

Central Master Routing Database (zMRDB).

Basic principles.



MNP: Basic legal/contractual principles.

Basic legal principles.

The portability of phone numbers is regulated in the German Telecommunications Act (TKG: Telekommunikationsgesetz). Starting November 2002, on the basis of this act, the **German Federal Network Agency (formerly known as the Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Post)** requires that service providers allow their customers to keep the phone number they have been assigned when they switch providers (mobile phone number portability). The (relevant) excerpt from the Telecommunications Act (TKG) § 43 par. 5 Telecommunications Act (TKG) from July 25, 1996, (Federal Law Gazette (BGBl. I p. 1120) states:

(3) Numbers shall be assigned upon the application of a telecommunications carrier, telecommunications service provider or user. Assignment may be linked with conditions and other collateral clauses. The assignment decision shall be subject to a fee. The Federal Ministry of Post and Telecommunications shall be empowered to

lay down, in agreement with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Federal Ministry of Justice and the Federal Ministry of Economics, by ordinance having the force of law but not requiring the consent of the German Federal Council (Bundesrat) and as provided for by the Administrative Expenses Act, chargeable acts, the level of the fee and the reimbursement of expenses.

This legal basis can be viewed at the **website of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (www.bmwi.de)**. You can find additional information on the **website of the Federal Network Agency (www.bundesnetzagentur.de)**.

Basic contractual principles.

First of all, it has been stipulated that the mobile customer may only switch providers after his contract has expired or been cancelled. The customer must then take his

cancellation confirmation, as close to the end of the contract term as possible, to his future network operator/service provider and inform this company that he wishes to switch providers. The number will then be officially transferred within a few days.

Pursuant to the requirements, mobile mailbox numbers will also be ported along with the relevant phone number.

Here is an example: A customer with the phone number 0172 1234567 switches from Vodafone D2 to T-Mobile and takes his mailbox line with him. If the mailbox recognition code at Vodafone D2 is 55 for example, both the mailbox recognition code and the phone number will be ported together as 0172 55 1234567.

In principle, nothing changes for the mobile customer. He is still able to conveniently access his mailbox by using his original code.

Customers of some pre-paid cards are also able to take their phone numbers with them. You can find additional information regarding the process and costs on the websites of the respective providers.