



Radiocommunication Bureau

(Direct Fax N°. +41 22 730 57 85)

Circular Letter
CR/303

22 May 2009

To Administrations of Member States of ITU

Subject: Amateur-satellite service

References: BR Circular Letter CR/269 of 27 March 2007
BR Circular Letter CR/284 of 16 May 2008

To the Director-General

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 The Radiocommunication Bureau is witnessing a growing interest in the development and operation of satellite networks in the amateur-satellite service. At the same time, administrations would appear to need some additional clarification regarding application of the registration procedure to amateur-satellite networks. In this context, the Bureau would like to draw your attention to the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations concerning the rights and obligations of ITU Member States in regard to the establishment and operation of such networks.

2 Frequency allocations

2.1 The Table of Frequency Allocations in Article 5 of the Radio Regulations shows a number of frequency bands as being allocated to stations in the amateur-satellite service with a primary or secondary service status (see Nos. **5.23-5.43A** of the Radio Regulations) and a number of other frequency bands with a specific status as indicated in a footnote to the Table (e.g. No. **5.282**¹). Administrations should ensure that the choice of frequency bands for amateur-satellite networks is in conformity with the Table of Frequency Allocations of the Radio Regulations.

Further information on the frequency allocations to the amateur-satellite service may be found in the ITU-R Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services Handbook, 2007 edition (<http://www.itu.int/publ/R-HDB-52/en>). An extract from the Table of Frequency Allocations in

¹ **5.282** In the bands 435-438 MHz, 1 260-1 270 MHz, 2 400-2 450 MHz, 3 400-3 410 MHz (in Regions 2 and 3 only) and 5 650-5 670 MHz, the amateur-satellite service may operate subject to not causing harmful interference to other services operating in accordance with the Table (see No. **5.43**). Administrations authorizing such use shall ensure that any harmful interference caused by emissions from a station in the amateur-satellite service is immediately eliminated in accordance with the provisions of No. **25.11**

Article 5 of the Radio Regulations, listing all frequency bands available to the amateur-satellite service and including the associated footnotes, is also available for consultation at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/space/support/ARS/>.

3 Registration procedure

3.1 The international rights and obligations of administrations in respect of their own satellite systems in the amateur-satellite service and of other administrations' frequency assignments derive from the recording of their assignments in the Master Register. Such rights are conditioned by the provisions of the Radio Regulations as described below.

3.2 No. **9.1** of the Radio Regulations stipulates that before initiating any action under Article 11 (Notification and recording of frequency assignments) in respect of frequency assignments for a satellite network or a satellite system, an administration shall send to the Bureau a general description of the network or system for advance publication (API) in the International Frequency Information Circular (BR IFIC) not earlier than seven years and preferably not later than two years before the planned date of bringing into use of the network or system. The characteristics to be provided for this purpose are listed in Appendix **4** of the Radio Regulations.

3.3 Satellite systems in the amateur-satellite service are generally non-geostationary satellite systems which are not subject to any form of mandatory coordination. For such systems, the provisions of Article 9, Sub-Section **IA** (Advance publication of information on satellite networks or satellite systems that are not subject to coordination procedure under Section **II**), are applicable.

3.4 Administrations are reminded also of No. **9.3** of Article 9, relating to comments by administrations on advance publication information (API/A) for a satellite network or system that is not subject to the coordination procedure under Section **II** of Article 9, and of No. **9.5**, relating to the treatment by the Bureau of such comments (publication of Special Section API/B). Additional information on the electronic submission of comments made under No. **9.3** may be found in Circular Letter CR/269 of 27 March 2007.

3.5 Satellite systems in the amateur-satellite service, as in all other services, are subject to the frequency assignment notification and recording procedures (Article 11 of the Radio Regulations).

3.6 When notifying a frequency assignment, the administration in question must provide the relevant characteristics listed in Appendix **4** of the Radio Regulations. These characteristics can be submitted to the Bureau not earlier than six months after the date of publication of the advance publication information (API/A), and not earlier than three years before the assignments are planned to be brought into use.

3.7 Administrations are requested to use the latest version of the BR capture and validation software when submitting Appendix **4** notices to the Bureau under Articles 9 and 11, and also to observe the Rules of Procedure on Receivability prior to submitting electronic Appendix **4** notices to the Bureau for advance publication or notification purposes. For more information, see BR Circular Letter CR/284 of 16 May 2008.

3.8 Council Decision 482 on the implementation of cost recovery for satellite network filings exempts the publication of special sections for the amateur-satellite service from any charges.

3.9 Administrations and amateur-satellite service operators can find reference information about their satellite networks in the Bureau's Space Networks List (SNL), available at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/space/snl/>. Administrations are also reminded that the Bureau maintains an up-to-date support website – with wizards, useful information and “frequently asked questions” – that is designed to assist administrations and amateur-satellite service operators with data capture and the successful validation of their notices, at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/space/support/ARS/>.

4 The Bureau likewise invites administrations to consult Sections **I** and **II** of Article 25 of the Radio Regulations on the amateur service and amateur-satellite service, and in particular the reference to No. **22.1** which states that “space stations shall be fitted with devices to ensure immediate cessation of their radio emissions by telecommand, whenever such cessation is required under the provisions of these Regulations.”

5 The Bureau remains at the disposal of your administration for any clarification you may require regarding the subjects covered in this Circular Letter. The contact person within the Radiocommunication Bureau is Mr Attila Matas, who can be reached by telephone on +41 22 730 6105, or by e-mail at brmail@itu.int.

Yours faithfully,

Valery Timofeev
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Distribution:

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