



*Radiocommunication Bureau*

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Circular Letter  
CR/243

19 September 2005

## To Administrations of Member States of the ITU<sup>1</sup>

**Subject:** Preparations for the second session of the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for planning of the digital terrestrial broadcasting service in parts of Regions 1 and 3, in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz (RRC-04): **Establishment of the reference situation regarding the existing and planned assignments of primary services other than broadcasting for the production of the draft plan**

**References:** BR Circular Letter CR/216 of 19 July 2004  
BR Circular Letter CR/220 of 20 September 2004  
BR Circular Letter CR/223 of 29 October 2004  
BR Circular Letter CR/224 of 11 November 2004  
BR Administrative Circular CA/151 of 25 July 2005 (Report of the first meeting of the Intersessional Planning Group)

### To the Director General

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. In accordance with the decisions of the first session of the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for planning of the digital terrestrial broadcasting service in parts of Regions 1 and 3, in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz (RRC-04), which was held in Geneva from 10 to 28 May 2004, the Radiocommunication Bureau informed your Administration on the results of RRC-04 and brought to the attention of your Administration the Resolutions adopted by the first session (see Circular Letter CR/214 of 25 June 2004). Subsequently, in Circular Letters CR/216, CR/220, CR/223 and CR/224, the Bureau addressed various aspects regarding the existing and planned assignments of primary services other than the broadcasting service, in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz, based on the definition of existing and planned assignments that are to be taken into account in the design of the new plan for digital terrestrial broadcasting. Some issues were also referred to the Intersessional Planning Group (IPG), for its meeting in July 2005,

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<sup>1</sup> *This Circular Letter is primarily addressed to the Member States of Region 1 (except Mongolia) and to the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is for information only for other Member States.*

which considered them and provided its views (see document IPG-1/51 which was distributed to the membership in Administrative Circular CA/151). The purpose of this Circular Letter is to address the issues regarding the establishment of the reference situation concerning the primary terrestrial services other than broadcasting in the context of the production of the draft plan. The reference situation concerning the broadcasting service is addressed in a separate circular letter.

2. As you are aware, RRC-04 established the following definition of the reference situation: “The reference situation contains the existing and planned assignments and allotments of the broadcasting service and the existing and planned assignments of the other primary services to be taken into account for the development of the Plan(s)” (see footnote (4) in Annex 2 to Resolution COM5/1 of RRC-04). RRC-04 established 31 October 2005 as the reference situation date.

3. The definition of the existing and planned assignments of primary services other than broadcasting is included in § 1.7.2 of Chapter 1 of the RRC-04 Report and it deals with three distinct groups of assignments:

- assignments notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau and recorded in the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) by 31 December 1989 with a favourable finding with respect to the applicable provisions of the Radio Regulations (RR), and without complaint of harmful interference received by the Radiocommunication Bureau;
- assignments notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau and recorded or considered as being recorded in the MIFR between 31 December 1989 and 10 May 2004 with a favourable finding with respect to the applicable provisions of the RR, and without complaint of harmful interference received by the Radiocommunication Bureau;
- assignments notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau after 10 May 2004 which have been successfully coordinated by 31 October 2005.

4. With respect to the treatment of these frequency assignments in the planning process, the RRC-04 Report contains the following indications in § 5.1.7.1: “Before the start of the second session of RRC, the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau will draw up and post on the RRC section of the ITU website ([www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int)) a list of such assignments of other primary services that need to be taken into account. *Existing and planned assignments to other primary services should only be taken into account during the planning process at the request of the administrations concerned and as defined in § 1.7 of this Report*”. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the concerned administration to indicate which of the eligible existing and planned assignments of primary services, other than broadcasting, will be included in the planning process.

5. For the purpose of conducting the first planning exercise, the Bureau established an “equivalent reference situation for the first planning exercise”. Given the purpose of the first planning exercise (e.g., evaluation of the capacity of the frequency bands under consideration in different parts of the planning area), the Bureau included in the “equivalent reference situation for the first planning exercise” a rather large number of frequency assignments to primary services other than broadcasting (i.e., all assignments notified prior to 10 May 2004, excepting those assignments for which the administration concerned specifically requested their exclusion from the “equivalent reference situation for the first planning exercise”). Such a course of action was followed, inter alia, due to inconsistent indications in the Resolutions from RRC-04 (notably those in § 5.1.7.1 of the Report and those in Note (1) in Annex 2 to Resolution COM5/1). As the matter was clarified by the IPG (see issue No. 4 in Annex 4 to the IPG-1 Report in document IPG-1/51), the Bureau will follow, for the establishment of the reference situation for the production of the draft plan, the indications of § 5.1.7.1 of the RRC-04 Report complemented with the concerned IPG views.

6. Given this background, the Bureau will include in the reference situation for the production of the draft plan only those frequency assignments to primary terrestrial services other than

broadcasting, from the overall list of assignments eligible for inclusion in the reference situation according to the decisions of the RRC-04, *for which it will receive an explicit request in this respect from the administration responsible for the recorded assignment, by 31 October 2005*, provided that the concerned assignment fulfils the conditions set forth by § 1.7.2 of the RRC-04 Report, where appropriate. This would imply that, with respect to the existing and planned frequency assignments in the primary terrestrial services other than broadcasting, the following would be included in the compatibility assessment process:

- from the assignments notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau and recorded in the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR) by 31 December 1989 with a favourable finding with respect to the applicable provisions of the Radio Regulations (RR)<sup>2</sup>: those frequency assignments for which the Bureau receives an explicit request from the administration responsible for the recorded assignment, provided that there was no complaint of harmful interference received by the Radiocommunication Bureau;
- from the assignments notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau and recorded or considered as being recorded in the MIFR between 31 December 1989 and 10 May 2004 with a favourable finding with respect to the applicable provisions of the RR<sup>3</sup>: those frequency assignments for which the Bureau receives an explicit request from the administration responsible for the recorded assignment, provided that there was no complaint of harmful interference received by the Radiocommunication Bureau;
- from the assignments notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau after 10 May 2004 which have been successfully coordinated by 31 October 2005<sup>4</sup>: those frequency assignments for which the Bureau receives an explicit request from the administration responsible for the recorded assignment, provided that the concerned frequency assignment was coordinated with all potentially affected administrations<sup>5</sup>.

7. Therefore, administrations that wish to include some or all of their eligible assignments to primary services, other than broadcasting, in the compatibility assessment process associated to the production of the draft plan, are invited to indicate to the Bureau, by 31 October 2005, which of their eligible frequency assignments should be included in the compatibility assessment process. In this connection, the administrations may follow either of the two options listed below:

- to submit an individual notice form R06 (see Annexes 1 to 4 to Circular Letter CR/224 of 11 November 2004) for each particular frequency assignment (from the overall list of their eligible assignments to primary services other than broadcasting) for which the administration requests inclusion in the compatibility assessment process associated to the production of the draft plan. This is the preferred option for identification of assignments listed in the first two groups of assignments in the definition of existing and planned assignments of primary services other than broadcasting (see § 1.7.2 of the RRC-04 Report) and the only possible option for the assignments listed in the third indent of § 1.7.2. In the R06 notice form the administrations would need to provide also information on the service type code, as well as information regarding the administrations with which the coordination has been successfully completed (mandatory information for the assignments listed in the third indent of § 1.7.2).

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<sup>2</sup> The List of the eligible assignments in this group has been distributed to the membership in Circular Letter CR/216

<sup>3</sup> The List of the eligible assignments in this group has been distributed to the membership in Circular Letter CR/220

<sup>4</sup> This group of assignments was dealt with in Circular Letter CR/223, which also provided guidelines to the administrations for coordination of the concerned assignments in accordance with the procedure set forth in Resolution GT-PLN/3 from RRC-04, with a view to including the concerned assignment in the reference situation.

<sup>5</sup> The Bureau identified potentially affected administrations for all those assignments belonging to this group, which were recorded in the Master Register by 2 August 2005 and communicated this information to the administrations concerned by individual letters dated 19 August 2005.

- to submit a kind of general statement by providing clear identification of the frequency assignments to primary services other than broadcasting for which the administration requests inclusion in the compatibility assessment process associated to the production of the draft plan. This is a possible option only for identification of the assignments listed in the first and second indents in the definition of existing and planned assignments of primary services other than broadcasting (see § 1.7.2 of the RRC-04 Report). If the administrations use this option, and if they provide no information on the service type code, then the PXT will associate the concerned assignment with a specific service type (if possible) or with a generic type code.

8. Notwithstanding the possibility of identification of the relevant frequency assignments to other primary services that would be included in the planning process through a general statement, the Bureau strongly recommends the use of individual notice forms R06 and submission of service type code for the concerned frequency assignment by administrations. It is recalled that the information on the service type code is needed for determining the applicable protection criteria in the compatibility analysis and the notifying administration is in the best position to determine the applicable service type code.

9. In the previous phase of the intersessional activities (i.e., preparations for and conduct of the first planning exercise), the information on other primary services was provided by administrations in different ways. A number of administrations submitted R06 notices and indicated that the corresponding assignments would need to be taken in the planning process associated with the first planning exercise. Several administrations submitted R06 notices and indicated that corresponding assignments would need to be taken in the overall planning process. A few administrations provided a general statement regarding the exclusion of all their frequency assignments from the first planning exercise. Given the variety of indications, the Bureau will use the following approach with respect to the previously submitted information, when establishing the reference situation for the production of the draft plan:

- Unless specifically indicated that the information was submitted only for the first planning exercise, the Bureau will reuse those R06 information which is related to frequency assignments notified to the BR prior to 10 May 2004 (i.e., the assignments referred to in the first and the second indent of § 1.7.2) and would include the concerned frequency assignments in the reference situation for the production of the draft plan, provided that the concerned assignment was retained in the MIFR on 31 October 2005 with no modification.
- As the R06 information that was related to frequency assignments notified to the BR after 10 May 2004 (i.e., the assignments referred to in the third indent of § 1.7.2) was generally disregarded, due to the fact that the concerned assignment was not coordinated with all potentially affected administrations, it will be also disregarded for the purpose of establishment of the reference situation for the production of the draft plan. All administrations are invited to submit new R06 notice forms in this respect, with all pertinent information.

The Bureau already contacted each administration having eligible assignments to the other primary services by individual letters of 19 August 2005 with a view to clarifying the situation regarding each concerned assignment and would continue this activity.

10. For the administrations that already submitted R06 notices for some of their assignments in other primary services and wish to update the previously submitted information, it is recalled that the R06 notice uses the replacement concept, which means that the service type code and the coordination information appearing on the newly submitted R06 notice completely replace the service type code and the coordination information in a recorded assignment. When an administration decides to modify one or more R06 notices in an electronic file, which was previously submitted to the Bureau and which included other R06 notices, it is strongly recommended to prepare and send a new replacement file containing the complete and updated information. This new notification will cancel and replace the previously submitted file.

11. As indicated on various occasions, to obtain accurate results in the compatibility assessment, the characteristics of the considered assignments to other primary services should be complete and accurate. In this connection, administrations were repeatedly invited to ascertain whether some of the recorded assignments were still in use with the notified characteristics and, if not, to initiate the required actions for consequential update or for deletion from the MIFR, as appropriate. Although some administrations initiated some actions in this respect, no actions were initiated with respect to many assignments in the other primary services, especially for those that were notified prior to 10 May 2004 and which include only a limited set of technical characteristics as required by the applicable procedures at the time of their notification. Given the fact that neither the Bureau nor the PXT has authority to modify the characteristics of these assignments, the compatibility assessment for the draft plan will be conducted using the characteristics of the eligible assignments to other primary services as they appear in the MIFR on 31 October 2005, together with the adopted working assumptions for the missing parameters, as advised by the IPG. As the correctness and the usefulness of the compatibility assessment represents a common goal for the entire membership, the Bureau wishes to reiterate the importance of reviewing, by all administrations, all of their eligible assignments with a view to the possible deletion of the obsolete frequency assignments from the MIFR, so as to avoid undue constraints to the planning process.

12. The Bureau remains at the disposal of your Administration for any clarification you may require with respect to the subjects covered in this Circular Letter.

Yours faithfully,

V. Timofeev  
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

**Distribution :**

- Administrations of Member States of ITU
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board