

ARTICLE 12

**Seasonal planning of the HF bands allocated to the
broadcasting service between 5 900 kHz and 26 100 kHz****Section I – Introduction**

12.1 The use of the frequency bands allocated to high frequency broadcasting (HFBC) between 5 900 kHz and 26 100 kHz shall be based on the principles given below and shall be in conformity with seasonal planning based on a coordination procedure between administrations (referred in this Article as the Procedure) described in **12.2** to **12.45**. An administration may authorize a broadcasting organization (referred to in this Article as a broadcaster), among others, to act on its behalf in this coordination.

Section II – Principles

12.2 § 1 The Procedure shall be based on the principle of equal rights of all countries, large or small, to equitable access to these bands. Attempts shall also be made to achieve efficient use of these frequency bands, account being taken of the technical and economic constraints that may exist in certain cases. On the basis of the foregoing, the following principles shall be applied.

12.3 § 2 All broadcasting requirements, formulated by administrations, shall be taken into account and treated on an equitable basis, so as to guarantee the equality of rights referred to in No. **12.2**, and to enable each administration to provide a satisfactory service.

12.4 § 3 The Procedure shall be based solely on the broadcasting requirements expected to become operational during the schedule period. It shall furthermore be flexible in order to take into account new broadcasting requirements and modifications to existing broadcasting requirements.

12.5 § 4 All broadcasting requirements, national¹ and international, shall be treated on an equal basis, with due consideration of the differences between these two kinds of broadcasting requirements.

12.6 § 5 In the Procedure, an attempt shall be made to ensure, as far as practicable, continuity of use of a frequency or of a frequency band.

¹ **12.5.1** An HF broadcasting requirement is considered as being for the purposes of national coverage when the transmitting station and its associated required service area are both located within the territory of the same country.

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12.7 § 6 The Procedure shall be based on double-sideband or single-sideband emissions. Other modulation techniques recommended by ITU-R shall be permitted in place of double-sideband or single-sideband emissions, provided that the level of interference caused to existing emissions is not increased.

12.8 § 7 To promote efficient spectrum use, the number of frequencies used shall be the minimum necessary to provide a satisfactory quality of reception. Whenever practicable, only one frequency should be used.

12.9 § 8 The Procedure shall include a technical analysis, as specified in the Radio Regulations Board Rules of Procedure.

12.10 § 9 The Procedure should encourage administrations or broadcasters empowered to make changes to pursue a continual coordination process to resolve incompatibilities, at meetings (regional² or worldwide, bilateral or multilateral) or by correspondence.

12.11 § 10 Regional coordination groups, which will facilitate bilateral and multilateral coordination among administrations and broadcasters in various regions of the world, shall identify themselves to the Bureau. Administrations and broadcasters shall be urged to participate in the relevant regional coordination groups. However, such participation would be on a voluntary basis.

12.12 § 11 When an administration, in particular the administration of a developing country, requests assistance in the application of the Procedure, the Bureau shall take appropriate action, including, if need be, coordination of the requirements submitted by the requesting administration.

12.13 § 12 The regional coordination groups should follow the coordination procedures prescribed in Section III. In the process of coordinating broadcasting requirements, an attempt shall be made to obtain agreement to the maximum number of submitted requirements with the quality level acceptable to administrations or broadcasters.

12.14 § 13 In order to ensure maximum success from the Procedure, administrations and broadcasters shall show the utmost goodwill and mutual cooperation, and give due consideration to all the relevant technical and operational factors involved.

Section III – The Procedure

12.15 The application of the Procedure shall be facilitated and coordinated by the Bureau as defined elsewhere in this Article.

² **12.10.1** The word “regional” in this Article is not related to the ITU Regions.

12.16 Twice yearly, administrations shall submit their projected seasonal broadcasting schedules in the relevant frequency bands to the Bureau. These schedules shall cover the following seasonal periods:

12.17 Schedule A: Last Sunday in March to last Sunday in October.

12.18 Schedule B: Last Sunday in October to last Sunday in March.

12.19 Implementation of these schedules shall start at 0100 UTC.

12.20 If an administration considers it necessary to take account of propagation changes during the schedule period, it is recommended, for reasons of spectrum efficiency, that such requirements should be implemented on the following dates:

12.21 first Sunday in May;

12.22 first Sunday in September.

12.23 Implementation of these changes shall start at 0100 UTC on these dates.

12.24 Other start and stop dates within a schedule period may be used to accommodate requirements that have different schedule periods, e.g. special events, clock changes on different dates not coincident with the schedule period, etc.

12.25 Administrations may include assignments in their schedules up to one year in advance of their use.

12.26 In those cases where an administration does not indicate its requirements for a new seasonal schedule, the Bureau shall use the assignments from the previous corresponding seasonal schedule for this administration for the new schedule period. A note in the schedule shall be used to identify such requirements. The Bureau shall follow this practice for two consecutive schedule periods.

12.27 Following the action taken in No. **12.26**, the Bureau shall notify the administration concerned that the schedule will not include their broadcasting requirements unless the administration advises otherwise.

12.28 When an administration decides to cease its broadcasting service in the HF bands, it shall notify the Bureau of that decision.

12.29 The frequencies in the schedules should be those that will be used during the season concerned, and should be the minimum number required to provide satisfactory reception of the programmes in each of the areas and for each of the periods intended. In each schedule, to the maximum possible extent, the frequencies to be used in each reception area should remain unchanged from season to season.

12.30 Administrations are encouraged to coordinate their schedules with other administrations as far as possible prior to submission. An administration may, on behalf of a group of administrations, submit their coordinated schedules, the frequencies of which shall however have no priority for use over those submitted by other administrations.

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12.31 The closing dates for receipt by the Bureau of the schedules relating to the two seasons referred to in No. **12.17** and **12.18** shall be established and published by the Bureau.

12.32 The schedules shall be submitted with the relevant data as specified in Appendix 4.

12.33 Upon receipt of the schedules, the Bureau shall, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, validate the data where necessary, perform a compatibility analysis and prepare the tentative high frequency broadcasting schedule (the Tentative Schedule). This Schedule shall include all assignments where administrations gave no alternatives, the selections made by the Bureau from any alternatives given, and the frequencies selected by the Bureau in cases where the need for its assistance was indicated by their intentional omission from the individual schedules.

12.34 The Tentative Schedule shall be published at least two months before the start of each of the two schedule periods in Nos. **12.17** and **12.18**.

12.35 Administrations should examine the Tentative Schedule and should coordinate their frequency schedules to resolve or to minimize, as far as possible, any incompatibilities identified by the compatibility analysis, or by the monitoring results of similar assignments, or by a combination of both.

12.36 Coordination shall be achieved through bilateral or multilateral meetings of administrations or broadcasters or other means acceptable to the parties concerned.

12.37 Administrations, either jointly or separately, shall inform the Bureau, as quickly as possible, but no later than two weeks prior to the start of the schedule period, of any changes to their requirements resulting from the coordination process. The Bureau shall prepare a new consolidated high frequency broadcasting schedule (the Schedule), and shall perform a new compatibility analysis. The Bureau shall publish the Schedule and the results of the compatibility analysis at the start of the relevant broadcasting season.

12.38 Administrations shall notify the Bureau of changes to their schedules as quickly as possible and the Bureau shall update and make available the Schedule on a monthly basis. The Bureau shall perform new compatibility analyses and publish the updated Schedule and the results of these analyses every two months during the season.

12.39 To facilitate the coordination process, the Bureau shall also forward the schedules to the regional coordination groups.

12.40 Regional coordination groups should consider communicating with administrations and broadcasters through the use of any appropriate, mutually agreeable means, such as e-mail, news-groups, bulletin boards and other forms of electronic data transfer.

12.41 Each regional coordination group should consider appointing a steering committee to ensure smooth progress of the coordination process.

12.42 During and after the coordination process, the regional coordination groups shall exchange schedule data among themselves with a view to further enhancing the efficacy of the coordination process.

12.43 One month after the end of a season, the Bureau shall publish the final high frequency broadcasting schedule (the Final Schedule). If any changes have been notified to the Bureau since the previous consolidated Schedule, the Bureau shall also perform a compatibility analysis and publish it with the Final Schedule.

12.44 The Bureau should, as and when required, convene joint meetings of the representatives of all the regional coordination groups to develop strategies for further reduction of incompatibilities and to discuss related matters. The outcome of these meetings shall be circulated among the regional groups and administrations.

12.45 In a case of harmful interference involving the application of the provisions of Article 15, administrations are urged to exercise the utmost goodwill and mutual cooperation, taking into account all the relevant technical and operational factors of the case.