



Regulations

Spectrum Allocation and Assignment

Version 1.0

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Article (1) Definitions

- 1.1 In applying these Regulations, the following terms shall have the following meanings unless the context requires otherwise, whereas any term undefined in the following shall be defined in line with the Federal Law by Decree No. 3 of 2003 as amended its Executive Order and Radiocommunications Policy:
- 1.1.1 “**Applicant**” means any Person who has applied for a License or an Authorization in accordance with the Telecom Law or other Regulatory Instruments issued by the Authority.
 - 1.1.2 “**Allocation**” means the entry of a designated frequency or frequency band for use by one or more users for a terrestrial or space radiocommunication service in the UAE.
 - 1.1.3 “**Application**” means the request for issuance of a License or an Authorization, received at the Authority on prescribed forms as per the procedure in vogue.
 - 1.1.4 “**Assigned frequency**” means the centre of the frequency band assigned to a station by the TRA.
 - 1.1.5 “**Assigned frequency band**” means the frequency band within which the emission of a station is authorized by the TRA.
 - 1.1.6 “**Authorization**” means a frequency spectrum Authorization granted by the TRA.
 - 1.1.7 “**Authorized User**” means a Person that has been granted an Authorization by the TRA.
 - 1.1.8 “**Class Authorization**” means the Authorization which permits the operation of Wireless Equipment by any Person within designated frequency bands subject to the terms and conditions stipulated by the TRA.
 - 1.1.9 “**Harmful Interference**” means Interference which impairs the functioning of a Radiocommunication Service or which materially degrades or obstructs or repeatedly interrupts Radiocommunication.
 - 1.1.10 “**International Regulations**” means Regulations, rules, standards, specifications, definitions, recommendations or agreements recognized by the UAE at the international level.
 - 1.1.11 “**ITU**” means International Telecommunication Union, a leading United Nations agency for information and communication technologies.

- 1.1.12 “**National Frequency Plan**” means Radio Frequency Allocation plan for the UAE.
- 1.1.13 “**Person**” will include ‘juridical entities’ as well as ‘natural persons’.
- 1.1.14 “**Primary Service**” means Radiocommunication Service having a higher priority and protection from harmful interference when notified than Secondary Radiocommunication Services. The name of these Radiocommunication Service appears as capital letters in the National Spectrum Plan.
- 1.1.15 “**Radiocommunication Service**” means the transmitting or receiving of Radio Frequency which may be used for the conveyance of data, or messages or voice or visual images, or for the operation or control of machinery or apparatus.
- 1.1.16 “**Radio Frequency**” means radiated electromagnetic energy measured in Hz or cycles / sec.
- 1.1.17 “**Radio Regulations**” means a publication by ITU, adopted by the World Radiocommunication Conference and ratified by the UAE.
- 1.1.18 “**Regulatory Instruments**” means any instrument issued by the Authority under its powers, and includes without limitation; Regulations, violation decisions, directives, instructions, guidance and recommendations and regulatory policies.
- 1.1.19 “**Secondary Basis**” means not to cause harmful interference to other radio stations and not to claim protection from other radio stations.
- 1.1.20 “**Secondary Service**” means Radiocommunication Service which shall not cause harmful interference to stations of Primary Services. This service appears as lower case in the National Spectrum Plan.
- 1.1.21 “**Station**” means an installation operated by an Authorized User, for carrying on a Radiocommunication Service.
- 1.1.22 “**Temporary Authorization**” means an Authorization issued by the TRA which permits the use of assigned frequency for a period up to 90 days.
- 1.1.23 “**UAE**” means the United Arab Emirates including its territorial waters and the airspace above.
- 1.1.24 “**Wireless Equipment**” means a category of Telecommunication Apparatus used for Radiocommunication Service.

Article (2)

Spectrum Rights

- 2.1 The frequency spectrum is a scarce National resource. The frequency spectrum shall remain the property of the state (UAE). The TRA shall have the sole discretion to manage and regulate the usage of the spectrum which includes Assignment, Allocation, renewal, modification, cancellation and withdrawal of any Authorization in compliance with the National Frequency Plan and regulatory instruments issued by the TRA. The TRA shall not be liable for any compensation whatsoever for the frequency spectrum vacation or re-allocation.
- 2.2 Any use of frequency spectrum by any entity whatsoever, shall require prior Authorization from the TRA. The Authorization shall have limited rights as specified in the Radiocommunications Policy. The TRA may further attach any terms and conditions to the Authorization.
- 2.3 Without prejudice to the generality of any other law of the Government, unless and otherwise approved by the TRA, the right to use the assigned frequencies is Non Transferable. An application for the transfer of the right to use the Assigned Frequency shall be made in accordance with the manner set forth for the new Application in these Regulations.
- 2.4 There shall be no unlicensed spectrum in the UAE. The TRA may allow certain devices under Class Authorization.

Article (3)

National Frequency Plan

- 3.1 The National Frequency Plan, containing the National Table of Frequency Allocations (the Table) shall be the basic reference document for allocating and assigning the frequency spectrum in the UAE.
- 3.2 The TRA shall submit a formal request for any review or amendment to the National Frequency Plan; to the Coordination Committee as established vide Article 46 of the Federal Law by Decree No. 3 of 2003 as amended.
- 3.3 For radio services having the same priority status (co-primary) in the Plan, the TRA shall determine the order of priority while making the Assignment.
- 3.4 The National Frequency Plan shall be a public document.

Article (4)

Spectrum Band Plans

- 4.1 Based on the National Frequency Plan, the TRA shall prepare spectrum band plans for the portions of the National Frequency Plan to be allocated or assigned.
- 4.2 The TRA while preparing the band plans may consider all technical criteria for sharing and channelling based on the Radio Regulations and ITU-R Recommendations and select the most suitable options.
- 4.3 Portions of the band plans and or channel plans as applicable may be included in the different regulatory instruments dealing with the Radiocommunication service.

Article (5)

Frequency Spectrum Authorization Application

- 5.1 The Applicant shall refer to the National Frequency Plan and the frequency spectrum related regulatory instruments to apply for spectrum allocation and assignment. In case of more specific details on the spectrum availability and assignment, the Applicant may seek guidance from the TRA Spectrum and International Affairs Department (E-mail spectrum@tra.gov.ae).
- 5.2 To apply for the Authorization, the Applicant should provide the following to the TRA:
 - 5.2.1 Apply online or apply on paper copies of application forms (available from the TRA offices and downloadable from the TRA website www.tra.gov.ae).
 - 5.2.2 Technical specification details as required by the TRA.
 - 5.2.3 For applications where equipment is not selected and therefore equipment details are not available, Applicants should provide details on network plan, usage and an undertaking to use TRA approved equipment.
 - 5.2.4 Copy of a valid commercial license or the official letter of registration. This condition does not apply to Governmental Entities and Licensees.
 - 5.2.5 For individual users and private company applicants, passport copy of the persons detailed to use the Authorization.

- 5.2.6 Proof for Payment of application fees or e-payment as detailed in the Spectrum Fees Policy or regulations.
- 5.2.7 The application can also be filled by the authorized dealers on behalf of its customers (Applicants) and followed up with the TRA. For new Applicants the request shall be processed only after obtaining the security clearance by the TRA from the relevant agencies. For broadcasting services the TRA will also seek approval from National Media Council.
- 5.2.8 The Applicant shall evaluate commercially available Wireless Equipment, which meets the TRA regulatory requirements and is spectrally efficient.
- 5.2.9 The Applicant shall apply for the minimum spectrum resource required. The Applicant may be requested by the TRA to justify the spectrum resource requirement as applied to conserve the spectrum resource.
- 5.2.10 The Applicant shall also provide all information as required by the TRA to the best known accuracy, failing which the application shall be rejected by the TRA.

Article (6) Authorization categories

- 6.1 The Authorization shall be issued for the following:
- 6.1.1 **Fixed service**: All point to point links, point to multipoint, wireless local loop and broadband, etc. point to point private use;
- 6.1.2 **Mobile Service for Public use**: Public mobile services such as radio trunking, cellular, paging, etc. The handsets and Customer Premises Equipment shall be the part of the Authorization issued to the Authorized User of the Public Network;
- 6.1.3 **Mobile Service for Private use**: Private mobile radios (Walki Talki), in house paging, private mobile wireless network, and vehicle mounted radios, Telemetry, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), etc;
- 6.1.4 **Amateur use**: For persons who want to experiment, assemble or build a wireless device without any intention of making any commercial use, profit making, selling or illegal use;

- 6.1.5 **Maritime Service**: For Wireless Equipment to be installed on ships, coastal ships, fishing trawlers and pleasure boats, registered in the UAE;
 - 6.1.6 **Aeronautical Service**: For Wireless Equipment to be installed on aircraft registered in the UAE;
 - 6.1.7 **Broadcasting**: All broadcasting services whether terrestrial or space services;
 - 6.1.8 **Navigational Aids**: All navigational aids installed within UAE for aeronautical or maritime services;
 - 6.1.9 **Space Services**: Orbital resources, all types of earth stations, Global Mobile Personal Communications Service (GMPCS) and Digital Satellite News Gathering (DSNG), etc;
 - 6.1.10 **Optical links**: All infrared, laser and free space optical links;
 - 6.1.11 **Radar**: All radars including military and civilian applications such as weather radars, civil aviation use, maritime use, etc;
 - 6.1.12 **Low power devices**: Wireless Equipment categorized as low power devices in the short range devices regulations
- 6.2 In case if the application do not fall in any of the above, the Authorization can be requested by the Applicant through a letter with all technical details attached in order to facilitate the processing of the same by the TRA. In case of any further information required, the TRA shall inform the Applicant accordingly.

Article (7) Class Authorization

- 7.1 The Class Authorization can be requested for use of the portions of the frequency by short range devices, including the Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) devices, as detailed in the Short range devices regulations.
- 7.2 The TRA may also issue the Class Authorization for the Wireless Equipment for use by general public e.g. Wi-Fi cards, Bluetooth devices, etc.
- 7.3 The Class Authorization shall be treated as Secondary Basis.

Article (8)

Contents of an Authorization

- 8.1 The Authorization shall contain but not limited to the following information. This information may vary depending on the category of Authorization e.g. Authorization for point-to-point link, earth station, small boat, etc may have different contents.
- 8.1.1 The administrative details like name, address and contact details of the Authorized User and in case of an Amateur Authorization the photograph of the Authorized User.
 - 8.1.2 The allocated or assigned frequency (or frequencies) or frequency band with necessary bandwidth, emission designator, type of service, location of station, radiated power, coverage area and remarks (if applicable).
 - 8.1.3 The radiated power as given on the Authorization shall mean the maximum allowed radiated power. The Authorized user taking into consideration the propagation within the authorized coverage area shall reduce the transmit power to contain radiated power within the coverage area to a level above the minimum field strength required for the Authorized use. If the authorized coverage area requires more radiated power than authorized, the Authorized User shall apply to the TRA for the modification of the Authorization and shall not use radiated power more than the Authorized value till the TRA issues the modified Authorization.
 - 8.1.4 The Wireless Equipment specifications; equipment name, type, model, manufacturer, antenna and quantities authorized.
 - 8.1.5 For Amateur, vehicle mounted radios and small boats, the information included on the Authorization shall be limited as printed on card sized Authorization.
 - 8.1.6 Call signs, Maritime Mobile Service Identities (MMSI) and corresponding satellites if applicable
 - 8.1.6 The terms and conditions for use within remarks and printed at the reverse side of the Authorization. These shall be treated as a subset of the terms and conditions as given in the Radiocommunications Policy or any other regulatory instrument issued by the TRA.
 - 8.1.7 The Authorization number, dates of issue and expiry, hologram, signature and embossed seal (except CR-100).

Article (9) General terms and conditions

- 9.1 The TRA issues the Authorization subject to the following general terms and conditions:
- 9.1.1 The TRA has the sole discretion to assign, re-assign, allocate, re-allocate, modify, evaluate, cancel and revoke any Authorization;
 - 9.1.2 In all cases of withdrawal, re-allocation or modification, the dates specified by the TRA shall be binding on the Authorized Users for vacation of the assigned frequencies;
 - 9.1.3 The sharing criteria shall be specified by the TRA in case of any mutual harmful interference. The TRA may also consider the sharing criteria as determined by various international organizations like ITU and other National Administrations. Any Authorization given on non-interference basis shall be considered as a low priority assignment;
 - 9.1.4 The TRA may revoke the Authorization or change the conditions of the Authorization without any obligation. The TRA may change the conditions of the Authorization including but not limited to spectrum re-farming, conformance to new or revised or amended regulatory instruments, avoidance of harmful interference, etc;
 - 9.1.5 The Authorization does not entitle the Authorized User to assign, transfer, rentals, and resale. The Authorization (or licence) does not confer ownership of part of the spectrum but only the right to use it for a period of time specified in the Authorization and strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions attached thereto and other terms and conditions as specified in the regulatory instruments;
 - 9.1.6 The Authorization does not relieve a Person from any obligation to obtain any other authorizations that may be required from any other Government Institution for purposes connected with the conduct of its business;
 - 9.1.7 In cases of National emergency and natural disasters, the TRA may withdraw any Authorizations and attribute the assigned frequencies for the use of departments and organizations as deemed appropriate by the TRA;
 - 9.1.8 The obligations of the TRA due to the international commitments by the UAE will be applicable to the Authorized Users.

- 9.1.9 The TRA will make all efforts to ensure a clean spectrum with no Harmful Interference for the Assignments. However, the TRA will not be liable to any damages due to any of the variety of faults like: failure to act, insufficient means, inefficiency, delayed action, seriousness of the infringement of a general interest, etc;
- 9.2 The Authorised Users shall use radio frequencies subject to the conditions and criteria upon which the granting of the Authorization was based, including:
- 9.2.1 The frequency spectrum frequencies specified in the Authorization;
- 9.2.2 The quantities, conditions and characteristics of the Wireless Equipment, the location and sphere of its use and the purpose and manner in which the equipment operates;
- 9.2.3 The limits of the geographical area in which it is authorised to operate;
- 9.2.4 The terms of the Authorization as specified by the TRA including the validity period;
- 9.2.5 Any other technical requirements.

Article (10)

Spectrum Authorization validity period

- 10.1 The standard period of validity for an Authorization shall be one year starting from the date of issue of the Authorization and can be in multiples of years till a maximum of five years after which it can again be requested for renewal.
- 10.2 The TRA may issue a Temporary Authorization for any number of days up to a maximum of 90 days to cover temporary requirements. Such Authorizations will be non-renewable. However applicant can make a fresh application for issuance of a Temporary Authorization for another term.
- 10.3 The Authorized User shall apply for renewal of the Authorization before its expiry. The TRA may raise the spectrum fees invoice thirty days in advance of its expiry. In case the Authorized User does not apply for renewal, or does not pay the invoiced spectrum fees, it shall be deemed by the TRA that renewal is not required and the TRA at its discretion may cancel the Authorization.
- 10.4 An expired Authorization shall be considered as not having any Authorization at all and the use of any frequency without a valid Authorization shall be considered a contravention of the Federal Decree by Law No. 3 of 2003 as amended, unless the TRA considers the renewal request as under process.

Article (11)

Spectrum Coordination

- 11.1 The TRA shall be responsible for coordinating the Frequency Spectrum for all Radio Services at the international and regional level.
- 11.2 The TRA may delegate the responsibility of coordination with users and operators to the Applicant subject to ratification by the TRA.
- 11.3 The TRA shall notify all assignments to ITU which require notification.
- 11.4 The TRA may coordinate through GCC Telecommunications Bureau or directly with the neighbouring countries for Assignments which require coordination.

Article (12)

Prohibited uses of the of the Frequency Spectrum

- 12.1 The prohibited uses of the Frequency spectrum as specified in the Radiocommunications Policy shall apply.

Article (13)

Use of Encryption and Privacy

- 13.1 The use of encryption and privacy as specified in the Radiocommunications Policy shall apply.

Article (14)

Diplomatic Mission Authorization

- 14.1 The Diplomatic Mission shall apply on the TRA application forms through the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The application shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Radiocommunications Policy.

Article (15)

Trials, demonstrations and special events

- 15.1 The Applicants shall apply for Temporary Authorization to use frequency spectrum for trials, demonstrations and covering special events like exhibitions, conferences, workshops, sports events, etc.

Article (16)

Frequency Spectrum Authorization charges

- 16.1 The TRA shall collect all charges as mandated in the Spectrum Fees Policy.

Article (17)

Cancellation of the Frequency Spectrum Authorization

- 17.1 The TRA may suspend, cancel or revoke an Authorization that has been granted if:
- 17.1.1 The authorized frequencies have not been used within four months from the date of issuance of the Authorization unless specifically agreed by the TRA for case to case.
 - 17.1.2 The Authorized User has breached any of the terms and conditions of the Radiocommunications Policy, or the Authorization or the provisions of any regulatory instrument issued by the TRA.
 - 17.1.3 It is in the public interest.
 - 17.1.4 Non-payment of spectrum Fees for any Authorization issued may initiate consideration by the TRA to cancel other Authorizations for the same user.

Article (18)

Penalties

- 18.1 The penalties of the Federal Law by Decree No. 3 of 2003 and any amendments thereof and its Executive Order shall apply to any violation to these Regulations or to any breach of a term of Authorization.