

RECOMMENDATION ITU-R TF.460-6*

Standard-frequency and time-signal emissions

(Question ITU-R 102/7)

(1970-1974-1978-1982-1986-1997-2002)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

- a) that the World Administrative Radio Conference, Geneva, 1979, allocated the frequencies 20 kHz $\pm$ 0.05 kHz, 2.5 MHz $\pm$ 5 kHz (2.5 MHz $\pm$ 2 kHz in Region 1), 5 MHz $\pm$ 5 kHz, 10 MHz $\pm$ 5 kHz, 15 MHz $\pm$ 10 kHz, 20 MHz $\pm$ 10 kHz and 25 MHz $\pm$ 10 kHz to the standard-frequency and time-signal service;
- b) that additional standard frequencies and time signals are emitted in other frequency bands;
- c) the provisions of Article 26 of the Radio Regulations;
- d) the continuing need for close cooperation between Radiocommunication Study Group 7 and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the General Conference of Weights and Measures (CGPM), the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), the International Earth Rotation Service (IERS) and the concerned Unions of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU);
- e) the desirability of maintaining worldwide coordination of standard-frequency and time-signal emissions;
- f) the need to disseminate standard frequencies and time signals in conformity with the second as defined by the 13th General Conference of Weights and Measures (1967);
- g) the continuing need to make universal time (UT) immediately available to an uncertainty of one-tenth of a second,

recommends

1 that all standard-frequency and time-signal emissions conform as closely as possible to coordinated universal time (UTC) (see Annex 1); that the time signals should not deviate from UTC by more than 1 ms; that the standard frequencies should not deviate by more than 1 part in 10^{10} , and that the time signals emitted from each transmitting station should bear a known relation to the phase of the carrier;

2 that standard-frequency and time-signal emissions, and other time-signal emissions intended for scientific applications (with the possible exception of those dedicated to special systems) should contain information on UT1 – UTC and TAI – UTC (see Annex 1).

* This Recommendation should be brought to the attention of the IMO, the ICAO, the CGPM, the BIPM, the IERS, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), the International Union of Radio Science (URSI) and the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

ANNEX 1

Time scales**A Universal time (UT)**

Universal time (UT) is the general designation of time scales based on the rotation of the Earth.

In applications in which an imprecision of a few hundredths of a second cannot be tolerated, it is necessary to specify the form of UT which should be used:

- UT0 is the mean solar time of the prime meridian obtained from direct astronomical observation;
- UT1 is UT0 corrected for the effects of small movements of the Earth relative to the axis of rotation (polar variation);
- UT2 is UT1 corrected for the effects of a small seasonal fluctuation in the rate of rotation of the Earth;
- UT1 is used in this Recommendation, since it corresponds directly with the angular position of the Earth around its axis of diurnal rotation.

Concise definitions of the above terms and the concepts involved are available in the publications of the IERS (Paris, France).

B International atomic time (TAI)

The international reference scale of atomic time (TAI), based on the second (SI), as realized on the rotating geoid, is formed by the BIPM on the basis of clock data supplied by cooperating establishments. It is in the form of a continuous scale, e.g. in days, hours, minutes and seconds from the origin 1 January 1958 (adopted by the CGPM 1971).

C Coordinated universal time (UTC)

UTC is the time-scale maintained by the BIPM, with assistance from the IERS, which forms the basis of a coordinated dissemination of standard frequencies and time signals. It corresponds exactly in rate with TAI but differs from it by an integer number of seconds.

The UTC scale is adjusted by the insertion or deletion of seconds (positive or negative leap-seconds) to ensure approximate agreement with UT1.

D DUT1

The value of the predicted difference $UT1 - UTC$, as disseminated with the time signals is denoted DUT1; thus $DUT1 \approx UT1 - UTC$. DUT1 may be regarded as a correction to be added to UTC to obtain a better approximation to UT1.

The values of DUT1 are given by the IERS in multiples of 0.1 s.