What is a pager?

There are 3 main types of pagers available, tone, numeric and alphanumeric - each with their own set of advantages to the user.

- **Tone pagers** have a simple beep alert once the pager number has been called. Tone paging is ideal when the same number, such as home or the office regularly contacts you.
- **Numeric Pagers** are capable of receiving and storing numbered messages of up to 20 digits. Numeric codes can be established to accompany the callers telephone number to appear on the pager.
- **Alphanumeric pagers** are capable of receiving test messages up to 200 characters in length. Messages can be sent to an alphanumeric message via the message centre, a PC with the appropriate software, or through an AirPage e-mail (see the section on AirPage).

Why have a pager?

There are a number of reasons why you should have a pager, whether for personal use, business use, or general contactability. A few of these are summarised below:

- **Discrete:** Paging is a great way of receiving discrete non-intrusive messages, which you can then prioritise and reply to at your convenience.
- **Coverage:** Is a major plus for Telecom paging, New Zealand's populated areas and traffic routes offer extensive coverage. For more detail see our coverage map.
- **Availability:** Most pagers will operate for 2-3 months on one AAA alkaline battery, meaning you never have to turn your pager off.
- **Freedom:** Carrying a pager can give you the freedom to leave the office and still be contactable wherever you go.
- **Flexibility:** Paging allows you to receive messages wherever you are and prioritise your responses.
- **Cost Effectiveness:** It costs as little as 10c plus GST to send a message to a Telecom Pager.
- **Detail:** Pagers can receive messages of up to 200 characters. This can include enough information to remove the need for a return call.
- **Reliability:** Paging is reliable and accurate, backed up by Telecom's comprehensive paging network.
- **Ease of use:** Pagers are very simple to use, a message can be read at the touch of a single button.
- **Group Paging:** Software is available that will allow you to send out messages to an individual pager or a large group.
- **Size:** Pagers are small and unobtrusive, they can be clipped to your belt and don't take up extra space when combined with a mobile phone.
- **Notification:** Pagers can also be used to notify you when you have messages on your fixed phone or mobile phone.
- **Message Centre Services:** See advanced services to see how the Telecom message centre can benefit you or your business

- You can receive a lot more detail in a pager message, often removing the need and cost of a return mobile call.
- Pagers are designed for receiving text messages, making detailed messages easier to read than on a mobile.
- Pagers are always on. You'll always be in touch and if it is urgent, you'll get to know about it faster than on a mobile.
- All pagers offer a vibrate mode, making them discrete. Taking a pager message in a meeting is less intrusive than a mobile call, and can be done discretely so that people feel you are still concentrating on them not a phone call.
- Paging coverage and strength allows you to pick up messages inside large buildings and in rural areas.
- As it cost's as little as 10c plus GST to send a pager message, it is a lot cheaper for customers or staff to message you, as opposed to calling a mobile phone (which can cost up to 71c when calling from a fixed phone).
- With a pager you can be notified of every new message in your cellular or fixed phone mailbox. If a message is marked as urgent your pager will notify you of this and place that message in front of others. Each time a message is left your pager will let you know how many new messages are sitting in your mailbox.

www.telecom.co.nz   www.abilene.com

Tone and voice - Besides alerting the user to an incoming message, the tone and voice pager delivers the message that the caller has spoken into the telephone receiver. The user has the advantage of receiving the maximum amount of information with this type of pager because he is able to listen to the actual message, he knows who is calling and can receive instructions / information without necessarily having to even return the call. Its disadvantages are that others within the immediate area will also hear the message and a high noise or weak signal area may prevent the user from hearing the message at all.

Numeric Display - The most popular pager available is the digital display type. After alerting the user to an incoming message, the pager displays a numeric massage, (normally a telephone number). The message is much more private and is retained in the pagers memory for later reference. With a numeric pager, most of the time the user will know who is calling when he sees the number. A code can even be added to the end of the number, (a 1, 2 or 3), denoting the importance of the call or the identity of the caller.

Alpha / Numeric Display - This pager displays words as well as numbers. It will work just like a numeric pager if the caller is calling from a touch-tone telephone. However, if the caller is using an Alpha Entry Terminal or PC, if the message is being delivered via E-mail or if the pager user has Alpha Transcription (voice message delivery) the entire text of the message will be delivered to the pager.

A **facsimile (fax) machine** is a device that transmits and receives documents over telephone lines.

Documents sent or received via a fax machine are known as **faxes**.

Fax capability can also be added to the computer using a [fax modem](#).

Advantages of Fax

Hard copies are available.

Disadvantages of Fax

Sending a big document can be slow.

Wasteful of paper when junk faxes are sent.