



Radiocommunication Bureau

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Circular Letter
CR/343

31 January 2013

To administrations of Member States of ITU

Subject: Implementation of provisions relating to the bringing into use and suspension of a frequency assignment to a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit

To the Director-General

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 Introduction

1.1 The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012) (WRC-12) introduced additional provisions in the Radio Regulations, namely No. **11.44.2** and No. **11.44B**, in order to better define the bringing into use of a frequency assignment to a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit (GSO). In addition, item A.2.a of Appendix **4** was modified in order to make a reference to Nos **11.44.2** and **11.44B** in determining the date of bringing into use of a frequency assignment to a GSO space station, including frequency assignments in Appendices **30**, **30A** and **30B**. WRC-12 also modified No. **11.49** and added No. **11.49.1** so as to extend the period allowed for suspension of the use of a frequency assignment to space station to three (3) years, and at the same time to specify the conditions for bringing a recorded frequency assignment back into use. Similarly, §5.2.10, §5.2.11 and footnote 20bis were added in Appendix **30** and §5.2.10, §5.2.11 and footnote 24bis in Appendix **30A** in relation to the suspension of use of a frequency assignment in the List. WRC-12 furthermore modified the provisions of No. **11.41** and added No. **11.41.2** in order to specify the obligations to be fulfilled by the notifying administration when submitting a notice in application of No. **11.41**.

1.2 The Radio Regulations Board, at its 61st meeting, approved the Rules of Procedure relating to No. **11.44B** and No. **11.49**, which became effective on 1 January 2013. Similarly, at its 60th meeting, the Board approved the Rules of Procedure relating to §8.17 of Article 8 of Appendix **30B**, which clarifies the procedure for suspension with reference to the above-mentioned new footnotes of Appendices **30** and **30A**.

1.3 The purpose of this circular letter is to provide administrations with information on the implementation of the above provisions by the Radiocommunication Bureau.

2 Bringing into use

2.1 No. **11.44**, §§4.1.3 and 4.2.6 of Appendices **30** and **30A** and §6.1 of Appendix **30B** establish the regulatory time-limits¹ for bringing into use a frequency assignment to a space station of a satellite network.

2.2 For a frequency assignment to a space station in the GSO, the Bureau will process the information on bringing into use in two steps: initial information and confirmation.

2.3 The information on bringing into use of a frequency assignment may be communicated to the Bureau in two ways, as specified below:

2.3.1 For notification of a frequency assignment to a GSO satellite network under Article **11**, Article 5 of Appendices **30** and **30A** and Article 8 of Appendix **30B** having a date of bringing into use (hereafter referred to as “DBIU”) earlier than the date of receipt of the notice, the initial information shall be considered as communicated to the Bureau when the notifying administration provides the Bureau with the notified DBIU of the frequency assignment, under Nos. **11.15 / 11.25**, §5.1.3 of Appendix **30**, §5.1.7 of Appendix **30A** and §8.1 of Appendix **30B**.

2.3.2 For notification of a frequency assignment to a GSO satellite network under Article 11, Article 5 of Appendices **30** and **30A** and Article 8 of Appendix **30B** having a DBIU later than the date of receipt of the notice, the frequency assignment will be processed under No.**11.47**, §5.3.1 of Appendices **30** and **30A** and §8.16 of Appendix **30B**, as appropriate, leading to a provisional entry in the Master Register.

Thereafter, the administration will communicate to the Bureau the date when the assignment to the satellite network has been actually brought into use, thus providing an updated or confirmed DBIU. This communication will be considered as the “initial information”. This initial information on bringing into use must be received by the Bureau no later than 30 days after the applicable regulatory time-limit (No.**11.47**, §5.3.1 of Appendices **30** and **30A** and §8.16 of Appendix **30B** refer), and the DBIU must be within the regulatory time-limit. Otherwise, the Bureau will cancel the entry in the Master Register in accordance with No.**11.47**, §5.3.1 of Appendices **30** and **30A** and §8.16 of Appendix **30B**, after having informed the administration concerned.

2.3.3 The Bureau will insert the status of the frequency assignment in the SNS [grp.f_biu=“T”], and posts the information on the ITU-BR webpage, indicating “T” for initial information on bringing into use in the Status column.

2.3.4 The notified DBIU provided and confirmed in this initial information phase will be the date of commencement of the 90-day period as stated under No. **11.44.2**.

¹ The regulatory time-limit stipulated under No. **11.44** is seven (7) years. §§4.1.3 and 4.2.6 of Appendices **30** and **30A** set a regulatory time-limit of eight (8) years. §6.1 of Appendix **30B** also sets an eight-year time-limit.

2.3.5 In order to comply with the provisions of No. **11.44B** regarding the confirmation to be provided within 30 days after the 90-day period, the date of commencement of the 90-day period cannot be earlier than 120 days before the date of receipt of notification under No. **11.15**, §5.1.3 of Appendix **30**, §5.1.7 of Appendix **30A** and §8.1 of Appendix **30B**.

2.4 The confirmation on bringing into use of the frequency assignment will be considered as communicated to the Bureau when the administration informs the Bureau that a space station in the GSO with the capability of transmitting or receiving that frequency assignment has been deployed and maintained at the notified orbital position for a continuous period of 90 days, as described in No.**11.44B**.

2.4.1 In order to avoid possible misinterpretation of the meaning of “with the capability of transmitting or receiving that frequency assignment” and to elaborate on the manner in which the Bureau would apply this provision, the Bureau has developed a non-exhaustive list of possible types of information that might be requested to verify the transmitting and receiving capability of a satellite, once the notified DBIU has been received, including:

- the commercial name of the satellite; and
- a manufacturer-provided and certified frequency plan for the satellite, or any information on the payload description (block diagram, frequency plan, travelling wave tube amplifier (TWTA) power, number of transponders, transponder bandwidth, expected orbital mission life (OML)...);
- the results of the in-orbit payload/transponder tests performed upon delivery of the satellite;
- the satellite network operators’ licence application to the administration;
- the transponder lease contracts; etc.

2.4.2 The Bureau is conscious of the sensitivity of some of the above information, and will be ready to consider the provision of some of this information on the basis of a non-disclosure agreement between the administration and the Bureau.

2.4.3 Upon receipt of the confirmation on the bringing into use from an administration within 120 days after the regulatory time-limit, the Bureau will update the status of the satellite network in the SNS [grp.f_biu=C], and post the information on the ITU-BR webpage, indicating “Y” for confirmation on the bringing into use in the Status column. The Bureau will publish this information in a Part II-S publication in the BR IFIC (Space Services) DVD.

2.4.4 Where neither the information nor the confirmation are received from the administration within 120 days after the regulatory time limit, the Bureau will cancel the corresponding assignments published under Article **9** in accordance with No.**11.48**, under Article 4 of Appendix **30** and **30A** in accordance with §§4.1.3 and 4.2.6 of Appendices **30** and **30A** and under Article 6 in accordance with §6.33 of Appendix **30B**. Consequently, the corresponding entry in the Master Register, if any, will also be cancelled.

2.5 Where the initial information has been provided, a reminder for the confirmation under No. **11.44B** will be sent to the administration 90 days after the communicated DBIU, except in cases where a notification is received 90 days after the DBIU (see also 2.3.4 above).

2.6 The ITU-BR webpage where the Bureau posts information on the status on the bringing into use of assignments to GSO satellite networks is: <http://www.itu.int/net/ITU-R/space/snl/listinuse/index.asp>. The following symbols are used in the Status of Bringing into Use

column:

N: Not yet brought into use.

I: Initial information on bringing into use.

C: Confirmed brought into use, No. **11.44B** conditions fulfilled

3 Suspension

3.1 Under the provisions of No. **11.49** and §5.2.10 of Appendices **30** and **30A** and the Rules of Procedure relating to No. **11.49** and §8.17 of Appendix **30B**, the maximum period for the suspension of the use of a frequency assignment to a space station is three (3) years. This applies to requests for suspension of frequency assignments to a space station received by the Bureau on or after 1 January 2013.

3.2 As indicated in No. **11.49.1**, footnote 20bis of Appendix **30**, footnote 24bis of Appendix **30A** and the Rule of Procedure relating to §8.17 of Appendix **30B**, the procedure for bringing a suspended frequency assignment back into use will be similar to the procedure for bringing into use described in section 2 above. The date of bringing back into use of a frequency assignment to a space station in the GSO shall be the date of commencement of the 90-day period defined in No. **11.49.1**. A frequency assignment to a space station in the GSO shall be considered as having been brought back into use when a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit with the capability of transmitting or receiving that frequency assignment has been deployed and maintained at the notified orbital position for a continuous period of 90 days. The notifying administration shall so inform the Bureau within 30 days from the end of the 90-day period.

3.3 Consequently, if the date of bringing back into use of a frequency assignment to a space station exceeds the date of suspension by more than 3 years, or in the absence of confirmation on the bringing back into use within 3 years and 120 days after the date of suspension, the Bureau will cancel the entry in the Master Register in accordance with No. **11.49**, §5.2.11 of Appendices **30** and **30A** and the Rule of Procedure relating to §8.17 of Appendix **30B**.

3.4 The ITU-BR webpage where the Bureau posts information on suspension status is: <http://www.itu.int/net/ITU-R/space/snl/list1149/index.asp>. Resumptions of the use of frequency assignments will be published in Part II-S of the BR IFIC (Space Services) DVD only when the confirmation is received. The following symbols are used in the Status of Bringing into Use column:

S: Suspended

J: Initial information on resumption of use

R: Confirmed resumption of use, No. **11.49.1** conditions fulfilled

4 Request for the application of No. 11.41

4.1 The provisions of No. **11.41.2** as added by WRC-12 request the notifying administration, when submitting notices in application of No. **11.41**, to indicate to the Bureau that efforts have been made to effect coordination with those administrations whose assignments were the basis of the unfavourable findings under No. **11.38**, without success.

4.2 On receipt of a request for the application of No.**11.41**, the Bureau will ask the notifying administration for the indication required under No.**11.41.2**, and post it on the ITU-BR website. Possible complementary information might include actions taken in the event of failure to reply or to reach a decision on a coordination request, including the request for the Bureau's assistance, or the number and dates of coordination meetings for coordination of the network concerned with the administrations whose frequency assignments were the basis of the unfavourable finding, etc.

4.3 WRC-12 removed with effect from 1 January 2013 the notion of provisional/definitive recording in the Master Register of frequency assignments submitted under No. **11.41**. As a consequence, the Bureau will update the existing entries accordingly with a provisional status under former No. **11.41** in the Master Register. The update information will be published in BR IFC2740/19.03.2013.

5 Annex 2 to Resolution 552 (WRC-12): Identity of the spacecraft

WRC-12 adopted Resolution **552 (WRC-12)** on "Long-term access to and development in the band 21.4-22 GHz in Regions 1 and 3", which requests the provision of certain specific information for geostationary-satellite networks in the BSS in the 21.4-22 GHz band. The information required for the identity of the spacecraft includes an ITU ID number (item 2a of Annex 2 to Resolution **552**). For this purpose, the Bureau will use the numbering scheme described in the annex to this letter.

6 The Bureau remains at the disposal of your administration for any clarification you may require with respect to the subjects covered in this circular letter.

Yours faithfully,

François Rancy
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

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ANNEX

Numbering scheme for the spacecraft ITU ID number (Item 2a of Annex 2 to Resolution 552 (WRC-12))

In accordance with Annex 2 to Resolution **552 (WRC-12)**, an ITU ID number is required as part of the identity of the spacecraft, which should be based on the ITU filing number as stated in footnote 2 to said Annex 2.

The ITU filing number (or SNS notice Identification Number) for notices submitted under Resolution **552 (WRC-12)** will have the middle set of numbers “593” (for example 113593001) as unique identifier of this new filing series.

The ITU ID number for the spacecraft will therefore be based on the ITU filing number that was allocated to the first submission of Resolution **552** information for that filing, except that the middle set of numbers indicating the filing type of the “593” series will be changed to “693”, and the first digit will be the increment counter for the spacecraft subsequently used for the filing, if any.

For example, for a new submission of Resolution **552** information received in 2013, the ITU filing number for the Resolution **552** publication will be 113593001 (-13----- for 2013; and ---593--- for a Resolution **552** submission), and the ITU ID number for the first spacecraft will be 113693001 (1----- for the first spacecraft; and ---693--- for the ITU ID number series).

Should this spacecraft be shifted to another location supporting a different satellite filing and having a different ITU filing number, the ITU ID number for the spacecraft will remain the same (113693001), without need for the administration to provide information on launch, satellite manufacturer or on-board frequency for the spacecraft, since they will already have been submitted earlier.

If this spacecraft is no longer used (end of life, deorbited, etc.), the ITU ID 113593001 will cease to be used.

The second spacecraft placed in orbit for the same filing (ITU filing number 113593001) will be allocated the ITU ID number: 213693001.
