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PART I.—GENERAL.

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GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

“THE CEYLON TELEGRAPH ORDINANCE, 1908.”

P 162/28

RULE made by His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council under section 7 of “The Ceylon Telegraph Ordinance, 1908.”

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, September 24, 1929.

By His Excellency's command,
F. G. TYRRELL,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

RULE REFERRED TO.

Parts (a), (c), (d), (e), and (h) of Rule 16 of the rules dated August 19, 1909, published as a *Supplement to Gazette* No. 6,325 of August 27, 1909, are hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor as from October 1, 1929:—

16. (a) Plain language is that which presents an intelligible meaning in one or more of the languages authorized for International Telegraphic correspondence each word and each expression having the meaning normally assigned to it in the language to which it belongs. Genuine Ceylon vernacular words are also admissible.

(c) Code language is composed either of artificial words; or of real words not used with the meaning normally assigned to them in the language to which they belong and consequently not forming intelligible phrases in one or more of the languages authorized for telegraphic correspondence in plain language; or lastly of a mixture of real words as defined and artificial words. Genuine Ceylon vernacular words are also admissible.

(d) By telegrams in code language is meant telegrams of which the text contains words belonging to this class of language. These telegrams are divided into two categories A and B.

Category A.—Telegrams of which the text contains code words of not more than 10 letters having at least one vowel if they comprise not more than five letters, at least two vowels if they comprise 6, 7, or 8 letters, and at least three vowels if they comprise 9 or 10 letters. In words of more than five letters one vowel at least must be in the first 5 letters and at least one vowel in the rest of the word, subject in addition in the case of words of 9 or 10 letters to the minimum of three vowels in all. The vowels are a, e, i, o, u, y. Groups formed by combining two or more words of plain language contrary to the custom of the language to which the words belong are forbidden.

Category B.—Telegrams of which the text contains code words of not more than five letters subject to no condition or restriction as to the method of formation of the words. In both categories of telegrams code words may not contain the accented letters \bar{a} , \acute{a} , \grave{a} , \acute{e} , \grave{e} , \bar{o} , \acute{o} , \grave{o} , \bar{u} ; and the groups ae, aa, ao, oe, ue, ch are each counted as two letters. In Indo-Ceylon telegrams the use of vernacular words is admissible as code.

16. (e) Combinations which do not fulfil the conditions of clauses (c) and (d) are not admitted (*see* Rule 47 *et seq.*). In code language the maximum length of a word is fixed at ten letters for telegrams of Category A and at five letters for telegrams of Category B.

(h) In the text of a mixed telegram containing both plain language words and code words of Category A the plain language words are also counted at the rate of ten letters to a word. If the mixed telegram is in Category B the plain language words are counted at the rate of 15 letters to a word and the code words at the rate of five letters to a word. In mixed telegrams of either category containing also groups of figures, the figures are counted in accordance with the provisions of Rule 51. Code language of both Categories A and B occurring in the same telegram will be charged at the rate of 10 and 5 letters respectively to a word.

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Colonial Secretary's Office,
Colombo, September 24, 1929.

By His Excellency's command,
F. G. TYRRELL,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

RULE REFERRED TO.

The rules dated June 16, 1927, published in *Gazette* No. 7,589 of June 17, 1927, are hereby amended as follows as from October 1, 1929 :—

1. Rule 135 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

135. The text of telegrams may be in plain or secret language, the latter being subdivided into code and cipher language except as stated in Rule 139, Category B. Each of these languages may be used alone or together with the others in the same telegram.

2. In Rule 136, the first sentence is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

Plain language is that which represents an intelligible meaning in one or more of the languages authorized for International Telegraphic Correspondence, each word and each expression having the meaning normally assigned to it in the language to which it belongs.

3. Rule 138 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

138. Code language is composed either of artificial words; or of real words not used with the meaning normally assigned to them in the language to which they belong and consequently not forming intelligible phrases in one or more of the languages authorized for telegraphic correspondence in plain language; or lastly of a mixture of real words as defined and artificial words.

4. Rule 139 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

139. By telegrams in code language is meant telegrams of which the text contains words belonging to this class of language. These telegrams are divided into two categories A and B.

Category A.—Telegrams of which the text contains code words of not more than ten letters having at least one vowel if they comprise not more than five letters, at least two vowels if they comprise 6, 7, or 8 letters, and at least 3 vowels if they comprise 9 or 10 letters. In words of more than 5 letters one vowel at least must be in the first five letters and at least one vowel in the rest of the word, subject in addition in the case of words of nine or ten letters to the minimum of three vowels in all. The vowels are a, e, i, o, u, y. Groups formed by combining two or more words of plain language contrary to the custom of the language to which the words belong are forbidden.

Category B.—Telegrams of which the text contains code words of not more than five letters subject to no condition or restriction as to the method of formation of the words. Figures and groups of figures are not admitted; commercial marks consisting of a mixture of figures and letters are however accepted if the sender can prove that they really are commercial marks.

5. Rule 140 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

140. In both categories of telegrams A and B code words may not contain the accented letters \bar{a} , \acute{a} , \grave{a} , \acute{e} , \grave{e} , \bar{o} , \acute{o} , \grave{o} , \bar{u} , and the groups ae, aa, ao, oe, ue, ch are each counted as two letters. In Indo-Ceylon telegrams the use of vernacular words is admissible as code.

6. Rule 141 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

141. Telegrams of Category A are subject to the full rates. Telegrams of Category B are charged at 2/3rd the full rate rounded off to the next multiple of 5 cents, and are subject to a minimum of the charge for four words.

7. The following new Rules 141A, 141B, and 141C are added :—

141A. For charging purposes, a telegram in code language may not be regarded as coming partly in Category A and partly in Category B. From this point of view it must be classed exclusively in one or other of the two categories.

141B. In the case of code telegrams or mixed telegrams of Category A the sender must produce the code from which the text of the telegram has been taken, if the office of origin or the Administration to which this office is subject requests it.

141c. Combinations which do not fulfil the conditions of Rules 136, 138, and 139 are treated according to the stipulations of Rule 195 and charged at the same rate as the rest of the telegram.

8. Rule 142 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

142. Cipher language is that which is composed—

(1) Of Arabic figures, groups or series of Arabic figures with a secret meaning.

(2) Of words, names, expressions, or combinations of letters not fulfilling the conditions of plain language (Rules 136 and 137), or of code language (Rules 138 to 141B).

9. Rule 143 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

143. The employment in one group of figures and letters having a secret meaning is not admitted.

10. Rule 189 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

189. *Code Language*.—In code language the maximum length of a word is fixed at ten letters for telegrams of Category A and at 5 letters for telegrams of Category B (Rule 139).

11. Rule 190 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

190. *Mixed Telegrams*.—In the text of a mixed telegram containing both plain language words and code words of Category A the plain language words are counted at the rate of ten letters to a word, any excess of less than ten letters being reckoned as a word. If the mixed telegram is in Category B, the plain language words are counted at the rate of five letters to a word, any excess of less than five letters being counted as a word. This rule applies also to proper names including registered abbreviated addresses (Rule 165).

12. Rule 191 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

191. If the mixed telegram of Category A contains also cipher language the cipher groups are counted in accordance with the provisions of Rule 195.

13. The following new Rule 195A is added :—

195A. Figures are not admitted in code language of Category B except as commercial marks. Such commercial marks should be a mixture of figures and letters in the same group.

14. Rule 197 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

197. Combinations or alterations of words contrary to the usage of the language to which the words belong are not allowed in plain language telegrams, in code telegrams of Category A, and in mixed plain language and cipher telegrams, that is to say, telegrams of which the text contains both words in plain language and groups of figures ; the same rule applies when the combinations or alterations are disguised by reversing the order of the letters or syllables. Nevertheless, the names of towns and countries, family names belonging to one person, the full names of places, squares, boulevards, streets and other public ways, names of ships, compound words admitted as such in English and French which can be justified if necessary, whole numbers, fractions, decimals, or fractional numbers written in words, may be grouped as a single word which is counted in accordance with the provisions of Rules 187–190. Numbers written in words which represent single figures or groups of figures taken separately, for example, thirty-thirty instead of three-thousand-and-thirty or sixfoursix instead of sixhundred-and-fortysix are also admitted and counted at the rate of 5 letters (Code B), 10 letters (Code A), or 15 letters (plain language) to a word.

15. In Rule 198, the second paragraph is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

Nevertheless, when a telegram in plain language or a mixed plain and cipher telegram contains combinations or alterations of words of a language other than that of the country of origin, contrary to the usage of the language, Administrations have the right to direct that the Delivery Office shall collect from the addressee the amount undercharged. When this right is exercised, the Delivery Office may refuse to deliver the telegram if the addressee refuses to pay.

16. Rule 199 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

199. *Inadmissible Group of Words*.—When the Administration of origin ascertains that an undercharge has been made for a telegram in plain language or in mixed plain and cipher language, it may collect the deficiency from the sender and it acts similarly when the irregularity is brought to its notice by an Administration of transit or the Administration of delivery. In the latter case if the charges can be collected, their shares of the amount are due to the different Administrations concerned.

17. The following new Rule 200A is added :—

200A. The Administrations controlling the office of destination or transit of a telegram containing code words of Category A which are not in conformity with the prescribed rules of formation have the right to debit from office to office, if necessary, the Administration of origin with the amount of the additional charge due.

18. Rule 203 is repealed and the following is substituted therefor :—

203. *Charge by the Word*.—The tariff is established by the word pure and simple but for code telegrams of Category B (Rule 139) a compulsory minimum of the charge for four words is collected. Tables showing the rates per word to foreign countries are published in the Post Office Guide. The charge for foreign telegrams of Category B (Rule 139) is calculated at $\frac{2}{3}$ rd the ordinary rate rounded to the next multiple of 5 cents.