

### **Annex 13.4(1)**

Article 13.4 does not apply to rural telephone companies, as defined in section 3(37) of the Communications Act of 1996, unless a state regulatory authority orders otherwise. Moreover, a state regulatory authority may exempt a rural local exchange carrier, as defined in section 251(f)(2) of the Communications Act of 1996, from the obligations contained in Article 13.4.