INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Terrestrial Services Department

THE TERRESTRIAL BR IFIC

http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/brific/Pages/default.aspx

1 Introduction

The purpose of the BR International Frequency Information Circular (BR IFIC) is to provide information on the frequency assignments/allotments submitted by administrations to BR for recording in the Master International Frequency Register and Plans. The BR IFIC is published once every two weeks by the BR, pursuant to Article **20** (provisions Nos. **20.1** to **20.6** and **20.15**) of the Radio Regulations (RR) in the official languages of ITU: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

This document will briefly introduce the contents of the terrestrial BR IFIC.

2 Contents of the BR IFIC

BR IFIC contains the following:

- Latest publication (Parts I, II, III, IIB and Special Sections);
- Master International Frequency Register (MIFR);
- Plans for terrestrial services;
- Notices in process;
- Frequencies prescribed for common use;
- TerRaQ, TerRaNV, TerRaNotices, BR IFIC DB Manager and Terrestrial BR IFIC Format Converter software;
- Preface in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish;
- ReadMe (general information).

2.1 Latest publication (Parts I, II, III, IIB and Special Sections)

2.1.1 Parts I, II, III and IIB

Notices received under Article **11** of the Radio Regulations are published in the following parts of the circular:

- Part I: Notices received for new frequency assignments or modifications to or cancellations of recorded assignments. It serves as the acknowledgement of receipt of notices received by the Bureau.

- Part II: Frequency assignments to be recorded in the Master Register.

- Part III: Notices to be returned to administrations for reasons of unfavourable findings by the Bureau.

- Part IIB: Frequency assignments already recorded in the Master Register for which the findings have been reviewed by the Bureau under Nos. **11.50** and/or **14.1** of the Radio Regulations.

2.1.2   Special Sections

Requests for modification of the various plans relating to terrestrial services and the GE06L list are published in the corresponding special sections of BR IFIC. Requests for coordination under No. **9.21** of the Radio Regulations are also published in special sections.

In general, special sections comprise three parts:

- Part A: Information on the proposed modifications: After the deadline for receipt of comments and if the notifying administration so requests the Bureau, the request is published in Part B and recorded in the corresponding plan, if there is no objection.

- Part B: Information on modifications in respect of which agreement has been reached and for which publication in Part B has been specifically requested.

- Part C: Information on cancelled frequency assignments/allotments.

The exception is the procedure under No. **9.21**, where there is a Part A and B for space services and a Part C and D for terrestrial services.

2.2   The Master International Frequency Register (MIFR)

The MIFR contains all frequencies used worldwide that have been notified to ITU and are in conformity with the Radio Regulations.

It must be consulted by any new user before choosing a frequency.

Any frequency assignment that might cause interference to, or receive interference from, another country's existing or future stations must normally be notified to the Bureau so that it can be recorded in the MIFR. This ensures that all administrations are informed that the assignment is in use.

The Bureau keeps the MIFR up to date on the basis of the information received from administrations.

Any complete filing received pursuant to Article **11** is published in Part I. The Bureau then examines the filing in regard to the frequency band and the class of service.

- If the examination results in an unfavourable finding, BR publishes the notice in Part III of BR IFIC and returns it to the notifying administration with recommendations. However, if the administration concerned nevertheless wishes the assignment to be recorded in the Master Register for information, it must re-notify the assignment invoking No. **4.4** of the Radio Regulations, i.e. that it undertakes that the assignment be operated on condition that it shall not cause harmful interference to, and shall not claim protection from harmful interference caused by, a station operating in accordance with the provisions of the Radio Regulations.

• If the examination results in a favourable finding, BR publishes the notice in Part II of the BR IFIC and records it in the MIFR.

The Master Register is also maintained on the basis of information published in Part IIB, relating to frequency assignments already recorded in the MIFR for which the findings have been reviewed by BR in accordance with Nos. **11.50** and/or **14.1** of the Radio Regulations.

Finally, administrations' attention should be drawn to the need to notify cancellation of assignments recorded in the Master Register which are no longer used.

2.3 The frequency assignment/allotment plans for terrestrial services

2.3.1 BR IFIC contains the following worldwide plans established under the aegis of ITU, with respect to terrestrial services:

• the frequency allotment Plan for coast radiotelephone stations operating in the exclusive maritime mobile bands between 4 000 kHz and 27 500 kHz (Appendix **25** of the Radio Regulations);

• the frequency allotment Plan for the aeronautical mobile (OR) service in the bands allocated exclusively to that service between 3 025 kHz and 18 030 kHz (Appendix **26** of the Radio Regulations);

• the frequency allotment Plan for the aeronautical mobile (R) service in the exclusive bands between 2 850 and 22 000 kHz (Appendix **27** of the Radio Regulations).

2.3.2 BR IFIC contains the following regional Plans established under the aegis of ITU, with respect to the terrestrial services:

• frequency assignment Plan for television and sound broadcasting in the European Broadcasting Area (Stockholm, 1961) (ST61), in the bands identified by the Final Acts of the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for revising the ST61 Agreement (RRC-06-Rev.ST61);

• frequency assignment Plans for LF and MF broadcasting, for the bands 148.5-283.5 kHz and 526.5-1 606.5 kHz, annexed to the Regional Agreement concerning the use by the broadcasting service of frequencies in the LF and MF bands (Regions 1 and 3) (Geneva, 1975) (GE75);

• frequency assignment Plan for MF broadcasting, for the band 535-1 605 kHz, annexed to the Regional Agreement concerning MF broadcasting (Region 2) (Río de Janeiro, 1981) (RJ81);

• frequency assignment Plan for VHF FM sound broadcasting, for the band 87.5-108 MHz, annexed to the Regional Agreement concerning FM sound broadcasting stations (Region 1 and part of Region 3) (Geneva, 1984) (GE84);

• frequency assignment Plan for stations in the MF maritime mobile and aeronautical radionavigation services, for certain parts of the bands between 415 kHz and 1 800 kHz, annexed to the Regional Agreement concerning the maritime mobile service and the aeronautical radionavigation service in Region 1 (Geneva, 1985) (GE85 MM R1);

• frequency assignment Plan for stations of the maritime radionavigation service (radiobeacons) for the European Maritime Area, for the band 283.5-315 kHz, annexed to the Regional Agreement concerning the planning of the maritime radionavigation service (radiobeacons) in the European Maritime Area (Geneva, 1985) (GE85-EMA);

• allotment Plan for the broadcasting service, for the band 1 605-1 705 kHz in Region 2, annexed to the Regional Agreement on the use of the band 1 605-1 705 kHz in Region 2 (Río de Janeiro, 1988) (RJ88);

- frequency assignment Plan for VHF/UHF television broadcasting in the African Broadcasting Area and neighbouring countries (Geneva, 1989) (GE89), in the bands identified by the Final Acts of the Regional Radiocommunication Conference for revising the GE89 Agreement (RRC-06-Rev.GE89);

- frequency assignment and allotment Plans for analogue and digital broadcasting, for the bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz, annexed to the Regional Agreement concerning the planning of the digital broadcasting service in certain parts of Regions 1 and 3, in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz (Geneva, 2006) (GE06).

As in the case of the Master Register, plans are updated by the Bureau on the basis of information submitted by administrations and published in the various special sections.

2.4   Notices being processed

These relate to notices received pursuant to Article **11** of the Radio Regulations or requests for modification of a plan which have been published in Part I and are awaiting examination or have been published in Part A.

2.5   Frequencies prescribed in the Radio Regulations for common use

In accordance with No. **11.13** of the Radio Regulations, frequencies prescribed by the Radio Regulations for common use shall not be notified to BR. They shall be entered in the Master Register by the Bureau and a consolidated table shall also be published in the preface to BR IFIC (see Chapter VI).

2.6   Preface to BR IFIC

The preface to BR IFIC contains an explanation of the abbreviations, symbols and coded remarks used in BR IFIC. The preface is updated regularly by BR and published both in BR IFIC itself and on the ITU website. It is available in PDF format in the Union's six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

In practice, only BR updates all the information published in the preface. However, for administrations' addresses and the list of operating agencies (Tables 12A/12B in Chapter IV, Section 3, of the preface) it is essential that administrations advise BR regularly of any changes.

2.7   General information (ReadMe)

This is information on updates published in BR IFIC for updating of the MIFR (Parts I, II, III and IIB) and the plans (the various special sections), on notifying administrations, on actions taken by the Bureau, such as for example reviews of findings, or on changes in the notification, registration or publication processes for frequency assignments and allotments.

This information is available on the BR IFIC DVD and on the ITU website.

3   Software

There are three main software applications and two software utilities available in the BR IFIC DVD. The applications which are listed as follows can also be executed without installation:

3.1   TerRaQ

This tool allows the users to consult BR IFIC by querying different parts of it such as Frequency assignments/allotments recorded in the Master Register, Parts I, II, III or IIB and the Special Sections (Parts A, B and C) associated with the plans, in latest publication. There are several

possibilities for definition of the queries through the following user-defined and pre-defined queries:

3.1.1 General Purpose Query (GPQ)

GPQ is used to consult Master Registry, Plans and Notices being processed.

3.1.2 Latest Publication Query (LPQ)

LPQ is used to consult only the current (latest) BR IFIC publication.

3.1.3 Quick Queries

These are pre-defined queries which are used frequently:

3.1.3.1 National Lookup/Extract

This query might be used to retrieve all (or by a frequency filter) the pending notices and/or the assignments recorded in the MIFR/Plans on behalf of a specific administration (in all fragments or in a specific one).

3.1.3.2 Identifier assigned by the BR

This query only focuses on the assignments with special value(s) for the identifier assigned by the BR.

3.1.3.3 Unique identifier given by the Administration

This query only focuses on the assignments with special value(s) for the unique identifier given by a specific administration with a choice of the concerned fragment of the RR.

3.1.4 SQL Query

This part is used by more professional users who know about the underlying structure of the BR IFIC database and are familiar in creating SQL queries.

3.1.5 Existing Query

Through this part, the users can recall and reuse the queries that they have already created and saved in the system.

3.1.6 Current BR IFIC Publication Content

This item shows a screen with the statistics of the entries existing in each part and each fragment of the BR IFIC. The data is also grouped based on the notifying and concerned administrations. Using these screens the users are able to quickly access the data grouped in one of these categories.

3.2 TerRaNV

The TerRaNV software enables administrations to perform a preliminary validation of their notices before submitting them to BR. TerRaNV checks the structure, size and format of the file, whether or not mandatory or required fields have been filled in, and the format of the data. In short, TerRaNV checks whether the data have been correctly entered in each field, and issues a warning or error message whenever it detects a problem.

TerRaNV does not perform an exhaustive validation of notices. For example, TerRaNV does not check a notice against the database to verify amendments, modifications, deletions and withdrawals, and does not perform a cross-validation to check that related fields are consistent with one another. The complete validation of notices is the responsibility of BR.

This application can be also executed directly from the DVD without being installed.

3.3 TerRaNotices

This software is used to load existing notices from the BR IFIC database, create notices from scratch by using wizards and to validate the electronic notices by incorporating the same validations as TerRaNV. It should be noted that the complete and final validation is performed by BR. This application can be also executed directly from the DVD without being installed and it is able to read the data from SQLite format.

The utilities can only be used after installation of the BR IFIC DVD and are as listed below.

3.4 BR IFIC DB Manager

It is now possible to have different releases of the SQLite BR IFIC databases installed on one PC at the same time. This utility allows the user choose the desired version of the BR IFIC database (and make it active) and then all of the software tools will use that release until another version is selected or a new version is installed.

3.5 Terrestrial BR IFIC Format Converter

There might be some users who may wish to directly connect to the BR IFIC database in Microsoft Access® format or the change to SQLite may affect the usage of other tools which rely on direct interaction with the database of the BR IFIC. Therefore, a utility is being provided to quickly provide a bridge for accessing the data, without converting the whole dataset to Microsoft Access® format. This tool is also capable of converting the BR IFIC database file from MS Access® to SQLite as well as converting the BR IFIC database file from SQLite to MS Access® (works only for the BR IFIC editions before 2808 dated 24/11/2015 because of the size of the FXM part of the BR IFIC which is bigger than the limitation of the MS Access®).

4 BR IFIC on web

The contents of each BR IFIC publication are also accessible on-line through: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/brific/Pages/default.aspx.

These contents are: an extract of the BR IFIC database of latest publication in MS Access® format, lists of notifications published in all parts of the database and in the Special Sections in Adobe® PDF format, the latest Preface to the BR IFIC and the information note for each edition of the BR IFIC.

It is also possible to download an exact copy of the image of each BR IFIC DVD through the BR IFIC web page. This facility is only available to the subscribers of the BR IFIC.

5 Conclusion

BR IFIC is a service publication for frequency managers. Under No. **8.3** of the Radio Regulations, any frequency assignment recorded in the MIFR with a favourable finding has the right to international recognition. In the application of this provision – which is fundamental because it ensures that harmful interference will be avoided – it is essential for frequency managers to consult BR IFIC regularly.

One copy of BR IFIC is distributed free of charge to every administration.

Furthermore, the Bureau publishes the list (in PDF format) and an extract (in MDB format) of assignments included in the last publication on the ITU website at the following address: http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/terrestrial/brific/Pages/default.aspx.

Pursuant to No. **11.28** of the Radio Regulations, BR publishes complete notices in Part I of BR IFIC within two months after they have been received. Such publication constitutes acknowledgement of receipt of the notice, and allows the notifying administration to check that the publication accurately reflects the information submitted.

BR IFIC also makes it possible for staff members responsible for coordination to monitor notices from other administrations (e.g. from neighbouring countries) to determine whether coordination is necessary.

Administrations may communicate their comments by e-mail to: brmail@itu.int.

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