EXHIBIT OSS – 16

EDI Testing Guidelines for CLECs

7.0   EDI Testing Guidelines for CLECS
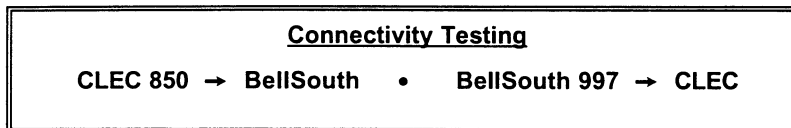
7.1   EDI Testing Guidelines Overview

The testing process is made up of three types of testing:

- Connectivity testing - verifies that CLECs and BellSouth can send and receive documents using EDI
- Syntax testing - verifies CLEC compliance with ANSI ASC X12 and TCIF standards
- End-to-end testing - verifies that data content provided by the CLEC is meaningful to the BellSouth Local Exchange Ordering (LEO) system

This process is designed to validate BellSouth-CLEC EDI local exchange ordering procedures and verify:

- Connectivity between BellSouth and CLEC
- Compliance with the ANSI ASC X12 standards
- CLEC compliance with BellSouth usage requirements as presented in the *BellSouth Business Rules for Local Ordering*
- CLEC's ability to send local exchange order requests to BellSouth
- BellSouth's ability to electronically acknowledge CLEC order requests
- BellSouth's ability to translate and process CLEC orders
- CLEC's ability to respond electronically to BellSouth's firm order confirmations and completions

7.2   Connectivity Testing

Connectivity Testing

CLEC 850 → BellSouth   •   BellSouth 997 → CLEC

Definition

Connectivity Testing verifies that CLECs and BellSouth can send and receive documents using EDI. Connectivity Testing must be conducted for all new CLECs and for CLECs who change their connectivity pathway or EDI identifiers as recorded on the BellSouth Local Exchange Ordering EDI Profile Sheet (See Section 7.7).

BellSouth supports three methods of connectivity for EDI. Each of these methods is described in more detail in Section 1 - Administration.

1. VAN to VAN (Value Added Network)
2. INDIAL – dial-in bi-synchronous modem connectivity (sometimes referred to as point-to-point)
3. CONNECT:Direct™ direct connectivity.

7-1

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Entrance Criteria

Several steps must be completed before the Connectivity Testing process can begin. These prerequisites (also referred to as entrance criteria) are as follows:

- The CLEC must be legally certified to provide local phone services in the state where they are doing business
- The CLEC must have a signed Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth for Local Exchange Ordering
- The CLEC must have reviewed and agreed to the conditions described in the *BellSouth Business Rules for Local Ordering*
- The CLEC must have an established billing account with BellSouth
- The CLEC must have provided the information required on the BellSouth Local Exchange Ordering EDI Profile Sheet; the CONNECT:Direct™ Connectivity for EDI, if applicable; and the EDI Testing Agreement (see Section 7.7).

Procedures

During Connectivity Testing, BellSouth and the CLEC perform distinct tasks, as summarized below:

1. CLEC completes the BellSouth Telecommunications Local Exchange Ordering EDI Profile Sheet
    - If using CONNECT:Direct™ connectivity option, CLEC also completes the CONNECT:Direct™ Connectivity for EDI form
2. CLEC completes the BellSouth Telecommunications Local Exchange Ordering EDI Testing Agreement
3. CLEC and BellSouth must mutually accept the conditions set forth in the *BellSouth Business Rules for Local Ordering*
4. CLEC performs necessary steps to establish communications pathway on CLEC side
5. BellSouth performs necessary steps to establish communications pathway on BellSouth side
6. BellSouth and CLEC agree on the Connectivity Testing start date and approximate time
7. CLEC sends mutually acceptable connectivity test (850 Purchase Order transaction set) to BellSouth
8. CLEC receives mutually acceptable connectivity test (997 Functional Acknowledgment transaction set) from BellSouth.

Exit Criteria

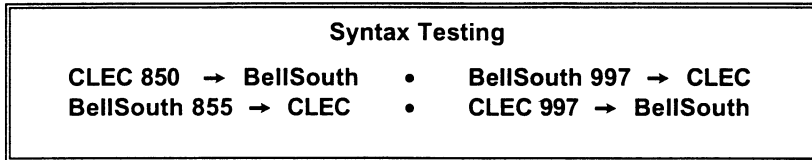These steps must be completed as proof of successful Connectivity Testing:

- CLEC sends an approved test case Purchase Order transaction set (850) to BellSouth, and BellSouth receives it
- BellSouth verbally acknowledges receipt of the test case from the CLEC
- BellSouth translates the test case, responds with a Functional Acknowledgment (997) to CLEC, and CLEC receives it
- CLEC verbally acknowledges receipt of the Functional Acknowledgment (997)

7-2

from BellSouth
- BellSouth and CLEC agree that Connectivity Testing has successfully completed so that Syntax Testing can begin.

7.3 Syntax Testing

Syntax Testing		
CLEC 850 → BellSouth	•	BellSouth 997 → CLEC
BellSouth 855 → CLEC	•	CLEC 997 → BellSouth

Definition
Syntax Testing verifies adherence to predetermined structures. Syntax Testing must be conducted for all new CLECs ordering local exchange products or services and for those existing CLECs who make system modifications to enhance their ordering capabilities. Syntax Testing is also required when changes are made to EDI systems to accommodate industry standards (TCIF or ANSI). Compliance with the following structures are necessary for successful Syntax Testing with BellSouth:
- Compliance with ANSI ASC X12 standards
- Compliance with TCIF industry standards
- Acceptance of BellSouth ordering guidelines as described in the *BellSouth Business Rules for Local Ordering.*

Entrance Criteria
Connectivity Testing must have been successfully completed for new CLECs before Syntax Testing begins.

Procedures
BellSouth uses test cases to ensure EDI transaction sets comply with the ANSI ASC X12 EDI standards and TCIF industry standards as well as BellSouth's usage requirements. BellSouth will inform the CLEC regarding the test cases to be used for Syntax Testing. Sample test cases are discussed in Section 7.5. Refer to the BellSouth Local Exchange Ordering EDI Testing Agreement in Section 7.7 for details on hours of operation and other testing requirements.

The list below outlines the steps required to receive and process syntax test cases from CLECs:
1. BellSouth and CLEC agree on the Syntax Testing start date and approximate time.
2. CLEC sends identified test case Purchase Order transaction set (850) to BellSouth.
3. BellSouth translates test case and returns a Functional Acknowledgment (997) indicating receipt of the order. This 997 also contains the acknowledgment code either accepting or rejecting the test case syntax, along with information

7-3

about the EDI segment and the element in error.

➡ Steps 2 and 3 must be repeated until CLEC sends a syntactically correct document. BellSouth will respond by returning an accepted 997.

4. BellSouth sends the identified test case Purchase Order Acknowledgment transaction set (855) to CLEC.
5. CLEC translates the test case and responds with a Functional Acknowledgment transaction set (997) indicating syntax acceptance or rejection.

➡ Steps 4 and 5 must be repeated until CLEC is able to respond with an accepted Functional Acknowledgment.

Exit Criteria

These steps must be completed as proof of successful Syntax Testing:
- BellSouth must send CLEC an accepted Functional Acknowledgment (997) for each syntactically correct document (850) received by BellSouth.
- CLEC must send BellSouth a Functional Acknowledgment (997) for each document (855) received by CLEC.
- BellSouth and CLEC agree that Syntax Testing has successfully completed so that End-to-End Testing can begin.

7.4   End-to-End Testing

End-to-End Testing	
CLEC 850 ➔ BellSouth	• BellSouth 997 ➔ CLEC
BellSouth 855 ➔ CLEC	• CLEC 997 ➔ BellSouth
CLEC 860 ➔ BellSouth	• BellSouth 997 ➔ CLEC
BellSouth 865 (FOC) ➔ CLEC	• CLEC 997 ➔ BellSouth
BellSouth 865 (CN) ➔ CLEC	• CLEC 997 ➔ BellSouth

Definition

End-to-End Testing verifies that data content provided by the CLEC is meaningful to the LEO system at BellSouth. This testing also verifies that the data content will remain valid throughout the full order cycle, as identified by the business transactions listed below.

End-to-End Testing must be conducted for all new CLECs ordering local exchange products or services and for those existing CLECs who make system modifications to enhance their ordering capabilities. End-to-End Testing is also required when changes are made to EDI systems to accommodate industry standards (TCIF or ANSI).

End-to-End Testing Business Transactions

7-4

- Local Exchange Order (850 transaction set) from CLEC
- Firm Order Confirmation (855 transaction set) from BellSouth
- Purchase Order Change Request (860 transaction set) from CLEC
- Acknowledgment of Change Request (865 transaction set) from BellSouth
- Acknowledgment of Completion Notice (865 transaction set) from BellSouth

Entrance Criteria
Syntax Testing must be successfully completed before End-to-End Testing can begin.

Procedures
The following list details the End-to-End Testing procedures:
1. BellSouth and CLEC agree on the date and approximate time for sending the first test End-to-End Local Exchange Order.
2. The CLEC sends test Local Exchange Orders (850 transaction set).
3. BellSouth translates test case and responds with a Functional Acknowledgment transaction set (997) indicating syntax acceptance or rejection.

➡ Steps 2 and 3 must be repeated until CLEC sends an error-free document. BellSouth will respond by returning an accepted 997.

4. BellSouth sends a test Firm Order Confirmation Notice (855 Purchase Order Acknowledgment transaction set) from the Local Exchange Ordering system.
5. The CLEC sends a Functional Acknowledgment (997) to BellSouth indicating receipt of the 855.

➡ Steps 4 and 5 must be repeated until CLEC is able to respond with an accepted Functional Acknowledgment. If this is the last transaction in this order cycle, skip to Step 10.

6. The CLEC sends a test Purchase Order Change Request transaction set (860) to BellSouth.
7. The BellSouth returns a Functional Acknowledgment (997), indicating syntax acceptance.

➡ Step 6 and 7 must be repeated until CLEC sends an error-free document. BellSouth will respond by returning an accepted 997.

8. BellSouth sends a test Firm Order Confirmation Notice (865 Purchase Order Change Acknowledgment Request transaction set).
9. CLEC sends a 997 Functional Acknowledgment, indicating receipt of the 865 Firm Order Confirmation Notice.

➡ Step 9 must be repeated until CLEC is able to respond with an accepted

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7-5

Functional Acknowledgment.

10. BellSouth sends a test Completion Notice (865 Purchase Order Change Acknowledgment Request transaction set).
11. CLEC sends a Functional Acknowledgment (997), indicating receipt of the 865 Completion Notice.

➡ Step 11 must be repeated until CLEC is able to respond with an accepted Functional Acknowledgment.

Exit Criteria
BellSouth notifies CLEC that End-to-End Testing has concluded successfully and agrees on a date to move to production.

7.5 Test Cases

BellSouth uses specific test cases to verify that CLECs can place local exchange orders and send acknowledgments for these products and services via EDI.

BellSouth's LCSC staff will provide the actual test case data to CLECs prior to testing.

7.6 Technical Contacts

BellSouth testing and technical contacts:

Contact Type	Name	Phone Number	Fax
CLEC's BellSouth Account Representative			
EDI Technical Rep during Testing		(205) 988-6537	(205) 403-2672

7.7 CLEC/BellSouth EDI Agreements

The forms on the following pages are to be completed by the CLEC and BellSouth prior to commencing Local Exchange Ordering EDI testing. They are:
- EDI Profile Sheets
  - CLEC Information
  - BellSouth Information
- CONNECT:Direct™ Connectivity for EDI
- EDI Testing Agreement

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BellSouth Telecommunications
Local Exchange Ordering

☐ **INITIAL**
☐ **REVISION**
DATE _____

EDI PROFILE SHEET
CLEC INFORMATION

CLEC Name: _____ Division: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Business Contact: _____ Phone: _____

   Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

EDI Mapping Contact: _____ Phone: _____

   Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

EDI Communications Contact: _____ Phone: _____

   Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

Testing Contact: _____ Phone: _____

   Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

CONNECTIVITY SELECTION *(SELECT ONE)*

☐ VAN   VAN Choice: _____

☐ Point-to-Point

☐ CONNECT:Direct™ [1]

EDI IDENTIFIERS FOR TESTING AND PRODUCTION

TESTING Interchange Qualifier/ID [2]: _____ /_____ Group ID [3]: _____

PRODUCTION Interchange Qualifier/ID [2]: _____ /_____ Group ID [3]: _____

ELEMENT DELIMITER to be used: _____   SEGMENT TERMINATOR to be used: _____

WILL THESE IDS BE USED FOR LNP ORDERS VIA EDI? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Note: *Initial setup or any changes to your connectivity selection, Interchange Qualifier/ID, or Group ID requires advance notice (via use of this EDI Profile Sheet) to BellSouth of at least 20 business days.*

Fax this form to BellSouth to the attention of "EDI Test" at 205/403-2672.

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[1] The attached CONNECT:Direct™ Connectivity for EDI form must be completed.

[2] Must be unique. Interchange Qualifier is 2 characters in length/ID is up to 15 characters (up to 17 total).

[3] Must be unique. Group ID is up to 15 characters in length and may be the same as Interchange ID.

When assigning unique ID numbers, BellSouth suggests using Dun & Bradstreet number.

BELLSOUTH

Company Billing Information

Billing Name	Bill Acct. #1

OSS Interface Information
(Option 2 – Contract State Specific Rate)

State(s) CLEC is Active					CLEC OSS Billing (Monthly System Charges)	
☐ GA (SOMGA)	☐ AL	☐ KY	☐ TN	☐ SC		
☐ NC (SOMNC)	☐ MS	☐ LA	☐ FL		☐ CRIS	☐ CABS

BellSouth Telecommunications
Local Exchange Ordering

EDI PROFILE SHEET
BELLSOUTH INFORMATION

Business Contact: _____ Phone: _____

   Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

   Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

EDI Mapping Contact: _____ Phone: _____

   Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

EDI Communications Contact: _____ Phone: _____

   Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

EDI Testing Contact: _____ Phone: _____

   Email Address: _____ Fax: _____

CONNECTIVITY TYPE

☐ VAN-to-VAN   BellSouth VAN Choice: _____

☐ Point-to-Point   User ID/Password _____

☐ CONNECT:Direct™ Node Name/ _____

       User ID/Password _____

EDI IDENTIFIERS FOR TESTING AND PRODUCTION

TESTING Interchange Qualifier/ID [1]: ____ / _____ Group ID [2]: _____

PRODUCTION Interchange Qualifier/ID [2]: ____ / _____ Group ID [3]: _____

ELEMENT DELIMITER to be used: ____   SEGMENT TERMINATOR to be used: ____

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[1] Must be unique. Interchange Qualifier is 2 characters in length/ID is up to 15 characters (up to 17 total).

[2] Must be unique. Group ID is up to 15 characters in length and may be the same as Interchange ID.

When assigning unique ID numbers, BellSouth suggests using Dun & Bradstreet number.

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CONNECT:DIRECT™ CONNECTIVITY FOR EDI

*To be completed by prospective BellSouth Customer licensed by
Sterling Commerce, Inc. to use CONNECT:Direct™*

CONTACT INFORMATION   DATE _____

Company: _____Division:_____

Mailing Address: _____ City:_____ State:___ Zip:_____

Communications Contact: _____Phone: _____

        Email Address:_____Fax:_____

At BellSouth, we currently have working solutions with CONNECT:Direct™ trading partners who use
the following platforms:

SNA   IBM MVS   DEC VAX   SUN UNIX
           IBM AS/400   IBM VSE   IBM RS/6000

TCP/IP IBM MVS   Tandem   IBM RS/6000   IBM AS/400
           HP UNIX   Windows NT   Windows 95   SUN UNIX

CLEC CONNECT:DIRECT™ INFORMATION

Platform: _____
          (*example*: MS-DOS-based PC)

CONNECT:Direct™ Release Level: _____
                                (*example*: MVS 1.8)

Protocol Desired: _____
                  (*examples*: SDLC LUO, LU6.2, TCP/IP)

Transmission speed requested: _____
                             (*examples*: 9.6 KB, 19.2 KB, 56 KB, 256 KB)

When is your expected circuit installation due date? _____

Optional

Number of bytes you expect to send in one transmission: _____   How often? _____

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*...To proceed, coordinate development of communications path with your
BellSouth Account Team representative...*

@ BELLSOUTH

BellSouth Proprietary Information   CONNECT:DirectTM Connectivity for EDI

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BellSouth Telecommunications
Local Exchange Ordering

eData Transport and Transformation Team
EDI Testing Agreement

Conditions/Expectations

- The eData Transport and Transformation Team hours of operation will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday, excluding BellSouth holidays.
- BellSouth must be notified that test cases are being sent 24 hours prior to their receipt.
- Under normal conditions, inbound test files will be translated upon receipt.
- Under normal conditions, outbound files are sent hourly during regular eData Transport and Transformation Team business hours.
- Functional acknowledgments in response to all (except 997s) incoming documents bearing valid Testing Interchange Qualifier/IDs and Group IDs will normally be sent within 90 minutes of translation.
- In response to all documents sent by BellSouth (except 997s), BellSouth requires functional acknowledgments (997s) be returned by CLECs within 24 hours.
- BellSouth requires 48-hours notice prior to a CLEC's conversion from Test to Production.
- BellSouth requires written notice of at least 20 business days in advance of initial setup or for any changes to a CLEC's connectivity selection or Interchange and/or Group IDs.
- Turnaround time between BellSouth's receipt of an inbound (850/860) document and BellSouth's return of the corresponding outbound (855/865) document is contingent upon the ordering systems associated with the local service request. If specific turnaround time is desired, the CLEC should discuss this with your BellSouth account team.

Products and Services To Be Tested

☐ Service with One Feature   TBD   Verified by BellSouth: _____

☐ POTS (Plain Old Telephone Service)   TBD   Verified by BellSouth: _____

☐ ISDN   TBD   Verified by BellSouth: _____

☐ Synchronet   TBD   Verified by BellSouth: _____

☐ Port   TBD   Verified by BellSouth: _____

☐ Number Portability   TBD   Verified by BellSouth: _____

☐ Loop   TBD   Verified by BellSouth: _____

☐ Loop with Number Portability   TBD   Verified by BellSouth: _____