TRAI

TRAI defers start of 5-paisa A2P call termination charge

TRAI's Fourth Amendment to the TCCCPR, 2018 says regulation 35A, the charge of up to Rs. 0.05 a minute on A2P calls, starts only on a date TRAI notifies.

THE TELECOM REGULATORY Authority of India (TRAI) issued notification No. D-27/1/(7)/2026-QoS (E-21037), dated November 4, 2026, making the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026 (09 of 2026). It appears in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 656, dated November 4, 2026 (e-Gazette ID CG-DL-E-07112026-277766). TRAI made the regulations under section 36, read with section 11(1)(b)(v) and section 11(1)(c), of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. They apply throughout India and come into force on publication in the Official Gazette. They are signed by Pushpendra Kumar Singh, Secretary (Incharge).

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY
TRAI

PUBLISHED
November 4, 2026

ISSUED BY
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

DOCUMENT
Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026 (09 of 2026), No. D-27/1/(7)/2026-QoS (E-21037)



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The regulations make one change. Regulation 35A of the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (TCCCPR, 6 of 2018), as inserted by the Third Amendment Regulations, 2026 (5 of 2026), "shall come into force from such date as the Authority may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint." The notification gives no date and no reason.

The Third Amendment (F. No. RG-25/(25)/2023-QoS, dated September 18, 2026, Gazette No. 561, CG-DL-E-28092026-276548) inserted regulation 35A through its regulation 18, and set that regulation to come into force sixty days after publication. Under regulation 35A, the Terminating Access Provider (TAP) may charge the Originating Access Provider (OAP) up to Rs. 0.05 (five paisa) per minute, on a per minute pulse basis, for A2P calls. The charge may not be more than the lowest tariff the TAP offers to the Senders or Telemarketers for whom it acts as the OAP. There is no charge on A2P calls made from number resources in the 140xx, 1600xx or 1601xx series or any other series TRAI designates for commercial communications (unless TRAI notifies otherwise), on calls made by or on the directions of TRAI, or on calls made by an agency TRAI authorizes. The Third Amendment defines an A2P call as a voice call started by an application, software system or automated platform without direct human dialing and delivered to an individual telecom subscriber, including autodialling, robo-calls and pre-recorded or artificial voice.

The charge runs between access providers. The regulation does not say whether an OAP may pass it on to the Sender or Telemarketer whose calls carry it. In its explanatory memorandum to the Third Amendment, TRAI says the charge is "intended solely as a deterrent measure and not as a cost-recovery mechanism", that the 140xx series is mandated for promotional calls, 1600xx for service and transactional calls by BFSI entities and for Government to citizen communications, and 1601xx for service and transactional calls by entities in other sectors, and that the exemption is meant in part to move Principal Entities and Telemarketers from the unregistered to the registered telemarketer framework.

The Fourth Amendment changes nothing else in the Third Amendment. Regulation 4, which the Third Amendment also set to start sixty days after publication, is unchanged: it requires every

Sender to declare its use of A2P calls, with the Calling Line Identification (CLI) ranges, to the OAP in advance, to be recorded on the DLT platform; an undeclared call is treated as unsolicited commercial communication. The charge of up to Rs. 0.05 on commercial SMS in regulation 35 is also unchanged. The principal regulations were earlier amended on December 21, 2018 (10 of 2018), February 12, 2025 (1 of 2025) and September 18, 2026 (5 of 2026).

Issued by	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
Document	Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026 (09 of 2026), No. D-27/1/(7)/2026-QoS (E-21037)
Dated	November 4, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part III, Section 4, No. 656, November 4, 2026 (CG-DL-E-07112026-277766)
Takes effect	On publication in the Official Gazette
Change	Regulation 35A of the TCCCPR, 2018 comes into force from a date TRAI appoints by notification in the Official Gazette
Regulation 35A inserted by	TCCCP (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026 (5 of 2026), F. No. RG-25/(25)/2023-QoS, September 18, 2026; originally sixty days after publication
Regulation 35A charge	TAP may charge OAP up to Rs. 0.05 (five paisa) per minute, per minute pulse, for A2P calls; not more than the TAP's lowest tariff to Senders or Telemarketers for whom it is the OAP
No charge on	A2P calls from 140xx, 1600xx, 1601xx or other designated series; calls by or on the directions of TRAI; calls by an agency TRAI authorizes
Not changed	Regulation 4 (advance declaration of A2P calls and CLI ranges to the OAP) and regulation 35 (charge on commercial SMS)
Legal basis	Section 36, read with section 11(1)(b)(v) and 11(1)(c), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997
Signed by	Pushpendra Kumar Singh, Secy. (Incharge)

The notification (regulations) (PDF, 578 KB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-07112026-277766.

Checked against the official copy on November 7, 2026.

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