

---

# Policy

---

## Space Services

Version 1.0

Issue Date: 20 March 2019

---

Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)  
P O Box 26662, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)  
[www.tra.gov.ae](http://www.tra.gov.ae)

---

## TRA Policy for Space Services, Version 1.0

### Article (1)

#### Scope of Document

- 1.1 This document establishes the broad frequency spectrum and orbital resources aspects of space services in the UAE. It presents the objectives and principles that guide the decision making process of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) when managing frequency spectrum and the orbital resources, in line with the provisions of Federal Law No. 3 of 2003 as amended and its Executive Order. The National Frequency Plan, this policy and the technical regulations support the frequency spectrum management process through which users or potential users of frequency spectrum may anticipate and understand decisions taken by the TRA.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to establish an optimal enabling environment for space services. This policy aligns the TRA's strategic objectives for the development of the ICT sector with the development of advanced satellite communications services in the UAE.
- 1.3 The scope of this policy includes the reception of electromagnetic signals from satellites to the UAE territory, the transmission of electromagnetic signals from within the UAE to satellites by any entity, public or private, as well as the UAE's satellite network filings.

### Article (2)

#### Definitions

- 2.1 The terms, words and phrases used in this Policy shall have the same meaning as is ascribed to them in the UAE Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order; unless this Policy expressly provide otherwise for, or the context in which those terms, words and phrases are used in these Regulations indicates otherwise. The following terms and words shall be interpreted, as follows:
  - 2.1.1 "**Authority** or **TRA**" means the General Authority for Regulating the Telecommunication Sector known as Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) established pursuant to the provisions of Article 6 of Federal Law by Decree No. 3 of 2003 (as amended).
  - 2.1.2 "**Earth Station**" means a station located either on the Earth's surface or within the major portion of the Earth's atmosphere and is intended for communication with one or more Space Stations, or with one or more stations of the same kind by means of one or more reflecting Satellites or other objects in space.
  - 2.1.3 "**Harmful Interference**" means interference which impairs the functioning of a Radiocommunication Service or which materially degrades or obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a Radiocommunication Service.
  - 2.1.4 "**ITU**" means the International Telecommunication Union, a leading United Nations agency for information and communication technologies.

## TRA Policy for Space Services, Version 1.0

- 2.1.5 **"Satellite"** means a body which revolves around another body of preponderant mass and which has a motion primarily and permanently determined by the force of attraction of that other body.
- 2.1.6 **"Satellite Network"** means a Satellite System or a part of a Satellite System, consisting of only one Satellite and the cooperating Earth Stations.
- 2.1.7 **"Satellite System"** means a space system using one or more artificial earth satellites.
- 2.1.8 **"Space Services"** means the provision of radio services using Satellite.

### Article (3)

#### Objectives

- 3.1 The TRA aims to provide the appropriate regulatory policy to support the UAE's vision to be a leading country in the development of Space Services and, in particular, meet the objectives of:
- 3.1.1 supporting the national space programmes of the UAE through spectrum management and international frequency coordination activities;
- 3.1.2 coordinating with the UAE's space related entities as TRA is the national ICT regulator and UAE Administration in all matters related to space spectrum management and orbital slots;
- 3.1.3 supporting the aspirations of the UAE to be a market leader in the space sector through proper spectrum planning and future strategy;
- 3.1.4 ensuring that spectrum management is proportionate, transparent and is based on best practice; and
- 3.1.5 ensuring the efficient use of spectrum and orbital resources.

### Article (4)

#### Space Sector Management

- 4.1 The TRA, as the national ICT regulator, facilitates the space sector through:
- 4.1.1 representation of UAE at international organisations and activities, notably the ITU;
- 4.1.2 registration of Satellite Networks and Systems and orbital positions in the ITU;
- 4.1.3 frequency coordination with different entities and international administrations;
- 4.1.4 fulfilling operators' requirements for spectrum authorizations within the UAE;

## **TRA Policy for Space Services, Version 1.0**

- 4.1.5 providing the required regulatory framework for Space Services in the UAE;
- 4.1.6 taking appropriate action to remedy instances of Harmful Interference;
- 4.1.7 leading the UAE's space related entities in all matters related to spectrum management and orbital slots;
- 4.1.8 providing clarity and direction regarding the applicable regulations / processes that apply to Space Services;
- 4.1.9 ensuring an open and transparent consultation and decision process for any amendments or new proposals for the regulation of the space services;
- 4.1.10 adopting approaches that will, as far as possible, allow for future developments in Space Services, including new frequency bands.

### **Article (5)**

#### **Space Services**

- 5.1 Entities engaged in Space Services are required, as appropriate, to:
  - 5.1.1 obtain a Telecom license in the UAE in accordance with the licensing framework of the UAE;
  - 5.1.2 comply with the TRA regulatory framework;
  - 5.1.3 meet the requirements for spectrum authorizations;
  - 5.1.4 meet international registration requirements;
  - 5.1.5 comply with any conditions imposed by any other regulatory authority;
  - 5.1.6 provide any information required by the TRA to fulfil its obligations in a timely manner; and
  - 5.1.7 support the work of the TRA at international organisations and its activities as may reasonably be required.

### **Article (6)**

#### **Compliance with Concurrent Obligations**

- 6.1 There may be other requirements outside of the scope of this Regulatory Policy that need to be met and the conditions included in this Regulatory Policy cannot be construed as a waiver or excusal of any other relevant conditions or obligations of any other relevant authority.