



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Administrative Circular
CACE/666

27 February 2014

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU, Radiocommunication Sector Members and ITU-R Associates participating in the work of the Radiocommunication Study Group 7

Subject: Radiocommunication Study Group 7 (Science services)
– Approval of 1 new ITU-R Question and 1 revised ITU-R Question

By Administrative Circular CACE/650 of 18 December 2013, 1 draft new ITU-R Question and 1 draft revised ITU-R Question were submitted for approval by correspondence in accordance with Resolution ITU-R 1-6 (§ 3.1.2).

The conditions governing this procedure were met on 18 February 2014.

The texts of the approved Questions are attached for your reference in Annexes 1 and 2 and will be published in Revision 2 to Document 7/1 which contains the ITU-R Questions approved by the 2012 Radiocommunication Assembly and assigned to Radiocommunication Study Group 7.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'FRANCIS RANCY', is positioned above the name and title of the Director.

François Rancy
Director

Annexes: 2

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 7
- ITU-R Associates participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 7
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups and Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Preparatory Meeting
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- Secretary-General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

Annex 1

QUESTION ITU-R 255/7¹

Detection and resolution of radio frequency interference to Earth exploration-satellite service (passive) sensors

(2014)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a)* that Resolution **673 (Rev.WRC-12)** on “*The importance of Earth observation radiocommunication applications*” urges administrations to take into account Earth observation radio-frequency requirements and in particular protection of the Earth observation systems in the related frequency bands;
- b)* that recent microwave images derived from the operation of EESS (passive) sensors have shown an increasing number of events where the retrieved data are corrupted by interference;
- c)* that, in particular, extremely high levels of interference are experienced in frequency bands identified under RR No. **5.340** which prohibits any emissions in the bands identified in that footnote;
- d)* that passive sensor operators have experienced difficulties in resolving these interference cases, in particular the need to address numerous interference instances occurring globally which imposes costly efforts on passive sensor operators in interacting with all relevant Administrations;
- e)* that this interference resolution process typically may last for many years,

recognizing

- a)* that, according to the Constitution, one purpose of the ITU is to coordinate efforts to eliminate harmful interference;
- b)* RR Article **15** and in particular its provisions **15.21** (section on Reports on Infringements) and **15.22-15.46** (section on Procedure in case of harmful interference) are applicable in cases of harmful interference;
- c)* Appendix **10** of the Radio Regulations indicates the form to be used, whenever possible, in documenting the particulars relating to an instance of harmful interference;
- d)* Report ITU-R SM.2181 provides information on how, in addition to the particulars indicated in Appendix **10**, other information can be documented in the Report of harmful interference,

¹ This Question should be brought to the attention of ITU-R Study Group 1.

decides that the following Questions should be studied

- 1 What are the methods for communicating to relevant Administrations the radio frequency interference (RFI) events experienced by EESS (passive) sensors for the purpose of efficiently addressing those interference instances?
- 2 What are the challenges and possible solutions, relevant to EESS (passive) sensors, to:
 - identify RFI sources; and
 - resolve those RFI sources by the relevant Administrations,

further decides

- 1 that the results of the above studies should be included in ITU-R Reports or Recommendations, as appropriate;
- 2 that the above studies should be completed by 2015.

Category: S1

Annex 2

QUESTION ITU-R 236-1/7*,**

The future of the UTC time scale

(2001-2014)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that the procedures for maintaining the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) time scale are described by Recommendation ITU-R TF.460;
- b) that UTC is the legal basis for time-keeping for most countries in the world, and *de-facto* is the time scale used in most others;
- c) that Recommendation ITU-R TF.460 states that all standard-frequency and time signal emissions should conform as closely as possible to UTC;
- d) that Recommendation ITU-R TF.460 describes the procedure for the occasional insertion of leap seconds into UTC to ensure that it does not differ by more than 0.9 seconds from the time determined from the rotation of the Earth (UT1);
- e) that the occasional insertion of leap seconds into UTC creates serious difficulties for many operational navigation and telecommunication systems today,

decides that the following Questions should be studied

- 1 What are the requirements for globally-accepted time scales for use both in navigation/telecommunication systems, and for civil time keeping?
- 2 What are the present and future requirements for the tolerance limit between UTC and UT1?
- 3 Does the current leap second procedure satisfy user needs or should an alternative procedure be developed?

further decides

- 1 that the results of the above studies should be included in (a) Recommendation(s);
- 2 that the above studies should be completed by 2015.

Category: C1

* In the year 2011, Radiocommunication Study Group 7 extended the completion date of studies for this Question.

** This Question should be brought to the attention of the Bureau international des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), the International Earth Rotation Service (IERS), Study Group 13 of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector and Radiocommunication Study Group 5.