

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



Radiocommunication Bureau

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Circular Letter

CR/128

9 September 1999

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU

Subject: Implementation of Resolution 30 (WRC-97), cutover of the FM/TV portion from FMS to TerRaSys

References: BR Circular letter CR/110 dated 4 December 1998
BR Circular letter CR/123 dated 7 June 1999

To the Director-General

Dear Sir or Madame,

1. By its Circular Letter CR/123 dated 7 June 1999, the Radiocommunication Bureau informed your Administration on the commencement, on 15 June 1999, of the formal tests of the new CD-ROM Publication, the "BR International Frequency Information Circular (Terrestrial Services) (BRIFIC)", which is being developed by the Radiocommunication Bureau pursuant to Resolution 30 (WRC-97), and which gradually replaces the current publication of the Weekly Circulars and the Special Sections in the paper, microfiche and diskette formats, insofar as the terrestrial services are concerned. The hardware and software requirements for use of this publication, as well as its salient features, were indicated in CR/110. More details on the various components of the Terrestrial Radiocommunication System (TerRaSys), which serves as a backbone for the new CD-ROM publication, were communicated to administrations with Circular-letters Nos. CR/118, CR/120 and CR/125.

2. Following the successful completion of the tests concerning the *beta-2* version of the BRIFIC related to the FM/TV portion of the database (i.e. the assignments in the broadcasting service in the VHF and UHF bands), the Bureau hereby informs you that the cutover of the FM/TV portion of the BR database, from the former FMS (Frequency Management System based on a mainframe computer) to TerRaSys (a client-server configuration using PCs and relational databases) has been effected during the weekend of 28- 29 August 1999. Therefore, WIC No. 2394 (dated 7 September 1999) will be the last publication containing particulars of FM/TV assignments (in paper, microfiche and diskette formats). The corresponding BRIFIC publication dated 7 September 1999 will be the last publication having particulars of the FM/TV assignments *in parallel* with other formats.

3. As from 7 September 1999, the BRIFIC represents the sole publication format for the frequency assignments in the broadcasting services in the VHF and UHF bands, both those notified under Article S11 of the Radio Regulations, as well as those that are submitted under the relevant provisions of the Regional Agreements Stockholm, 1961, Geneva, 1984 and Geneva, 1989.

Therefore, as from BRIFIC dated 7 September 1999, this CD-ROM publication represents an official (and the only) acknowledgement of receipt, in terms of No. **S11.28** of the Radio Regulations, as far as the frequency assignments to the broadcasting services in the VHF and UHF bands are concerned, as well as a statutory publication of the particulars of frequency assignments to the broadcasting services in the VHF and UHF bands which are recorded in the Master Register pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations, or returned to administrations as a result of unfavourable findings. In addition, this CD-ROM publication (starting with BRIFIC dated 7 September 1999) represents the only official publication of the information which the Bureau publishes in the application of the Regional Agreement for the European Broadcasting Area (Stockholm, 1961), the Regional Agreement concerning FM Sound broadcasting Stations in Region 1 and part of Region 3 (Geneva, 1984) and the Regional Agreement concerning planning of the VHF/UHF Television Broadcasting Stations in the African Broadcasting Area and neighbouring Countries (Geneva, 1989). The publication of the Special Section series ST61, GE84 and GE89, in paper and in diskette formats is therefore discontinued as from the cutover date of 29 August 1999.

4. In order to ensure a gradual familiarization of the administrations with this new publication, the first two official releases (i.e., BRIFIC dated 24 August 1999 and 7 September 1999) did not contain any Special Section under the concerned BC/BT Agreements in these bands (Stockholm, 1961, Geneva, 1984 and Geneva, 1989). Such information, when included in subsequent releases of BRIFIC, will be signaled to the administrations through appropriate Circular-telegrams, drawing their attention also to the expiry dates for comments, where applicable. Please note that the BRIFIC is published every two weeks; the expiry date for comments will be counted as from the publication date, which normally coincides with the date of dispatch of the relevant publication to administrations.

5. The submissions under Article S9, for the broadcasting service, are not yet included in BRIFIC and they will continue to be published in a paper format until the end of 1999.

6. In addition to the official information on the frequency assignments to the broadcasting service in the VHF/UHF bands, the BR IFIC will also contain unofficial information on the frequency assignments to other services, for beta testing. Initially, as from BRIFIC dated 24 August 1999, the CD-ROM will contain unofficial data on the frequency assignments to the broadcasting service in the LF/MF bands which will be published also in the other formats, until the cutover of this portion of the BR database which will be effected later this year. The Bureau considered the separation of the unofficial from the official information, but, for practical reasons, it decided to keep both together in order to enable testing of all salient features of the CD-ROM publication. At a later date (to be communicated later on), the CD-ROM will contain unofficial information on the frequency assignments in the fixed and mobile services, for beta testing. As from 11 January 2000, the CD-ROM publication corresponding to WIC Nos. 2409 and 2410, will become the regular release (and the only publication) for all frequency assignments in terrestrial services, under Articles S9 and S11, Appendix S25, Resolution 300 and the relevant Regional Agreements (ST61, GE75, GE84, GE85, RJ81, GE89). The publication of the WIC (in paper, microfiche, and diskette formats) will be discontinued by the end of 1999.

7. All BRIFIC releases (both regular and test-versions) require the use of the Microsoft Windows NT operating system. Such an approach (as proposed by the BR to the RAG and endorsed by the sixth meeting of RAG in January 1998) has been adopted as the Bureau has no resources to develop a product which would support all of the various hardware and software platforms that are used by administrations. In order to enable the use of this publication, the ITU has already provided necessary hardware and Windows NT software to some 50 administrations of the least developed countries. In this connection, the Bureau wishes to stress the fact that the data base on the CD-ROM is in a Microsoft Access data base container, and should be readable on any platform that supports Microsoft Access. The only part that is actually restricted to Windows NT is **TerRaQ**, which is used for pre-defined queries. However, administrations could perform their own queries on the Access container, or they could unload the data from the Access container and reformat it for their own data base structures and query programs, thus avoiding the dependence on **TerRaQ**.

8. The Bureau remains at the disposal of your Administration for any further clarifications you may need in this respect (contact person: Mr. P. Natarajan, phone: +4122 7305535, fax: +4122 7305785, Internet e-mail brmail@itu.int).

Yours faithfully,

Robert W. Jones
Director
Radiocommunication Bureau

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- The subscribers of WIC-on-diskette