

# **Licensing Procedures Manual for Satellite (Non-Fixed Satellite Earth Station) Applications**

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## **1 PURPOSE OF MANUAL**

This is the licensing procedures manual for Satellite (Non-Fixed Satellite Earth Station) licence applications and complements the more general licensing policy and procedures described in the overarching Ofcom Licensing Policy Manual.

This manual provides information specifically relevant to the licensing of Satellite (Non-Fixed Satellite Earth Stations) intended to be used in frequency bands not allocated to the fixed-satellite service. The manual will be subject to revision as necessary to align with current technological developments for reasons related to the effective and appropriate use of the spectrum.

The criteria contained in this manual along with appropriate UK Radio Licence Interface Requirements apply to the licensing of satellite earth stations operating in the UK.

## **2 RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

### **2.1 Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU)**

The Radio Equipment Directive (RED) is European legislation which sets out regulatory compliance requirements for radiocommunications equipment in the European Union. The RED updates and replaces Directive 1999/5/EC, the Radio and Telecommunications Terminal Directive (R&TTE Directive) with effect from 13 June 2016. There are many similarities between the RED and R&TTE; equipment must conform with a set of essential requirements, and compliance with harmonised standards offers a presumption of conformity.

A transitional period applies so existing radio equipment covered by the RED but which has been tested and certified in conformity with the R&TTE Directive before 13 June 2016 may continue to be placed on the market until 12 June 2017 (i.e. up to one year after the RED comes into effect) and indeed can be put into service after that date. From 13 June 2017, however, equipment covered by the RED can only be placed on the market if it conforms with the RED.

### **2.2 Wireless Telegraphy (WT) Act 2006 – Licensing**

Installation and use of radio equipment is authorised by a licence issued under the WT Act 2006.

### **2.3 Wireless Telegraphy (WT) Act 2006 – Spectrum Pricing**

The WT Act 2006 provides the Ofcom with spectrum management legislation to manage the spectrum more effectively and promote its optimal utilisation. Licence fees are set out annually in regulations made under the WT Act 2006.

### **2.4 Broadcasting Act 1990**

For satellite broadcasting, a Broadcasting Act licence may also be required.

### **2.5 Directive 2015/1535/EU**

Directive 2015/1535/EU is intended to help avoid the creation of trade barriers within the European Community. It requires member states to notify the technical regulations pertinent to a particular licence type to the European Commission to allow member states the opportunity to comment.

All new and revised technical regulations are notified to the EC under the Directive notification procedures. All technical regulations are subject to a 3-month mandatory 'stand

still period', for consultation which starts when they are received by the EC. Following the 'stand still period' and provided no objections are received from member states then the new or amended technical regulation can be published and implemented.

## **2.6 Enforcement**

Ofcom provides an enforcement service which aims to ensure that licensees operate within the conditions of their licence. On the whole, this requires us to investigate complaints of interference affecting existing licensees.

# **3 EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

## **3.1 Minimum Requirements**

The "essential requirements" of Article 3.2 of Directive 2014/53/EU include the minimum system requirements that are deemed necessary for reasons related to the effective and appropriate use of the radio spectrum. The information sheet OfW 241 gives a high level description of how spectrum in the UK is used for satellite systems.

## **3.2 Operational Requirements**

Operators are required to conform to all conditions defined within the licence. Details can be found in Section 12.

Earth station antennas shall not be employed for transmission at elevation angles of less than 3 degrees measured from the horizontal plane to the direction of maximum radiation<sup>1</sup>.

The component of effective isotropic radiated power directed towards the horizon and the minimum elevation angle above the horizontal must comply with ITU Radio Regulations and not exceed those limits specified by ITU Radio Regulations 21.8 – 21.15.

The relevant satellite network is either fully operational or will be fully operational in the bands applied for within 3 years of the date of application.

The earth stations operating with non-geostationary satellites shall ensure compliance with the equivalent power flux-density limitations specified in Article 22 of the ITU Radio Regulations.

The apparatus comprised in the station(s) ("the Apparatus") is so designed, constructed, maintained and operated, that its use does not cause any undue interference to any wireless telegraphy.

A non-fixed satellite earth station can only operate from the one known, fixed, terrestrial UK location that has been specified in the application or previously supplied to Ofcom.

The Apparatus used for transmission complies with the Radio Equipment Directive and all appropriate national Interface Requirements for satellite earth stations in force within the UK.

The antenna radiation pattern envelope meets the minimum performance specified by the relevant ITU-R Recommendations which shall be detailed by the applicant.

All transmissions comply with the individual schedules contained within that Licence. Where appropriate, Ofcom may require that the Licensee provide additional screening at the installation as a condition of licence.

## **3.3 National and International Obligations**

The earth station must obtain satisfactory site clearance and coordination for operation at the specified location prior to commencing operation in the UK.

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<sup>1</sup> ITU Radio Regulations 21.14

The relevant satellite data shall have been submitted to the ITU in accordance with established ITU procedures.

All transmissions to the satellite(s) must be authorised by the satellite operator and the Apparatus must comply with their published technical requirements and the UK Frequency Allocation Table.

The licensee agrees to participate fully in any subsequent UK coordination and site clearance procedures.

## **4 TAKE-OVERS, TRANSFERS AND CHANGES OF NAME**

Details of the legal provisions surrounding changes to a licensee's circumstances are set out in the overarching Ofcom Licensing Policy Manual.

## **5 COORDINATION AND INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION**

After successful completion of national coordination in respect of other radiocommunication services the earth station is then licensed as per ITU Radio Regulations 4.4. International coordination may then be initiated, if required, using the method as defined in the ITU Radio Regulations Appendix 7. Applicants are advised that once an earth station licence has lapsed the operator may lose any rights previously obtained in respect of coordination.

Earth stations operating with a transmission licence may also apply to Ofcom for international coordination<sup>2</sup> in respect of their receiver characteristics.

## **6 PLANNING AND PROTECTION**

All earth station licences are issued only after successful national coordination has been achieved. Ofcom does not provide frequency assignments for satellite earth stations and therefore provides no enforcement service for the protection of services from interference due to assignments to other satellite networks. However, if international clearance has been sought and granted, the assignment becomes internationally recognised.

Licensees must ensure that their systems (i.e. equipment with antennas) meet current planning requirements, and where the antennas and masts may constitute a hazard, particularly to aircraft, then it is the applicant's responsibility to obtain appropriate approvals.

## **7 DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION**

Since non-fixed satellite earth station licences are tradable, information relating to the licensee, operational characteristics and geographical position of the station will be published in the Ofcom Wireless Telegraphy Register.

## **8 DESCRIPTION OF LICENCE PRODUCT**

Many satellite service frequency bands permit space radio communication services and links to geostationary and non-geostationary satellite networks. This manual applies to the licensing of earth stations operating in the UK in frequency bands not allocated to the fixed-satellite service and assigned for Earth-to-space transmission.

A non-fixed satellite earth station can only operate from the one known, fixed, terrestrial UK location that is specified in the licence. Frequency bands that are licensed for transmission in the UK are described in Ofcom Information sheet OfW 241.

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<sup>2</sup> ITU Radio Regulations Articles 9 and 11

## **9 LICENCE APPLICATIONS**

### **9.1 General**

Applicants wishing to plan new earth station installations are advised to contact Ofcom. The licensee must appoint an individual officer to be responsible for the correct operation, supervision and maintenance of that earth station, and supply details to Ofcom.

### **9.2 Making your application**

Before making an application, you should remember that no matter who applies on your behalf, you are still legally responsible for all actions carried out on your proposed radio system. Any false information may lead to the granting of the licence being refused or revoked. Also, the licence application form does carry legal status from an evidential point of view and applicants are therefore asked to sign the declaration.

Application form OfW 565 should be used for applications in geographical areas and frequency bands managed by Ofcom. Section 12 sets out the actions that Ofcom will take on receipt of a completed application. You can obtain a copy of the OfW 565 application form from the Ofcom Website, [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk). The technical characteristics of each earth station to satellite 'path' must be provided in a separate spreadsheet that can be obtained from Ofcom.

### **9.3 How to complete your application form**

It is essential that all questions are answered as fully as possible. Incomplete forms will be returned to the applicant. You should consider each question mandatory unless otherwise stated.

#### **9.3.1 New customers**

If you are a new customer, it is particularly important that you include all contact details on your application form, so that Ofcom can set up a new customer account.

#### **9.3.2 Checking your application**

Please ensure that you fill the licence application legibly, completely and accurately. Any missing information may result in a delay to the process or the form being returned. Information subsequently found to be inaccurate may render any licence invalid.

#### **9.3.3 Licence fees**

Licence fee details are provided in the relevant Statutory Instruments (SI) on Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) Regulations, available from the Office of Public Sector Information website at [www.opsi.org.uk](http://www.opsi.org.uk).

#### **9.3.4 Payment method**

New customers will be billed prior to issue of the licence. Amendments will be billed on renewal of the amended licence. Permitted methods of payment are described in the generic Licensing Policy Manual.

#### **9.3.5 Where to send your application form**

Please email form OfW 565 and any accompanying technical spreadsheets to Ofcom's spectrum licensing team:

[Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk)

## 10 DISCLAIMER

Revisions to this document will be done periodically or when there is a substantive need to update the document. This document can therefore only be fully accurate at the time of writing and Ofcom apologises for any inaccuracies that may occur between major revisions. Please contact Ofcom's spectrum licensing team directly if you have any queries or concerns, contact details are given in Section 11.

## 11 CONTACT DETAILS

For information regarding Satellite Service 'Wireless Telegraphy Act' Licences contact:

Ofcom  
FAO Spectrum Licensing  
PO Box 1285  
Warrington  
WA1 9GL

Email: [Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk)

Website: [www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence)

Phone: 020 7982 3131

## 12 THE SATELLITE (NON-FIXED SATELLITE EARTH STATION) LICENCE

Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006

### SATELLITE (Non-Fixed Satellite Earth Station)

Sector/class/product	« <b>PRODUCT</b> »
Licence number	« <b>LIC_NO</b> »
Licensee	« <b>customer_name</b> »
Licensee address	« <b>address</b> »
Licence first issue date	« <b>ISS_DATE</b> »
Licence version date	« <b>date</b> »
Payment interval	<b>1 year</b>

1. This Licence is issued by the Office of Communications (“Ofcom”) on «**date**» and replaces any previous authority granted in respect of the service subject to this Licence by Ofcom or by the Secretary of State.
2. This Licence authorises «**customer\_name**» (“the Licensee”) to establish, install and/or use a radio transmitting and/or receiving station and/or radio apparatus as described in the schedule(s) (hereinafter together called "the Radio Equipment") subject to the terms set out below and subject to the terms of the General Licence Conditions booklet (Version OF195.1).

**ISSUED BY OFCOM**



## **SATELLITE (NON-FIXED SATELLITE EARTH STATION)**

### **SCHEDULE 1 TO LICENCE NUMBER «LIC\_NO»**

#### **TERMS, PROVISIONS AND LIMITATIONS COVERED BY THIS LICENCE**

This schedule forms part of Licence «LIC\_NO», issued to «customer\_name», the Licensee on «ISS\_DATE», and describes the terms and equipment specifications covered by this licence.

#### **1. The Licensee may establish and use :**

A Permanent sending and receiving Earth Station ("the Station") at the location specified in the attached schedule for the purpose of providing Wireless Telegraphy links between the Station and Satellite.

#### **2. Limitations on use.**

The Station shall use only:

- a) the classes of emission specified in the Emission Code column of the attached schedule;
- b) the frequencies specified in the Transmit Frequency and Receive Frequency columns of the schedule;
- c) a power not exceeding that specified in the Antenna I/P Power column of the schedule;
- d) the antenna type specified in the Antenna Type column of the schedule;
- e) a power density not exceeding that specified in the Spectral Power Density Column of the schedule;
- f) the Station shall be operated only from the location specified on the schedule.

#### **3. Apparatus**

The Licensee shall ensure that:

- a) the apparatus comprised in the station ("the Apparatus") is so designed constructed, maintained and operated, that it does not cause any undue interference to other users of the spectrum;
- b) the Apparatus complies with (and is maintained in accordance with) the relevant performance specification(s) published by the operator of the Satellite;
- c) earth station antenna shall not be employed for transmission at elevation of less than 3 degrees measured from the horizontal plane to the direction of maximum radiation as specified in Article 21.14 of the ITU Radio Regulations;

- d) the earth stations operating with non-geostationary satellites shall ensure compliance with the equivalent power flux-density limitations specified in Article 22 of the ITU Radio Regulations;
- e) the component of effective isotropic radiated power directed towards the horizon and the minimum elevation angle above the horizontal must comply with ITU Radio Regulations and not exceed those limits specified in Articles 21.8 – 21.15 of the ITU Radio Regulations;
- f) in the band 13.75 GHz – 14 GHz, that earth stations with an antenna diameter of less than 4.5 m operate in compliance with the pfd limits in ITU Radio Regulations 5.502, that the e.i.r.p. of any emission from an earth station in the fixed satellite service does not exceed 85 dBW and that the e.i.r.p. density of emissions in the band 13.77 – 13.78 GHz complies with ITU Radio Regulations 5.503;
- g) use of the band 29.1 – 29.5 GHz shall be in compliance with ITU Radio Regulations 5.535A;
- h) the apparatus used for transmission complies with the Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU) and all appropriate National Interface Requirements (IR) for Satellite Earth Stations in force within the UK; and
- i) the Antenna Radiation Pattern Envelope meets the minimum performance specified by the operator of the Satellite.

Where appropriate, Ofcom may require that the Licensee provide additional screening at the installation as a condition of the licence.

#### **4. National and international obligations**

- a) the earth station must undergo national coordination and site clearance for operation at the specified location;
- b) the relevant satellite data shall have been submitted to ITU in accordance with established ITU procedures;
- c) all transmissions must be terminated prior to any change of location; unless operating under a specific exemption authorised by Ofcom;
- d) the Licensee shall comply with any notice given by Ofcom under section 9A of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 requiring the licensee to cease or suspend the uplinking by means of the licensed apparatus of any service specified in such notice by such date as may be specified;
- e) the licensee shall provide such information as Ofcom may request by notice in writing for the purpose of determining whether section 9A of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 applies in relation to a service for which the licensee provides uplink facilities using the licensed apparatus or for any purpose connected with the giving of a notice by Ofcom under section 9A of the Act.

#### **5. Interpretation**

In this and subsequent schedule(s):

- a) "Earth Station" means a radio transmitter located on the surface of the earth and intended for communication with one satellite.
- b) "Uplink" and any cognate expression refers to a transmission in the Earth-to-space direction.
- c) "IR" means the United Kingdom Radio Interface Requirement published by Ofcom in accordance with Article 8 of the Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available of radio equipment on the market (known as the Radio Equipment Directive)).

## Notes

1. This Licence does not affect the requirement, where necessary, to obtain licences or authorisations under other Acts. Some satellite television or radio broadcasting services also require licences under the Broadcasting Act 1990, and some installations require Local Authority Planning Approval.

Advice should be sought from:

Ofcom  
FAO Spectrum Licensing  
PO Box 1285  
Warrington  
WA1 9GL

Email: [Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk)

Website: [www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence)

Phone: 020 7982 3131

And the appropriate Local Authority planning department.

2. The Licensee must apply for a variation of the Licence from Ofcom before making any changes which may contravene the Licence.
3. Technical terms used in clause 2 shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Radio Regulations.

## SCHEDULE 2

<b>Licence No</b>	<Lic_No>	<b>Licence version date</b>	<Date>	<b>Payment interval</b>	<Year>
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<b>Licensing Centre Point</b>	<LCP_NGR >
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<b>Earth Station Deployment</b>	<b>Earth Station Name</b>	<b>Earth Station NGR</b>
<ES_Deploy_No>	<ES_Name>	<ES_NGR>

Antenna Centre Height AGL (m)	Antenna Type	Dish Size (m)	Transmit		Receive		System Noise temperature (K)
			Tx Gain (dBi)	Tx Beamwidth (deg)	Rx Gain (dBi)	Rx Beamwidth (deg)	
<antenna height AGL>	<antenna type>	<dish size>	<tx gain>	<tx beamwidth>	<rx gain>	<rx beamwidth>	<Syst_noise_temp>

Satellite Name	Orbit Long (deg East)	ES Azimuth (deg)	ES Elevation (deg)	ES Azimuth from (deg)	ES Azimuth to (deg)	ES minimum Elevation (deg)	ES maximum Elevation (deg)
<sat name>	<orbit long>	<es azimuth>	<es elevation>	<es azimuth from>	<es azimuth to>	<es elevation min>	<es elevation max>

Transmit Frequency	Receive Frequency	Associated Authorised Bandwidth (MHz)	Associated Emissions
<tx-1>		<bandwidth>	A
<tx-2>		<bandwidth>	B
	<rx-1>	<bandwidth>	C
	<rx-2>	<bandwidth>	D

Emission reference code	Emission Type	Emission Code	Antenna I/P Power (dBW)	Spectral Power Dens (dBW/Hz)
A	<em_type>	<em_code>	<antenna IP power>	<spectral Power Den>
B	<em_type>	<em_code>	<antenna IP power>	<spectral Power Den>
C	<em_type>	<em_code>	<antenna IP power>	<spectral Power Den>

## 13 GLOSSARY

CEPT	European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications
dBW	Power expressed logarithmically in Decibels relative to 1 Watt
EIRP	Equivalent Isotropically Radiated Power
EN	Euronorm
ERC	European Radio Committee
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standardisation Institute
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ITU-R	ITU Radiocommunication sector
ITU-RR	ITU Radio Regulations
Ofcom	Office of Communications
UK	United Kingdom
WT	Wireless Telegraphy