



A Consultative Document

Draft Framework for the Authorisation of Aeronautical Mobile Services

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1 Introduction

This document is a subset of the National Spectrum Plan (NSP) and should be considered as part of the entire National Spectrum Plan. The NSP provides a framework to regulate the efficient use of spectrum, in an orderly manner, in accordance with the Authority's mandate. This includes the allocation, reallocation, assignment and re-assignment of spectrum.

1.1 Relevant Legislation

The Telecommunications Act (2001), section (18) (1)(i) mandates the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (the Authority) to “plan, supervise, regulate and manage the use of the radio frequency spectrum, including the licensing and registration of radio frequencies and call signs to be used by all stations operating in Trinidad and Tobago or on any ship, aircraft, or other vessel or satellite registered in Trinidad and Tobago”.

Additionally section 36(1), states:

No person shall-

- (a) establish, operate or use a radio-communication service;*
- (b) install, operate or use any radiotransmitting equipment; or*
- (c) establish, operate or use any radio-communication service on board any ship, aircraft, or other vessel in the territorial waters or territorial airspace of Trinidad and Tobago, other than a ship of war or a military aircraft or satellite registered in Trinidad and Tobago*

without a licence granted by the Authority

and section 38, states that:

Notwithstanding section 36 (10), a ship or aircraft being a ship or aircraft not registered in Trinidad and Tobago while operating in the territorial waters or

airspace of Trinidad and Tobago, is not required to have authorisation from the Authority for the establishment, operation of use of any telecommunications network or service or radiocommunications equipment as long as the service or equipment is operated or used under a valid authority or licence issued elsewhere than in Trinidad and Tobago in accordance with international agreements relating to telecommunications or radiocommunication in respect of ships or aircraft.

The Draft Radio Spectrum Regulations published by the Authority in 2005, states, inter alia:

24 (1) An Aeronautical Station Licence shall only be granted by the Authority in respect of an aeronautical ground station, radiolocation or radionavigation system or a station on a civil aircraft registered in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

(2) All equipment comprised in a station on board an aircraft shall meet the applicable requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and be acceptable to the Civil Aviation Authority of Trinidad and Tobago. The acceptance document issued to this effect shall accompany the application to the Authority for the Aeronautical station licence.

(3) An Aeronautical Station licensee shall observe the provisions of these Regulations and any other local or international rules and regulations applicable to the station.

(4) No station fitted in an aircraft shall be operated or used while such aircraft is at rest on land or on water in Trinidad and Tobago except—

- (a) in times of emergency or distress;*
- (b) for communication and navigation purposes relating to air navigation;*
- (c) for the purpose of carrying out experimental tests with the written approval of and subject to such conditions as may be determined by the Authority; or*

(d) for the purpose of carrying out functional tests on frequencies other than on international distress frequencies to determine the serviceability of the station.

1.2 Framework Objectives

The primary objectives of this framework are to:

- provide an effective regulatory framework for the licensing of Stations and Operators in the Aeronautical Mobile Services in Trinidad and Tobago;
- outline the licence application procedure for Aeronautical Mobile Services;
- stipulate the requirements for operators' certification;
- ensure allocation of call-signs in an efficient, effective and transparent manner and consistent with the ITU recommendations;
- ensure compliance with international requirements, obligations and recommendations.

1.3 Modification to Document

As the country's telecommunications industry matures, the authorization of aeronautical mobile services will evolve. Subsequent to the consultation process, and after this document has been finalised, the authorization of aeronautical mobile services will be reviewed and modified as necessary and in consultation with stakeholders and the public, to ensure that regulatory practices and processes continue to be guided by appropriate policy guidelines and objectives.

1.4 The Consultation Process

The Authority is seeking the views and opinions of the key stakeholders regarding the proposals made in the first draft of this document in accordance with the Authority's *Procedures for Consultations in the Telecommunications Sector of Trinidad and Tobago*.

The Authority's consultation procedures and comment submission form are available on the Authority's website, <http://www.tatt.org.tt>.

Comments should be submitted on or before 31st July 2009 to policy@tatt.org.tt, or mailed to:

Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
#5, Eight Avenue Extension, off Twelfth Street,
Barataria

1.5 Other Relevant Documentation

In addition to the NSP, the licensing of Aeronautical Mobile Services is consistent with other relevant policies, plans and regulations prepared by the Authority including the following:-

- Framework for the Authorization of Telecommunications Networks and Services and Broadcasting Services in Trinidad and Tobago
- Draft Radio Spectrum Regulations
- Trinidad and Tobago Frequency Allocation Table
- Draft Spectrum Management Policy

1.6 Definitions

Aeronautical Mobile Service is a *mobile service* between *aeronautical stations* and *aircraft stations*, or between *aircraft stations*, in which *survival craft stations* may participate; *emergency position-indicating radiobeacon stations* may also participate in this service on designated distress and emergency frequencies.

Aeronautical Station means a land station in the aeronautical mobile service.

Aircraft Station means a mobile station in the aeronautical mobile service, other than a survival craft station, located on board an aircraft.

Emergency position-indicating radiobeacon stations means an earth station in the mobile satellite service the emissions of which are intended to enable a mobile station to determine its bearing or direction in relation to the radiobeacon station.

Survival craft station means a mobile station in the maritime mobile service or the aeronautical mobile service intended solely for survival purposes and located on any lifeboat, life-raft or other survival equipment.

2 Background

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) has allocated radio spectrum in various frequency bands to the Aeronautical Mobile Service on a primary basis. These frequencies are shared by all stations operating in this service. The use of the bands below 108.000 MHz is regulated in accordance with Appendices 26 and 27 of the ITU Radio Regulations.

In Trinidad and Tobago there were approximately one hundred Aeronautical stations that were licensed under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance (WTO).

In accordance with this Framework the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago will licence the stations and radio operators in the Aeronautical Mobile Service under the Telecommunications Act 2001, as amended in 2004.

3 Aeronautical Mobile Service Regime in Trinidad and Tobago prior to the Telecommunications Act 2001

Prior to the proclamation of the Telecommunications Act on 30th June 2004, the applicable legal instrument for the licensing of radiocommunication equipment was the *Wireless and Telegraphy Ordinance* (WTO) of 1936.

Under the WTO, a licence was required for the use of any ‘wireless apparatus’ and as such, the licensing framework was driven by the equipment or “apparatus” used in the provision of the radiocommunication service.

The regulatory function was performed under the Ministry responsible for Telecommunications and licences were granted by the Minister.

3.1 Procedures under the previous regime

Under the Wireless Telegraphy Ordinance (WTO) applications were submitted to the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority which would forward them to the Telecommunications Division with their recommendation to grant the relevant licences. These licences were renewable annually on the 2nd of January.

Call signs were issued to successful applicants by the Telecommunications Division.

However, from the year 2000 the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority (TTCAA) assumed the responsibility for the issuing of licences and call signs to stations in Aeronautical Mobile Service.

Operator certification was and continues to be conducted by the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority.

Proposed New Framework for Aeronautical Mobile Service in Trinidad & Tobago

The Authority, as part of its mandate to liberalize and regulate the telecommunications sector, is seeking consultation on the establishment of a regulatory framework that will be used to regulate the Aeronautical Mobile Service in Trinidad and Tobago.

The proposed regulatory framework is consistent with the Draft Radio Spectrum Regulations which indicate that Aeronautical Station Licences shall only be granted by the Authority in respect of an aeronautical station, radiolocation or radionavigation system or a station on a civil aircraft registered in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Applicants will be required to complete the Authority's Radiocommunications Licence Application form (L1) and Aeronautical Radio Licence Technical Specifications form (TS-AE) and submit both with the relevant documents, as set out in the instructions.

Aeronautical Mobile Services Framework Guideline

The Authority proposes that Aeronautical Mobile Services Station Licences be issued to:
(1) aircraft stations
(2) aeronautical stations

3.2 Spectrum Allocations for Aeronautical Mobile Services

The Authority proposes to allocate spectrum for Aeronautical Mobile Services in accordance with the Trinidad and Tobago Frequency Allocation Table (TTFAT). Any changes made to the allocation of bands for Aeronautical Mobile Services, will be reflected in the TTFAT and the relevant bands will be indicated in all licences issued. Spectrum allocated for Aeronautical Mobile Services operation will also be indicated in the licences.

Aeronautical Mobile Services Framework Guideline

The Authority proposes that spectrum be allocated for Aeronautical Mobile Services in the Trinidad and Tobago Frequency Allocation Table (TTFAT).

3.3 Aeronautical Mobile Services Operator Certification

Operator training and certification is conducted in accordance with the recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority, under sections 33 and 36 of the Civil Aviation Act, is mandated to ensure that all airmen are adequately certified in order to operate any aircraft in Trinidad and Tobago.

Aeronautical Mobile Services Framework Guideline

The Authority proposes to accept certification for aeronautical mobile services radio operators from Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority conducted in accordance with ICAO recommendations.

3.4 Aeronautical Mobile Services Licence

The Authority proposes to receive and process applications, in accordance with the Authority's licensing process, for both aircraft registered in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as aeronautical station licences. Successful applicants shall be granted licences for a term of one (1) year, unless otherwise determined by the Authority.

Aeronautical Mobile Services Framework Guideline

The Authority proposes that Aeronautical Mobile Services licences shall be valid for a period of one (1) year.

3.5 Renewal of Aeronautical Mobile Services Licences

The Authority proposes that Aeronautical Mobile Services licences issued by the Authority shall be renewed for a period of one (1) year, provided that all necessary requirements are met.

Aeronautical Mobile Services Framework Guideline

The Authority proposes that Aeronautical Mobile Services Licensees may apply for a renewal of their licence at least one (1) month, but no more than three (3) months, prior to its expiration. Renewals shall be granted for a period of one (1) year.

3.5.1 Aeronautical Mobile Services Call Signs

The Authority proposes to issue call signs to aircraft stations consisting of both a prefix and suffix consistent with ITU recommendations. The prefixes 9Y and 9Z are the nationality symbols allocated to Trinidad and Tobago by the ITU and are registered with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). The suffix shall be letters, numbers, or a combination of letters and numbers. Where the first character of a suffix is a letter, it shall be preceded by a hyphen.

TTCAA, under section 33 of the Civil Aviation Act, has adopted this same procedure for issuing aircraft registration nationality and registration marks. In order to prevent duplication in the assignment of call signs to stations operating in other services and to ensure that the call sign and registration mark of each aircraft station is the same, the Authority proposes to allocate a block of call signs to TTCAA to be assigned as registration marks.

A register of all call signs assigned will be maintained by the Authority and published on its website.

Aeronautical Mobile Services Framework Guideline

The Authority proposes that Aeronautical Mobile Services Licences will be issued with call signs which will have the prefix 9Y- followed by a suffix of three (3) letters.

The Authority proposes to maintain a register of call signs issued and to publish all assignments on its website.