Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Administrative Circular
CACE/1128

17 December 2024

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU, Radiocommunication Sector Members, ITU-R Associates and ITU Academia participating in the work of the Radiocommunication Study Group 5

Subject: **Radiocommunication Study Group 5 (Terrestrial Services)**

– **Proposed approval of 2 draft new ITU-R Questions**

At the meeting of Radiocommunication Study Group 5 held from 2 to 3 December 2024, two draft new ITU-R Questions were adopted according to Resolution ITU-R 1-9 (§ A2.5.2.2) and it was agreed to apply the procedure of Resolution ITU-R 1-9 (see § A2.5.2.3) for approval of Questions in the interval between Radiocommunication Assemblies. The texts of the draft ITU-R Questions are attached for your reference in Annexes 1 to 2. Any Member State raising an objection to the approval of a draft Question is requested to inform the Director and the Chair of the Study Group of the reasons for the objection.

Having regard to the provisions of § A2.5.2.3 of Resolution ITU-R 1-9, Member States are requested to inform the Secretariat (brsgd@itu.int) by 17 February 2025, whether they approve or do not approve the proposals above.

After the above-mentioned deadline, the results of this consultation will be announced in an Administrative Circular and the approved Questions will be published as soon as practicable (see: http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/que-rsg5/en).

Mario Maniewicz
Director

Annexes: 2

– 2 draft new ITU-R Questions

Annex 1

(Document 5/27(Rev.1))

DRAFT NEW QUESTION ITU-R [R-MODE]/5

Coexistence of VHF data exchange system with a ranging-mode in the VHF data exchange system

(202X)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

a) that safety of navigation is required to prevent serious threat to people, vessels and the environment;

b) that the use of a global navigation satellite system (GNSS) may be degraded by signals from natural or man-made sources;

c) that the GNSS may be used for synchronization of time division multiple access (TDMA) systems and a failure of the GNSS may result in communication failures due to failed synchronization;

d) that maritime autonomous surface ships may require alternative systems for safe navigation to achieve an adequate level of operational confidence,

recognizing

a) that the technical and operational characteristics of a TDMA-system provide high accurate timings;

b) that Resolution **363 (Rev.WRC-23)** invites to conduct studies on the improvement of the VHF maritime frequency bands in RR Appendix **18**,

decides that the following Questions should be studied

1 What are the technical characteristics and operational procedure of the ranging mode (R-mode) to be used in the VHF data exchange system (VDES)?

2 How would the introduction of R-mode impact the communication capacity of VDES?

3 What technical conditions are necessary for a radio navigation application, such as ranging mode (R-Mode) in the VDES to ensure their coexistence when using a common frequency band with VDES?

further decides

1 that the results of the studies should also be included in Recommendations and/or Report;

2 that the work should be completed by 2027.

Category: C2

Annex 2

(Document 5/30)

DRAFT NEW QUESTION ITU-R [DIGITAL VOICE]/5

Introduction of digital voice communications in the VHF maritime frequency channels

(202X)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

a) that the radio spectrum is a limited resource;

b) that with a continued increase in demand for maritime spectrum there is a requirement to identify criteria under which digital voice communications can be accommodated and as a result of this carry out relevant sharing studies;

c) that in order to carry out these studies protection criteria for existing and future planned systems need to be known, but for the digitization of maritime systems there are no relevant Recommendations or studies that give neither implementation nor protection criteria;

d) that initial studies were initiated on the issue of possible digitization of parts of the VHF maritime frequency band;

e) that maritime systems often provide safety of life functions;

f) that some frequencies in the bands used by the maritime mobile service (MMS) in RR Appendix **18** are allocated to the fixed and mobile services on a co-primary basis;

g) that a need exists to protect existing and planned in-band and adjacent-band services with no additional regulatory or technical constraints on these co-primary incumbent services when considering any potential modifications to MMS channeling arrangements,

decides that the following Questions should be studied

1 What are the technical and operational characteristics and possibilities for expansion of the number of VHF maritime voice channels based on the implementation of digital technology?

2 What are the most appropriate ways for more efficient use of current frequencies used by VHF maritime voice channels by using digital technology?

3 What are the technical and operational criteria to establish the seamless migration or coexistence of current analogue voice channels VHF channels next to digital channels?

further decides

1 that the results of the above studies should be included in Recommendations and/or Reports;

2 that the above studies should be completed by 2027.

Category: S2

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