



CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN: ICT REGULATIONS FACT SHEET

ICT regulations have been amended.

- The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa has published updated regulations in terms of section 4(3)(j) of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act, 2000 (Act No. 13 of 2000) and sections 4(1) and (7)(b) of the Electronic Communications Act, 2005 (Act No. 36 of 2005), as amended.
- These regulations have also given consideration to the Electronic Communications, Postal and Broadcasting Directions issued by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies in terms of Regulation 10(8) of the Disaster Management Act, No. 57 of 2002.
- The regulations prescribe minimum standards that licensees must adhere to during the National State of Disaster.
- The Regulations apply to all authorisations, certificates, applications and registrations made and /or issued in terms of the Act, Broadcasting Act and the Postal Services Act.
- Members of the public can contact ICASA on +27 (0)12 568 3000/3001 or on info@icasa.org.za

Regulations have been eased for the duration of the lockdown.

- Any tariffs, subject to approval or notification in terms of the applicable regulations, may be lodged with the Authority one day prior to the launch or commencement.
- Any reduced prices, associated with a service in terms of the Act, which are intended to be applicable only during the National State of Disaster, may be lodged with the Authority within one day prior to their operation/commencement.
- Any Radio Frequency Spectrum licence renewal fees which became due and payable on 31 March 2020, shall only become due and payable on 30 June 2020.
- Radio and television services shall only broadcast from 07h00 to 21h00 for the duration of the lockdown period.
- Television broadcasting service licensees, excluding community television broadcasting service licensees, must ensure that they use sign language interpretation in at least fifty per cent of news broadcasts between 07h00 and 10h00 and 18h00 and 21h00 on a weekly basis.

Additional frequency has been made available.

- Temporary spectrum has been awarded to a number of operators.
- In total 35 applications for additional temporary spectrum have been received.
- ICASA considered applications for temporary spectrum in the following bands: 700MHz, 800MHz, 2 300MHz, 2 600MHz and 3 500MHz, as well as the use of television whites paces (TVWS).