



Radiocommunication Bureau
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Circular Letter
CR/161

15 May 2001

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU

Subject: Information on the implementation of the *TerRaSys* Project: status of the FXM data that appear in the BR IFIC (Terrestrial Services)

References: BR Circular Letter No. CR/138 dated 14 February 2000
BR Circular Letter No. CR/143 dated 2 May 2000

To the Director-General

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. The Radiocommunication Bureau provided information in Circular Letter CR/138 about the cutover of the FXM portion from **FMS** to *TerRaSys* that occurred on 12 December 1999. The FXM portion comprises data on the fixed, mobile and other services, excepting the broadcasting services in the LF/MF and VHF/UHF bands. With the same circular-letter, the Bureau also informed the administrations that, as from 11 January 2000, the information concerning the FXM services, which was included in the CD-ROM publication entitled "BR International Frequency Information Circular (Terrestrial Services)" (BR IFIC), was of an unofficial nature and was included therein for testing purposes, so as to enable administrations to test all salient features of the complete CD-ROM publication, as well as to check the conversion process from **FMS** to *TerRaSys* insofar as the FXM services are concerned. The Bureau also indicated that the information on the FXM component of *TerRaSys*, which was included in BR IFIC No. 2410, dated 11 January 2000, corresponds to the reference situation of the MIFR, as on 10 December 1999, which was subsequently included in the *December-1999* edition of the IFL.

2. In Circular Letter CR/143, the Bureau provided information on the delay in the implementation of the *TerRaSys* project, stipulating that this delay was caused, *inter alia*, by the difficulties in converting the database from the **FMS** format to *TerRaSys* format. The Bureau is now in a position to indicate that the major part of these difficulties is resolved. The Bureau also ascertained that no data was lost during the conversion process, and, consequently, the FXM data that appear in the CD-ROM publication BR IFIC (Terrestrial Services) in the category "recorded assignments", will have official status as from BR IFIC No. 2445 dated 29 May 2001.

3. The Bureau considers that the regular updates of the FXM conversion data that were published in the BR IFIC, as from No. 2410 (dated 11 January 2000) and until No. 2444 dated 15 May 2001, have given sufficient time to administrations to trace the conversion process and that they are now in a position to accept the conversion results. In this connection, the Bureau wishes to indicate that some data elements of some of the converted assignments in the FXM component do not match the data structure used within **TerRaSys** (see Circular Letter CR/118 and its Addendum 1). Despite all efforts, it was not possible to correct these elements without the consultation of the administrations concerned and the relevant assignments will need further corrections. Nevertheless, these elements have no impact on the processing of new notices, as they are not part of the identifying parameters. Therefore, and in order not to delay the processing of new notices any longer, the Bureau decided to commence with the implementation of the remaining phases of the **TerRaSys** project (data validation, publication, examination) and to perform, in parallel, the correction of the unmatched data elements, in consultation with the administrations concerned.

4. The Bureau understands that the different structures of **TerRaSys** and **FMS** records might have created difficulties to some administrations in tracing the conversion process. Therefore, and in order to facilitate the tracing of the conversion process, the Bureau established an inventory of those **TerRaSys** assignments that were created as a result of merging duplicate information from **FMS** assignments/entries or subentries. The list of administrations that have such **TerRaSys** assignments, together with the number of **TerRaSys** assignments that have been created as a result of merging from duplicate **FMS** assignments/entries, is available on request from the Bureau. The Bureau wishes to indicate that a considerable number of the merged assignments concern typical stations, as a result of merging several assignments, whose receiving areas were formulated in terms of subsets of a standard defined area, into one single assignment which is now related to the standard defined area in the broad sense of the definition. The complete information on the subsets of standard defined areas has been maintained in the database in the "Remarks" field. Furthermore, the majority of these mergers are related to very old frequency assignments.

5. Although the Bureau considers that the limited number of its interventions in the database did not alter any substantial data of the recorded assignments, it wishes to provide the administrations with the opportunity to check for themselves the results of the conversion, taking into account the latest official version of the MIFR, which is contained in the *December-1999* edition of the IFL, and the situation indicated in BR IFIC No. 2445. If requested, the Bureau will proceed to corrective actions in this regard on a priority basis. However, the Bureau will consider that administrations agree with the introduced corrections if no request for corrective action is submitted within three months from the date of this Circular Letter. Certainly, administrations have the option of submitting modifications to the recorded data at any moment, using the standard notification procedures, with a view to reflect the actual frequency use; the notices submitted in this connection will undergo the standard procedure (see also paragraph 7 below). In this connection, the Bureau wishes to remind administrations that the concept of replacement notices, which is used in **TerRaSys**, should always be kept in mind during the preparation of a notification which means that the new notice completely replaces a recorded assignment (rather than modifies certain parameters as it was in **FMS**). Similarly, the Bureau invites administrations to refer as often as possible to the consolidated information concerning the submission of FXM notices, which is posted at <http://www.itu.int/brtpr/notice-forms/t11-t17/english/FXM-guide-e.pdf> and which is regularly updated in accordance with the results of the ongoing testing and development.

6. The differences in the structure of **TerRaSys** and **FMS** records also generated erroneous resulting findings for a limited number of assignments. It is to be noted that, in **FMS**, findings were formulated at entry level, while in **TerRaSys**, findings are formulated at assignment level. Therefore, the merging of several **FMS** entries (with different and correct individual findings) into

one single *TerRaSys* assignment (with one resulting finding) has generated an erroneous resulting finding in some cases. In view of the complexity of cases that could come under this category, the Bureau was not able to implement appropriate algorithms for automated treatment of all these cases. However, the Bureau has established an inventory of all merged cases of this category and the resulting findings will be reviewed and corrected, where appropriate. Each administration will be informed individually whenever the findings of its assignment were modified in this respect, so that it may initiate corrective action, if required.

7. In view of the above, and in accordance with the provisions of No. S11.28, the Bureau regrets to inform you that it is still not in a position to implement the formal acknowledgment of receipt of the frequency notices in the FXM services, as well as those in the LF/MF broadcasting services, which were received in *TerRaSys* format after 1 October 1999. However, the Bureau hopes that the temporary solution implemented in this connection (provisional publication of the FXM notices in BR IFIC and their posting on ITU Web site) remedies at least partially this unfortunate situation and the Bureau will continue such provisional publications until the availability of appropriate tools that would enable official publication in Part I of the BR IFIC.

8. The Bureau remains at your disposal for any further information you may require in this respect. I also use this occasion to inform you that the Bureau will continue to provide, free of charge, the on-line availability (through TIES) of the BR IFIC data (Terrestrial Services), in the format described in Circular Letter CR/138.

Yours faithfully,

Robert W. Jones
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

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