



Radio Regulations Board (RRB)

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HISTORY & BACKGROUND

- **1895** – Discovery of radio-communication;
- **1906** – International Radiotelegraph Conference (Plenipotentiary) Berlin, International Radiotelegraph Union formed;
- **1912** – First Table of Frequency Allocations created; (kHz range, can be considered beginning of RR)
- **1932** – International Telegraph Union & International Radiotelegraph Union merged & International Telecommunication Union formed;
- **1938** – Table of Frequency Allocations extended to 200 MHz

HISTORY & BACKGROUND (2)

- **1947** – International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB) with 11 members (Full Time) created by ITU Plenipotentiary Conference at the highest level of the Union;
- **Members**, IFRB were considered “custodians of an international public trust” ;
- **1965** – ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Montreux) reorganized IFRB to 5 members

HISTORY & BACKGROUND (3)

- **1992** – Additional Plenipotentiary Conference decided to replace IFRB with part-time RRB
- **1994** – Part-time (9) Members of RRB elected by Plenipotentiary Conference;
- **1998** – RRB Members increased to 12 by PP;
- Like other elected ITU officials, maximum 2 terms allowed for an individual as Member, RRB

Composition of the Radio Regulations Board

- **12 Members** of RRB elected by the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference for a 4 year term;
 - 2 Members each from ITU administrative Regions A, B and C;
 - 3 Members each from ITU administrative Regions D and E.
- **The Director**, Radiocommunication Bureau is the Executive Secretary for the Board;
- **The Bureau** provides the secretarial support.

Present Members of the Board

- **Region A:**
Mr. R. Teran (Argentina) & Ms. Julie Zoller (USA);
- **Region B:**
Mr. A. Magenta (Italy) & Mr. M. Zilinskas (Lithuania);
- **Region C:**
Mr. B. Nurmatov (Kyrgyzstan) & Mr. V. Strelets (Russian Federation);
- **Region D:**
Mr. S. Koffi (Ivory Coast), Mr. S. K. Kibe (Kenya) and Mr. M. Bessi (Morocco);
- **Region E:**
Mr. P. K. Garg (India), Mr. Y. Ito (Japan) & Mr. A. R. Ebadi (Malaysia)

Provisions of ITU Constitution related to RRB

- Article 14 – (No CS 93 to CS 101) – Composition and Functions of the Board
- **CS 98** In the exercise of their Board duties, the members of the Radio Regulations Board shall serve, not as representing their respective Member States nor a region, but as **custodians of an international public trust**. In particular, each member of the Board shall refrain from intervening in decisions directly concerning the member's own administration.

Provisions of ITU Convention and Resolutions related to RRB

- **Article 10 (No CV 140 to CV 147 – Additional duties and working methods of the Board)**
- Resolution 119: Methods to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Radio Regulations Board
 - to continue to review periodically its working methods and internal processes and develop appropriate changes in its methods and decision-making processes and their overall effectiveness in order to **attain a higher degree of transparency**, and report the results to the next WRC through the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (BR);
 - to continue to include in the summary of its decisions (No. 13.18 of the Radio Regulations):
 - i) the reasons for each decision taken by the Board;
 - ii) comments received from administrations on the Rules of Procedure;

Salient provisions of Radio Regulations directly related to RRB's work

- **RR Article 6:** Special Agreements – No 6.6 (rarely used);
- **RR Article 7:** Application of the procedures – No 7.1, 7.5 to 7.7
- **RR Article 11:** No 11.47 – 11.49
- **RR Article 13:**
 - Section 0 – Development of RoPs
 - Section II – Deletion of assignments from MIFR (13.6)
 - Section III – Maintenance of RoPs
 - Section IV – Board Documents
- **RR Article 14:** Review of a finding of the BR - No 14.5 to 14.8

Additional responsibilities assigned by WRC-12

- **RR No 13.6 (Mod)** - All decisions of the Bureau to remove assignments from MIFR to be approved by the Board;
- Limited and qualified extension of regulatory time-limit for bringing into use of frequency assignments to a satellite in case of co-passenger delay **and** in the case of *force majeure*.
- The conference instructed the RRB to approve ROPs on the practices of the BR in a number of areas.

'Transparency' – hall mark of Board

- Transparency essential for Board's activities:
 - **CS 95**: Development of Rules of Procedures in a transparent manner (also Resolution 119);
 - **CS 98**: Board Members custodians of an international public trust,
- All documents of the Board, including Summary of Decisions and the Minutes of meetings are posted on RRB website:
- <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/index.asp?category=conferences&mlink=rrb>

Main Functions

- Main functions & objectives

- Approval of the Rules of Procedures (RoPs);
- Consideration of the Report from Director;
- Interference issues between countries;
- Implementation of WRC decisions;
- Appeal from administrations for BR decisions; &
- New responsibilities given by WRC-12.

Rules of Procedure

- Rules of Procedure to govern the activities of Board and Bureau in the application of RR provisions (13.12);
- Rules of Procedure only in case of clear need (13.0.1);
- Draft Rule of Procedure prepared by Bureau and circulated to all member administrations for comments, if any
- Draft RoP along with comments from members placed before the Board at its meeting, for approval;
- If a significant change, proposed by an administration or by Board Member(s), is accepted by the Board, the BR may be instructed to re-circulate the draft ROP for comments (minor changes may not require re-circulation);
- RoPs require review after each WRC.

Comments and documents from administrations and time limits

- Documents from administrations should reach the Bureau 3 weeks before Board's meeting;
- Any submissions received from Administrations following the three-week deadline will normally not be considered at the same meeting and will be placed on the agenda of the following meeting;
- Comments on the draft Rule of Procedure must reach the Bureau 4 weeks before Board's meeting (RR 13.12A) for those to be considered;
- Board can not accept 'Confidential' documents as it has to work in a transparent manner. Administrations can provide extracts of all necessary, supporting information/material, without the need for their 'confidentiality'.

Salient activities of the present Board

- Requests for extension of regulatory time limits for satellite frequency assignments (also related to **RR 11.49**);
- Appeals against cancellation of assignments under **RR 13.6**;
- Requests under *force majeure* category (**after WRC-12**) and issue of confidential documents;
- Change of 'Notifying' administration in case of inter-governmental satellite systems, when the earlier 'Notifying' administration does not agree;
- Interference between Broadcast stations of neighbouring countries;
- Interference (reportedly intentional) to satellite operations;
- **Resolution 80 Issues** ('regular use' issue decided by WRC-12);
- Impact of **WRC-12** decisions on earlier RoPs;

THANK

YOU!

References

1. ITU CONSTITUTION, CONVENTION & RADIO REGULATIONS;
2. DOCUMENTS AND DECISIONS OF BOARD'S MEETINGS <[HTTP://WWW.ITU.INT/ITU-R/INDEX.ASP?CATEGORY=CONFERENCES&MLINK=RRB](http://www.itu.int/itu-r/index.asp?category=conferences&mlink=rrb)>;
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4. RADIO REGULATIONS BOARD: ARTICLE IN ITU NEWS, NO 6 OF 2010 BY W. MORON, MEMBER, RRB (2003 – 2010);