



## PRESS RELEASE

DATE : August 1, 2011  
ENTITY : BUREAU TELECOMMUNICATIONS and POST ST. MAARTEN (BTP)  
TOPIC : **1-721: NEW DIALING CODE COUNTRY ST. MAARTEN**  
NOTE : FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 will mark the commencement of the use of the dialing code 1-721 for St. Maarten.

During the Permissive Dialing Period September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011- September 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 calls to St. Maarten using either 00-599 or 1-721 shall be processed regularly be it that callers using 00-599 shall be advised that the dialing code has changed and the new code should be used.

After this one (1) year period the Mandatory Dialing Period will commence and remain in effect until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013. In this period calls using 00-599 to St. Maarten shall not be processed and callers will be advised to dial 1-721 for calls to St. Maarten.

The use of country code 00-599 will be discontinued for St. Maarten but this dialing code (00-599) will remain in effect for Curacao, Sint Eustatius, Saba, and Bonaire.

Local dialing remains the same and persons and businesses can be reached through dialing of the 7-digit local numbers. International dialing will change by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 as the dialing pattern to make overseas calls from St. Maarten will change. BTP shall undertake an educational program to duly inform the public on dialing during the permissive dialing period.

Countries participating in the North American Numbering Plan are the United States, Canada and most of the Caribbean region: "Anguilla, Antigua, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago". Dialing to these destinations will be easier as all these destinations share the country code **1** with St. Maarten.

St. Maarten's participation in the NANP also marks its integration in the Eastern Caribbean, a region in which it is located, with which it interacts and serves.

Throughout the permissive dialing period the BTP shall undertake instruction and educational campaigns to aid the transition and to ensure understanding, preparedness of the entire community of St. Maarten, so the community may embrace the changes and enjoy the benefits that this transition will bring.

Bureau Telecommunication and Post St. Maarten requests all residents and businesses to get informed and to take serious note of this important development for country St. Maarten. Everyone is urged to make the necessary preparations and inform all their personal contacts and business relations timely of this upcoming change.

**The Director.**