



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Circular Letter
CCRR/82

14 July 2026

To Administrations of Member States of ITU

Subject: **Draft Rules of Procedure**

At its 102nd meeting, the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) agreed on the schedule for the approval of draft new and modified rules of procedure contained in [Document RRB26-3/1](#). Accordingly, the Bureau prepared a set of draft new or modified rules of procedure (RoP) annexed to this Circular Letter.

Annex 1 – Proposed modification to existing RoP on No. **5.441B**

Annex 2 – Addition of new RoP on No. **9.7**

In accordance with No. **13.17** of the Radio Regulations, these draft RoP are made available to administrations for comments before being submitted to RRB pursuant to No. **13.14**. As indicated in No. **13.12A d)** of the Radio Regulations, any comments that you may wish to submit should reach the Bureau no later than **28 September 2026, 16:00 UTC** in order to be considered at the 103rd RRB meeting, scheduled for 26 – 30 October 2026. Comments should be sent by e-mail to rrb@itu.int.

The Radiocommunication Bureau remains at the disposal of your Administration for any clarification you may require.

Mario Maniewicz
Director

Annex: 2

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of ITU
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board

Annex 1

Proposed modification to existing RoP on No. **5.441B**

Rules concerning

ARTICLE 5 of the RR

MOD

5.441B

1 This provision stipulates, *inter alia*, that before an administration brings into use an IMT station in the mobile service in the frequency band 4 800-4 990 MHz, it shall ensure that the power flux-density (pfd) produced by this station does not exceed $-155 \text{ dB(W/(m}^2 \cdot 1 \text{ MHz))}$ produced up to 19 km above sea level at 20 km from the coast, defined as the low-water mark, as officially recognized by the coastal State. Resolution **223 (Rev.WRC-23)** applies.

Considering that this provision and Resolution **223 (Rev.WRC-23)** do not specify the propagation model to be used for the calculation of the pfd produced by IMT stations in the band 4 800 - 4 990 MHz and that the information about the low-water mark is not available in the ITU, the Board decided that Recommendation ITU-R P.528-5, for 1% of time, is to be used for this calculation for all altitudes up to 19 km above sea level at 20 km seaward from the nearest coast line based on the IDWM (ITU's Digitized World Map).

2 Resolution **223 (Rev. WRC-23)**, in particular *resolves* 3, provides the criteria for the identification of affected administrations for seeking agreement under No. **9.21** for IMT stations in the frequency bands 4 800-4 825 MHz and 4 835-4 950 MHz as follows: "a coordination distance from an IMT station to the border of another country equal to 300 km (for land path)/450 km (for sea path) applies".

Considering that no coordination distance for mixed paths is specified in this Resolution, the Board decided to use the sea path criteria when the length of the sea path is greater than 10 % of the total path. When the length of the sea path is equal or less than 10 % of the total path, the land path criterion applies.

Reason: *This proposed revision provides a practical and feasible methodology for calculating the pfd value specified in No. **5.441B** using the nearest coastline based on the IDWM, in line with the RoP concerning No. **5.509D**.*

1 *The term 'low-water mark officially recognized by each coastal State' is used in Nos. **5.441B** however, the geographical data corresponding to the low-water mark are not available to the Bureau.*

*It is therefore proposed to use the coastline data provided in the IDWM, for the calculation of the pfd value specified in No. **5.441B**, which is used in the RoP on No. **5.509D**.*

2 Resolves 3 of Resolution **223 (Rev. WRC-23)** provides coordination distances over a land path and a sea path respectively for identifying an affected administration for seeking agreement under No. **9.21** for IMT stations in the frequency bands 4 800-4 825 MHz and 4 835-4 950 MHz. However, it does not provide a coordination distance for a mixed path comprising both land and sea path sections.

*It is therefore proposed to use the sea path criteria when the length of the sea path sections exceeds 10% of the total length of a mixed path, which is used in Resolutions **749 (Rev. WRC-23)** and **760 (Rev. WRC-23)**.*

Effective date of application of the Rule: Immediately after the approval.

Annex 2

Addition of new rules of procedure on No. 9.7

Rules concerning

ARTICLE 9 of the RR

ADD

9.7

Coordination requirements for passive sensors on board a geostationary satellite network

In accordance with No. 9.7, coordination is required “for a station in a satellite network using the geostationary-satellite orbit, in any space radiocommunication service, in a frequency band and in a Region where this service is not subject to a plan, in respect of any other satellite network using that orbit, in any space radiocommunication service in a frequency band and in a Region where this service is not subject to a plan, with the exception of coordination between earth stations operating in the opposite direction of transmission”.

No. 1.183 defines a passive sensor as “a measuring instrument in the Earth exploration-satellite service or in the space research service by means of which information is obtained by reception of radio waves of natural origin”. Since passive sensors do not transmit any signal, they cannot interfere with one another. The Board therefore decided that there was no need to establish coordination requirements between frequency assignments to passive sensors on-board geostationary satellite networks.

Besides, even if most of the frequency bands allocated to passive services do not share with other active space services, the following frequency bands are allocated to passive services as well as to the inter-satellite service on a co-primary basis: 54.25-58.2 GHz, 59-59.3 GHz, 116-122.25 GHz, 174.8-182 GHz, 185-190 GHz.

Nos. 5.556A, 5.558A (both provisions have been adopted by WRC-97), 5.562C and 5.562H (both provisions have been adopted by WRC-2000) establish operational conditions and power-flux density limits applicable to stations in the inter-satellite service in the above bands:

5.556A Use of the bands 54.25-56.9 GHz, 57-58.2 GHz and 59-59.3 GHz by the inter-satellite service is limited to satellites in the geostationary-satellite orbit. The single-entry power flux-density at all altitudes from 0 km to 1 000 km above the Earth’s surface produced by a station in the inter-satellite service, for all conditions and for all methods of modulation, shall not exceed $-147 \text{ dB(W/(m}^2 \cdot 100 \text{ MHz))}$ for all angles of arrival.

5.558A Use of the band 56.9-57 GHz by inter-satellite systems is limited to links between satellites in geostationary-satellite orbit and to transmissions from non-geostationary satellites in high-Earth orbit to those in low-Earth orbit. For links between satellites in the geostationary-satellite orbit, the single-entry power flux-density at all altitudes from 0 km to 1 000 km above the Earth’s surface, for all conditions and for all methods of modulation, shall not exceed $-147 \text{ dB(W/(m}^2 \cdot 100 \text{ MHz))}$ for all angles of arrival.

5.562C Use of the band 116-122.25 GHz by the inter-satellite service is limited to satellites in the geostationary-satellite orbit. The single-entry power flux-density produced by a station in the inter-satellite

service, for all conditions and for all methods of modulation, at all altitudes from 0 km to 1 000 km above the Earth's surface and in the vicinity of all geostationary orbital positions occupied by passive sensors, shall not exceed $-148 \text{ dB(W/(m}^2 \cdot \text{MHz))}$ for all angles of arrival.

5.562H Use of the bands 174.8-182 GHz and 185-190 GHz by the inter-satellite service is limited to satellites in the geostationary-satellite orbit. The single-entry power flux-density produced by a station in the inter-satellite service, for all conditions and for all methods of modulation, at all altitudes from 0 to 1 000 km above the Earth's surface and in the vicinity of all geostationary orbital positions occupied by passive sensors, shall not exceed $-144 \text{ dB(W/(m}^2 \cdot \text{MHz))}$ for all angles of arrival.

Since Nos. **5.562C** and **5.562H** contain a pfd limit explicitly aimed at protecting passive sensors on-board geostationary satellite networks, the Board noted that, in accordance with No. **9.6.3**, coordination under No. **9.7** is not applicable between frequency assignments to stations in the inter-satellite service and to passive sensors in the frequency bands 116-122.25 GHz, 174.8-182 GHz and 185-190 GHz.

The Board further noted that, in addition to operational restrictions on the inter-satellite service, Nos. **5.556A** and **5.558A** contain a pfd limit that is only applicable at altitudes between 0 and 1000 km therefore the protection of passive sensors in the frequency bands where these provisions apply may be limited to those on-board low Earth orbit satellites. For these two provisions, No. **9.6.3** does not apply to passive sensors on-board geostationary satellites so there would be a need to determine how to apply No. **9.7** to coordinate between frequency assignments to stations in the inter-satellite service and these passive sensors. The $\Delta T/T$ method cannot be applied to establish coordination requirements between passive services and the inter-satellite service as the system noise temperature is not a required data item for passive sensors (see section C.5 of Annex 2 to Appendix 4).

Similar situations may also appear in the frequency bands 18.6-18.8 GHz and 235-238 GHz where the Earth exploration-satellite (passive) service and the space research (passive) service share the frequency band with the fixed-satellite service (space-to-Earth) or in the frequency band 239.2-240 GHz where the Earth exploration-satellite (passive) service shares the frequency band with the fixed-satellite service (space-to-Earth). Moreover, in the frequency band 1668-1668.4 MHz where the space research (passive) service shares the band with the mobile-satellite service (Earth-to-space), geostationary satellites networks in the mobile-satellite service coordinate with passive sensors on-board non-geostationary satellite systems on the basis of the criteria contained in Table 5-1 of Appendix 5 for No. **9.13**, i.e., in addition to bandwidth overlap, the e.i.r.p. spectral density of mobile earth stations in a geostationary satellite network of the mobile-satellite service operating in this band exceeds -2.5 dB(W/4 kHz) or the power spectral density delivered to the mobile earth station antenna exceeds -10 dB(W/4 kHz) . No criterion however exists with respect to passive sensors on-board a geostationary satellite network.

Noting No. **9.32** and the above analysis, the Board decided that, until more appropriate sharing criteria or coordination methodologies are developed, frequency assignments containing passive sensors in a satellite network using the geostationary-satellite orbit have to be submitted in a coordination request to the Bureau. In the absence of appropriate criteria in Appendix 5 for the Bureau's action under No. **9.34**, the Board instructed the Bureau to indicate that the frequency assignments are submitted under No. **9.7** but no administrations are identified as potentially affected.

The Board also decided that, following receipt of the BR IFIC containing such requests for coordination, an administration believing that it should have been included in the request may, within four months of the date of publication of the relevant BR IFIC, inform the initiating

administration and the Bureau, giving its technical reasons for doing so, and request that its name be included.

After having studied this information with respect of frequency overlap, the Bureau shall inform both administrations of its conclusions. Should the Bureau agree to include an administration in the coordination request, it shall publish a Special Section, indicating the list of administrations and associated satellite networks with which coordination needs to be effected.

Reasons: *The Bureau has received in 2024 coordination requests of a series of geostationary satellite networks that use passive sensors in the Earth exploration-satellite (passive) service and the space research (passive) service. Since No. 9.7 should normally apply to coordinate frequency assignments to stations on-board geostationary satellites but the $\Delta T/T$ method cannot be applied to establish coordination requirements between passive and active services as the system noise temperature is not a required data item for passive sensors, this Rule of Procedure describes the Bureau's actions when processing frequency assignments to passive sensors on-board geostationary satellite networks: until appropriate sharing criteria or coordination methodologies are developed, the Bureau will publish the frequency assignments corresponding to these passive sensors in a coordination request without identifying any administration as potentially affected. Coordination is a two-way process: while the incoming passive sensor cannot create interference into existing satellite networks and systems, a possibility is left open for an existing satellite network to be included, in a manner similar to the procedure of No. 9.41, in the coordination process should its notifying administration choose to address the avoidance of interference into the passive sensor.*

Effective date of application of this Rule: *Immediately after approval.*
