



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

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TELECOMMUNICATION
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**MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SOUND – PROGRAMME AND TELEVISION
TRANSMISSION CIRCUITS**

**DEFINITION AND DURATION OF
THE LINE-UP PERIOD AND THE
PREPARATORY PERIOD**

ITU-T Recommendation N.54

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation N.54 was published in Fascicle IV.3 of the *Blue Book*. This file is an extract from the *Blue Book*. While the presentation and layout of the text might be slightly different from the *Blue Book* version, the contents of the file are identical to the *Blue Book* version and copyright conditions remain unchanged (see below).

2 In this Recommendation, the expression “Administration” is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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Recommendation N.54

DEFINITION AND DURATION OF THE LINE-UP PERIOD AND THE PREPARATORY PERIOD

1 Definition

For each international television transmission a distinction is made between:

– **line-up period**

The period during which the telecommunication Administrations line up the international television link before handing it over to the broadcasting organizations; and

– **preparatory period**

The period during which the broadcasting organizations carry out their own adjustments, tests, etc., before the television transmission itself commences.

The exact time at which the preparatory period begins (point *H* on Figure 1/N.54) is determined by the broadcasting organizations.

2 Line-up period

It is provisionally recommended that, in principle, the duration of the line-up period should nominally be 30 minutes, subdivided into two periods, for the operations described below (see Figure 1/N.54).

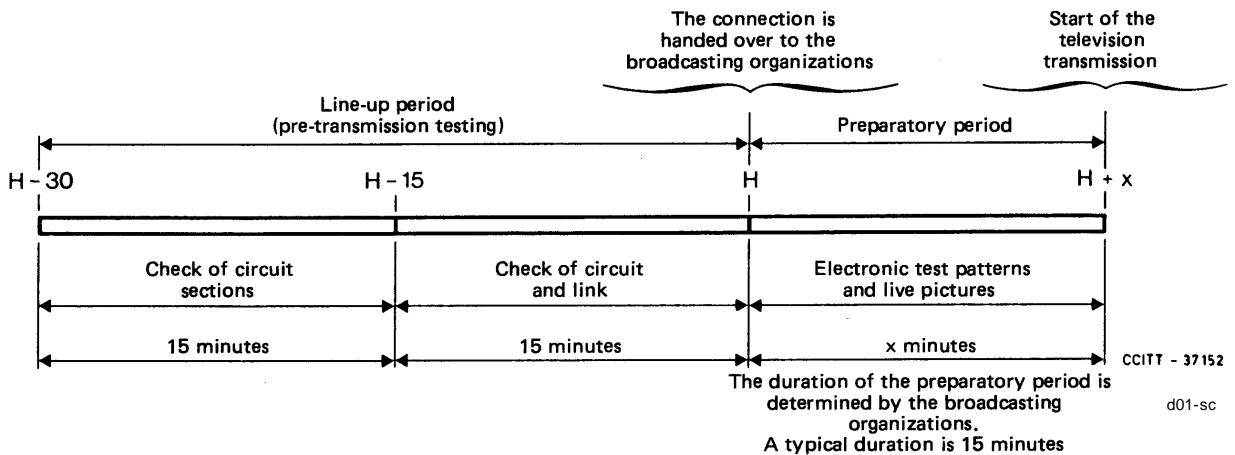


FIGURE 1/N.54

Time allocation in the line-up period and the preparatory period in the case of television transmissions

H - 30 to H - 15: Concurrent lining-up of the national and international circuit sections that will be used to constitute the international television circuit. The international circuit sections may or may not include a communications satellite. The tests to be made are those given in Recommendation N.62. Tests between the earth stations of a communications satellite circuit section are not the responsibility of the CCITT but these tests also should be completed by time *H - 15*.

H –15 to H: Interconnection of the circuit sections to be used, confirmation that the international television circuit is continuous between the terminal ITCs and overall tests between the control ITC and the sub-control ITC. The tests to be made are those given in Recommendation N.62¹⁾.

The above periods *H –30 to H –15* and *H –15 to H* are indicated for guidance only. Their duration is based on an estimate of the time necessary to perform the tests in Recommendation N.62 with a reasonable allowance for adjustments. No allowance is included for the removal of fault conditions on the circuit sections or on the complete circuit link.

These periods also assume a configuration of the international television circuit²⁾ consisting of *one* international circuit section extended at each end by *one* national circuit section. In the case of television transmissions involving more than two countries, either or both of the nominal periods *H –30 to H –15* and *H –15 to H* may have to be increased. On the other hand, in particular cases, either or both of these nominal periods may be reduced, by agreement between the Administrations concerned, provided the line-up is properly carried out. This may be possible, for example, when there are two successive international television transmissions on the same route, and the second involves extending the international television circuit or link already lined-up for the first.

During the last few minutes of the nominal period *H –15 to H*, when the above tests have been completed, the control and sub-control ITCs³⁾ should put the link through to the broadcasting organization at each end and should confirm that the complete connection is continuous. It should be verified that the link²⁾ is satisfactory for transmitting the programme, and that the quality and level are acceptable.

By agreement between the telecommunication Administration and the sending broadcasting organization, it might be desirable, during these last few minutes before the end of the line-up period, to transmit live pictures. This would be of particular use when adjusting standards converters. The transmission of live pictures during the line-up period does not, however, alter the telecommunication Administrations' responsibility with regard to the quality of transmission required. This responsibility begins only at time *H*, when the line-up period ends and the preparatory (service) period begins, and when the link is handed over to the broadcasting organizations.

3 Preparatory period

No definite duration is recommended by the CCITT for the preparatory period. This duration is determined by the broadcasting organizations, but a typical duration is 15 minutes. During this period, the tests to be made are also left to the discretion of the broadcasting organizations, but they must not be such as to depart from CCITT recommendations in respect of signal level (see Recommendations N.60 and N.63). The broadcasting organizations may, on occasion, omit the preparatory period and begin the actual transmission at time *H*.

1) See the comment in Recommendation N.62 concerning the difficulties involved in making overall tests on circuits that include a standards converter.

2) According to the definitions given in Recommendation N.51 in this particular case, the international television circuit is also an international television link.

3) See Recommendation N.55 for definition of control and sub-control ITCs.