

Guidelines for Temporary Radio Spectrum Licenses

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Temporary radio licensing regime becomes applicable in the following cases:

a) **special events:**

The following types of events may take place within Qatar for which the event organizers may require access to radio spectrum on temporary basis:

- i. **Large-scale events.** This will typically require significant use of radio spectrum for broadcast coverage, surveillance, managing spectators, security, sound relay etc. Examples are national day, Tour of Doha, major tennis tournaments and the 2011 Pan-Arab Games. Such large scale events are normally planned well in advance and organisers are advised to contact ictQATAR as early as possible during the planning stage and preferably not less than 6 months in advance of the event so it is possible to undertake an assessment of the likely spectrum requirements.
- ii. **Nationwide / Regional events.** It is likely that there will be less spectrum available and it may be necessary to undertake cross-border co-ordination so ictQATAR should be contacted as soon as possible to allow suitable channels to be identified.
- iii. **Frequent events.** In the case of frequent events such as those held at a football stadium, concert location or camel racing venue, frequencies are allocated temporarily by ictQATAR and the same frequencies may be retained for future events wherever practical. However, there is no guarantee that the same frequencies will be made available.

In such circumstances, the respective radio spectrum license categories will be available with the following variations:

- i. The license validity Period, which will be as per the duration of the event
- ii. The following condition will be added in the license template:
"there is no guarantee that the license will be renewed or assigned spectrum will be re-assigned after the license expiry."

b) **Unavailability of particular license category**

Since wireless technologies are evolving all the time there may be instances where spectrum is required for a new type of radio communication system. In such instances, the requirements will be assessed by ictQATAR on case-by-case basis and a temporary license along-with the respective terms and conditions will be issued until a proper licensing regime is developed by ictQATAR.

1. CATEGORIES OF LICENSE

The types of licenses currently available for temporary operation of radio at special events include:

- a) Temporary PMR to allow individuals or organisations to send and receive messages for a limited period.
- b) Transportable Earth Stations to support the transmission of large amounts of data such as the relay of broadcast coverage from a venue back to the television studio used by both non Qatari and Qatari companies during the event. It

should be noted that an approval from the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage is also required for the provision of broadcasting services.

- c) Point to point radio links to relay mobile phone traffic from temporary base stations or to relay broadcast coverage back to a studio.
- d) Temporary broadcast radio and restricted TV service being offered to provide coverage of a specific event at any location in the State of Qatar. It should be noted that an approval from the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage is also required for the provision of broadcasting services.

2. SUMMARY OF LICENSEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Licensees are generally responsible to ensure that:

- a) equipment is deployed, operated and maintained to meet the regulations and the terms of the license and to prevent undue interference. This includes limitations on the location of operation, if specified in the license
- b) records of the systems included within the license are maintained, which shall be made available to ictQATAR for inspection on request
- c) the equipment that has been brought into Qatar for the special event is removed from the site and re-exported out of country within the time period after the event specified in the license and the necessary confirmation in this regard is provided to ictQatar with supporting documents.

3. TEMPORARY PMR

This section provides further information on the considerations for the issuing of temporary PMR licenses.

In submitting applications for the use of PMR frequencies at special events the following should be taken into account:

- a) Applications for large events must be submitted at least 30 working days prior to the start of the event. ictQATAR may not be able to meet the frequency requirements for applications received after this cut off period.
- b) A single license/authorization will be issued for PMR operations at a particular event, and may include multiple locations, for the duration of the event.
- c) Applicants should note that radio frequencies may be assigned on a co-sharing basis with other licensees.
- d) Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate an applicant's frequency preference, it may not always be possible to do so. In the case that this is not possible ictQATAR will endeavour to make frequencies available within the tunable range of the equipment.
- e) In cases where spectrum is assigned on a Secondary basis (non-interference, non-protected) i.e. the system cannot cause interference to other users and will not be protected from interference caused by other users in the band. ictQATAR encourages the users to settle any interference disputes by mutual coordination, however in case where the settlement is difficult to achieve ictQATAR can be requested to intervene.
- f) Licenses will be generally issued for a maximum period of up to 30 working days or as specified by ictQATAR.

3.1 Eligibility criteria

Only an event Organizer or its authorised representative who will be using the equipment will be eligible to apply for the temporary license for special event.

3.2 Technical details

The technical details are the same as provided in the guidelines for PMR Spectrum Licenses.

4. TEMPORARY SATELLITE EARTH STATIONS

This section provides information on the technical considerations for the issuing of licenses for temporary Satellite Earth Stations, e.g. SNG terminals. Each transportable earth station that is to be deployed at an event must be licensed. These Licenses are available for local or visiting overseas broadcasters to obtain a short term license for a specific location for a period of up to 30 days or as specified by ictQATAR.

Applications must be submitted at least 10 working days prior to the start of the event. ictQATAR may not be able to meet the frequency requirements for applications received after this cut off period.

5. TEMPORARY POINT TO POINT RADIO LINKS

This section provides information on the issuing of temporary licenses for point to point links operating in frequency bands above 1GHz and the UHF bands detailed in the guidelines for fixed radio spectrum licenses.

It is ictQATAR policy that licenses will generally be for digital equipment and in bands above 1 GHz but temporary applications for analogue shall be considered on a case to case basis with no guarantee regarding the availability or issuing of a license. Each point to point link that is to be deployed at an event must be licensed. It is possible to obtain a short term license for up to a period of 30 days as agreed with ictQATAR.

Applications must be submitted at least 10 working days prior to the start of the frequent events and 30 days for large scale and regional events. ictQATAR may not be able to meet the frequency requirements for applications received after this cut off period.

6. TEMPORARY RADIO BROADCASTING

This section provides further information on the considerations for the issuing of temporary radio broadcasting licenses.

Short term licenses for radio broadcasting at particular fixed locations are available for up to 30 days.

Applications must be submitted at least 10 working days prior to the start of the event. ictQATAR may not be able to meet the frequency requirements for applications received after this cut off period.

Applicants are advised to identify a transmission site at an early stage, prior to the submission application date, so ictQATAR can carry out an assessment of frequency availability as soon as possible.

6.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible persons who may apply for a temporary radio broadcasting station license must have the approval for content provision from Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage.

Applicants should have obtained the written permission from the event organiser.

6.2 Technical details

The transmitter signal power (ERP) will be determined on the basis of the coverage requirements for the particular area to be used for the event.

The transmitter frequencies will be assigned as per the regional and national analogue / digital radio broadcasting plan and ictQATAR will endeavour to minimise the risk of interference to existing licensed users.

7. TEMPORARY TV BROADCASTING

This section provides further information on the considerations for the issuing of temporary TV broadcasting licenses. Short-term licenses for TV broadcasting at a fixed specific location are available for up to 30 days.

Applications must be submitted at least 10 working days prior to the start of the event. ictQATAR may not be able to meet the frequency requirements for applications received after this cut off period.

Applicants are advised to identify a transmission site at an early stage, prior to the submission application date, so ictQATAR can carry out an assessment of frequency availability as soon as possible.

7.1 Eligibility criteria

Eligible persons who may apply for a temporary TV broadcasting station license must have the approval for content provision from Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage Applicants should have obtained the written permission from the event organiser.

7.2 Technical details

The transmitter signal power (ERP) will be determined on the basis of the coverage requirements for the particular area to be used for the event.

The transmitter frequencies will be assigned as per the regional & national TV broadcasting plan and ictQATAR will endeavour to minimise the risk of interference to existing licensed users.

8. NOTE ON APPLICABLE STANDARDS

The equipment should operate in accordance with the terms and conditions detailed for the respective license category. Special allowance may be provided to visiting overseas broadcasters to deploy equipment that is not in accordance with the technical requirements observed in the State of Qatar provided suitable frequencies can be identified that will not cause interference to existing radio spectrum users. This arrangement provides some flexibility to visiting agencies, e.g. news teams from non-Region 1 broadcasters who may not have systems, which meet Region 1 requirements.

9. CONTACT DETAILS

For further queries, please contact:

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