

# Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering

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**Date:** 6 December 2024

**BY EMAIL**

**To:** Secretary General  
Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0N2

ATTN: Marc Morin

**Subject:** Recommendation to Allow CNA to Make Assignments of CO Codes for TBP Testing

Dear Sir,

The purpose of this letter is to propose that the Canadian Numbering Administrator (CNA) be authorized to make Central Office (CO) Code assignments to be used for Thousands-Block Pooling (TBP) end-to-end testing starting 1 April 2025 through 30 September 2025.

To assist in facilitating the implementation of TBP in Canada, the Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering (CSCN) believes that a full, end-to-end production test capability would be appropriate for Telephone Service Providers (TSPs). This production testing would allow TSPs to request block assignments in CO Codes where they are not the Code Holder, enter the block data into the Business Integrated Routing and Rating Database System (BIRRDS) to process it in BIRRDS output products, and to enable them to test the various use cases of number porting, win back, snapback, etc.

As the end-to-end testing is taking place in production, it is required that the BIRRDS, operated by iconectiv, be ready to handle Canadian Thousands-Block data. CNA staff have made a formal request to iconectiv and have received concurrence that it should be ready by 1 April 2025.

The CSCN believes that at minimum testing would require two test CO Codes be made available in each Exchange Area identified for testing. The CSCN has identified the following Exchange Areas for testing; Halifax, Montreal, Regina, Toronto and Vancouver. These Exchange Areas are geographically diverse and should permit all TSPs to participate in testing. As necessary, additional Exchange Areas can be added to this list. Test CO Codes will be selected from the most recent Number Plan Area (NPA/Area Code) overlay thereby allowing users to continue to access Telephone Numbers (TNs) from the more established NPAs, if available.

CO Codes and Thousands Blocks that are assigned for end-to-end TBP testing will not count against any TSP's forecasts or holdings as these resources shall not be assigned to customer subscribers. All CO Codes and Thousands Blocks that are assigned for end-to-end TBP testing shall be fully recovered after the testing period.

To enable the industry to conduct end-to-end testing for the implementation of TBP the industry would need approval from the CRTC for the assignment of resources. Therefore, the CSCN requests that the CRTC authorize as soon as possible the CNA to make 14 CO Code assignments and assign Thousands-Blocks from within these CO Codes for production testing purposes starting 1 April 2025 through 30 September 2025 as follows:

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Nr	Exchange Area	NPA	Test CO Codes
1	Montreal	263	2
2	Toronto	942	2
3	Vancouver	257	2
4	Regina	474	2
5	Halifax	782	2
6	TBD	TBD	TBD
7	TBD	TBD	TBD

There are 127 distinct Operating Company Numbers (OCNs) currently holding CO Codes representing various TSPs and TSPs' lines of business, however some TSPs with multiple OCNs may not require a test Thousands-Block for each of their OCNs. The 14 CO Codes proposed above will allow for 126 Thousands-Block assignments (9x14) that are not associated with the default CO Code routing.

The CSCN is requesting that carriers request their test blocks as soon as possible beginning 1 April 2025 and no later than 1 July 2025.

Sincerely,

**Sent via email by**

Kelly T. Walsh  
Chair  
Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering

c.c. Michel Murray, CRTC staff  
Étienne Robelin, CRTC staff