

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

Resolution No. 166/2007 on the regulation of Internet service provision in commercial outlets and public places

Pursuant to the Telecommunications Regulatory Act issued by the Royal Decree No. 30/2002 and amendments thereto, and based on the exigencies of the public interest.

It is resolved:

Article 1: In the application of the provisions of this Resolution, the terms and expressions contained herein shall have the same meanings as provided in the Telecommunications Regulatory Act, whereas the following terms and expressions shall have the meanings shown against each:

Internet Service Provider: Any natural or legal person that provides Internet service after obtaining the required license pursuant to the provisions set out in the said Telecommunications Regulatory Act.

Voice Over IP: Carrying of telephone voice calls through the World Wide Internet using Internet Protocol rather than PSTN.

Article 2: Internet service may not be offered in commercial outlets and public places except after registration with the Authority.

Article 3: A fee of RO 10/= shall be collected in the following instances:

- i. On registration with the Authority to offer Internet service in commercial outlets and public places.
- ii. On renewal of registration with the Authority to offer Internet service in commercial outlets and public places.
- iii. Upon issuing a new Certificate of Registration.

Article 4: Internet service may only be provided through a licensed Internet Service Provider in Oman.

Article 5: A sum of RO 100/= shall be deposited with the Authority as a financial guarantee and shall be refunded upon the closure of the outlet by the owner due to business shutdown.

Article 6: Internet Service Providers in commercial outlets and public places shall comply with the following:

1. Notify the Authority 30 days in advance when closing down finally, changing the location, or selling the cyber café.
2. Install anti-virus software.
3. Inform users of Internet of the legally prohibited uses.
4. Prevent the use of any hardware or software components that may facilitate prohibited use by Internet users.
5. Authenticate personal data of Internet users and enter such data into a special register to be signed by users, stating time and date of use.
6. Ensure the privacy and confidentiality of information subject to any requirement under the law, which may be obtained or acquired by the Internet Service Provider from any person to whom the service is being provided unless the Internet Service Provider is legally bound to disclose such information.
7. Abide by the applicable rules and regulations.

Article 7: Internet Café owners shall have the capability to identify computers from which the surfing, download of text, or download of voice has been done, and keep electronic record on the usage of Internet for a period of not less than three months.

Article 8: Internet Café owners shall enable officials of the Authority who are empowered with judicial authority to access places of Internet use for purposes of inspection and perusal of registers and scrutiny and examination of the equipment used to provide the service.

Article 9: Internet Café owners shall not allow Voice Over IP (VOIP) or give any facilities or directives to users to enable them to use this prohibited service.

Article 10: Internet Café physical layout shall be designed so that all computers shall be facing outward to the open space of the Internet Café with no closed cubicles or partition.

Article 11: Internet Cafés shall install CCTV systems (Closed Circuit TV) and keep records for at least three months.

Article 12: Without prejudice to any penalty set out in the Telecommunications Regulatory Act referred to above, or any other law, the Authority may in the event of breaching this Resolution temporarily close the Internet Café for one month. In the event of repeating the breach, the financial guarantee shall be withdrawn, the approval issued by the authority be revoked and the Internet Café be permanently shut down.

Article 13: This Resolution shall be published in the Gazette and shall come into force from the date following its publication.

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Chairman, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

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