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The Verizon copper changes.

A checklist for Maryland business owners.

Four things to check in your building, and the order to do them in. October 2026.

30 Nov 2026	WC 26-252
EARLIEST EFFECTIVE DATE	FCC DOCKET, PUBLIC

WHAT HAS ACTUALLY HAPPENED

On 9 September 2026 Verizon asked the FCC for permission to stop legacy copper phone lines - TDM-based POTS - at about 750,000 locations across Maryland, DC and eight other states. The earliest day anything can change is 30 November 2026.

This does not mean every copper line switches off that day, or that your phone system stops working. If you hold a service named in the filing, you have a date to work to. Verizon writes to whoever the line is billed to, which may be an account nobody regularly opens.

ONE SERVICE. FIVE PLACES IT ENDS UP

1 Analog Phone System
Older Phone Systems

2 Fire alarm panel
Often reports over two analog lines.

3 Fax line
May still be used by a bank or insurer.

4 Demarcation point
Where services enter. Count the pairs.

5 Gate or outbuilding
These lines are often poorly documented.

THE PHONE SYSTEM IS THE SMALL HALF OF THIS

The elevator phone and the fire panel are code obligations. A dead line may not be noticed until somebody needs it.

PREPARED FOR

BUILDING / LOCATION

Walk your building and find these eight things.

Complete the checklist, add notes, and save or print the filled PDF.

- [ ] Analog Phone System
- [ ] The burglar alarm panel and its communication method
- [ ] The gate, barrier, pool, or loading dock phone
- [ ] The card terminal and whether it falls back to a phone line
- [ ] The fire alarm panel: phone lines, cellular, or IP communicator?
- [ ] Any fax machine still plugged in and where its number is printed
- [ ] Any well, lift station, generator, or cold store with an auto-dialer
- [ ] The demarcation point where lines enter; count the pairs

THEN DO THESE FOUR THINGS, IN THIS ORDER

- [ ] 1 **Find the Verizon notice**
  If you cannot find it, ask Verizon business service in writing whether your account is named.
- [ ] 2 **Get a list of every line at the building, and what each one feeds**
  The phone bill lists numbers, not purposes. Someone may need to trace them.
- [ ] 3 **Deal with code-required devices first**
  Elevator and alarm systems carry legal obligations and may require specialized vendors.
- [ ] 4 **Only then look at the phone system**
  Once line requirements are known, replacement scope and cost can be estimated.

IMPORTANT

Cloud phones do not replace separate elevator, fire panel, alarm, fax, gate, or auto-dialer services. Coordinate code-required devices with the appropriate elevator, fire, alarm, and communications providers.

Verify the current status directly in the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System using docket WC 26-252.

NOTES / LINE INVENTORY