

## **Space Services Department**

### **TECHNICAL AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE**

#### **1 Introduction**

Due to the requirement to notify frequency assignments within the 7-year period, administrations increasingly rely on the regulatory assistance of the Radiocommunication Bureau under Sub-Sections IIB and IID of Article 9 to complete or continue coordination in cases of non-reply or objection without details concerning the assignments that are the reason for objection.

Hence, this document discusses the assistance an administration may seek from the Bureau, especially during the coordination process of a satellite network or an earth station, under the provisions of the Radio Regulations, consequential actions taken by the Bureau and its implications for the concerned administrations.

Article 13 contains a general provision under which an administration, having difficulty in applying the provisions of Articles 9 and 11, and Appendices 30, 30A and 30B, may request the Bureau for assistance (No. 13.1). The Bureau, upon receipt of the request, endeavours to assist in such cases. In addition to this general provision, there are also specific provisions such as Nos. 9.33, 9.46, 9.60 and 9.63 for requesting the Bureau's intervention at various stages during the coordination process. Either of the administrations, administration A seeking the coordination and administration B receiving the request for coordination, may seek the assistance during the coordination process. While requesting the intervention of the Bureau, administration A or administration B should make every effort, where appropriate, to ensure that the other administration has in fact received the coordination request or any other correspondence before requesting the intervention of the Bureau. The Bureau should be provided with the details of all relevant correspondence. In the case of request for assistance for coordination of an earth station, a copy of the coordination request for the earth station may also be provided to the Bureau if it was not provided earlier. The various stages or situations in which assistance can be requested during the coordination process and the consequential actions taken by the Bureau are explained below.

#### **2 Various provisions to seek the Bureau's assistance during the coordination and notification process of an earth station or space station**

During the coordination and notification process of an earth station or a satellite network not subject to a Plan, the Radio Regulations provide for requesting the assistance of the Bureau mainly under the provisions of Nos. 7.6, 9.33, 9.46, 9.60, 9.63 and 13.1

## **2.1 No acknowledgement of receipt of coordination request for an earth station (No. 9.46)**

The coordination information for the earth station is directly sent by the requesting administration to those administrations with which coordination is required. There is no need to inform the Bureau at this stage. (Note that, for space stations, it is sufficient to provide the coordination information to the Bureau for its publication in a Special Section of BR IFIC).

Administration B receiving the coordination request for earth station directly from administration A should send an acknowledgement within **30 days** from the date of dispatch of the coordination request. If this acknowledgement is not provided within that period, administration A should send a telegram requesting immediate confirmation of receipt of the coordination request from administration B. In case administration B still fails to reply, administration A may request the Bureau for assistance (No. **9.46**).

On receipt of the requests for assistance under No. **9.46** from administration A, the Bureau requests immediate acknowledgement of the coordination request from administration B. In case administration B acknowledges receipt of the coordination request at that stage, the Bureau informs administration A of the acknowledgement. Then administration A further continues with the coordination process. At a later stage, it may happen that administration A is unable to obtain the decision from administration B and, at that time, it may once again request assistance under No. **9.60** and the Bureau would proceed as explained in paragraph 2.2 below.

When administration B fails to acknowledge receipt of the coordination request within **30 days** after the Bureau's action under No. **9.46**, the Bureau shall immediately send a reminder providing an additional **fifteen day** period for the acknowledgement. In the absence of such an acknowledgement within fifteen days after the reminder, the provisions of Nos. **9.48** and **9.49** will be applied by the Bureau to the relevant frequency assignments of administration B (No. **9.47**). Under these provisions, administration B is deemed to have undertaken:

- that no complaint will be made in respect of any harmful interference affecting its own assignments which may be caused by the assignment for which coordination was requested; and
- that the use of its own assignments will not cause harmful interference to the assignment for which coordination was requested.

The Bureau will communicate this decision, i.e. to apply Nos. **9.48** and **9.49**, to all concerned administrations.

## **2.2 No decision or relevant information within the period of four months (No. 9.60)**

**Coordination of an earth station:** If administration B, having acknowledged receipt of the coordination request for an earth station to administration A, thereafter, does not provide its decision or informs of its disagreement but does not provide the information concerning its own assignments on which its disagreement is based, within **four months** from the date of dispatch of the coordination request (No. **9.52**), administration A may seek the Bureau's assistance for securing the decision or information with all relevant basic characteristics concerning its own assignments (No. **9.60**).

**Coordination of a space station:** In the case of coordination of space stations, if administration B, which is included in the coordination process, does not provide its decision or the information, with all relevant basic characteristics, concerning its own assignments on which its disagreement is based, within **four months** of publication of the Special Section, administration A may seek the assistance of the Bureau under No. **9.60**.

On receipt of the request for assistance, the Bureau shall immediately request the administration concerned under No. **9.61** to give an early decision on the matter or provide the relevant information, within **30 days**. If administration B still fails to reply within **30 days** of the Bureau's action under No. **9.61**, the Bureau shall immediately send a reminder providing an additional **fifteen day** period for the response. If the administration still fails to inform the Bureau of its agreement or its disagreement together with information concerning its own assignments on which its disagreement is based within fifteen days after the reminder, the provisions of Nos. **9.48** and **9.49** will be applied by the Bureau and the decision communicated to all concerned administrations. Under these provisions, administration B is deemed to have undertaken:

- that no complaint will be made in respect of any harmful interference affecting its own assignments which may be caused by the assignment for which coordination was requested; and
- that the use of its own assignments will not cause harmful interference to the assignment for which coordination was requested.

Administration B may reply to the Bureau providing conditional agreement or even disagreement.

The Bureau shall forward this reply to administration A. It is up to the concerned administrations to effect the coordination. The Bureau shall apply No. **9.61** only if an administration with which coordination is sought fails to give its agreement or disagreement together with information concerning its own assignments on which its disagreement is based. This information may be the reference to the previous publications including concerned assignments. In case of requests for assistance due to other difficulties in coordination, No. **13.1** shall apply.

### **2.3 Direct communication between the administrations is not possible (Nos. 9.33/13.1)**

For any reason, if an administration is not able to send the coordination request or any other communication directly to another administration (Nos. **9.33/13.1**), as in the case of lack of diplomatic ties between administrations, it may seek the assistance of the Bureau. The Bureau, in turn, shall send the request for coordination or other correspondence to the administration concerned and take any necessary further action such as to request acknowledgement or decision, or details of the assignments of the administration on which the disagreement is based.

### **2.4 Special assistance cases (No. 7.6)**

Administrations in need of special assistance, such as regarding the results of Appendix **8** analysis in any specific case, clarification on rules of procedure, preparation of the coordination contours or any other assistance of a technical nature, may request the assistance of the Bureau. The Bureau and, when necessary, the Radio Regulations Board, using such means at their disposal as are appropriate in the circumstances, renders the assistance requested in the application of the procedures of coordination, notification and recording of the frequency assignments (No. **7.6**). In order to provide this assistance, the Bureau may request any additional information from the requesting administration, as it considers necessary (No. **9.44**).

### **2.5 Continuing disagreement (No. 9.63)**

If administration B, having examined the coordination information of administration A, is unable to agree to the coordination request, it should provide details of its own assignments on which the disagreement is based. At that stage, if both administrations are willing to make modifications to their characteristics or accept some operational constraints, coordination may be feasible.

Otherwise, there exists a situation of continuing disagreement between the administrations. Under the provisions of No. **9.63**, if there is continuing disagreement, or if any administration involved in the coordination requests the assistance of the Bureau, the Bureau shall provide assistance in assessing the probability of interference between the networks.

Part B, Section B3 of the Rules of Procedure contains rules concerning methodology for calculation of the probability of harmful interference between the satellite networks coordinated under No. **9.7**, when the Bureau undertakes examination requested under No. **11.32A**.

Concerned administrations are requested to provide information, in addition to the data provided under Appendix **4**, such as the mutually agreed criteria for the acceptable interference and the modulation characteristics in order to permit the Bureau to carry out the examination. The probability of harmful interference is assessed based on the agreed criteria, if provided by the administrations. In the absence of this information, the Bureau may use the limits derived from Recommendation ITU-R S.741 together with the information submitted in accordance with Appendix **4**.

The Bureau communicates its conclusions to both administrations involved. If the disagreement remains unresolved after the Bureau has communicated its conclusions, the administration which requested coordination might resubmit the notices under the provisions of No. **9.64**, which will be recorded in the MIFR if the conclusions of examination to assess the probability of harmful interference leads to a favourable finding (No. **9.65**).

### **3 Conclusion**

The Bureau receives formal requests for assistance related to about 150 satellite networks not subject to a Plan and 300 earth stations per year. When the Bureau takes action under the provisions of the Regulations, administrations generally respond to the Bureau. Where an administration does not respond to the Bureau's request for an acknowledgement, decision, or information within the stipulated time, the Bureau applies the provisions of Nos. **9.47** to **9.49**, as appropriate, enabling the administrations requesting coordination to complete the process of notifying their assignments for recording in the MIFR.

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