



INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

ITU-T

N.4

TELECOMMUNICATION
STANDARDIZATION SECTOR
OF ITU

**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.4

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation N.4 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.4

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

For each international sound-programme transmission a distinction is made between:

– **line-up period**

The period during which the Administrations line up the international sound-programme link before handing it over to the broadcasting organizations; and

– **preparatory period**

The period during which these broadcasting organizations do their own adjustments, tests and other work before the sound-programme transmission itself commences.

1 Line-up period

1.1 Duration

In principle, the duration of the line-up period should be 15 minutes. However, in the case of sound-programme transmissions involving more than two countries, the duration may be increased. On the other hand, in certain cases, by agreement between the Administrations concerned, the duration may be less than 15 minutes, provided the line-up is properly carried out. This may be possible, for example, when there are two successive international sound-programme transmissions on the same route and the second involves extending the international sound-programme link already laid up for the first.

Note – In the case of multiple destination transmissions the line-up period can have a longer duration, to be fixed by agreement between the Administrations concerned, e.g., on the order of 25 to 30 minutes.

At the end of the line-up period the international sound-programme link and the control circuits are handed over to the broadcasting organizations at the booked time.

2 Preparatory period

2.1 Beginning and duration

When the tests during the line-up period are completed, the *international sound-programme link* is not made available to the broadcasting organizations at the two ends until the time fixed for the beginning of the preparatory period. The chargeable time for the sound-programme transmission commences at the beginning of the preparatory period. The duration of the preparatory period – i.e. the time between handing over the international sound-programme link to the broadcasting organizations and the moment when the programme properly begins - is chosen in each case by the broadcasting organizations so that they can carry out all the tests and adjustments necessary before proceeding with the sound-programme transmission.