

Long SMS for Iridium 9555

AST advise all Iridium 9555 customers that Iridium have completed network enhancements which support Long SMS – messages that exceed 160 characters, up to 1,000 characters in length.

Iridium introduced predictive text entry software in the 9555 in May 2009. This text is supported in English, French and Spanish and is accessible in the 9555 menu under **Setup > Language > Text Entry**.

The 9555 shows an SMS character counter at the top right of the screen when composing an SMS message. Messages that exceed 160 characters will be billed per 160 character segment for mobile-originated messages, consistent with current rates for standard SMS messages. Long SMS messages will not appear differently on invoices, they will appear as standard 160 character SMS messages, for example, a Long SMS with a character count of 300 will be sent as two separate 160 character SMS messages and will be billed accordingly. Messages will also be received as separate 160 character SMS messages.

Long SMS is currently supported for:

- Iridium 9555-to-Iridium Satellite Phone
- Iridium 9555-to-Supported Cell Phones
- Iridium 9555-to Email
- Supported Cell Phones-to-Iridium 9555

Long messages sent via email to an Iridium 9555s email address ([8816\[number\]@msg.iridium.com](mailto:8816[number]@msg.iridium.com)) will be received with only the first 160 characters (long SMS is not supported), the capability to support Long SMS from email may be introduced later this year.

In anticipation of support for Long SMS, Iridium added in the 9555 user guide in 2009 to explain the use of SMS and the billing methodology. This language for end users of the Iridium 9555 Satellite Phone appears in the "[Using the Message Menu](#)" section of the user guide.

AST recommend that all Iridium customers run the latest versions of firmware.

If you have any questions or have issues downloading the firmware, please contact AST Customer Service on:

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