



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Circular Letter
CCRR/77

9 August 2024

To Administrations of Member States of ITU

Subject: **Draft rules of procedure to reflect WRC-23 decisions**

At its 96th meeting, the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) considered the impact of WRC-23 decisions and the general practice of the Radiocommunication Bureau in relation to current rules of procedure. As a result, the Board agreed on the schedule for the approval of draft new and modified rules of procedure contained in Document [RRB24-1/1\(Rev.2\)](#). Accordingly, the Bureau prepared a set of draft new or modified rules of procedure annexed to this Circular Letter:

- **Annex 1:** Addition of new rules of procedure on No. **13.6** concerning orbital tolerances for satellite systems not subject to Resolution **8 (WRC-23)**;
- **Annex 2:** Addition of new rules of procedure on Resolution **35 (WRC-19)**;
- **Annex 3:** Addition of new rules of procedure on the treatment of reports of unacceptable interference under Resolutions **121 (WRC-23)**, **123 (WRC-23)** or **679 (WRC-23)**.

In accordance with No. **13.17** of the Radio Regulations, these draft rules of procedure are made available to administrations for comments before being submitted to RRB pursuant to No. **13.14**. As indicated in No. **13.12A d)** of the Radio Regulations, any comments that you may wish to submit should reach the Bureau no later than **14 October 2024, 1600 UTC** in order to be considered at the 97th RRB meeting, scheduled for 11-19 November 2024. Comments should be sent by e-mail to rrb@itu.int.

Mario Maniewicz
Director

Annexes: 3

Distribution:

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

ANNEX 1

Addition of new rules of procedure on No. 13.6 concerning orbital tolerances for satellite systems not subject to Resolution 8 (WRC-23)

Rules concerning

ARTICLE 13 of the RR^{*,**}

ADD

13.6

The Board noted that, in Resolution 8 (WRC-23), the World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023) (WRC-23) defined orbital tolerances applicable to frequency assignments notified as part of a non-geostationary-satellite orbit (non-GSO) system subject to Resolution 35 (Rev.WRC-23) and associated with orbital planes having an orbital eccentricity less than 0.5 and an apogee altitude less than 15 000 km. WRC-23 also added Appendix 4 data items so that notifying administrations can indicate whether a space station uses station-keeping to maintain the altitudes of the apogee and perigee during its operational lifetime (see data item A.4.b.4.p) and, if not, to have the option to provide the altitude of the apogee and perigee as a function of time (see data item A.4.b.4.q).

These decisions raise the question of what orbital tolerances the Bureau should consider when applying Nos. 11.44.3, 11.44C.2, 11.44D.2 or 13.6.

In order to provide notifying administrations of satellite systems not subject to Resolution 8 (WRC-23) with some flexibility regarding orbital tolerances, while avoiding inconsistencies for satellite systems carrying on-board frequency bands subject and not subject to that Resolution, the Board decided that the Bureau shall consider the same values of orbital tolerances as those contained in Resolution 8 (WRC-23) when applying Nos. 11.44.3, 11.44C.2, 11.44D.2 or 13.6 to non-GSO systems not subject to that Resolution. The detailed procedure that the Bureau shall follow is provided in §§ 1 and 2 below.

1 Bringing into or back into use

When bringing into use under Nos. 11.44C or 11.44D or back into use under No. 11.49, frequency assignments to non-GSO systems, the Bureau shall gather the observed values of the apogee, the perigee and the angle of inclination from publicly available information. If this information is not publicly available, the Bureau shall request the notifying administration to provide such information under No. 13.6.

The Bureau shall then verify the difference between the observed and notified values and apply the same values of tolerances as those defined in *resolves* 6 of Resolution 8 (WRC-23):

- for the apogee and the perigee: 70 km (for a notified altitude of the apogee/notified altitude of the perigee equal to or less than 2 000 km) or 5% in km (for a notified altitude of the apogee/notified altitude of the perigee greater than 2 000 km); and
- for the angle of inclination: 2° (for a notified altitude of the apogee/notified altitude of the perigee equal to or less than 2 000 km), or 3° (for a notified altitude of the apogee/notified altitude of the perigee greater than 2 000 km).

When the above tolerances are not met, the Bureau shall request clarification under Nos. **11.44.3**, **11.44C.2**, **11.44D.2** or **13.6**.

2 Continuous use

The Bureau shall first consider whether the space station uses station-keeping to maintain altitudes of the apogee and perigee. Since Appendix 4 data item A.4.b.4.p has to be provided in notifications of non-GSO systems received from 1 January 2025, the Board decided that, for prior notices, the Bureau shall seek this indication from the notifying administration under No. **13.6**.

The Bureau shall also gather the observed values of the apogee, the perigee and the angle of inclination from publicly available information. When the information is not publicly available, the Bureau shall request the notifying administration to provide such information under No. **13.6**.

2.1 Cases where station-keeping is used

If station-keeping is used to maintain altitudes of the apogee and perigee, the Bureau shall verify whether the satellite is maintained on the orbital plane brought into or back into use and:

- the difference between the observed distance to the apogee (or perigee) and the distance to the apogee (or perigee) calculated from the notified characteristics of the satellite system, at the time of bringing into or bringing back into use is less than or equal to 30 km;
- the difference between the observed and notified angles of inclination of the orbital plane at the time of bringing into, or bringing back into, use is less than or equal to 2° for a notified altitude of the apogee/notified altitude of the perigee equal to or less than 2 000 km, or 3° for a notified altitude of the apogee/notified altitude of the perigee greater than 2 000 km.

In the event that the above differences are exceeded, the Bureau shall request clarification from the notifying administration under No. **13.6**.

2.2 Cases where station-keeping is not used

If station-keeping is not used to maintain altitudes of the apogee and perigee, the Bureau shall verify whether the observed altitude of the space station is above the notified minimum operational altitude (see data item A.4.b.4.f of Appendix 4). If not, the Bureau shall request the notifying administration to cancel the frequency assignments or submit a modification under No. **11.43A**.

Reasons: *To document the Bureau's practice regarding orbital tolerances for satellite systems not subject to Resolution 8 (WRC-23).*

Effective date of application of this Rule: 1 January 2025.

ANNEX 2

Addition of new rules of procedure on Resolution 35 (WRC-19)

ADD

Rules concerning

RESOLUTION 35 (WRC-19)

A milestone-based approach for the implementation of frequency assignments to space stations in a non-geostationary-satellite system in specific frequency bands and services

For the application of *resolves* 17 b) i) of Resolution **35 (WRC-19)**, the Board understands that all satellites in any orbital plane not listed in the last complete deployment information, and all orbital planes where no satellite is listed in the last complete deployment information, submitted under *resolves* 2, 3, 7 or 8, as appropriate, of Resolution **35 (WRC-19)** will have to be suppressed from the notice. Consequently, any beams and groups of frequency assignments that are solely associated with such orbital planes or satellites will also have to be suppressed.

Regarding frequency assignments which were associated with the remaining orbital planes and satellites, since the modifications to the notified characteristics of the satellite system provided for under *resolves* 11 of Resolution **35 (WRC-19)** were not submitted following failure to reach the established milestones, the Board concluded that, in application of *resolves* 17 b) ii), a symbol will be inserted into the “Remarks” field indicating that those frequency assignments are not in compliance with Resolution **35 (WRC-19)** and will no longer be taken into account under subsequent examinations under Nos. **9.36**, **11.32** or **11.32A**. The information recorded under the date of protection or “2D-date” (i.e. the date from which a frequency assignment is taken into account as defined in § 1 e) of Appendix 5) and the information concerning the status of coordination agreements will also be removed for those frequency assignments.

Following those actions, the Board noted that such frequency assignments will be recorded in the Master Register for information purposes only and shall not cause harmful interference to, or claim protection from, a station operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations, in a manner similar to a recording with a request for the application of No. **4.4**. The Board instructed the Bureau to publish the updated status of such frequency assignments in a BR IFIC.

Noting that *resolves* 17 applies only in cases where a notifying administration fails to provide the required information and in order to avoid retaining unused frequency assignments in the Master Register, the Board also instructed the Bureau to apply No. **13.6** before recording and publishing the updated status of such frequency assignments.

Reasons: *The Bureau reported on the application of resolves 17 b) of Resolution 35 (WRC-19) to the World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023). The Rule will ensure that the procedure applied in this case is documented and transparent.*

Effective date of application of this Rule: immediately upon approval.

ANNEX 3

Addition of new rules of procedure on the treatment of reports of unacceptable interference under Resolutions 121 (WRC-23), 123 (WRC-23) or 679 (WRC-23)

ADD

Rules concerning

The treatment by the Radiocommunication Bureau of reports of unacceptable interference under Resolutions 121 (WRC-23), 123 (WRC-23) or 679 (WRC-23)

The Board noted that *further resolves* 2 of Resolution **121 (WRC-23)**, *further resolves* 1 to 3 of Resolution **123 (WRC-23)**¹ and *further resolves* 2 of Resolution **679 (WRC-23)** contain provisions indicating that, in the event of unacceptable interference being reported and of no action being taken by the notifying administration to immediately eliminate the interference or reduce it to an acceptable level, the Bureau shall send a reminder requesting the notifying administration of the satellite network or system concerned to comply with the requirement to immediately eliminate the interference or reduce it to an acceptable level. Should the interference persist 30 days after the dispatch date of such a reminder, the Bureau shall submit the case to the subsequent meeting of the Board for its review and necessary actions (including suppression of the frequency assignment in question), as appropriate.

In order to ensure that the Bureau acts when no action is taken by the notifying administration, as prescribed by the provisions of the three above-mentioned resolutions, the Board decided that the Bureau, only after having received a request for assistance from the affected administration under No. **13.2**, shall send a reminder requesting the notifying administration of the satellite network or system concerned to comply with the requirement to immediately eliminate the interference or reduce it to an acceptable level.

The Board also decided that, 30 days after the dispatch date of the reminder, the Bureau shall contact the affected administration to verify if the unacceptable interference is still present or if the case can be considered as resolved. If the affected administration informs the Bureau that the unacceptable interference is still present, the Bureau shall submit the case to the subsequent meeting of the Board together with a report containing draft recommendations for its consideration.

In cases of harmful interference, the provisions of No. **13.2** and of Article **15** of the Radio Regulations apply.

Reasons: *To provide details of the actions to be followed by the Bureau in case of unacceptable interference being reported under Resolutions **121 (WRC-23)**, **123 (WRC-23)** or **679 (WRC-23)**.*

Effective date of application of this Rule: 1 January 2025.

¹ See also *instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau* 4 of Resolution **123 (WRC-23)**.