Post Office Telecommunications Private Teleprinter Service

Printed messages can be sent quickly between teleprinters linked by private circuits.

No call charges are payable as the customer rents the teleprinter circuit for his exclusive use.











A private teleprinter system can provide continuous contact between two points. The customer has exclusive use of the circuit and pays no charge for the calls made. There is a connexion charge and an annual rental for each teleprinter. Charges for the circuit are based on distance.

Facilities

Messages can be received even when an office is closed provided the teleprinter is left connected to the mains supply and that there is sufficient paper in the machine.

Teleprinters and circuits can be provided to work at speeds of up to about 100 words a minute.

With a suitable ribbon the teleprinter can print in two colours, usually red and black: one for incoming and the other for outgoing messages.

The caller can set the line feed of his own machine for single, intermediate or double spacing. This does not affect the spacing of the other machine.

The teleprinter can be switched to local use for practice or message copying. Incoming calls will operate an audible alarm and red lamp to indicate that the installation should be restored to normal use.

Paper is on a continuous roll and can be single sheet or with up to five undercopies using Post Office supplied paper. The width allows for 69 characters or spaces, and a warning lamp above the keyboard glows when approximately 55 characters or spaces have been typed on a line.

Customers provide their own stationery and teleprinter ribbons. These can be purchased from:

The Stores Controller
Post Office Supplies Dept
SND 02.2
Wheatstone Road
Dorcan
SWINDON
Wilts
SN3 5HG

Telex 449213

Stationery and ribbons can be purchased from other suppliers provided that they conform to the Post Office standards. Amongst stationery available are special rolls where more copies are required and also printed invoice rolls which can be used where the teleprinter is fitted with a sprocket feed attachment. The Telephone Sales Office will advise on the layout of printed stationery.

Method of operation

The teleprinter is similar in operation to an electric typewriter, but when a call is in progress, everything that is typed during the call appears on both teleprinters.

Calls are made by operating a key on the signalling unit to start the machine, and then depressing the teleprinter space bar several times to switch on the distant machine motor. To check that the distant machine is switched on, the operation of the 'figures' and the 'who are you' keys will cause the distant machine to send its name or 'answer-back' code. The caller then types his message which is printed on both machines. The machines will stop automatically shortly after the transmission has finished.

A buzzer can be switched on, to signal incoming calls, and an extension alarm can also be provided.

If it is necessary to attract the attention of the distant operator an alarm and red lamp on the distant signalling unit can be operated by pressing the 'figures' and 'bell' keys. Pressing the RESET key will switch off the alarm and lamp.

At the end of a call it is usual to confirm the connexion with an exchange of 'answer-back' codes. The caller simply presses in turn the HERE IS and WHO ARE YOU keys.

Automatic transmission

Teleprinters are available which will reproduce and transmit messages previously prepared on punched paper tape.

The punched paper tape is prepared with the teleprinter in LOCAL use with the tape perforator switched on. The tape is punched as the message is typed and accuracy is checked from the printed page copy. Errors on the tape can be corrected. The tape bearing the message is then put into the tape-transmitter and the call set up. The message can be transmitted automatically at the maximum speed of the teleprinter, which may be 66 or 100 words per minute depending on the type of circuit used.

Automatic transmission shortens the duration of a call. The message can be checked while being transmitted. The tape can be used to produce additional copies in local, or transmitted more than once if additional copies are required at the distant end, or are to be sent to more than one location.

Incoming calls are still received if the teleprinter is being used in LOCAL for tape preparation. The alarm and red lamp warn that the installation should be restored to normal use.

Incoming calls can be received on a punched paper tape as well as on a typewritten copy. This is useful when the message has to be relayed by private teleprinter or telex.

Allowing adequate room for the operator's chair and for maintenance purposes the installation requires a floor area approximately 1520mm by 1220mm.

The total weight of the installation is about 130kg.

The signalling unit houses power and auxiliary apparatus and the installation works from a mains 3-pin switched socket outlet of at least 5 amp rating, provided by the customer.

Other Private Teleprinter Services

Private teleprinter systems can be provided in a variety of forms ranging from the basic point-to-point system described in this leaflet, to automatic switched networks. Installations can incorporate ancillary apparatus such as printing reperforators which produce printed and punched tape, and broadcast units which allow the simultaneous transmission of messages to all terminals on a network.

Service and maintenance visits

The teleprinter is easy to use, and instruction on its operation is given by one of our Telegraph Service Representatives, who also visits each installation periodically to ensure that the service is satisfactory.

Maintenance visits are made by fully trained Post Office engineers. No charge is made for these visits.

Please note

We do our best to supply our customers with the apparatus they ask for but we may have have to provide apparatus which does not accord exactly with the descriptions and illustrations in this leaflet.

Your Telephone Sales Office will gladly supply any further information. The address and telephone number are shown in the preface of your telephone directory.

Post Office
Telecommunications