

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



Radiocommunication Bureau

(Direct Fax N°. +41 22 730 57 85)

Circular Letter
CR/218

8 September 2004

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU

Subject: Implementation of Resolution 21 (Rev.WRC-03)

To the Director-General

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. The World Administrative Radiocommunication Conference, Geneva, 1992, reallocated parts of the frequency bands between 5 900 and 19 020 kHz from the fixed and mobile services to the broadcasting service. The same Conference also adopted Resolution 21 (WARC-92) containing a procedure for the gradual removal of some frequency assignments in the fixed and mobile services from the reallocated bands by the end of the transitional period on 1 April 2007. Subsequently, WRC-03 decided to modify the provisions of No. 5.134 of the Radio Regulations (RR) with a view to permit the use of the bands in question by the broadcasting service as from 1 April 2007. It also modified editorially Resolution 21. The purpose of this Circular Letter is to initiate the relevant actions required by this Resolution by providing administrations with national extracts in order to proceed with the consultation process in response to *resolves* 3, 5 and 6 of Resolution 21 (Rev.WRC-03).

2. Before addressing these issues in detail, the Bureau wishes to indicate that the current situation concerning the use of these bands differs substantively from the one that prevailed at the time of the adoption of Resolution 21, from both regulatory and operational point of view. With respect to the regulatory issues, it is to be noted that the membership introduced considerable simplification in the procedures of the RR that are governing the use of the HF bands by the fixed and mobile service. The simplifications introduced by WRC-95 resulted, *inter alia*, in the suppression of the examination of the probability of harmful interference in the context of the frequency assignments in the non-planned bands below 28 MHz, with effect from 18 November 1995. Consequentially, the special assistance procedure in the HF bands relating to the selection of a frequency assignment in the fixed service for regular operational use (class of operation A), frequently referred to as RR1218 procedure, has also been suppressed. From an operational point of view, the wide introduction of frequency adaptive systems, based on real-time channel evaluation techniques, resulted in new

approaches to the frequency management, whereby the dynamic selection of the operating frequency made obsolete some of the traditional concepts of frequency management. These changes in the regulatory and the operational environment are putting the implementation of Resolution 21 in a somewhat different context from the assumptions prevailing at the time of the adoption of Resolution 21, and these changes are taken into account by the Bureau when addressing the implementation issues.

3. Against this background, and in accordance with *resolves* 3 of Resolution 21 (Rev.WRC-03), the Bureau has reviewed all frequency assignments to stations of the fixed and mobile services recorded on 1 July 2004 in the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) in the reallocated bands, from the standpoint of the current frequency allocation table. The examination has resulted in a review of findings for 195 assignments, which have been published in Part 2B of BR IFIC 2525 dated 10 August 2004.

4. After the review of the findings for the frequency assignments that are subject to the Resolution 21 exercise, and for facilitating the review of the concerned assignments by administrations, the Bureau prepared separate national extracts for each Member State (if assignments exist) in the form of a MS Access container as well as the summary information in a pdf format. These extracts are placed on the CD-ROM attached to this Circular letter. The assignments included in the extracts satisfy the following criteria: the regulatory finding is favorable and the allocation to the service is primary. Administrations are invited to study their assignments included in this CD-ROM and follow the proper course of actions, notably:

4.1 To suppress from the MIFR those assignments that are no longer in use.

4.2 The assignments of class of operation "A" that are in use and for which other satisfactory means of communication exist, would need to be downgraded to classes of operation "B" or "C" and should be transferred to other appropriate bands.

4.3 The assignments of class of operation "A" that are in use and for which no other satisfactory means of communication exist, should be transferred from the reallocated bands to other appropriate bands by applying the concept of replacement frequencies described in paragraph 6 of this Circular Letter.

4.4 The assignments of classes of operation "B" and "C" may be considered for transfer to other appropriate bands. However, the concept of replacement frequencies is not applied to these assignments.

4.5 The assignments (of any class of operation) to stations, which communicate only within the boundary of the country in which they are located, may continue using frequencies in the reallocated bands after 1 April 2007 on a non-interference basis vis-à-vis the broadcasting service, pursuant to the provisions of RR Nos. 5.136, 5.143, 5.146 and 5.151.

5. As indicated in paragraph 4.3 above, the assignments of class of operation "A" with a primary category of allocation and which do not bear the symbol "RS21" in the findings reference column (*resolves* 2 of Resolution 21 (Rev.WRC-03) refers) are eligible for displacement procedure and selection of the replacement frequencies. In accordance with *resolves* 7 of Resolution 21 (Rev.WRC-03), when a replacement assignment is notified to the ITU, the Bureau will keep the original date of entry in the MIFR under the condition that the basic characteristics are not modified with the exception of the assigned frequency.

6. For determining replacement frequencies for the “displaced assignments”, administrations are invited to monitor other bands allocated to the fixed and the mobile services and to select one or more alternative frequencies that would be notified to the Bureau in accordance with the procedures of Article 11 of the RR. At the time of formulation of Resolution 21, in 1992, it was envisaged that the Bureau would provide assistance to administrations in the selection of replacement frequencies. However, after abolishing the technical examination (probability of harmful interference) in the bands below 30 MHz at WRC-95, through the simplification of the notification, examination and recording procedures, and after phasing out the FMS in 1999, the Bureau is not in the possession of any software, which would permit searching for optimum frequencies in the HF bands. Furthermore, for the selection of frequencies the Bureau could use only the information contained in the Master Register that may not reflect accurately the current use of the frequencies, as witnessed in the recent monitoring observations (see Addendum 9 to Document 4 of WRC-03). Therefore, the Bureau considers that it would be more appropriate for the administrations concerned to select themselves replacement frequencies in a reliable manner, e.g., using the advantages of the automatic monitoring equipment, rather than for the Bureau to make such a selection using the Master Register.

7. Bearing in mind that the end of the transitional period has been set by WARC-92 to 1 April 2007, administrations are requested to gradually start the relevant activities and inform the Bureau on the actions to be taken on their respective assignments. For this purpose standard notice forms or electronic notifications of type T11-T13 containing modifications, replacement assignments and suppressions should be sent to the Bureau. Those frequency assignments for which no information is received by 1 April 2007 will be revised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the RR in force on that date. During the review, these assignments, with exception of those indicated in paragraph 4.5 of this Circular Letter, will receive unfavourable findings and will be subject to the provisions of No. 8.5 of the Radio Regulations.

8. The Bureau remains at the disposal of your administration for any clarification you may require with respect to the subjects covered in this Circular Letter.

Yours faithfully,

V. Timofeev
Director
Radiocommunication Bureau

Attachment: 1 CD-ROM

Distribution:

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