contact and dating services must ensure that customers' contact information is duly protected and not publicly available.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

10.1.4. Providers of contact and dating services must obtain explicit consent from a customer prior to making his or her contact information available to third parties.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

10.1.5. Promotional material for contact and dating services must make clear any restrictions on the location, gender and age range of callers to the service.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### **10.2. Restrictions on the service**

10.2.1. Members must take reasonable steps to ensure that users of contact and dating services are authorised by the bill-payer to use that service.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

10.2.2. Providers of contact and dating services must take reasonable steps to ensure that no children use the services.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### 10.3. Removal and deactivation of services

10.3.1. When so requested by a customer, the provider of a contact and dating service must ensure that the customer's details are removed from the service at the earliest opportunity and in all cases within 24 hours.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

## 11. Subscription services

### 11.1. Manner of subscription

11.1.1. Promotional material for all subscription services must prominently and explicitly identify the services as "subscription services". This includes any promotional material where a subscription is required to obtain any portion of a service, facility, or information promoted in that material.

The first sentence of this clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
The second sentence was added in version 7.0.

11.1.2. Any request from a customer to join a subscription service must be an independent transaction, with the specific intention of subscribing to a service. A request from a subscriber to join a subscription service may not be a request for a specific content item and may not be an entry into a competition or quiz.

The first sentence of this clause was introduced in version 3.2.

In version 4.6, the following sentence was added "A request from a subscriber to join a subscription service may not be bundled with a request for a specific content item."

In version 6.1, the words "bundled with" were deleted.

In version 7.4, the last eleven words "and may not be an entry into competition or quiz" were added. WASPA had received a large number of complaints from consumers who claimed to have been tricked into subscribing to services while entering competitions or quizzes. The modification was intended to prohibit the practice of "bundling" competitions/quizzes and subscription services. Requiring a specific, separate request from a customer to be subscribed to a service prevents the automatic subscription to a service, when a customer intended only to participate in a quiz or competition.

11.1.3. An advert for a content subscription service which includes examples of the content provided as part of that service must include at least two examples of that content clearly displayed.

This clause was added in version 7.0.

In version 7.4, the word "content" was added before "subscription service". This was a technical change, to address the accidental application of this clause to all subscription services, instead of just content subscription services as intended.

11.1.4. Where possible, billing for a subscription service must indicate that the service purchased is a subscription service.

This clause was introduced as clause 11.1.3 in version 3.2.  
It was amended in version 4.3, with "Where **possible**" replacing "Where **feasible**".  
It was renumbered to 11.1.4 in version 7.0.

11.1.5. Customers may not be automatically subscribed to a subscription service as a result of a request for any non-subscription content or service. Customers may not automatically be subscribed to a subscription service without specifically opting in to that service.

The first sentence of this clause was introduced as clause 11.1.4 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 11.1.5 in version 7.0.  
The second sentence was added in version 8.0. It is intended to specifically prohibit opt-out campaigns. It is noted that this will also be a prohibited practice under the Consumer Protection Act.

11.1.6. Subscription services with different billing frequencies should not have a subscription mechanism likely to cause a customer to accidentally subscribe to a more frequent service.

This clause was introduced as clause 11.1.5 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 11.1.6 in version 7.0.

11.1.7. Members must ensure that children accessing subscription services confirm that they have permission from a parent or guardian do to so.

This clause was introduced as clause 11.1.6 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 11.1.7 in version 7.0.

11.1.8. Once a customer has subscribed to a subscription service, a notification message must immediately be sent to the customer. This welcome message must be a clear notification of the following information, and should not be mistaken for an advert or marketing message:

- (a) The name of the subscription service;
- (b) The cost of the subscription service and the frequency of the charges;
- (c) Clear and concise instructions for unsubscribing from the service;
- (d) The service provider's telephone number.

This clause was introduced as clause 11.1.7 in version 3.2 and originally read: "Once a customer has subscribed to subscription service, a notification message must be sent to the customer containing the following information: (a) The cost of the subscription service and the frequency of the charges; (b) Clear and concise instructions for unsubscribing from the service; (c) The member's contact information.

In version 4.3, "(c) The service provider's contact information" replaced "(c) The member's contact information".

In version 4.6, "(a) The name of the subscription service" was added (and the other point renumbered).

In version 4.8, "(d) The service provider's telephone number" replaced "(d) The service provider's contact information."

In version 6.2, the word "immediately" was inserted, as was the second sentence of the clause ("This welcome message...").

It was renumbered to 11.1.8 in version 7.0.

11.1.9. Once a customer has subscribed to a subscription service, neither the amount and frequency of the charges nor the frequency of the service may be increased without the customer's explicit permission.

This clause was introduced as clause 11.1.8 in version 4.3  
It was renumbered to 11.1.9 in version 4.7.  
It was renumbered to 11.1.10 in version 5.2.  
It was renumbered back to 11.1.9 in version 7.0.

11.1.10. Where a subscription service is initiated by a user replying to a message from a service provider where that message contains instructions for activating a service and/or where that message contains an activation code that when inputted by the user activates a subscription service, then that message, along with the subscription initiation instructions and/or activation code, must also include the subscription service information in the following format, flow and wording:

[service activation instructions and/or activation code]. U'll b subscribed to [XYZ service] from [name of service provider] @ [cost of service and frequency of billing].

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.  
Members were given until 2009-04-10 to comply with this clause.  
In version 7.4, the last sentence of mandatory wording was removed. This said "Help? Call [call centre number + "(VAS)" if applicable]. To unsubscribe, [unsubscribe instructions]." The additional help instructions were removed as unnecessary, given that they must also be provided in the welcome message.

11.1.11. If a subscription service is initiated by entering a customer's mobile number on a web page or WAP site, then a separate confirmation must be obtained from that customer's mobile handset before any billing may take place for that service.

This clause was introduced in version 7.4. Although this was already current practice for most WASPs, there were regular complaints from consumers that they had been subscribed to a service without having entered their number anywhere. There had also been reported cases where no verification of the activation code had been done, meaning that anyone could have entered any activation code to sign up someone else to a service. The addition of this clause was intended to avoid any possibility whatsoever of a third-party entering a subscriber's number on a web site or WAP page and causing that subscriber to be subscribed to a service without their consent.  
In version 8.0, "service can be initiated by" was replaced with "service is initiated". This changes limits this clause to apply only to services which are actually initiated in this way.

## 11.2. Reminder messages

From versions 3.2 through to 4.92, section 11.2 was titled "Customer support", and contained the following clause 11.2.1: "Assistance, such as 'help' information, for subscription services must be easily available to customers, and must not be limited to a medium that the customer is unlikely to have access to."  
This clause was moved and updated to form clause 4.1.6 in version 5.2, and renumbered to 4.1.7 in version 7.4.

11.2.1. A monthly reminder SMS must be sent to all subscription service customers. This reminder must be sent within 30 days of the initial notification message, and once per calendar month thereafter.

This was originally introduced as clause 11.1.8 in version 4.7 and read: "11.1.8. A monthly reminder SMS must be sent to all content subscription service customers containing the following information: (a) The name of the subscription service; (b) The cost of the subscription service and the frequency of the charges; (c) The service provider's contact information.  
It was amended in version 4.8 to say "The service provider's telephone number" instead of "The service provider's contact information."  
It was amended in version 6.1 with "must be sent to all subscription service customers" replacing "must be sent to all content subscription service customers" (the word "content" was removed).  
Members were given until 2008-10-01 to comply with this amendment (i.e. implementing reminders for non-content services).  
The current version of the clause as clause 11.2.1 was introduced in version 7.0.  
Members were given until 2009-04-10 to comply with this clause.

11.2.2. The reminder messages specified in 11.2.1 must adhere exactly to the following format, flow, wording and spacing:

U r subscribed to [name of service provider] [content/service description]. Cost [cost of service and frequency of billing]. For help, sms HELP [optional keyword] to [short code] or call [call centre number + "(VAS)" if applicable]. To unsubscribe, sms STOP [service keyword] to [short code].

or

U r subscribed to [name of service provider] [content/service description]. Cost [cost of service and frequency of billing]. For help call [call centre number + "(VAS)" if applicable]. To unsubscribe, sms STOP [service keyword] to [short code].

This was originally introduced as part of clause 11.1.8 in version 4.7, see the above note.

It was supplemented by the addition of clause 11.1.9 in version 5.2, which read: "The monthly reminder SMS must adhere to the following format: (a) The monthly reminder must begin with either "Reminder: You are a member of NAME OF SERVICE" or "You are subscribed to NAME OF SERVICE". (b) Any marketing for a new service must appear after the cost and frequency of the existing service and the service provider's telephone number."

Members were given until 2007-08-01 to comply with this clause.

It was further supplemented by clause 11.1.11 in version 6.2, which stated: "The format of both the initial notification message and the monthly reminder should comply with the relevant sections of the WASPA Advertising Rules." This clause was removed in version 7.0.

It was introduced in this form (without the second wording option) as clause 11.2.2 in version 7.0.

Members were given until 2009-04-10 to comply with this clause.

In version 7.4, the second option for the wording format was added. This change simply made the "sms HELP [optional keyword] to [short code] or" portion of the message optional.

11.2.3. The entire reminder message must be sent in a single SMS, may not contain any line breaks or carriage returns and may not include any additional characters other than those specified in 11.2.2.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.  
Members were given until 2009-04-10 to comply with this clause.

11.2.4. The content/service description must be text describing the content, promotion or service (e.g. "tones" or "poems"). This text must not be worded in a way that attempts to deceive or mislead the customer from the purpose of the reminder which is to inform the user that they are subscribed to a service.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.  
Members were given until 2009-04-10 to comply with this clause.

11.2.5. The cost of service and frequency of billing must use the format "RX/day", "RX/week" or "RX/month" (or RX.XX if the price includes cents). No abbreviations of "day", "week" or "month" may be used.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.  
Members were given until 2009-04-10 to comply with this clause.

11.2.6. The text "(VAS)" must be included after any VAS-rated phone number. It does not need to be included after phone numbers which are not VAS-rated.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.  
Members were given until 2009-04-10 to comply with this clause.

11.2.7. Members must test reminder messages on a range of phones to ensure that all characters and lines are displayed identically.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.  
Members were given until 2009-04-10 to comply with this clause.

### 11.3. Reminder message for USSD services

11.3.1. For services where the primary means of interacting with the service is via USSD, either the format set out in 11.2.2 or the the following format must be used:

U r subscribed to [name of service provider] [content/service description]. Cost [cost of service and frequency of billing]. For help, dial [USSD code1 + "(VAS)" if applicable] or call [call centre number + "(VAS)" if applicable]. To unsubscribe, dial [USSD code2].

or

U r subscribed to [name of service provider] [content/service description]. Cost [cost of service and frequency of billing]. For help call [call centre number + "(VAS)" if applicable]. To unsubscribe, dial [USSD code2].

This clause was introduced in version 7.0, without the second wording option.

In version 7.4 the second option for wording format was added. This change simply made the "dial [USSD code1 + "(VAS)" if applicable] or" portion of the message optional.

11.3.2. Accessing the USSD unsubscribe facility specified in the above reminder message must immediately unsubscribe that user. No additional user action must be required.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.

11.3.3. All of the other requirements set out in section 11.2 of the Code continue to apply to services where the primary means of interacting with the service us via USSD.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.

#### **11.4. Reminder message for WAP services**

11.4.1. For services where the primary means of interacting with the service is via WAP, either the format set out in 11.2.2 or the the following format must be used:

U r subscribed to [name of service provider] [content/service description]. Cost [cost of service and frequency of billing]. For help call [call centre number + "(VAS)" if applicable]. To unsubscribe, click here [WAP link].

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.

In version 7.4 the erroneous text "dial [USSD code1 + "(VAS)" if applicable] or" was removed from between "For help" and "call [...]". This change removed an incorrect USSD reference from the WAP reminder message.

11.4.2. Accessing the WAP unsubscribe page specified in the above reminder message must immediately unsubscribe that user. No additional user action must be required.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.

11.4.3. The WAP link in the reminder message must begin with "www" to ensure that all phones recognise this as a clickable link.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.

11.4.4. All of the other requirements set out in section 11.2 of the Code continue to apply to services where the primary means of interacting with the service us via WAP.

This clause was introduced in version 7.0.

#### **11.5. Termination of a service**

11.5.1. Instructions on terminating a subscription service must be clear, easy to understand, and readily available.

This was introduced as clause 11.3.1 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 11.2.1 in version 5.2.  
It was renumbered to 11.5.1 in version 7.0.

11.5.2. Customers must be able to unsubscribe from any subscription service via SMS using no more than two words, one of which must be 'STOP'. If a reply could pertain to multiple services, either all services should be terminated, or the recipient should be given a choice of service to terminate.

This was introduced as clause 11.3.3 in version 3.2 and read: "Where feasible, customers should be able to unsubscribe from any subscription service using no more than two words, one of which must be 'STOP'."

This was amended in version 4.3 to read: "Customers must be able to unsubscribe from any subscription service via SMS using no more than two words, one of which must be 'STOP'."

It was renumbered to 11.2.3 in version 5.2.

It was renumbered to 11.2.2 in version 6.2.

It was rewritten in its current form (to match clause 5.1.3) and renumbered to 11.5.2 in version 7.0.

11.5.3. The 'STOP' request described above must be charged at the lowest tariffed rate available (with the exception of reverse billed rates).

This was introduced as clause 11.3.2 in version 3.2 and read: "All subscription services must have an unsubscribe facility available at no more than one rand."

It was renumbered to 11.2.2 in version 5.2.

It was rewritten in its current form and renumbered to 11.2.3 in version 6.2.

It was renumbered to 11.5.3 in version 7.0.

11.5.4. Where the words 'END', 'CANCEL', 'UNSUBSCRIBE' or 'QUIT' are used in place of 'STOP' in a request, the service provider must honour the opt-out request as if the word 'STOP' had been used.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.

Although a similar clause (5.1.6.) already exists for commercial messages, it was felt necessary to replicate that requirement specifically for subscription services.

11.5.5. Where a service is linked to a specific short code in advertisements for that service, then sending a 'STOP' request to that short code should result in the termination of that service. If a request to a short code could pertain to multiple services, either all services should be terminated, or the recipient should be given a choice of service to terminate.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.

It was introduced to address potential consumer confusion in stopping a service associated strongly with a particular short code.

11.5.6. If a message sent by a customer cannot be parsed by a WASP, then the resulting response to the customer should contain sufficient information for the customer to be able to unsubscribe from that service, or to be able to contact the service provider's customer support.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.

It was added to address problems where a customer does not get a very helpful response to a message that the SP cannot parse.

11.5.7. For services where the primary means of interacting with the service is via USSD or WAP, and for which the reminder message set out in clause 11.3.1. or 11.4.1. is used, clause 11.5.2. does not apply.

This clause was introduced as clause 11.5.4 in version 7.0.

It was renumbered to 11.5.7 in version 8.0.

11.5.8. Members must ensure that the termination mechanism is functional and accessible at all times.

This was introduced as clause 11.3.4 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 11.2.4 in version 5.2.  
It was renumbered to 11.5.5 in version 7.0.  
It was renumbered to 11.5.8 in version 8.0.

11.5.9. When a customer has requested that they be unsubscribed from a service, an unsubscribe notification must be sent to that customer, and must use the following text format, flow and wording:

You've been unsubscribed from [service name].

or

You've been unsubscribed from [service name]. To resubscribe [service activation instructions]. U'll then b resubscribed @ [cost of service and frequency of billing].

This clause was introduced as clause 11.5.6 in version 7.4. Prescribing the text of the unsubscribe message was intended to avoid unsubscribe messages that trick the consumer into accidentally re-subscribing.  
Interpretation note: This clause applies only when a customer has requested the unsubscribe (either via SMS, telephone or some other means). If a customer has been removed because of failed billing or because the number has been ported, an unsubscribe notification does not need to be sent.  
Members were given until 2009-07-17 to comply with this clause.  
It was renumbered to 11.5.9 in version 8.0.

11.5.10. A user must be removed from a subscription service if no successful bills have been processed for that service for more than three months, or if there is an indication from one of the mobile networks that the number is no longer in use.

This was introduced as clause 11.3.5 in version 4.92.  
Members were given until 2007-08-01 to comply with this clause.  
It was renumbered to 11.2.5 in version 5.2.  
It was renumbered to 11.5.7 in version 7.0.  
It was renumbered to 11.5.10 in version 8.0.

11.5.11. If a user ports their number from one operator to another, that number must be removed from all subscription services.

This was introduced as clause 11.3.6 in version 4.92.  
Members were given until 2007-08-01 to comply with this clause.  
It was renumbered to 11.2.6 in version 5.2.  
It was renumbered to 11.5.8 in version 7.0.  
It was renumbered to 11.5.11 in version 8.0.

11.5.12 If a consumer lodges a request with WASPA to be unsubscribed from a subscription service, the WASPA member concerned must honour that request within two working days (48 hours) of that request being passed on by WASPA.

The clause was introduced in version 7.0.  
It was renumbered to 11.5.12 in version 8.0.

## 11.6. Subscription service directory and logs

11.6.1. Members must register all subscription services with WASPA, by providing the following information:

- (a) the name of the service;
- (b) the shortcode or access method (e.g. WAP) the service uses;
- (c) the price and frequency of billing for that service;
- (d) the customer support number associated with the service; and
- (e) unsubscribe instructions for the service.

This was introduced as clause 11.3.1 in version 6.1 under the heading "Subscription service directory".  
Members were given until 2008-08-01 to comply with this clause.  
It was renumbered to 11.6.1 in version 7.0.

11.6.2. When requested to do so by WASPA, a member must provide clear logs for any subscription service customer which include the following information:

- (a) proof that the customer has opted in to a service or services;
- (b) proof that all required reminder messages have been sent to that customer;
- (c) a detailed transaction history indicating all charges levied and the service or content item applicable for each charge; and
- (d) any record of successful or unsuccessful unsubscribe requests.

This clause was introduced (and the section heading amended) in version 7.4. This clause represented existing best practice in the industry at the time of introduction, but on occasion WASPA had difficulty obtaining logs from a WASP for the purposes of investigating a complaint. This clause was intended to make it explicitly compulsory to provide logs when requested to do so. Consequently, the failure to provide logs when asked to do so is now a breach of the Code in its own right.

## **11.7. Marketing of subscription services to children**

11.7.1. Promotions for subscription services must not appear in publications or other media specifically targeted at children.

This was introduced as clause 11.4.1 in version 6.1.  
It was renumbered to 11.7.1 in version 7.0.

## **12. Miscellaneous**

This section heading was originally simply "Charitable promotions" but was amended to "Other services" in version 5.2 of the Code, and then again to "Miscellaneous" in version 5.3.

### **12.1. Charitable promotions**

12.1.1. Any promotional material for charitable and/or fundraising promotions must make it clear that network operator fees and administration fees will be deducted from amounts paid.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

12.1.2. Promotional material must specify the identity of the beneficiary.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

12.1.3. Promotional material must make clear any restrictions or conditions attached to the contribution to be made to the beneficiary.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### **12.2. Interactive voice response (IVR) services**

12.2.1. For any IVR service that costs more than R3 per minute, there must be a clear announcement of the cost per minute at the beginning of the call. This announcement must not be of more than 5 seconds in duration, and must use the following format: "Call billed at X rand per minute".

This clause was introduced in version 5.2.  
Members were given until 2007-07-01 to comply with this clause.

12.2.2. No IVR services may have a false ringing sound (or other sound, including no sound at all) at the beginning of the call which might cause the user of the service to believe that the call has not yet started.

This clause was introduced in version 5.2.  
Members were given until 2007-07-01 to comply with this clause.  
In version 5.7, the text in parentheses was added: "(or other sound, including no sound at all)".

### **12.3. WAP push messages**

12.3.1. For any WAP push messages, a short code or some other means of identifying the member providing the service must be included in the message.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.  
This requirement was in response to a growing number of complaints from consumers receiving messages without a valid originating number or any identifying particulars.

### **12.4. Prohibited services**

12.4.1. No WASPA member may provide a service described in this section or facilitate the provision of such a service by an Information Provider.

This clause was introduced as clause 12.3.1 in version 5.3.  
It was renumbered to 12.4.1 in version 8.0.

12.4.2. Prohibited services:

(a) Chat services where a customer is billed for receiving a message rather than being billed for sending a message. "Chat services" includes any service where facilities are provided for any form of conversation or dialogue between the customer and other customers of the service, between the customer and a software application, or between the customer and staff of the chat service provider.

(b) Quiz services where a customer is billed for receiving quiz messages rather than being billed for sending a response. "Quiz services" covers any form service including a game, trivia, a competition or challenge where a customer is asked questions or prompted to provide a response or solve a problem, whether a prize is offered or not.

This clause was introduced as clause 12.3.2 in version 5.3.  
It was renumbered to 12.4.2 in version 8.0.

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## **13. Complaints procedure**

### **13.1. Lodging of complaints**

13.1.1. Any person may lodge a complaint against any member who, in the view of the complainant, has acted contrary to the provisions of this Code.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.1.2. Any complaint must be lodged with the WASPA secretariat using the contact information published on the WASPA web site.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.1.3. A complaint should contain the following information:

- (a) the name of the wireless application service provider against whom the complaint is being made, or if the identity of the service provider is not clear, the number of the service or other identifying information;
- (b) the full names, address and contact details of the complainant;

- (c) to the extent that the information is known or available, identification of the part or parts of the Code of Conduct which has allegedly been breached; and
- (d) a detailed description of the actions (or inactions) that resulted in the alleged breach.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
In version 6.1, the clause was amended to read "A complaint **should** contain..." instead of "A complaint **must** contain...".

13.1.4. Any complaint lodged that does not contain the above information may be referred back to the complainant by the secretariat, together with a request to provide the missing information.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.1.5. If a complainant requests anonymity, the complainant's identity may be withheld from the member at the discretion of the secretariat.

This clause was introduced in version 6.1.

13.1.6. The secretariat may initiate a complaint against a member on behalf of WASPA, should it become aware of an apparent breach of the Code.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.1.5 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.1.6 in version 6.1.

13.1.7. The secretariat shall have the discretion to make use of either the informal or formal complaint procedure to process any complaints received, subject to clauses 13.2.1. and 13.3.1.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.1.6 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.1.7 in version 6.1.

13.1.8. Where the complainant has lodged a complaint or dispute, or instituted an action with any other regulatory body or in a Court, and where the subject matter of that complaint, dispute or action is substantially the same as the subject matter of a complaint lodged by that complainant with the WASPA Secretariat, WASPA may decline to consider and deal with the complaint.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.1.7 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.1.8 in version 6.1.

## **13.2. Informal complaint procedure**

13.2.1. In the case of a complaint for which it is feasible for the member to provide a prompt remedy and where no material breach of the Code seems to have occurred, the following informal complaint procedure will be followed.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.2.2. The secretariat will forward the complaint to the member concerned.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.2.3. The member has five working days to effect an appropriate remedy.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.2.4. Thereafter, if the complainant is satisfied that the member has adequately addressed the complaint then the complaint is considered closed and no further action is taken.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.2.5. If the complainant is not satisfied that the complaint has been satisfactorily resolved, then the formal complaint procedure will be used to handle the complaint further.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.2.6. The secretariat will maintain a record of any complaints resolved through the informal complaint procedure.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

### 13.3. Formal complaint procedure

13.3.1. In the case of a complaint for which it is not feasible for the member concerned to provide a prompt remedy, or a complaint that has been escalated from the informal complaint procedure, the following formal complaint procedure will be followed.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.3.2. The member (or members) named in the complaint, or identified by the WASPA Secretariat on the basis of any identifying information included in the complaint, will be notified by the secretariat that a complaint has been lodged and that the formal complaint procedure is being followed.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2 as "The member named in the complain will be notified by the secretariat that complaint has been lodged and that the formal complaint procedure is being followed." It was amended to its current form in version 4.3.

13.3.3. The secretariat will provide the member with a copy of the complaint, and any additional information relevant to the complaint.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.3.4. The member will be given five working days to respond to the complaint, and to provide any additional information the member deems relevant to the complaint, including any mitigating factors that the member wishes the adjudicator to consider.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
In version 8.0, the last part of the clause "including any mitigating..." was added to specifically encourage WASPs to provide mitigating factors to be considered when responding to complaints.

13.3.5. If the member fails to respond within this time period, it will be assumed that the member does not wish to respond. An extension to this time period may be given to the member at the discretion of the WASPA Secretariat.

The first sentence of this clause was introduced in version 3.2.  
The second sentence was added in version 8.0, to reflect current practice, and to formally address situations where a WASP needs more time to respond.

13.3.6. Notwithstanding any response from the member, the secretariat will assign the complaint to an adjudicator, and provide the adjudicator with all material relevant to the complaint.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.3.7. The adjudicator must carefully review:

- (a) the complaint;
- (b) any response the member has made to the complaint;
- (c) the WASPA Code of Conduct;
- (d) any other material relevant to the complaint, as supplied by WASPA.

This clause was introduced in version 3.2.

13.3.8. The adjudicator may make reference to the "annotated" version of the WASPA Code of Conduct, which contains explanatory notes and a history of changes to the Code.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0  
It was requested by adjudicators subsequent to the introduction of the annotated Code.

13.3.9. The adjudicator may ask the secretariat to request that the complainant, the member, or both, furnish additional information relating to the complaint. Specifically, the adjudicator may request that the member respond to any additional breaches of the Code of Conduct discovered during the investigation of the complaint, but which were not specified in the original complaint.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.8 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.9 in version 8.0.

13.3.10. Where a complaint relates to an advertisement, when requested to do so, a member must, within five working days, provide clear copies of the relevant adverts, flighting schedules in the relevant media (covering previous and future planned flighting) and flighting codes (where available).

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.  
It was added based on suggestions from adjudicators.

13.3.11. Where a complaint involves any interaction with a customer, when requested to do so, a member must, within five working days, provide clear copies of all relevant logs of that interaction.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.  
It was added based on suggestions from adjudicators. It should be noted that there is some overlap between 13.3.11 and clause 11.6.2, which deal with general requests from WASPA for subscription service logs (not necessarily as part of a complaint).

13.3.12. Providing incorrect or fraudulent information in response to a complaint, or in response to any other request to provide information is itself a breach of this Code.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.  
It was suggested by adjudicators to deal with provision of incorrect information in the above two clauses, and in general.

13.3.13. On the basis of the evidence presented, the adjudicator will decide whether there has been a breach of the Code. Each case will be considered and decided on its own merits.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.8 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.9 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.13 in version 8.0.

13.3.14. If the adjudicator determines that there has been a breach of the Code, then the adjudicator must determine appropriate sanctions.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.9 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.10 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.14 in version 8.0.

13.3.15. In determining any appropriate sanctions, the adjudicator must take into consideration:

- (a) any previous successful complaints made against the member;
- (b) any previous successful complaints of a similar nature.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.10 in version 3.2.

It was renumbered to 13.3.11 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.15 in version 8.0.

13.3.16. Once the adjudicator has determined whether there has been a breach of the Code, and any sanctions, the adjudicator will provide the secretariat with a written report detailing these findings.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.11 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.12 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.16 in version 8.0.

13.3.17. The secretariat will provide a copy of this report to the relevant member and to the complainant.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.12 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.13 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.17 in version 8.0.

13.3.18. The member has five working days to notify the secretariat if it wishes to appeal against the decision of the adjudicator. An extension to this time period may be given to the member at the discretion of the WASPA Secretariat.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.13 in version 3.2 as: "The member must, within five working days, comply with any sanction imposed, or notify the secretariat that it wishes to appeal against the decision of the adjudicator."  
It was renumbered to 13.3.14 in version 4.3.  
It was amended to match the current first sentence in version 4.6.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.18 in version 8.0 and the second sentence was added to reflect current practice, and to formally address situations where a WASP needs more time to decide whether or not they should lodge an appeal.

13.3.19. Unless otherwise specified in the adjudicator's report, any sanctions will be considered suspended if an appeal is lodged, until the appeal process is completed.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.18 in version 4.6.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.19 in version 8.0.

13.3.20. If no appeal is lodged, or if the adjudicator has specified certain sanctions as not being suspended pending an appeal, the failure of any member to comply with any sanction imposed upon it will itself amount to a breach of the Code and may result in further sanctions being imposed.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.14 in version 3.2 as: "The failure of any member to comply with any sanction imposed upon it will itself amount to a breach of the Code and may result in further sanctions being imposed."  
It was renumbered to 13.3.15 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.16 and amended to its current form in version 4.6.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.20 in version 8.0.

13.3.21. The member must provide the secretariat with confirmation of compliance with any applicable sanctions within five working days of receiving the adjudicator's report.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.17 in version 7.0.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.21 in version 8.0.

13.3.22. The member must pay any applicable fine(s) imposed by an adjudicator within five working days of receipt of invoice.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.18 in version 7.0.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.22 in version 8.0.

13.3.23. The secretariat will maintain a record of any complaints resolved through the formal complaint procedure.

This clause was introduced as clause 13.3.15 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.16 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.17 in version 4.6.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.19 in version 7.0.  
It was renumbered to 13.3.23 in version 8.0.

#### 13.4. Sanctions

13.4.1. Possible sanctions that may be imposed on a member found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct are one or more of the following:

- (a) a requirement for the member to remedy the breach;
- (b) a formal reprimand;
- (c) an appropriate fine on the member, to be collected by WASPA;
- (d) a requirement, in appropriate circumstance, for the member to pay reasonable and valid claims for compensation;
- (e) suspension of the member from WASPA for a defined period;
- (f) expulsion of the member from WASPA;
- (g) a requirement for the member to disclose the identity of any information provider found to be acting in breach of this Code of Conduct;
- (h) a requirement for the member to suspend or terminate the services of any information provider that provides a service in contravention of this Code of Conduct;
- (i) a requirement to withhold a specified amount or portion of money payable by the member to the information provider.

This clause introduced in version 3.2.  
It was amended in version 4.3 to include parts (g), (h) and (i).

13.4.2. When determining sanctions, the adjudicator should take note of 13.3.15, and specify any sanctions that will not be suspended if an appeal is lodged. Sanctions that can be specified in this way include:

- (a) Sanctions requiring a member to amend, suspend, or terminate a service being offered in breach of the Code of Conduct;
- (b) Any sanctions imposed as a result of the failure of a member to comply with previous sanctions, as specified in 13.3.16.

This clause introduced in version 4.6.

13.4.3. In addition, possible sanctions against a member in breach of the Code include advising the relevant network operators to do one or more of the following:

- (a) block a member's access to a specific number for a defined period;
- (b) block a member's access to a specific category of service for a defined period;
- (c) terminate a member's access to a specific number;
- (d) terminate a member's access to a specific category of service;
- (e) withhold a specified amount or portion of money payable by the network operator to that service provider;
- (f) pay some or all of withheld funds to WASPA, as an appropriate fine on the service provider;
- (g) issue a blanket refund to the customers of a service found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct.

This clause introduced as clause 13.4.2 in version 3.2.  
It was amended in version 4.3 to include part (g).  
It was renumbered to 13.4.3 in version X.X.

13.4.4. When considering appropriate sanctions, the adjudicator should consider the member's use of the checking service described in section 13.8. Where a member has had a service or advertisement checked by WASPA this should be taken as a mitigating factor when considering sanctions, provided that the service or advertisement has not been subsequently amended so as not to comply with the Code.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0.  
It is intended to deal with the potential introduction of a checking service, as noted in section 13.8.

### 13.5. Information provider notices

13.5.1. If the adjudicator has determined that an information provider is operating in breach of the Code of Conduct, and the adjudicator is of the reasonable opinion that the information provider may persist in such breach, whether through the member against whom the complaint was lodged or another member, the adjudicator may instruct the secretariat to issue a notice to WASPA's members.

This clause introduced in version 4.3.

13.5.2. The notice referred to in 13.5.1. must clearly identify the information provider and the relevant breach or breaches of the Code of Conduct, and must specify a date from which the notice applies.

This clause introduced in version 4.3.

13.5.3. Any member permitting the information provider to operate in breach of the Code of Conduct (in the same or substantially similar manner to that identified in the notice referred to in 13.5.1), after the date specified in the notice, will be automatically in breach of the same part or parts of the Code of Conduct as the information provider. Such members will be subject to sanctions determined by the adjudicator in accordance with section 13.4, read in conjunction with section 13.3.11.

This clause introduced in version 4.3.

### 13.6. Appeal process

13.6.1. Any member found to have breached the Code of Conduct by an adjudicator has the right to appeal for a review of the adjudicator's decision, and/or a review of the sanctions imposed by the adjudicator.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.1 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.1 in version 4.3.

13.6.2. Once the secretariat has been notified that a member wishes to appeal a decision, that member has fifteen working days to supply the secretariat with any additional information it deems relevant to the complaint. An extension to this time period may be given to the member at the discretion of the WASPA Secretariat.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.2 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.2 in version 4.3, and "ten working days" replaced "five working days".  
In version 8.0, "fifteen working days" replaced "ten working days". The last sentence was also added reflect current practice, and to formally address situations where a WASP needs more time to respond.

13.6.3. The secretariat will inform the complainant that the service provider has lodged an appeal against the adjudicator's decision.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.3 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.3 in version 4.3.

13.6.4. The secretariat will convene an appeals panel, consisting of three adjudicators. No person who could be considered to represent either the complainant or the service provider concerned may sit on the appeals panel.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.4 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.4 in version 4.3.

13.6.5. The appeals panel must consider the evidence provided to the adjudicator, the adjudicator's decision and any additional information provided by the service provider.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.5 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.5 in version 4.3.

13.6.6. On the basis of the evidence presented, the panel will decide whether there has, in fact, been a breach of the Code.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.6 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.6 in version 4.3.

13.6.7. If the panel determines that there has, in fact, been a breach of the Code, then the panel must review the sanctions recommended by the adjudicator.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.7 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.7 in version 4.3.

13.6.8. The panel may maintain the same sanctions recommended by the adjudicator, or may determine such other sanctions, as it deems appropriate given the nature of the breach and the evidence presented.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.8 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.8 in version 4.3.

13.6.9. Once the panel has determined whether there has been a breach of the code, and reviewed any associated sanctions, the panel will provide the secretariat with a written report detailing these findings.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.9 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.9 in version 4.3.

13.6.10. The secretariat will provide a copy of this report to the relevant member and to the complainant.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.10 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.10 in version 4.3.

13.6.11. The member must, within five working days, comply with any sanction imposed.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.11 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.11 in version 4.3.

13.6.12. The failure of any member to comply with any sanction imposed upon it will itself amount to a breach of the Code and may result in further sanctions being imposed.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.12 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.12 in version 4.3.

13.6.13. The member may not request a further review of the panel decision or request a further appeal.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.13 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.13 in version 4.3.

13.6.14. The secretariat will maintain a record of any complaints panel proceedings.

This clause introduced as clause 13.5.14 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.6.14 in version 4.3.

### 13.7. Emergency procedure

13.7.1. Where it appears to the secretariat that a breach of the Code has taken place that is serious and requires urgent remedy, the 'emergency procedure' will be used.

This clause introduced as clause 13.6.1 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.1 in version 4.3.

13.7.2. The member concerned will be notified by the secretariat that the emergency procedure has been invoked.

This clause introduced as clause 13.6.2 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.2 in version 4.3.

13.7.3. The secretariat will convene an emergency panel, consisting of at least three persons. No person who could be considered to represent the member concerned may sit on the emergency panel.

This clause introduced as clause 13.6.3 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.3 in version 4.3.

13.7.4. As soon as reasonably possible, the emergency panel will determine if a breach of the Code has taken place that requires urgent remedy, and prescribe such remedy.

This clause introduced as clause 13.6.4 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.4 in version 4.3.

13.7.5. Where urgent remedy is required, the secretariat will notify the relevant member's nominated representative that the emergency procedure has been invoked and that urgent remedy is sought.

This clause introduced as clause 13.6.5 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.5 in version 4.3.

13.7.6. The member concerned must comply with the urgent remedy as soon as practicable. Failure to do so constitutes a breach of this Code.

This clause introduced as clause 13.6.6 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.6 in version 4.3.

13.7.7. The secretariat may also advise the relevant network operator or operators to block a member's access to a specific number or a specific service.

This clause introduced as clause 13.6.7 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.7 in version 4.3.

13.7.8. Once the emergency procedure has been completed, the breach of the Code will be reviewed using the formal complaint procedure above. If, during the formal complaint procedure, the urgent remedy exercised above is deemed to be inappropriate, it may be reversed.

This clause introduced as clause 13.6.8 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.8 in version 4.3.

13.7.9. The emergency procedure may be invoked for a complaint that is already being handled by the formal complaint procedure. In this case, the SP must be provided an opportunity to supplement any

response already submitted to the formal complaint once the emergency procedure has been completed.

This clause introduced in version 7.0.

13.7.10. Neither WASPA, the WASPA secretariat, nor any WASPA member can be held liable for any damages whatsoever as a result of exercising the emergency procedure.

This clause introduced as clause 13.6.9 in version 3.2.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.9 in version 4.3.  
It was renumbered to 13.7.10 in version 7.0.

### **13.8. Service and advert advice service**

13.8.1. WASPA may introduce a service and advert advice service for its members. This service will provide a mechanism for members to submit a copy of a proposed advertisement or a suitably detailed description/flowchart of a service to be provided.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0 to accommodate the potential introduction of an advice service, as requested by WASPA members.

13.8.2. This service may be subject to a prescribed fee.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0 to accommodate the potential introduction of an advice service, as requested by WASPA members.

13.8.3. The checking service will review the service or advertisement and provide advice to the member on whether or not the service or advertisement appears to comply with the WASPA Code.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0 to accommodate the potential introduction of an advice service, as requested by WASPA members.

13.8.4. Advice provided by this service does not represent a finding as to whether or not a service or advertisement is in breach of the WASPA Code. An adjudicator or panel reviewing a complaint against a service or advertisement is not obliged to agree with the advice provided by the checking service.

This clause was introduced in version 8.0 to accommodate the potential introduction of an advice service, as requested by WASPA members.

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## **14. References**

- The SMS Code, developed by the Marketing Federation of South Africa and others.
- Advertising Guidelines, MTN, November 2004.
- Comprehensive WASP Advertising Guidelines, Vodacom, November 2004.
- The Wireless Application Service Provider Handbook, Executive Version 6, published by Vodacom Connect, 29 July 2003.
- Notice inviting comment on proposed guidelines for recognition of industry representative bodies in terms of Chapter XI of the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act, 2002 (Act No. 25 of 2002), *Government Gazette*, 8 September 2004.
- The Internet Service Providers' Association's code of conduct; <http://www.ispa.org.za/code>, version dated 25 June 2003.

- Code of Practice, Tenth Edition, Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, United Kingdom, January 2004.
- The Advertising Standards Authority of South Africa, Code of Practice and Procedural Guide; <http://www.asasa.org.za>.

References introduced in version 3.2.  
 The first bullet point originally included a web site address. This was noted as no longer operational in version 4.3 and dropped from version 4.8.  
 The ASASA bullet point was added in version 4.3.

## **15. Table of Abbreviations**

The following abbreviations are used in this document and in the *WASPA Advertising Rules*.

CSD	Circuit Switched Data
EBB	Event Based Billing
GPRS	General Packet Radio Services
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
MMS	Multimedia Messaging Service
MO	Mobile Originating
MT	Mobile Terminating
OBS	Online Billing Services
PRS	Premium Rate Service
PSMS	Premium Short Message Service
SMPP	Short Message Peer to Peer
SMS	Short Message Service
SMSC	Short Message Service Centre
USSD	Unstructured Supplementary Service Data
VAS	Value Added Services
VAT	Value Added Tax
WAP	Wireless Application Protocol
WASP	Wireless Application Service Provider
WASPA	Wireless Application Service Providers' Association

Table of abbreviations introduced in version 3.2.  
 EBB and OBS added in version 5.3.  
 VAS added in version 7.0.