

## **Space Services Department**

### **BRINGING INTO USE AND SUSPENSION OF SPACE SERVICES FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS RECORDED IN THE MASTER INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY REGISTER AND NOT SUBJECT TO A PLAN**

#### **1 Introduction**

In accordance with its Constitution and Convention, one of the key role of ITU is to ensure the rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite-orbit resources. To achieve these goals, the Radiocommunication Bureau records all frequency assignments in use and notified to the ITU in the Master International Frequency Register (Master Register), and reviews it periodically with the aim of maintaining or improving its accuracy.

This document aims at providing an overview of the regulatory framework concerning the bringing into use and suspension of the space services frequency assignments recorded in the Master Register and not subject to a Plan.

#### **2 Bringing into use**

##### **2.1 Regulatory time limit for bringing into use**

The regulatory time-limit for bringing into use a frequency assignment to a space station of a satellite network not subject to a Plan is seven years, as specified in No. **11.44**.

In the case of satellite networks or systems not subject to coordination procedure under Section II of Article **9**, the 7-year regulatory time-limit is counted from the date of receipt by the Bureau of the Advance Publication Information under No. **9.1** or **9.2**.

In the case of satellite networks or systems subject to coordination procedure under Section II of Article **9**, the 7-year regulatory time-limit is counted from the date of submission of the Request for Coordination under No. **9.30** (see also No. **9.1A**).

Any frequency assignment not brought into use within the required period will be cancelled by the Bureau after having informed the administration at least three months before the expiry of this period. The reminder sent by the Bureau in this respect is in the form of a circular telegram CTITU series (available at <https://www.itu.int/md/R00-CTITU-CIR/en>).

##### **2.2 Notification of the date of bringing into use**

The information concerning the date of bringing into use (DBIU) is to be provided in the following occasions:

- in Appendix 4 notice forms when submitted under No. **11.15**; and
- in the confirmation of the date of bringing into use under Nos. **11.44.2**, **11.47** and **11.44B**.

The first information of the DBIU should be provided in the submission of the Notification for recording under No. **11.2**, as part of the Appendix 4 information, and should be provided for each assignment or group of assignment.

The DBIU indicated in the notification for space stations should not be more than 3 years later than the date of receipt of the notification information by the Bureau (see No. **11.25**).

Where the DBIU indicated in the notification notice is before the date of receipt of the notice, it is considered as an actual DBIU.

If the notification for recording has not been submitted to the Bureau, any information concerning the bringing into use received by the Bureau will not be processed.

### **2.3 Provisional recording**

For notification of a frequency assignment to a satellite network under Article **11** having a DBIU later than the date of receipt of the notice, the DBIU is considered as a foreseen date. The frequency assignment is processed under No. **11.47**, leading to a provisional entry in the Master Register if these assignments are recorded with a favourable finding.

### **2.4 Confirmation of bringing into use of a provisionally recorded frequency assignment**

For those assignments that have been provisionally recorded, when the assignments to the satellite network have been actually brought into use, the Administration shall communicate the information to the Bureau, thus providing the actual DBIU.

For assignments that are provisionally recorded, the information on the actual bringing into use of assignments must be received by the Bureau no later than 30 days after the end of the 7-year regulatory period and the DBIU must of course be within the regulatory 7-year time-limit.

For assignments that are provisionally recorded, if the Bureau does not receive the confirmation of bringing into use on time, it will send a reminder to the notifying administration no more than fifteen days before the end of the 7-year regulatory period.

If the Bureau does not receive that confirmation within thirty days following the end of the 7-year regulatory period, it shall cancel the entry in the Master Register.

### **2.5 Case of frequency assignments to a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit (GSO)**

For a frequency assignment to a space station in the GSO, there are additional considerations regarding the bringing into use that are spelt out in Nos. **11.44B**, **11.44.2**, **11.44B.2**.

The Bureau will process the information on bringing into use in two steps: initial information and confirmation.

The initial information is the communication that a frequency assignment to a space station was brought into use and that the continuous 90-day period described in No. **11.44B** is not yet passed.

Where the initial information has been provided, a reminder for the confirmation under No. **11.44B** will be sent to the administration 90 days after the communicated DBIU.

The confirmation of bringing into use of the frequency assignment will be considered as communicated to the Bureau when the administration informs the Bureau that a space station in the GSO *with the capability of transmitting or receiving that frequency assignment has been deployed*

*and maintained at the notified orbital position for a continuous period of 90 days, as described in No. 11.44B.*

The notifying administration shall inform the Bureau of the confirmation of bringing into use as stated above within 30 days from the end of the 90-day period, as described in No. 11.44.B

The notified DBIU of a frequency assignment to a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit shall be the date of commencement of ninety-day period, as described in No. 11.44.2.

For cases where the frequency assignment was brought into use more than 120 days prior to the date of receipt of the notification information, this frequency assignment shall be considered as having been confirmed brought into use if the notifying administration confirms that a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit with the capability of transmitting or receiving that frequency assignment has been deployed and maintained for a continuous period of time from the notified date of bringing into use until the date of receipt of the notification information for this frequency assignment, as described in No. 11.44B.2.

When informing the Bureau of the bringing into use of a frequency assignment to a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit, the information requested by Resolution 40 (WRC-15) shall also be submitted to the Bureau (see below 2.7).

## **2.6 Frequency assignments to space stations of a non-geostationary satellite system (NGSO)**

With regards to the bringing into use of frequency assignments to space stations of a non-geostationary satellite system in the FSS or MSS, the following rules apply:

In order to consider any frequency assignment as having been brought into use, the notifying administration has to inform the Bureau that at least one space station with the confirmed capability of transmitting or receiving that frequency assignment has been deployed for a continuous period of ninety days on one of the notified orbital planes of the non-geostationary satellite system, irrespective of the notified number of orbital planes and satellites per orbital plane in the system.

The notifying administration shall so inform the Bureau within thirty days from the end of the 90-day period. A frequency assignment to a space station of a non-geostationary satellite system with a notified date of bringing into use more than 120 days prior to the date of receipt of the notification information shall also be considered as having being brought into use if the notifying administration confirms, when submitting the notification information for this assignment, that at least one space station with the capability of transmitting or receiving that frequency assignment has been deployed on one of the notified orbital planes of the non-geostationary satellite system and maintained for a continuous period of time from the notified date of bringing into use until the date of receipt of the notification information for this frequency assignment.

The date of deployment of the first satellite at its intended orbit shall be within the 7-year time-limit for bringing frequency assignments to a space station into use under No. 11.44.

The above rules are spelt out in the Rules of Procedure related to No. 11.44.

The issue of bringing into use of frequency assignments to NGSO satellite networks will be further discussed in CPM-19 and WRC-19 under WRC-19 Agenda item 7, Issue A.

## **2.7 Use of one space station to bring frequency assignments to geostationary-satellite networks at different orbital locations into use within a short period of time (Resolution 40)**

When informing the Bureau of the bringing into use, or bringing back into use after suspension, of a frequency assignment to a space station in a geostationary-satellite network, the notifying

administration shall indicate to the Bureau whether or not this action has been accomplished with a space station that has previously been used to bring into use, or resume the use of, frequency assignments at a different orbital location within the three years prior to the date of submission of this information.

In cases where a notifying administration informs the Bureau that it has brought into use, or resumed the use after suspension of, a frequency assignment to a space station in a geostationary-satellite network with a space station that has previously been used to bring into use, or to resume the use of, frequency assignments at a different orbital location within three years prior to the date of submission of this information, the notifying administration shall also indicate, for that same three-year period:

- i) the last orbital location where the space station was used to bring into use, or resume the use of, frequency assignments;
- ii) the satellite network(s) with which the frequency assignments in i) above were associated;
- iii) the date on which the space station was no longer maintained at the orbital location in i) above.

If the information is not provided by the notifying administration, the Bureau shall consult the notifying administration requesting the missing information.

In the case the notifying administration fails to provide the missing information after two Bureau's reminders, the Bureau shall consider that the frequency assignments to the geostationary-satellite network have not been brought into use, or brought back into use, and shall so inform the notifying administration.

## **2.8 Administrative due diligence applicable to some radiocommunication services (Resolution 49)**

For all satellite networks in the fixed-satellite service, mobile-satellite service or broadcasting-satellite service, the notifying administration shall send to the Bureau, as early as possible before the date of bringing into use, the due diligence information specified in Annex 2 to the Resolution 49. This include information on the satellite manufacturer and launch service provider.

## **2.9 Information required under Resolution 552 (Rev. WRC-15) for the frequency band 21.4-22 GHz in Regions 1 and 3**

For all satellite networks in the broadcasting-satellite service in the frequency band 21.4-22 GHz, the notifying administration shall provide the information requested in Resolution 552 (Rev.WRC-15) within 30 days after the actual commencement, or resumption, of use of the frequency assignments.

Within 30 days after the end of the 7-year regulatory period, and after the end of the three-year period following the date of suspension under No. 11.49, if the complete information under Resolution 552 is not yet received by the Bureau, the corresponding frequency assignments shall be cancelled by the Bureau.

## **2.10 Extension for BIU frequency assignments by the Radio Regulations Board**

In cases of *force majeure* or co-passenger delay concerning the launch of the satellite, the notifying administration may submit a request to the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) to consider an extension of the regulatory time-limit for bringing into use frequency assignments.

Should the RRB decide to grant that extension, the notifying administration should still submit the notification and Resolution 49 (Rev.WRC-15) information within the regulatory deadline as

required under No. **11.48**, because such information about the planned frequency usage and coordination status would be useful to other administrations in the planning of their satellite projects and their coordination activities.

Consequently, in cases where this information has not been provided before the decision of the Board to grant an extension of the deadline for bringing into use, the Bureau will inform the notifying administration, after the Board decision, that it still has to provide, within the 7-year period and in accordance with No. **11.48**, the notification and Resolution **49 (Rev.WRC-15)** information pertaining to the satellite that faced a case of *force majeure* or a co-passenger delay.

Within one year following the RRB's decision to grant an extension or by the end of the extension, whichever is earlier, updated information under Resolution **49 (Rev.WRC-15)** shall be submitted to the Bureau by the notifying administration.

### **2.11 Application of No. 13.6 at the stage of bringing into use**

In accordance with Nos. **11.44.3** and **11.44B.1**, upon receipt of the information of bringing into use and whenever it appears from reliable information available that a notified assignment has not been brought into use in accordance with No. **11.44** and/or No. **11.44B**, as the case may be, the Bureau will apply the consultation procedures and subsequent applicable course of action prescribed in No. **13.6**.

The procedure is as follows:

- The Bureau requests clarification from the notifying administration as to whether the assignment was brought into use or continues to be in use in accordance with the notified characteristics, and includes the reason for the query.
- If the notifying administration does not respond within three months, the Bureau sends a first reminder.
- If the notifying administration does not respond within one month of the first reminder, the Bureau sends a second reminder.
- If the notifying administration does not respond within one month of the second reminder, the Bureau consults the Radio Regulations Board, which will decide whether the frequency assignments shall be kept or cancelled.

If the notifying administration responds within any of the deadlines above, the Bureau shall cancel, suitably modify, or retain the basic characteristics of the entry, depending on the response of the notifying administration.

However, in case of disagreement between the Bureau and the notifying administration, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Radio Regulations Board. For such cases of disagreement or when there is no response, the recorded frequency assignments will continue to be taken into account by the Bureau when conducting its examinations until the Board's decision.

In order to ensure consistency among frequency assignments in the MIFR, the Bureau also make the same request for frequency assignments of satellite networks at the same orbital position and notified by the same administration.

### **2.12 Confirmation of the bringing into use of frequency assignments to earth Stations**

For those assignments that have been provisionally recorded, when the assignments to the earth station have been actually brought into use, the Administration shall communicate the information to the Bureau, thus providing a confirmed DBIU. The confirmed DBIU for the frequency

assignment to the earth station should not be earlier than the corresponding DBIU for the associated space station.

The information on bringing into use must be received by the Bureau no later than 30 days after the notified date of bringing into use. Otherwise, the Bureau will cancel the entry in the Master Register in accordance with No. **11.47**, after having informed the administration concerned.

The Bureau will send a reminder to the notifying administration no more than fifteen days before the notified date of bringing into use.

### **3 Suspension and resumption of use**

An administration may inform the Bureau of the suspension of the use of a frequency assignment to a space station for a period not exceeding three years. During this period, the frequency assignment shall still continue to enjoy the protection acquired by virtue of the coordination agreements already obtained (see No. **11.49**).

The notifying administration should inform the Bureau of the suspension within six months from the date on which the use was suspended otherwise a reduction of the allowed suspension period will apply. If the notifying administration informs the Bureau of the suspension more than 21 months after the date on which the use of the frequency assignment was suspended, the frequency assignment shall be cancelled (see No. **11.49**).

At the expiry of the period of suspension of the use of a frequency assignment, the Bureau will consult the notifying administration as to the date of resumption of use.

When informing the Bureau of the resumption of use of a frequency assignment to a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit, the information requested in Resolution **40 (WRC-15)** shall also be submitted to the Bureau (see section 2.7).

The procedure to resume the use of a suspended frequency assignment to a space station in the geostationary-satellite orbit is similar to the procedure for bringing into use (see section 2.5)

Upon receipt of the information of the resumption of use and whenever it appears from reliable information available that a notified assignment has not been brought back into use in accordance with No. **11.49** and/or No. **11.49.2**, as the case may be, the Bureau will apply the consultation procedures and subsequent applicable course of action prescribed in No. **13.6** (see also section 2.11).

### **4 Request for cancellation of a recorded satellite network or request for the extension of the period of validity (Resolution 4)**

The period of validity is an Appendix 4 element provided by the notifying administration in the notification submission.

In accordance with Resolution **4 (Rev.WRC-03)**, a frequency assignment to a space station shall be deemed definitively discontinued after the expiry of the period of operation which is counted from the DBIU plus the period of validity recorded in the notice. The administration should request for the cancellation of these recorded frequency assignments if there is no plan to continue their utilization.

If no request has been received by the Bureau, it will write to the notifying administration to take steps to cancel the assignment. If the Bureau receives no reply within three months following the expiry of the period of operation, it shall insert a symbol "RS4#1.1" in the Remarks Column of the Master Register to indicate that the assignment is not in conformity with Resolution **4 (Rev.WRC-03)**.

If a notifying administration wishes to extend the period of validity of a frequency assignment of an existing space station, it shall inform the Bureau accordingly more than three years before the expiry of the period in question. If all other basic characteristics of that assignment remain unchanged, the Bureau will amend as requested the period of validity originally recorded in the Master Register and publish that information in a RES4 special section of a BR IFIC.

It should be noted that, when the Bureau processes the above-listed requests, a check of the actual occupancy of the orbit/spectrum is carried out in accordance with the provisions of No. **13.6**.

## 5 Publications by the Bureau

### 5.1 BR IFIC

Information concerning the bringing into use, suspension and bringing back into use are published in PART II-S of the BR IFIC, either as a standalone publication or together with the favorable findings.

Information concerning the extension of the period of validity in accordance with Resolution **4** is published in a RES4 Special section.

### 5.2 Web

The Bureau posts information on the status of assignments to satellite networks in the following webpages:

Bringing into use: <http://www.itu.int/net/ITU-R/space/snl/listinuse/index.asp>

Suspension/resumption: <http://www.itu.int/net/ITU-R/space/snl/list1149/index.asp>

Resolution 40: [http://www.itu.int/net/ITU-R/space/snl/sat\\_relocation/index.asp](http://www.itu.int/net/ITU-R/space/snl/sat_relocation/index.asp)

### 5.3 SNS

In the SNS database format, all information concerning the bringing into use status are recorded at group level:

Procedure		Table	Field
Bringing into use	date of bringing into use	group	d_inuse
	Status of the confirmation	group	f_biu
	date of review	fdg_ref	d_fdg_rev for d_type = A
Period of validity	Date	group	prd_valid
	Not in conformity with RES 4	fdg_ref	fdg_prov = RS4#1.1
Suspension of use	Date of start of suspension	fdg_ref	d_fdg_rev for d_type = S
	Date limit of resumption	fdg_ref	d_fdg_rev for d_type = D

For more information on the SNS database format, see Chapter 3 of the Preface to the BRIFIC (Space Services) available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/space/Pages/prefaceMain.aspx>.