RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.476-5*

DIRECT-PRINTING TELEGRAPH EQUIPMENT IN THE MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE**

(Question ITU-R 5/8)

(1970-1974-1978-1982-1986-1995)

Summary

The Recommendation provides in Annex 1 characteristics for error detecting and correcting systems for existing direct-printing telegraph equipment. Annex 1 contains the technical characteristics of the transmission, the code and the modes of operation to be employed in the maritime-mobile service. New equipment should conform to Recommendation ITU-R M.625.

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

a) that there is a requirement to interconnect mobile stations, or mobile stations and coast stations, equipped with start-stop apparatus employing the ITU-T International Telegraph Alphabet No. 2, by means of radiotelegraph circuits;

b) that direct-printing telegraphy communications in the maritime mobile service can be listed in the following categories:

b.a telegraph service between a ship and a coast station;

b.b telegraph service between a ship and an extended station (ship's owner) via a coast station;

b.c telex service between a ship and a subscriber of the (international) telex network;

b.d broadcast telegraph service from a coast station to one or more ships;

b.e telegraph service between two ships or between one ship and a number of other ships;

c) that those categories are different in nature and that consequently different degrees of transmission quality may be required;

d) that the categories given in b.a, b.b and b.c above may require a higher transmission quality than categories b.d and b.e for the reason that data could be handled through the services in the categories b.a, b.b and b.c, while the messages passed through the service of category b.d, and via the broadcast service of category b.e are normally plain language, allowing a lower transmission quality than that required for coded information;

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* This Recommendation should be brought to the attention of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T).

** This Recommendation is retained in order to provide information concerning existing equipment, but will probably be deleted at a later date. New equipment should conform to Recommendation ITU-R M.625 which provides for the exchange of identification signals, for the use of 9 digit maritime mobile service identification signals and for compatibility with existing equipment built in accordance with this Recommendation.

Note by the Secretariat: The references made to the Radio Regulations (RR) in this Recommendation refer to the RR as revised by the World Radiocommunication Conference 1995. These elements of the RR will come into force on 1 June 1998. Where applicable, the equivalent references in the current RR are also provided in square brackets.

e) that the service in category b.d and the broadcast service in category b.e cannot take advantage of an ARQ method, as there is in principle no return path;

f) that for these categories of service which by their nature do not allow the use of ARQ, another mode, i.e. the forward error-correcting (FEC) mode should be used;

g) that the period for synchronization and phasing should be as short as possible and should not exceed 5 s;

h) that most of the ship stations do not readily permit simultaneous use of the radio transmitter and radio receiver;

j) that the equipment on board ships should be neither unduly complex nor expensive,

recommends

1 that when an error-detecting and correcting system is used for direct-printing telegraphy in the maritime mobile service, a 7-unit ARQ system or a 7-unit forward acting, error-correcting and indicating time-diversity system, using the same code, should be employed;

2 that equipment designed in accordance with § 1 should meet the characteristics laid down in Annex 1.

ANNEX 1

1 General (Mode A, ARQ and Mode B, FEC)

1.1 The system in both Mode A (ARQ) and Mode B (FEC) is a single-channel synchronous system using the 7-unit error-detecting code as listed in § 2 of this Annex.

1.2 FSK modulation is used on the radio link at 100 Bd. The equipment clocks controlling the modulation rate should have an accuracy of better than 30 parts in 10^6.

NOTE 1 – Some existing equipments may not conform to this requirement.

1.3 The terminal input and output must be in accordance with the 5-unit start-stop ITU-T International Telegraph Alphabet No. 2 at a modulation rate of 50 Bd.

1.4 The class of emission is F1B or J2B with a frequency shift on the radio link of 170 Hz. When frequency shift is effected by applying audio signals to the input of a single-sideband transmitter, the centre frequency of the audio spectrum offered to the transmitter should be 1 700 Hz.

NOTE 1 – A number of equipments are presently in service, using a centre frequency of 1 500 Hz. These may require special measures to achieve compatibility.

1.5 The radio frequency tolerance of the transmitter and the receiver should be in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R SM.1137. It is desirable that the receiver employs the minimum practicable bandwidth (see also Report ITU-R M.585).

NOTE 1 – The receiver bandwidth should preferably be between 270 and 340 Hz.

2 Table of conversion

2.1 Traffic information signals

TABLE 1

Combi-nation No.	Letter case	Figure case	International Telegraph Alphabet No. 2 Code	Emitted 7-unit signal(1)
1	A	–	ZZAAA	BBBYYYB
2	B	?	ZAAZZ	YBYYBBB
3	C	:	AZZZA	BYBBBYY
4	D	⊠ (3)	ZAAZA	BBYYBYB
5	E	3	ZAAAA	YBBYBYB
6	F	(2)	ZAZZA	BBYBBYY
7	G	(2)	AZAZZ	BYBYBBY
8	H	(2)	AAZAZ	BYYBYBB
9	I	8	AZZAA	BYBBYYB
10	J	Audible signal	ZZAZA	BBBYBYY
11	K	(	ZZZZA	YBBBBYY
12	L	)	AZAAZ	BYBYYBB
13	M	.	AAZZZ	BYYBBBY
14	N	,	AAZZA	BYYBBYB
15	O	9	AAAZZ	BYYYBBB
16	P	0	AZZAZ	BYBBYBY
17	Q	1	ZZZAZ	YBBBYBY
18	R	4	AZAZA	BYBYBYB
19	S	’	ZAZAA	BBYBYYB
20	T	5	AAAAZ	YYBYBBB
21	U	7	ZZZAA	YBBBYYB
22	V	=	AZZZZ	YYBBBBY
23	W	2	ZZAAZ	BBBYYBY
24	X	/	ZAZZZ	YBYBBBY
25	Y	6	ZAZAZ	BBYBYBY
26	Z	+	ZAAAZ	BBYYYBB
27	← (Carriage return)		AAAZA	YYYBBBB
28	≡ (Line feed)		AZAAA	YYBBYBB
29	↓ (Letter shift)		ZZZZZ	YBYBBYB
30	↑ (Figure shift)		ZZAZZ	YBBYBBY
31	Space		AAZAA	YYBBBYB
32	Unperforated tape		AAAAA	YBYBYBB

(1) B represents the higher emitted frequency and Y the lower.

(2) At present unassigned (see ITU-T Recommendation F.1 C8). Reception of these signals, however, should not initiate a request for repetition.

(3) The pictorial representation shown is a schematic of ✠ which may also be used when equipment allows (ITU-T Recommendation F.1).

2.2 Service information signals

TABLE 2

Mode A (ARQ)	Emitted signal	Mode B (FEC)
Control signal 1 (CS1)	BYBYYBB	
Control signal 2 (CS2)	YBYBYBB	
Control signal 3 (CS3)	BYYBBYB	
Idle signal β	BBYYBBY	
Idle signal α	BBBBYYY	Phasing signal 1
Signal repetition	YBBYYBB	Phasing signal 2

3 Characteristics

3.1 Mode A (ARQ) (see Figs. 1 and 2)

A synchronous system, transmitting blocks of three characters from an information sending station (ISS) towards an information receiving station (IRS), which stations can, controlled by the control signal 3 (see § 2.2), interchange their functions.

3.1.1 Master and slave arrangements

3.1.1.1 The station that initiates the establishment of the circuit (the calling station) becomes the "master" station, and the station that has been called will be the "slave" station;

this situation remains unchanged during the entire time in which the established circuit is maintained, regardless of which station, at any given time, is the information sending station (ISS) or information receiving station (IRS);

3.1.1.2 the clock in the master station controls the entire circuit (see circuit timing diagram, Fig. 1);

3.1.1.3 the basic timing cycle is 450 ms, and for each station consists of a transmission period followed by a transmission pause during which reception is effected;

3.1.1.4 the master station transmitting time distributor is controlled by the clock in the master station;

3.1.1.5 the slave station receiving time distributor is controlled by the received signal;

3.1.1.6 the slave station transmitting time distributor is phase-locked to the slave station receiving time distributor; i.e. the time interval between the end of the received signal and the start of the transmitted signal (t_E in Fig. 1) is constant;

3.1.1.7 the master station receiving time distributor is controlled by the received signal.

3.1.2 The information sending station (ISS)

3.1.2.1 Groups the information to be transmitted into blocks of three characters (3×7 signal elements), including, if necessary, "idle signals β" to complete or to fill blocks when no traffic information is available;

3.1.2.2 emits a "block" in 210 ms after which a transmission pause of 240 ms becomes effective, retaining the emitted block in memory until the appropriate control signal confirming correct reception by the information receiving station (IRS) has been received;

3.1.2.3 numbers successive blocks alternately "Block 1" and "Block 2" by means of a local numbering device. The first block should be numbered "Block 1" or "Block 2" dependent on whether the received control signal (see § 3.1.4.5) is a control signal 1 or a control signal 2. The numbering of successive blocks is interrupted at the reception of:

– a request for repetition; or

– a mutilated signal; or

– a control signal 3 (see § 2.2);

3.1.2.4 emits the information of Block 1 on receipt of control signal 1 (see § 2.2);

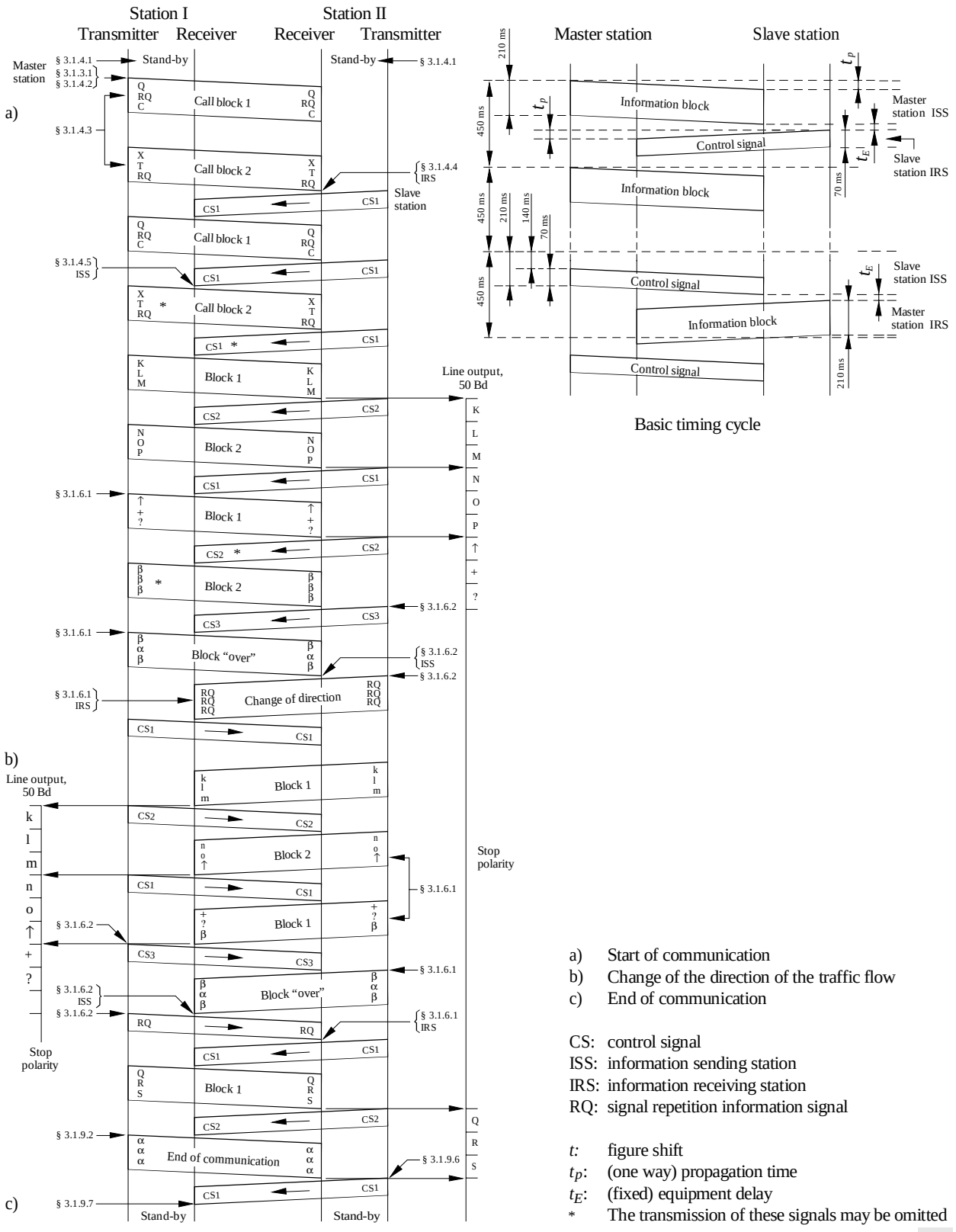
3.1.2.5 emits the information of Block 2 on receipt of control signal 2 (see § 2.2);

3.1.2.6 emits a block of three "signal repetitions" on receipt of a mutilated signal (see § 2.2).

FIGURE 1

A-Mode operation

Selective call No. 32610 transmitted as Q (RQ)C XT (RQ)
(see Recommendation ITU-R M.491 § 2, 3)



a) Start of communication
b) Change of the direction of the traffic flow
c) End of communication

CS: control signal
ISS: information sending station
IRS: information receiving station
RQ: signal repetition information signal

t: figure shift
t_p: (one way) propagation time
t_E: (fixed) equipment delay
* The transmission of these signals may be omitted

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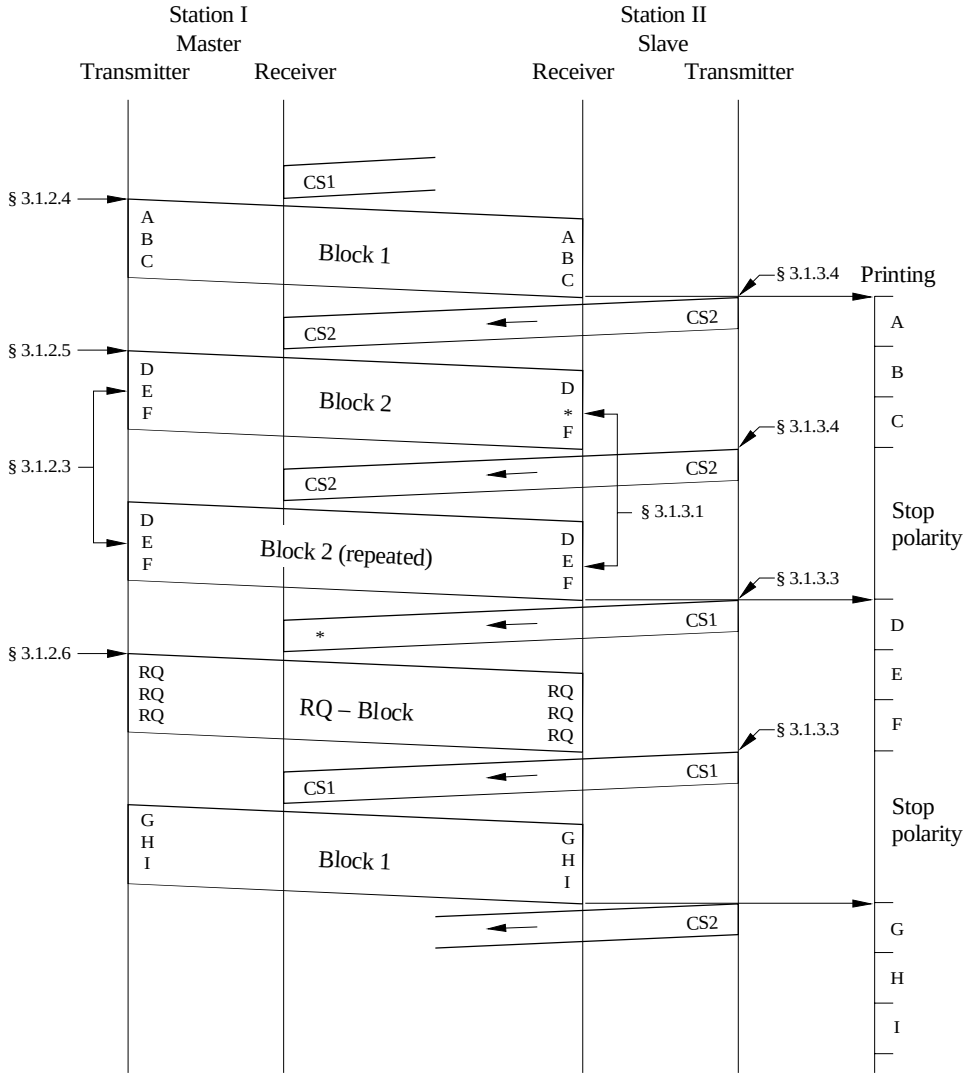
FIGURE 2

Mode A under error receiving conditions



* Detected error symbol

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3.1.3 The information receiving station (IRS)

3.1.3.1 Numbers the received blocks of three characters alternately “Block 1” and “Block 2” by a local numbering device, the numbering being interrupted at the reception of:

– a block in which one or more characters are mutilated; or

– a block containing at least one “signal repetition”; (§ 3.1.2.6)

3.1.3.2 after the reception of each block, emits one of the control signals of 70 ms duration after which a transmission pause of 380 ms becomes effective;

3.1.3.3 emits the control signal 1 at the reception of:

– an unmutilated “Block 2”, or

– a mutilated “Block 1”, or

– “Block 1” containing at least one “signal repetition”;

3.1.3.4 emits the control signal 2 at reception of:

– an unmutilated “Block 1”, or

– a mutilated “Block 2”, or

– a “Block 2” containing at least one “signal repetition”.

3.1.4 Phasing

3.1.4.1 When no circuit is established, both stations are in the “stand-by” position. In this stand-by position no ISS or IRS and no master or slave position is assigned to either of the stations;

3.1.4.2 the station desiring to establish the circuit emits the “call” signal. This “call” signal is formed by two blocks of three signals (see Note 1);

3.1.4.3 the call signal contains:

– in the first block: “signal repetition” in the second character place and any combination of information signals (see Note 2) in the first and third character place,

– in the second block: “signal repetition” in the third character place preceded by any combination of the 32 information signals (see Note 2) in the first and second character place;

3.1.4.4 on receipt of the appropriate call signal the called station changes from stand-by to the IRS position and emits the control signal 1 or the control signal 2;

3.1.4.5 on receipt of two consecutive identical control signals, the calling station changes into ISS and operates in accordance with § 3.1.2.4 and 3.1.2.5.

NOTE 1 – A station using a two block call signal, shall be assigned a number in accordance with RR Nos. S19.37, S19.83 and S19.92 to S19.95 [Nos. 2088, 2134 and 2143 to 2146];

NOTE 2 – The composition of these signals and their assignment to individual ships require international agreement (see Recommendation ITU-R M.491).

3.1.5 **Rephasing** (Note 1)

3.1.5.1 When reception of information blocks or of control signals is continuously mutilated, the system reverts to the “stand-by” position after a predetermined time (a preferable predetermined time would be the duration of 32 cycles of 450 ms), to be decided by the user, of continuous repetition; the station that is master station at the time of interruption immediately initiates rephasing along the same lines as laid down in § 3.1.4;

3.1.5.2 if, at the time of interruption, the slave station was in the IRS position, the control signal to be returned after phasing should be the same as that last sent before the interruption to avoid the loss of an information block upon resumption of the communication. (Some existing equipments may not conform to this requirement);

3.1.5.3 however, if, at the time of interruption, the slave station was in the ISS position, it emits, after having received the appropriate call blocks, either:

– the control signal 3; or

– the control signal 1 or 2 in conformity with § 3.1.4.4, after which control signal 3 is emitted to initiate changeover to the ISS position;

3.1.5.4 if rephasing has not been accomplished within the time-out interval of § 3.1.9.1, the system reverts to the stand-by position and no further rephasing attempts are made.

NOTE 1 – Some coast stations do not provide rephasing (see also Recommendation ITU-R M.492).

3.1.6 Change-over

3.1.6.1 The information sending station (ISS)

– Emits, to initiate a change in the direction of the traffic flow, the information signal sequence “Figure shift” – “Plus” (“figure case of *Z*”) – “Question mark” (“figure case of B”) (see Note 1) followed, if necessary, by one or more “idle signals β” to complete a block;

– emits, on receipt of a control signal 3, a block containing the signals “idle signal β” – “idle signal α” – “idle signal β”;

– changes subsequently to IRS after the reception of a “signal repetition”.

3.1.6.2 The information receiving station (IRS)

– Emits the control signal 3:

a) when the station wishes to change over to ISS,

b) on receipt of a block in which the signal information sequence "Figure shift" – "Plus" – (figure case of Z) – "Question mark" (figure case of B) terminates (see Note 1) or upon receipt of the following block. In the latter case, the IRS shall ignore whether or not one or more characters in the last block are mutilated:

– changes subsequently to ISS after reception of a block containing the signal sequence "idle signal β" – "idle signal α" – "idle signal β";

– emits one "signal repetition" as a master station, or a block of three "signal repetitions" as a slave station, after being changed into ISS.

NOTE 1 – In the Telex network, the signal sequence combination No. 26 – combination No. 2, sent whilst the teleprinters are in the figure case condition, is used to initiate a reversal of the flow of information. The IRS is, therefore, required to keep track of whether the traffic information flow is in the letter case or figure case mode to ensure proper end-to-end operation of the system.

3.1.7 Output to line

3.1.7.1 the signal offered to the line output terminal is a 5-unit start-stop signal at a modulation rate of 50 Bd.

3.1.8 Answerback

3.1.8.1 The WRU (Who are you?) sequence, which consists of combination Nos. 30 and 4 in the ITU-T International Telegraph Alphabet No. 2, is used to request terminal identification.

3.1.8.2 The information receiving station (IRS), on receipt of a block containing the WRU sequence, which will actuate the teleprinter answerback code generator:

– changes the direction of traffic flow in accordance with § 3.1.6.2;

– transmits the signal information characters derived from the teleprinter answerback code generator;

– after transmission of 2 blocks of "idle signals β" (after completion of the answerback code, or in the absence of an answerback code), changes the direction of traffic flow in accordance with § 3.1.6.1.

NOTE 1 – Some existing equipments may not conform to this requirement.

3.1.9 End of communication

3.1.9.1 When reception of information blocks or of control signals is continuously mutilated, the system reverts to the "stand-by" position after a predetermined time of continuous repetition, which causes the termination of the established circuit (a preferable predetermined time would be the duration of 64 cycles of 450 ms);

3.1.9.2 the station that wishes to terminate the established circuit transmits an "end of communication signal";

3.1.9.3 the "end of communication signal" consists of a block containing three "idle signal α":

3.1.9.4 the "end of communication signal" is transmitted by the ISS;

3.1.9.5 if an IRS wishes to terminate the established circuit it has to change over to ISS in accordance with § 3.1.6.2;

3.1.9.6 the IRS that receives an "end of communication signal" emits the appropriate control signal and reverts to the "stand-by" position;

3.1.9.7 on receipt of a control signal that confirms the unmutilated reception of the "end of communication signal", the ISS reverts to the "stand-by" position;

3.1.9.8 when after a predetermined number of transmissions (see Note 1) of the "end of communication signal" no control signal has been received confirming the unmutilated reception of the "end of communication signal", the ISS reverts to the stand-by position and the IRS times out in accordance with § 3.1.9.1.

NOTE 1 – A preferable predetermined number would be four transmissions of the "end of communication signal".

3.2 Mode B, forward error correction (FEC) (see Figs. 3 and 4)

A synchronous system, transmitting an uninterrupted stream of characters from a station sending in the collective B-mode (CBSS) to a number of stations receiving in the collective B-mode (CBRS), or from a station sending in the selective B-mode (SBSS) to one selected station receiving in the selective B-mode (SBRS).

3.2.1 The station sending in the collective or in the selective B-mode (CBSS or SBSS)

3.2.1.1 Emits each character twice: the first transmission (DX) of a specific character is followed by the transmission of four other characters, after which the retransmission (RX) of the first character takes place, allowing for time-diversity reception at 280 ms time space;

3.2.1.2 emits as a preamble to messages or to the call sign, alternately the phasing signal 1 (see § 2.2) and the phasing signal 2 (see § 2.2) whereby phasing signal 1 is transmitted in the RX, and phasing signal 2 in the DX position. At least four of these signal pairs (phasing signal 1 and phasing signal 2) should be transmitted.

3.2.2 The station sending in the collective B-mode (CBSS)

3.2.2.1 Emits during the breaks between two messages in the same transmission the phasing signals 1 and the phasing signals 2 in the RX and the DX position, respectively.

3.2.3 The station sending in the selective B-mode (SBSS)

3.2.3.1 Emits after the transmission of the required number of phasing signals (see § 3.2.1.2) the call sign of the station to be selected. This call sign is a sequence of four characters that represents the number code of the called station. The composition of this call sign should be in accordance with Recommendation ITU-R M.491. This transmission takes place in the time diversity mode according to § 3.2.1.1;

3.2.3.2 emits the call sign and all further signals in a 3B/4Y ratio, i.e. inverted with respect to the signals in Table 1 in the column “emitted 7-unit signal”. Consequently, all signals, i.e. both traffic information signals and service information signals, following the phasing signals are transmitted in the 3B/4Y ratio;

3.2.3.3 emits the service information signal “idle signal β” during the idle time between the messages consisting of traffic information signals.

3.2.4 The station(s) receiving in the collective or in the selective B-mode (CBRS or SBRS)

3.2.4.1 Checks both characters (DX and RX), printing an unmutilated DX or RX character, or printing an error symbol or space, if both are mutilated.

3.2.5 Phasing

3.2.5.1 When no reception takes place, the system is in the “stand-by” position as laid down in § 3.1.4.1;

3.2.5.2 on receipt of the sequence *“phasing signal 1” – “phasing signal 2”*, or of the sequence *“phasing signal 2” – “phasing signal 1”*, in which phasing signal 2 determines the DX and phasing signal 1 determines the RX position, and at least one further phasing signal in the appropriate position, the system changes from “stand-by” to the CBRS position;

3.2.5.3 when started as CBRS the system changes to the SBRS (selectively called receiving station) position on receipt of the inverted characters representing its selective call number;

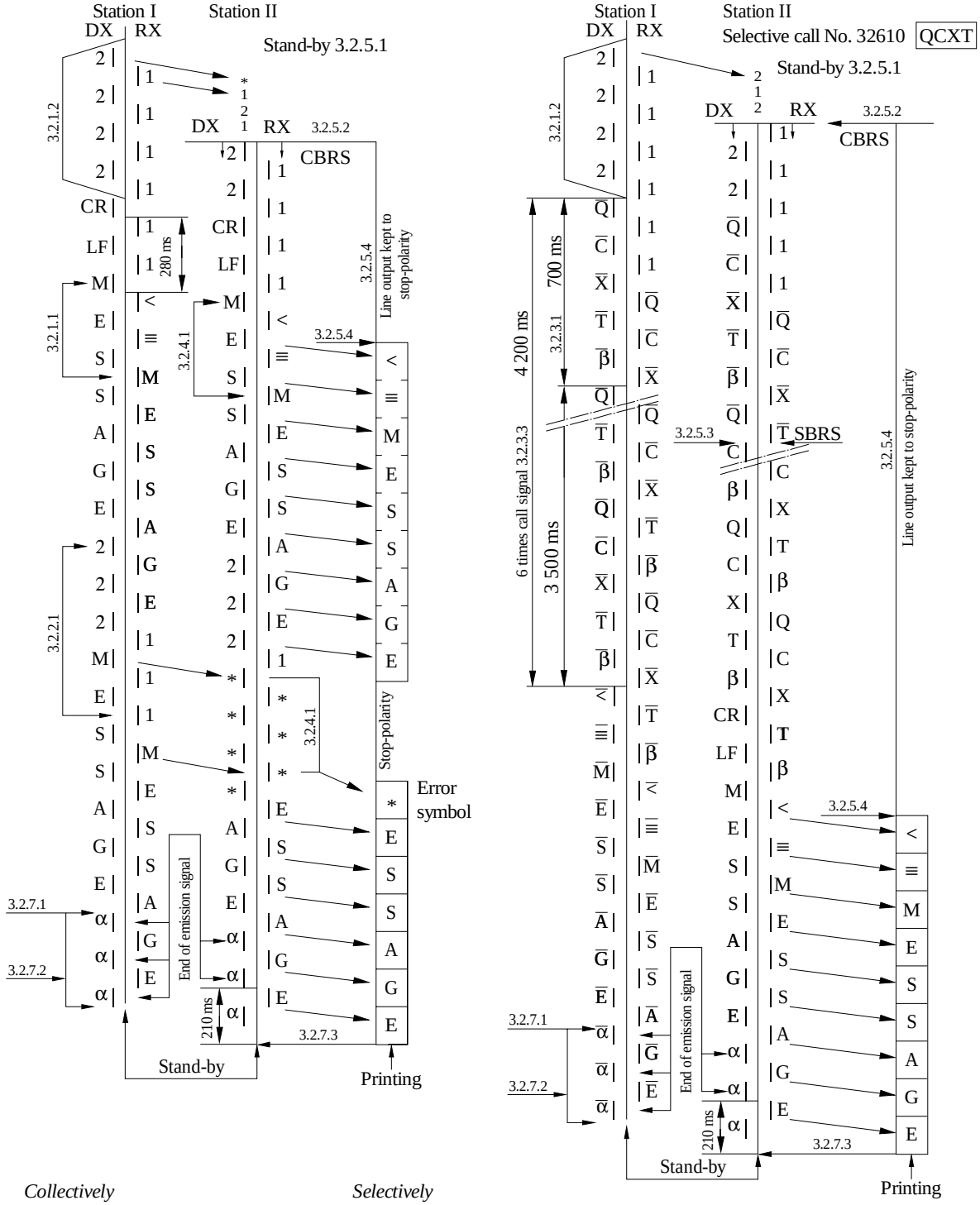
3.2.5.4 having been changed into the CBRS or into the SBRS position the system offers continuous stop-polarity to the line output terminal until either the signal “carriage return” or “line feed” is received;

3.2.5.5 when started as SBRS, the decoder re-inverts all the following signals received to the 3Y/4B ratio, so that these signals are offered to the SBRS in the correct ratio, but they remain inverted for all other stations;

3.2.5.6 both the CBRS and the SBRS revert to the stand-by position if, during a predetermined time, the percentage of mutilated signals received has reached a predetermined value.

FIGURE 3

B-mode operation



Collectively

1: phasing signal 1

2: phasing signal 2

<: carriage return (CR)

≡: line feed (LF)

* Detected error symbol

Selectively

CBSS: B-mode - Sending collectively

CBRS: B-mode - Receiving collectively

SBSS: B-mode - Sending selectively

SBRS: B-mode - Receiving selectively

Overlined symbols (e.g. $\overline{M}$) are transmitted in the 3B/4Y ratio

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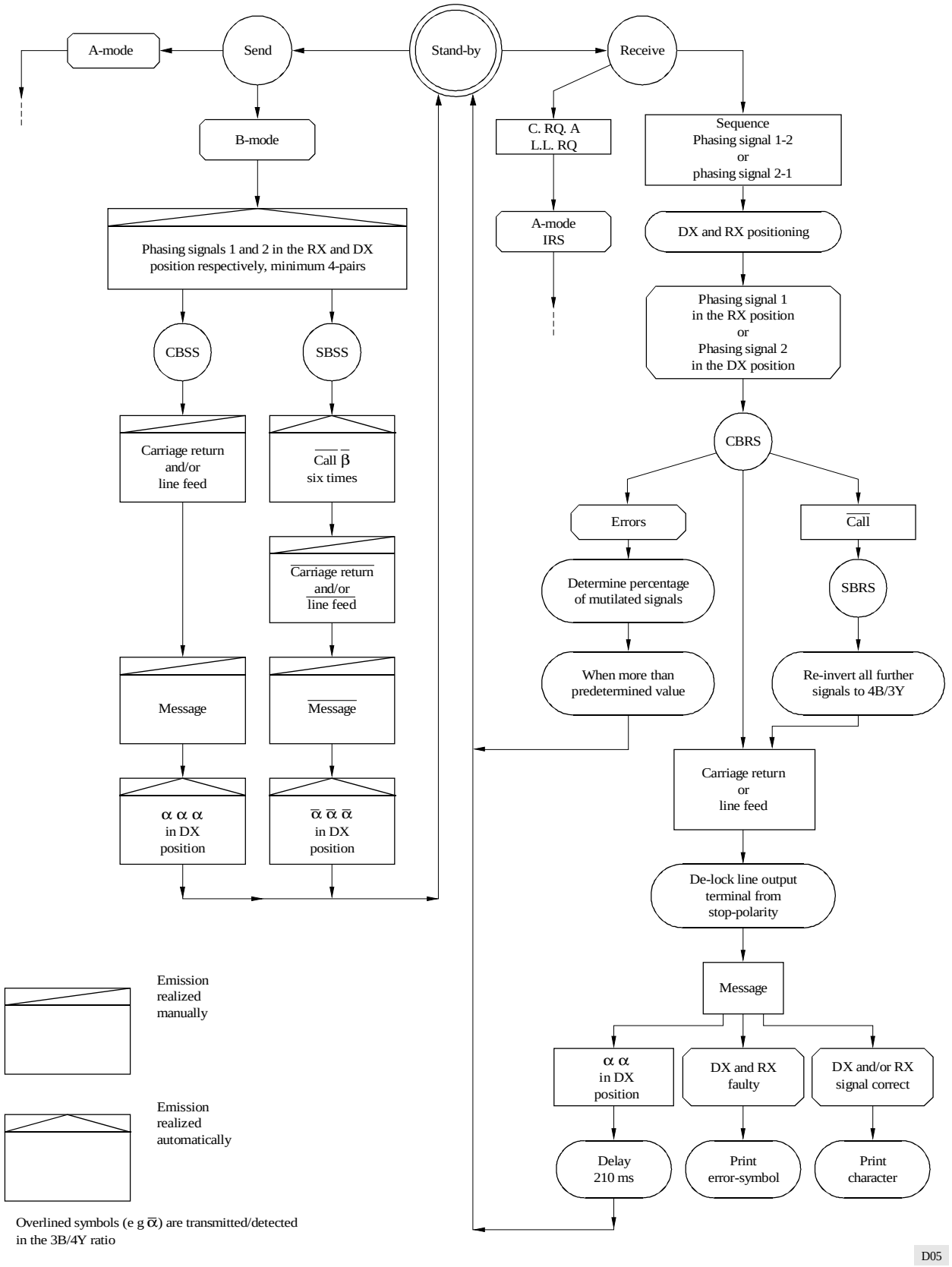
FIGURE 4

Flow chart showing processes in B-mode operation



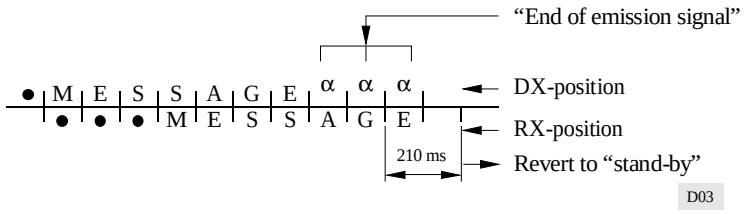
3.2.6 Output to line

3.2.6.1 The signal offered to the line output terminal is a 5-unit start-stop ITU-T International Telegraph Alphabet No. 2 signal at a modulation rate of 50 Bd.

3.2.7 End of emission

3.2.7.1 The station sending in the B-mode (CBSS or SBSS) that wishes to terminate the emission transmits the "end of emission signal";

3.2.7.2 the "end of emission signal" consists of three consecutive "idle signals α" (see § 2.2) transmitted in the DX position only, immediately after the last transmitted traffic information signal in the DX position, after which the station terminates its emission and reverts to the "stand-by" position;



3.2.7.3 the CBRS or the SBRS reverts to the "stand-by" position not less than 210 ms after receipt of at least two consecutive "idle signals α" in the DX position.