
Licensing procedures manual for satellite (Non-Geostationary Earth Station) applications

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1. Purpose of manual

- 1.1 This procedures manual applies to the Satellite (Non-Geostationary Earth Station) licence and complements the more general licensing policy and procedures described in Ofcom's Licensing Policy Manual.
- 1.2 The Satellite (Non-Geostationary Earth Station) licence applies to fixed sited earth stations that communicate with non-geostationary satellites operating in certain frequency bands allocated to the fixed-satellite service and assigned for Earth-to-space transmission. Before applying for a licence you should read our [non-geostationary satellite earth stations licensing guidance](#). Satellite service frequency bands that are licensed for transmission in the UK are described in Ofcom information sheet OfW241.
- 1.3 This 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.

2. Relevant legislation and policy

Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU)

- 2.1 The Radio Equipment Directive (RED) (Directive 2014/53/EU) 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.
- 2.2 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.

Wireless Telegraphy (WT) Act 2006 - licensing

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

Wireless Telegraphy (WT) Act 2006 - spectrum pricing

- 2.4 The WT Act 2006 provides 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.

Broadcasting Act 1990

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

Directive 2015/1535/EU

- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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.

Enforcement

- 2.8 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

Minimum requirements

- 3.1 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 OfW241 gives a high-level description of how spectrum in the UK is used for satellite systems.

Operational requirements

- 3.2 Licensees are required to conform to all conditions defined within the licence. Details can be found in Section 12.
- 3.3 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.¹
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The relevant non geostationary satellite network is either fully operational or will be fully operational in the bands applied for within 3 years of the date of application.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 In the band 13.75 – 14 GHz an earth station of a non-geostationary fixed-satellite service network shall have a minimum diameter of 4.5 m.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 A non-geostationary 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.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 The antenna radiation pattern envelope meets the minimum performance specified by ITU-R Recommendation ITU-R S.465, or ITU-R.S.580 for antennas installed after 1995.

¹ ITU RR 21.14

- 3.12 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.

National and international obligations

- 3.13 The earth station must obtain satisfactory site clearance and coordination for operation at the specified location prior to commencing operation in the UK.
- 3.14 The relevant satellite data shall have been submitted to the ITU in accordance with established ITU procedures.
- 3.15 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.
- 3.16 The licensee agrees to participate fully in any subsequent UK coordination and site clearance procedures.

4. Take-overs, transfers and changes of name

- 4.1 Details of the legal provisions surrounding changes to a licensee's circumstances are set out in the overarching Ofcom Licensing Policy Manual. Non-Geostationary earth station licences are tradable and so it is possible to transfer rights in certain circumstances. Decisions relating to such requests are made on a case-by-case basis.

5. Coordination and international registration

- 5.1 After successful completion of national coordination in respect of other radiocommunication services the earth station is then licensed as per ITU RR No. 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.
- 5.2 Earth stations operating with a transmission Licence may also apply to Ofcom for international coordination² in respect of their receiver characteristics.

² RR Articles 9 and 11

6. Planning and protection

- 6.1 Most earth station licences are issued only after successful national coordination has been achieved for both transmit and receive emissions. If international clearance has been sought and granted, the assignment becomes internationally recognised.
- 6.2 Licensees must ensure that their apparatus (i.e. equipment with antennas) meet current planning requirements, and where the antennas may constitute a hazard, particularly to aircraft, then it is the applicant's responsibility to obtain appropriate approvals.

7. Disclosure of information

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

8. Description of licence product

8.1 Section 12 provides the terms, provisions and limitations of the licence.

9. Licence applications

General

- 9.1 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.

Making your application

- 9.2 Before making a licence 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.
- 9.3 Form OfW564 should be used for non-geostationary earth station applications in geographical areas and frequency bands managed by Ofcom. You can obtain a copy of the OfW564 application form from the Ofcom website, www.ofcom.org.uk. The technical characteristics of each earth station to satellite 'path' must be provided in a separate spreadsheet available for download on Ofcom's website.

How to complete your application form

- 9.4 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.

New Customers

- 9.5 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.

Checking your application

- 9.6 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.

Licence Fees

- 9.7 Details on licence fees are provided in the relevant Statutory Instrument (SI) on Wireless Telegraphy (Licence Charges) Regulations, available from the UK government website at www.legislation.gov.uk.

Payment Method

- 9.8 New customers will be billed on issue of the licence. Amendments will be billed on renewal of the amended licence. Payments should be made payable to the "Ofcom". Permitted methods of payment are described in Ofcom's Licensing Policy Manual.

Where to send your form

- 9.9 Please email the completed form OfW564 and any accompanying technical spreadsheets to Ofcom's Space & science team at NGSO.licensing@ofcom.org.uk.

10. Disclaimer

- 10.1 This is a live document, and we may change it from time to time to update it with new information.

11. Contact details

11.1 For information regarding Wireless Telegraphy Act licensing, please contact:

Ofcom Spectrum Licensing

PO Box 1285

Warrington WA1 9GL

Email: Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk

Website: www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence

Telephone: 020 7981 3131

12. The Satellite (Non-Geostationary Earth Station) Licence

Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006

Satellite (Non-Geostationary Earth Station)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Sector/class/product | <Product> |
| Licence number | <Lic_No> |
| Licensee | <Lic_Name> |
| Licensee address | <Address> |
| Trading as | <Tradename> |
| Licence first issue date | <Issue_Date> |
| Licence version date | <Date> |
| Payment interval | <Year> |

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 <Lic_Name> ("the Licensee") to establish, install and/or use radio transmitting and/or receiving stations 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 OfW 597).

ISSUED BY OFCOM

Satellite (Non-Geostationary 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 <Lic_Name>, the Licensee on <Issue_Date>, and describes the terms and equipment specifications covered by this Licence.

1. The Licensee may establish and use:

- 1.1. 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 non-geostationary satellite(s).

2. Limitations on use

- 2.1. The stations 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; and
- f) the station shall be operated only from the location specified on the schedule.

3. Apparatus

- 3.1. The Licensee shall ensure that:

- a) the wireless telegraphy apparatus comprised in the station(s) ("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) the 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 13.75-14 GHz, 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 RR 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.

3.2. 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 in the fixed-satellite service 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; and
- 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. Additional conditions

- 5.1. The radio frequencies authorised by this Licence must be used in common with other non-geostationary satellite systems authorised under wireless telegraphy licences granted by Ofcom. The names of these licensees shall be notified by Ofcom to the Licensee from time to time, and together with the Licensee are described as the “NGSO Licensees”.
- 5.2. The radio frequencies authorised by this Licence must only be used to communicate with a satellite system which has transmissions authorised under a Satellite (Earth Station Network) wireless telegraphy licence granted by Ofcom.
- 5.3. In the event that –
 - a) one (or more than one) of the NGSO Licensees suffers a material and recurring (or ongoing) degradation of services to its users at a specific region or location in the United Kingdom; and
 - b) the degradation of services is resulting from radio transmissions from the earth stations operated by the Licensee;

Ofcom may by notice instruct the Licensee to cease or change the use of particular equipment or particular radio frequencies which are authorised under this Licence.
- 5.4. Any such cessation or change must be for the purposes of ensuring that such interference is avoided and the degradation of services to users at the particular regions or locations is resolved.
- 5.5. Following receipt of such notice, for such period of time as may be specified in the notice, the Licensee may only operate in accordance with the terms and conditions of the notice.
- 5.6. The Licensee must establish, install and use the radio equipment to commence regular wireless telegraphy transmissions in accordance with the provisions of this Licence within twelve months of the date that this Licence is issued, and maintain such transmissions thereafter.

6. Interpretation

- 6.1. 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 or more satellites;
 - b) “non-geostationary satellite” means a satellite that does not remain fixed relative to a position on the surface of the earth; and

- c) “uplink” and any cognate expression refers to a transmission in the earth-to-space direction

Notes

1. This Licence does not remove any other obligations that the Licensee may have in relation to satellite filings made under the ITU Radio Regulations.
2. 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.
3. Advice can be sought from Ofcom using the contact details on page 1 of this Licence and the appropriate local authority planning department.
4. The Licensee must apply for a variation of the Licence from Ofcom before making any changes which may contravene the Licence.
5. Technical terms used in clause 2 shall have the meanings assigned to them in the ITU Radio Regulations.

SCHEDULE 2

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|----------|
| Licence No | <Lic No> | Licence version date | <Date> | Payment interval | <1 Year> |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|----------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Licensing Centre Point | <LCP NGR> |
|-------------------------------|-----------|

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Earth Station Deployment | Earth Station Name | Earth Station NGR |
| <ES Deploy No> | <ES Name> | <ES NGR> |

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

| Satellite Name | ES Azimuth from (deg) | ES Azimuth to (deg) | ES minimum Elevation (deg) | ES maximum Elevation (deg) |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <sat name> | <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> | |
| | <rx-1> | <bandwidth> | <C> |
| | <rx-2> | <bandwidth> | <D> |

| Emission reference code | Emission Type | Emission Code | Polarisation | Antenna I/P Power (dBW) | Spectral Power Density (dBW/MHz) |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| A | <em type> | <em code> | <pol> | <antenna IP power> | <spectral power dens> |
| B | <em type> | <em code> | <pol> | <antenna IP power> | <spectral power dens> |
| C | <em type> | <em code> | <pol> | <antenna IP power> | <spectral power dens> |
| D | <em type> | <em code> | <pol> | <antenna IP power> | <spectral power dens> |

13. Glossary

| | |
|---------------|--|
| AP7 | Appendix 7 of ITU RR: Method for the Determination of the coordination area around an earth station in frequency bands between 1 GHz and 40 GHz shared between space and terrestrial radiocommunication services |
| CEPT | European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations |
| dBW | Power expressed logarithmically in Decibels relative to 1 Watt |
| EIRP | Equivalent Isotropically Radiated Power |
| EN | Euronorm |
| ERC | European Radiocommunications Committee |
| ETSI | European Telecommunications Standards Institute |
| ITU | International Telecommunication Union |
| ITU-R | ITU Radiocommunication sector |
| ITU RR | ITU Radio Regulations |
| Ofcom | Office of Communications |
| WT | Wireless Telegraphy |