
Regulations

Spectrum Allocation and Assignment

Version 2.0

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Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA)
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Article (1)

Scope of Document

- 1.1. These regulations are issued in accordance with the provisions of the UAE Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order. These regulations include the TRA responsibilities to allocate frequency spectrum through the issuance of the National Frequency Plan, allocate, assign and revoke frequency spectrum, process Frequency Spectrum Authorizations, including the terms and conditions and technical specifications.
- 1.2. These regulations shall be read in conjunction with the UAE Spectrum Regulations.

Article (2)

Definitions

- 2.1 The terms, words and phrases used in these Regulations shall have the same meaning as is ascribed to them in the UAE Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order; unless these Regulations expressly provide otherwise for, or the context in which those terms, words and phrases are used in these Regulations indicates otherwise. The following terms and words shall be interpreted, as follows:
 - 2.1.1 “**Allocation**” means the entry of a designated frequency or frequency band in the National Frequency Plan for use by one or more users for a terrestrial or space Radiocommunication Service in the UAE.
 - 2.1.2 “**Applicant**” means any Person who has applied for a License or an Authorization in accordance with the Telecom Law or other regulations issued by the Authority.
 - 2.1.3 “**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.
 - 2.1.4 “**Assignment**” means granting the Authorization by the Authority for the use of a radio frequency or radio frequency channel under specified conditions.
 - 2.1.5 “**Authorization**” or “**Frequency Spectrum Authorization**” means a valid frequency spectrum authorization issued by the Authority and permits the use of radio frequency subject to terms and conditions as stipulated by the TRA.
 - 2.1.6 “**Authority**” or “**TRA**” means the General Authority for Regulating the Telecommunication Sector of the UAE known as Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) established pursuant to the provisions of Article 6 of Federal Law by Decree No. 3 of 2003 (as amended).
 - 2.1.7 “**Authorized User**” means a Person that has been granted an Authorization by the Authority.

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- 2.1.8 **“Class Authorization”** means the Frequency Spectrum 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.
- 2.1.9 **“Coordination Committee”** mean a committee which is established by United Arab Emirates cabinet and chaired by the Authority to undertake the coordination activities on the National Frequency Plan taking into consideration the existing and future requirements of the frequency spectrum in the United Arab Emirates.
- 2.1.10 **“Frequency Spectrum Fees”** means the fees to be paid to the Authority. It has two components: Application Fees and Frequency Fees.
- 2.1.11 **“Application Fees”** means the fees paid for the request for processing a new, renew or modification of a License or an Authorization, received at the Authority as per the procedure.
- 2.1.12 **“Frequency Fees”** means the fees to be paid to the Authority, on the issue, modify or renewal of an Authorization.
- 2.1.13 **“Harmful Interference”** means Interference which impairs the functioning of a Radiocommunication Service or which materially degrades or obstructs or repeatedly interrupts Radiocommunication.
- 2.1.14 **“ITU”** means International Telecommunication Union, a leading United Nations agency for information and communication technologies.
- 2.1.15 **“National Frequency Plan”** means Radio Frequency Allocation plan for the UAE.
- 2.1.16 **“Person”** will include ‘juridical entities’ as well as ‘natural persons’.
- 2.1.17 **“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.
- 2.1.18 **“Radio Regulations”** or **“RR”** means the Radio Regulations, which is a publication, issued by the ITU, adopted by the World Radiocommunication Conference and ratified by the UAE.
- 2.1.19 **“Station”** means one or more transmitters or receivers or a combination of transmitters and receivers, including the accessory equipment, necessary at one location for carrying on a Radiocommunication Service.
- 2.1.20 **“Temporary Authorization”** means an Authorization issued for a period up to 90 days.
- 2.1.21 **“UAE”** or **“State”** means the United Arab Emirates including its territorial waters and the airspace above.
- 2.1.22 **“UAE Spectrum Regulations”** means the technical regulations and specifications with details on objective procedures and criteria for regulating the use of frequency spectrum in the UAE.

Article (3)

Spectrum Management

- 3.1 UAE Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order, bestows on the TRA the sole responsibility for the management of the frequency spectrum in the UAE.
- 3.2 The TRA responsibilities include, but not limited to, Assignment, Allocation, renewal, modification, amendment, re-assignment, cancellation, withdrawal and revoke of Authorization.
- 3.3 The TRA shall establish the principles under which spectrum shall be allocated and assigned.
- 3.4 The TRA will coordinate the use of frequency spectrum according to international regulations and agreements.
- 3.5 The TRA shall enforce the UAE spectrum regulations in accordance with the Spectrum Monitoring and Enforcement Regulations.

Article (4)

National Frequency Plan

- 4.1 The National Frequency Plan, containing the National Table of Frequency Allocations shall be the basic reference document for allocating and assigning the frequency spectrum in the UAE.
- 4.2 The Coordination Committee chaired by the Authority shall have the competence to put in place the National Frequency Plan to be approved by the TRA board.
- 4.3 The National Frequency Plan shall be drawn up in conformity and kept updated with the international regulations (e.g. Radio Regulations) and the international or regional agreements concluded or acceded by the UAE, according to Article 47 of the Federal Law by Decree No 3 of 2003 (Telecom Law) as amended and its Executive Order.
- 4.4 For Radiocommunication Services having the same priority status (co-primary) in the National Frequency Plan, the Authority shall determine the technical conditions and sharing criteria while making an Allocation and Assignment.
- 4.5 The National Frequency Plan shall be a public document.

Article (5)

Spectrum Band Plan

- 5.1 The TRA is responsible for issuing the band plans and channeling arrangements based on the National Frequency Plan and considering all technical criteria for sharing and compatibility in accordance with the Radio Regulations and ITU-R recommendations.
- 5.2 Portions of the band plans and channeling plans, as applicable, may be included in the different UAE Spectrum Regulations.
- 5.3 The band plans and the channel plans should consider future shaping and align with wireless standards from recognized international standards organizations (e.g. 3GPP, IEEE, ETSI.. etc.).
- 5.4 The band plans and channel plans may amend the allocations and assignments to existing users to allow for the development of new services. The amendment will then be implemented through changes to Authorizations as decided by the TRA. No compensation will be provided for changes to Authorizations.

Article (6)

Authorizations

- 6.1 Any use of frequency spectrum by any entity whatsoever, shall require prior Authorization from the TRA.
- 6.2 The applications for Authorizations can be submitted through the TRA service channels/portals.
- 6.3 The Authorization shall be issued only upon the receipt of spectrum fees.
- 6.4 The Authorization shall contain Authorization number, administrative information, technical parameters and any other conditions as required.
- 6.5 Authorizations may be issued to allocate or assign the frequency spectrum to networks, Stations or Wireless Equipment, according to UAE Spectrum Regulations.
- 6.6 Authorizations can be either individual Authorization or Class Authorization. The standard period of validity for an Authorization shall be (1) calendar year - (365) days- starting from the date of issue of the Authorization. For certain Authorizations, as decided by the TRA, it can be in multiples of (1) year.
- 6.7 The TRA has the competence to issue, modify, revoke, cancel, and renew Frequency Spectrum Authorizations. An expired Authorization may be renewed during its validity period or up to (90) days after its expiry, after this period, if the previously Authorized User requests the use of the same frequency spectrum, this request will be treated as a new Application.
- 6.8 Frequency spectrum Authorizations cannot be transferred in their entirety. The Authorization can be cancelled if not in use.
- 6.9 Request for modification of Authorization can be requested for changes to administrative information or technical parameters. Modifications does not

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- include change of ownership or change of location, for which new Application be applied.
- 6.10 Authorized User shall adhere to the authorized parameters of the Authorization.
- 6.11 The TRA or any representative UAE government entity has the right for legal interception and enforcement for any Authorization.
- 6.12 Frequency Spectrum Fees are applicable in accordance with the TRA Regulations for Spectrum Fees.

Article (7)

Temporary Authorizations

- 7.1 The Authority may issue Temporary Authorizations for the use of frequency spectrum. These Authorizations shall be for a short, restricted and specified period of time, from one day to a maximum of (90) days. Temporary Authorizations shall not be renewed.

Article (8)

Revocation of Authorizations

- 8.1 The Authority may suspend, cancel or revoke an Authorization that has been granted if:
- 8.1.1 The authorized frequencies have not been used within (4) months from the date of issuance of the Authorization unless specifically agreed by the Authority on a case by case basis.
- 8.1.2 The Authorized User has breached any of the terms and conditions of the Authorization or the provisions of UAE Spectrum Regulations issued by the TRA.
- 8.1.3 It is in the public interest.
- 8.2 The frequency(s) shall be immediately available with the TRA for re-allocation.

Article (9)

Prohibited uses of the of the Frequency Spectrum

- 9.1 It is prohibited to use any frequency spectrum for the following purposes:
- 9.1.1 To convey services which contravene public order or public morals;
 - 9.1.2 To cause harassment, offence or nuisance towards others or for any other unlawful use;
 - 9.1.3 To disseminate the content of any communication through a telecommunication network without having the right to do so;
 - 9.1.4 To intentionally and / or unlawfully access a telecommunication network (private or public) or obstruct any telecommunication service;
 - 9.1.5 To intercept a telecommunications transmission without being authorized to do so;
 - 9.1.6 For any use contrary to the national interest or the public safety;
 - 9.1.7 To create Harmful Interference or in connection with the jamming of frequency spectrum;
 - 9.1.8 To assist with or participate in criminal activities;
 - 9.1.9 To transmit illegal messages;
 - 9.1.10 To materially disrupt economic or commercial activity;
 - 9.1.11 To adversely affect social or work environments;
 - 9.1.12 To transmit or receive messages which are contrary to Islamic beliefs;
 - 9.1.13 For commercial advertisements unless appropriate licenses and permissions are obtained;
 - 9.1.14 For direct communication with persons in states that are not recognized by the UAE;
 - 9.1.15 Anything which the Authority may prohibit.

Article (10)

Frequency Spectrum Authorization for Diplomatic Missions

- 10.1 Any Frequency Spectrum Authorizations issued to the diplomatic missions including the visit of the foreign dignitaries will be subject to the following additional obligations:
- 10.1.1 Reciprocation of the facility to the UAE diplomatic mission in these states for which the Authority has issued the Frequency Spectrum Authorization.
 - 10.1.2 Assigned frequencies should only be used inside the diplomatic premises.
 - 10.1.3 For visits of the foreign dignitaries, the applications are received through UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation only and the Authorization is also issued through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Article (11)

Spectrum Coordination and Notification

- 11.1 Coordination of radio frequencies for the radio stations at the national, regional and international levels shall be made through the TRA, as it is the sole body responsible for radio frequency coordination.
- 11.2 The TRA may delegate the responsibility of coordination among operators, subject to ratification by the TRA.
- 11.3 The TRA shall register and notify assignments to ITU as required.
- 11.4 The TRA may coordinate through multilateral forums (e.g. GCC Telecommunications Bureau) or directly with the Administrations.
- 11.5 The applicant shall support the coordination procedures.