



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Administrative Circular
CACE/672

1 May 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 6

Subject: Radiocommunication Study Group 6 (Broadcasting service)
– Approval of 1 new ITU-R Question

By Administrative Circular CACE/661 of 14 February 2014, 1 draft new ITU-R Question was submitted for approval by correspondence in accordance with Resolution ITU-R 1-6 (§ 3.1.2).

The conditions governing this procedure were met on 14 April 2014.

The text of the approved Question is attached for your reference in the Annex to this letter and will be published in Revision 4 to [Document 6/1](#) which contains the ITU-R Questions approved by the 2012 Radiocommunication Assembly and assigned to Radiocommunication Study Group 6.

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

François Rancy
Director

Annex: 1

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 6
- ITU-R Associates participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 6
- 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

QUESTION ITU-R 138/6

Methods for signalling loudness compliance

(2014)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that it is desirable to preserve both the content creator's intent and consider the audience's comfort regarding programme loudness;
- b) that a way to adjust the level of the programme is to adjust the whole programme rather than adjusting the level dynamically during the programme;
- c) that it is desirable that automated dynamic level controls should not operate on pre-produced audio that has already had the loudness correctly controlled;
- d) that for some programmes, such as live programmes, it may not be feasible to make a single adjustment to the overall audio level of the programme, and that automated dynamic level control may be needed for this task;
- e) that increasingly, live programming on television in one country can originate from another country;
- f) that for the sake of economy, automated dynamic level controls are often installed downstream from the program switcher, near the emission end of the programme chain;
- g) that a number of methods may be used to perform the necessary signalling to achieve this, but it is desirable for the sake of economy, simplicity and interoperability that a single method should be identified and specified for the purpose;
- h) that broadcasters have many loudness requirements which may include, but is not only restricted to Recommendation ITU-R BS.1864 which recommends a target loudness of -24 LKFS for international digital television programme exchange,

decides that the following Question should be studied

What method/s should be employed to signal to an automated loudness and/or dynamic level control that the current programme has already had its loudness characteristics correctly controlled for the broadcasting requirements?

further decides

- 1 that the results of the above studies should be to:
 - update existing Recommendation(s);
 - prepare (a) new Recommendation(s);
- 2 that the above studies should be completed by 2016.

Category: S2
