Product Usage Charges

Rating list on Usage Charges tab defines where users of this product can use the service, and how they will be charged for it.

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Field	Description
Node	The node on which the service is provided to the end
	users.
Tariff	A tariff is applied to end users to charge for the provided
	service.
Access Code	Identification of the access code (method) on that node.
	This parameter allows you to use different rate plans for
	the same service. For example, you may choose a rate plan
	according to the PSTN access number (local or toll-free)
	that the customer has dialed. Or you may use different rate
	plans for outgoing, incoming and forwarded calls in your
	SIP calls service using the OUTGOING, INCOMING
	and FOLLOWME access codes, respectively. (While for
	services such as prepaid cards the access code is a number,
	for other services any string may be used, so long as it is
	one provided by the application handling the call).
	Advanced Config
Service	This parameter allows / disallows end users to use certain
Allowed to	services when their accounts are suspended:
Suspended	 None – No services are provided to
Users	suspended users;
00010	Only Zero Charged Services – Allows
	your customers to continue using free
	services during suspension. For example, if
	your customer's account is suspended and
	you want to allow them to continue
	receiving incoming calls (since they are free)
	select this option.
Originating	This parameter allows accounts to be billed depending on
line	where the call is originated from. Simply associate the
information	corresponding tariff with any OLI in Usage Charging.
	Please note that the gateway should be configured to
	support OLI.
Rate Match	This parameter allows you to rate calls either based on
Mode	their destination or the caller's number:
	Default – Rating based on the
	destination number
	• Calling number – Allows the use of the
	caller's number to calculate billing
	charges (e.g. for charging the owner of
	a toll-free number for incoming calls).
	Overdraft Protection
Remaining	When set to Positive amount available , account should
balance	have some available funds to use the service, regardless of
requirement	the service itself being provided for free (e.g. free call).
•	Switching this option to Positive amount greater than
	breakage allows you to set the minimum available funds

	PortaBilling Help - Product Usage
	required for using the service to the product's breakage value. The option No restriction allows a session to start without first checking the account's available funds.
Lock at least	Select to set the funds for each individual session to be locked to a specified value (effective only if the specified value is higher than the computed deposit amount required for the session authorization).
	If an account's available funds fall below a certain value, you can use this option together with the Remaining balance requirement option to restrict usage to only one session at a time (even for free sessions), thus providing additional overdraft protection.
	Or you can use this option together with the Each subsequent fund lock allocates no more than option to provide additional protection for simultaneous session use. (For example, select the Each subsequent fund lock allocates no more than option from the Lock at least list and more funds will be locked without changing the sessions' duration).
Limit maximum locked funds for each session to	Select to reduce the funds to be locked for each individual session but does not restrict the session itself (effective only if the specified value is lower than the computed funds required for session authorization). This option weakens the strictness of overdraft protection, so the user can use funds above the limit to initiate several simultaneous sessions.
	You can use this option to fine tune the strictness of overdraft protection for postpaid services where a certain overdraft can be allowed. In this case, the funds above the limit can be used for several simultaneous sessions.
Each subsequent fund lock allocates no more than	In the case of a single session, this determines the maximum amount of account funds to be used for the session, and in the case of dynamic reauthorization, this determines the extension (chunk) of already consumed funds. This option limits the maximum amount of funds requested by the NAS, thus allowing more strict protection. It may be used for static authorization in order to leave some account funds unlocked and accommodate simultaneous usage of other services.
	If dynamic reauthorization is unavailable and there is a big price difference in the tariff, this option can't be applied effectively (e.g. if this option has low value, expensive calls would be limited to very short durations; if it has high value, cheap calls would be authorized with overly long durations, unnecessarily blocking the account from simultaneous usage). In this case, you can use this option to fine tune the strictness of overdraft protection.
Send alerts	Attempts to use the services simultaneously while all funds
when overdraft	are locked by a session can signal a fraud attempt (for
is detected	services such as calling with prepaid cards). This can be
	the result of inaccurate overdraft protection constraints. Turn this option on in order to receive real-time email alerts about these attempts.

Tariff per access point

By default, you define different ways of charging for your service based on the way the service is accessed (a combination of parameters such as node, access code, etc.). For example, when a user calls your gateway via a toll-free access number, a different (more expensive) tariff will be applied than if he were calling via a local access number.

To add rating entry:

- 1. Click the **Add** button to access the **Add Usage Charges** screen.
- 2. Choose a Service.
- 3. Choose a **Node** where the service will be provided.
- 4. Type in the Access Code value (if required).
- 5. In the **Tariff** drop-down list, you can choose a specific tariff that should be applied to the customer. For the **Voice Calls** service type, y can also choose the special entry **Assign Tariff per Routing Plan**, in order to define additional tariff routing plan combinations. A specific tariff will be applied based on which routing plan was used for a particular call.
- 6. Configure overdraft protection for this product. Use the **Advanced Config** button to define the overdraft protection settings.
- 7. Click the **Update** button.

Assign tariffs per routing plan

For a voice call service, you can also choose to apply a different tariff based on which routing plan (i.e. which set of vendors – cheaper or more expensive ones) was used to terminate the call. Thus if a customer chooses to use premium routes, he will be charged more, while if he uses a routing plan that includes low-cost carriers, he will be charged less.

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Switching from the "simple" use of one tariff for outgoing calls, regardless of the routing plan, is a step that requires attention to detail. You are already able to assign any routing plan to any customer; and all accounts will automatically be assigned the same routing plan that was previously assigned to their customer. If the administrator now reconfigures the product to use "tariff per routing plan", but does not take into considerati that some customers had a particular routing plan assigned to them, and thus omits that routing plan from the rating list, an unpleasant situatior may arise. Now when a customer with an account whose routing plan has been omitted tries to make a phone call without specifying a selection code, the call will be rejected, since the product's rating list effectively says: "We don't want customers of this product to use this routing plan?" order to prevent this happening through an operator error, PortaBilling® pre-populates the table for routing plan / tariff mapping with **all** the routing plans currently assigned to accounts of this product. You then have a clear overview of all the routing plans that are being used, and can decide which tariff should be applied to each of them.

To edit the rating list:

- 1. Click the **Edit** button.
- 2. Choose the service, node, and tariff from the drop-down lists.
- 3. Type in the Access Code value, if any.
- 4. Change the overdraft protection parameters, if necessary.
- 5. Click the **Update** button.