

RECOMMENDATION ITU-R P.581-2*

THE CONCEPT OF “WORST MONTH”

(1982-1986-1990)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that performance criteria for radiocommunication systems often refer to “any month” as the period of reference;
- b) that for the design of such systems it is necessary to have statistics of propagation effects that are relevant to the period of reference of the performance criteria;
- c) that consequently there is a need for an unambiguous definition for the period of reference,

recommends

1. that the fraction of time during which a preselected threshold is exceeded in the worst month of a year is referred to as “the annual worst-month time fraction of excess”;
2. that the statistic relevant for the performance criteria referring to “any month” is the long-term average of the annual worst-month time fraction of excess;
3. that the worst month of a year for a preselected threshold for any performance degrading mechanism, be that month in a period of twelve consecutive calendar months, during which the threshold is exceeded for the longest time. The worst month is not necessarily the same month for all threshold levels.

Note – Recommendation ITU-R P.841 presents a model for the conversion of the average annual time fraction of excess to the average annual worst-month time fraction of excess. Global values of the parameters of this model are given, as well as more detailed values for several regions of the world.

* Radiocommunication Study Group 3 made editorial amendments to this Recommendation in 2000 in accordance with Resolution ITU-R 44.