

RECOMMENDATION ITU-R TF.457-2

**USE OF THE MODIFIED JULIAN DATE BY THE STANDARD-FREQUENCY
AND TIME-SIGNAL SERVICES**

(Question ITU-R 102/7)

(1970-1974-1997)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that for dating purposes a decimal day count is desirable in connection with the use of radio time signals and radio time codes;
- b) that a decimal day count with reference to universal time (UT), the Julian date (JD), has long been established for dating in astronomy, chronology and related sciences;
- c) that a decimal day count is necessary, by which the start of a day is defined at 0000 hours and not at 1200 hours as in the case of the JD;
- d) that a decimal day count is necessary, in particular in association with the time scales coordinated universal time (UTC) and international atomic time (TAI);
- e) that it is necessary to avoid a proliferation of different dating systems;
- f) that a simple change from the JD mentioned above to a modern decimal day count would be advantageous;
- g) that the existing and established JD, based on the start of the day being Greenwich Mean Noon, should be continued without break;
- h) that a modified Julian date (MJD), which meets the requirements stated above, is already in use,

recommends

- 1** that for modern timekeeping and dating requirements, wherever necessary, a decimal day count should be used; the calendar day should be counted from 0000 hours TAI, UTC or UT and be specified by a number with five significant figures;
 - 2** that this "modified Julian date" (MJD) equals the JD less 2 400 000.5 and therefore has its origin, in the case of UT, at 0000 hours UT, 17 November 1858.
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