

## Code of Practice

### Sales and Marketing of Fixed-Line Telephone Services

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#### Introduction and overview

This code of practice sets out how we comply with our regulatory obligations in the sales and marketing of fixed line telephone services. The code applies to the sales and marketing of our services to domestic and small business customers and covers all aspects of the sales process. We aim to avoid mis-selling and misrepresentation by ensuring that you fully understand the services and the terms of the contracts we offer you.

When selling or marketing our fixed line telecommunications services, we will not:

- Engage in dishonest, misleading or deceptive conduct
- Engage in aggressive sales techniques
- Contact customers in an appropriate way, or
- Engage in ‘slamming’ (transferring a customer’s line without their knowledge or consent)

All our sales and marketing staff and agents are briefed on this code and we routinely monitor compliance with it. If you feel that any representative of Spectrum Telecommunications Limited has breached the terms of the code, please report your concerns to our customer service team using one of the following:

Telephone: 0845 856 3301

Email: [customerservice@spectrum-coms.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@spectrum-coms.co.uk)

Our service teams have responsibility for compliance with this code, and for handling associated complaints. The code has been prepared in line with guidelines published by Ofcom, the industry regulator, in December 2009 and set out in General Condition 24. The General Conditions of Entitlement (part of the Communications Act) can be found on the Ofcom website and we will provide you with a copy of General Condition 24 on request.

## **Sales, marketing, advertising and promotional activity**

We advertise and promote our services by various methods. In all cases, we act responsibly and try to comply with relevant legislation.

We will respect your wishes if you have registered with any relevant preference service, including the Mailing Preference Service, the Telephone Preference Service, the Fax Preference Service and the E-mail Preference Service.

All our advertising and promotion activity keeps to the principles of the British Codes of Advertising and Sales Promotion. In addition, we ensure that advertising and promotional literature is clear, unambiguous, accurate and fair, does not contain false or misleading information about price, value or service and does not belittle other companies.

## **Customer contact**

Our sales staff are given clear guidelines on contacting business customers particularly during the hours of darkness. They must not visit you before 8am or after 7pm, and must not telephone before 8am or after 7pm, unless you ask them to.

Representatives involved in face-to-face sales and marketing have identity cards or badges that clearly display our company name and the representative's own identification number. The identity badge also displays the representative's name and photograph and a date showing the validity of the card. Information on the card is clear and easy to read without close examination.

On making contact, our representatives will immediately identify themselves, state our company name, the purpose of the call and how long it should take. If visiting or meeting in person, they will show you their identity card.

Our representatives are trained to be courteous, to use appropriate language and to offer clear and straightforward explanations. They must offer only factual and accurate information about our services and contracts and must not misrepresent our services or those of other companies. They must check that if you enter into a contract you fully understand the terms and are sure that this is what you want to do.

We will not aim sales or marketing activity at people who are under the legal age for entering into contracts.

Our representatives will cease contact with anyone who indicates that the contact is inconvenient, unwelcome, inappropriate or too long. At your request, the discussion will be ended immediately and, if making a doorstep call, the representative will leave your premises immediately.

To ensure we maintain these standards, we keep the records of our sales and marketing activity for at least six months. Records include the date and the approximate time of the contact with you. To help us deal with any complaints or queries, all such records clearly identify the salesperson(s) who made the call or visit.

## **Entering into a contract (information at point of sale)**

We check that the person entering into a contract with us is authorised to sign a contract for services and be responsible for bills at the premises in question.

Our order forms and contract forms are designed to ensure that you understand that you are entering a contract.

We will tell you that you have the right to change your mind during the switchover period and that there is no cost for cancellation during this period.

In all cases we will give you the following information:

- Confirmation of our company's identity and full contact details;
- A description of the service you have chosen, including how it works
- The costs and charges including any minimum contract charges and early termination charges
- Arrangements for providing the service, including how we deal with the order and, as accurately as possible, when it is likely to start;
- Your right to cancel and how to use it;
- Your right to early termination
- How long the charges will remain valid; and
- The minimum period of contract, and minimum contract charges, if any.

Our representatives have a full summary of our tariffs, which you can ask to see.

If our representative meets you in person, they will give you the information in writing. When you sign an order form, or enter into a written contract, you will also get a copy of the order form or contract, as well as information about any after-sales services or guarantees and arrangements for ending the contract.

You will get this information at the same time as you sign, or within 5 working days, unless you received it in writing before signing the contract.

Orders placed with us by distance-selling methods (such as phone, fax or internet) comply with distance-selling regulations. As with order forms, our telephone scripts are designed to ensure that you understand that you are entering into a contract and will be sent the information detailed above.

In the case of internet orders, a well signposted and easy-to-see hyperlink to this information is prominently displayed and the information is readily available for downloading and printing.

Regardless of our method of selling, you may cancel orders and end contracts by contacting our customer development team using one of the following:

Telephone: 0844 856 3301

Email: [customerservice@spectrum-coms.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@spectrum-coms.co.uk)

## **Contract review**

Our procedures are designed to minimise the risk of errors or mis-selling on our part when taking orders or making contracts during face-to-face or telephone selling.

We confirm orders by sending a notification of transfer letter to the customer in accordance with the industry-agreed process. The letter, which is clearly dated, gives details of the transfer, including the date of transfer, and information on any services and features which may be affected by the transfer. The letter also provides contact details for any questions.

We contact all customers entering into a new contract to confirm that you understand that you have entered into a contract, are happy to proceed with the contract and are content with the way in which we conducted the sales and marketing.



This check is generally incorporated into the order confirmation letter but is always completed no more than 5 working days after a contract is agreed. Where we contact you directly, this is done by a person not involved with our sales and marketing activities, who will tell you who they are.

The letter may be sent electronically if you have applied online and have confirmed online that you wish future correspondence to be sent electronically.

We will terminate the contract without charge or other penalty to you if we find that you did not understand the contract or it was not what you intended or if it was finalised before the expiry of the switchover period, and you wish to cancel.

We keep our contract procedures under review and take steps to prevent the recurrence of any problem identified through audit (see below).

## **Record retention**

We keep all records of sales and marketing of fixed line telephone services for a minimum of six months.

## **Audit (reviews)**

We carry out regular audits of the systems, procedures and documents we use in sales and marketing.

## **Customer complaints procedure**

Complaints about sales and marketing are dealt with under the procedures set out in our Code of Practice for Complaint Handling which sets out how you may complain, and this includes complaints about Spectrum Telecommunications Limited sales and marketing. It specifies what to do next if you believe the complaint has not been dealt with satisfactorily.

You should first direct your complaint to Spectrum Telecommunications Limited. If we cannot resolve the complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact:

The Office of the Telecommunications Ombudsman (Otelo)

PO Box 730,

Warrington,

Cheshire,

WA4 6WU

Tel: 01925 430870 or 0845 050 1614

email: [enquiries@otelo.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@otelo.org.uk), Website: [www.otelo.org.uk](http://www.otelo.org.uk)

OTELO is an independent organisation which is approved by Ofcom to provide an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) service. Ofcom-approved ADR services sort out disputes between communications providers and their consumer and small business customers. Their job is to investigate complaints fairly by listening to both sides of the story. They look at the facts given to them before recommending any action that may be needed to put things right.

Alternatively, if at any time you are not satisfied with the progress of your complaint you can ask us to agree an early referral to ADR (i.e. that we issue a deadlock letter). However, we may decline to do so if we do believe we will shortly resolve your complaint and are taking active steps to do so.

You can also ask for advice from your local Trading Standards Department or Citizens Advice Bureau.

## **Status of this code**

Compliance with this code does not guarantee that it complies with any other legal requirement.

Non-compliance with this code does not affect the validity of any contract between the company and the consumer, unless the law states otherwise.

## Useful addresses

Alternative Dispute Resolution Provider:

Otelo – PO Box 730, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 6WU. Tel: 01925 430870 or 0845 050 1614 email: enquiries@otelo.org.uk Website: www.otelo.org.uk

Ofcom - Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA. Tel: 020 7981 3040 email: contact@ofcom.org.uk Website: www.ofcom.org.uk

Direct Marketing Association - DMA House, 70 Margaret Street, London W1W 8SS Tel: 020 7291 3308 www.dma.org.uk

Federation of Communication Services (FCS) – Burnhill Business Centre, Provident House, Burrell Row, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1AT. Tel: 020 8249 6363 www.fcs.org.uk

If you wish to find details of your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau or Trading Standards department you can search on the following websites

Citizens Advice – www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Institute of Trading Standards Administration – www.tradingstandards.gov.uk



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