



*Radiocommunication Bureau*

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Circular Letter  
**CR/301**

1 May 2009

## **To Administrations of Member States of ITU**

**Subject:** Removal of unused frequency assignments (Space Services) from the Master Register

### **To the Director-General**

Dear Sir/Madam

The use of space radiocommunication services has progressed considerably over the years. As a consequence, in recent years it has become increasingly difficult for administrations to obtain suitable new GSO positions and frequencies in both the planned and non-planned satellite services and fully coordinate them in application of the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations in order to ensure the stable operation of new satellite networks. At the same time, it has been noted that some unused frequency and GSO resources remain recorded in the Master International Frequency Register (MIFR), making it even more difficult to develop new satellite networks and bring them into operation.

The Radiocommunication Bureau therefore now feels obliged to request all administrations to review the use of their recorded satellite networks and urges them to remove unused frequency assignments and networks from the Master Register. Some cases of this nature were examined recently by the Radio Regulations Board.

In parallel with this request and in line with the well known principles which the membership has deemed important enough to embed in the ITU Constitution, Convention and Radio Regulations – calling for the equitable, efficient and rational use of the limited spectrum/orbit resources and their use to the minimum extent essential to meet requirements – the Bureau also considers itself bound to have recourse to certain provisions of the Radio Regulations (e.g. No. **13.6**), and where appropriate, to enforce the removal of unused frequency assignments from the MIFR when their use has not been suspended in accordance with the Radio Regulations. This is in the best interest of all administrations and operators and, at the initiative of some administrations, the Bureau is currently pursuing action along these lines in several cases.

I take this opportunity to inform you that, in parallel with the above, the Bureau also intends to undertake similar action at its own initiative in application of the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations in appropriate cases (e.g. cases in which there are fewer satellites than the GSO positions of satellite networks “activated” by those satellites, the bringing into use of several GSO networks on the same date by the same administration and operator, etc.)

The Bureau urges your and all other administrations to cooperate in these efforts that employ the scrupulous and diligent application of the principles and provisions of the ITU Constitution, Convention and Radio Regulations, in order to reduce, and to the extent possible remove, the obstacles impeding the development and bringing into operation of new satellite networks.

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, the contact person in the Radiocommunication Bureau is Mr. Yvon Henri (Tel: +41 22 730 5536/  
e-mail: [yvon.henri@itu.int](mailto:yvon.henri@itu.int)).

Yours faithfully,

Valery Timofeev  
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

**Distribution:**

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- Members of the Radio Regulations Board