



Independent Communications Authority of South Africa

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SPECIAL EVENTS

GUIDE TO FREQUENCY SPECTUM USE

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1. Introduction

ICASA is governed by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Act, 2000 (Act No. 13 of 2000), and the Electronic Communications Act, 2005 (Act No. 36 of 2005) (“the ECA”). The primary object of the ECA is to provide for the regulation of electronic communications in the public interest and for that purpose, amongst others to:

- 1.1 ensure efficient use of the radio frequency (RF) spectrum;
- 1.2 provide access to broadcasting signal distribution for broadcasting and encourage the development of multi-channel distribution systems in the broadcasting framework; and
- 1.3 promote stability in the ICT sector.

In terms of section 31(1) of the ECA, ***“no person may transmit any signal by radio or use radio apparatus to receive any signal by radio except under and in accordance with a radio frequency spectrum licence granted by the Authority to such person in terms of the ECA”.***

In terms of section 32(1) of the ECA, ***“no person may possess any radio apparatus unless he or she is in possession of a radio frequency spectrum licence or is exempted in terms of section 31(6) of the ECA”.***

Frequencies are assigned as per the South African Table of Frequency Allocations (SATFA) using the Frequency Assignment Radio Licensing guidelines. The process takes approximately four (4) weeks before a spectrum licence is granted and issued.

2. Spectrum Licensing

The Radio Frequency Spectrum Licence application forms for the Special Events can be **to confirm with IT** from the following link: www.icasa.org.za. The application forms must be fully completed and posted, faxed or emailed to the following contact details:

Spectrum Licensing – Special Events

Block B Eco Park Office Park

350 Witch Hazel Avenue

Centurion, 2146

+27 12 568 3815

Email: smeyer@icasa.org.za

To expedite the application process, the applicable application fee (see table 2 below) must be paid and proof of payment must be submitted with the application form at least thirty **(30)** days before the start date of an event. Any application received less than thirty (30) days before the start date of an event is not guaranteed to be finalised on time. Approval of an application is subject to frequency availability and a fully completed application form accompanied by proof of payment of the application fee. No application will be processed without proof of payment.

Incomplete application forms will not be considered.

The following Information is required for the application:

- The type of event
- The applicant's contact details (including head office) during the period of the event, this should include contact details in the Republic if not a resident.
- Type of application.

- Make and model of the equipment to be used.
- Geographic location in South Africa where equipment and frequencies will be used. Applications will be location specific as there will be a need to coordinate to avoid interferences. It is important to note that equipment using one frequency at a location may use another frequency at another location as that frequency may have been allocated to another user already.
- All the technical parameters.
- The satellite name, orbital position etc if it's a VSAT or SNG application.
- Any other relevant information.

The radio frequency spectrum shall be assigned as per the geographical area of the event as listed in the Radio Frequency Spectrum Licence if an event is taking place at a specific location within South Africa a frequency may easily be assigned around that area but may not be available for the use anywhere else.

To allow RF systems installation, commissioning or testing before the event and decommissioning after the event, spectrum users will not be charged any spectrum fees for the operations that are directly related to the event. They will be given an authority or permit to use spectrum for a specific duration. The permit shall identify the equipment, frequency, venue licensed and the duration. The equipment shall be marked with the ICASA sticker bearing the same information.

3. Frequencies to Use

Table 1 below shows spectrum bands and frequencies for identified possible radio services during the events.

Table 1: Possible radio services and allocated spectrum bands

Radio Service	Spectrum Bands
Radio Talkback	138-140.5 MHz paired with 141.5 – 144 MHz 146 -148.95 MHz paired with 153.05 – 156 MHz 446.1 – 450 MHz paired with 441.1 – 445 MHz 450 – 453 MHz paired with 460 – 463 MHz Low power (5W) mobile radio operates in the band 463.975 MHz - 464.425 MHz on licensed basis. The PMR 446 (446 – 446.100MHz) can be utilized without a license.
Radio Cameras - Ground based	2.400 - 2.483.5 GHz 4.695 - 4.755 GHz 10.00 - 10.15 GHz 31.010 - 31.290 GHz paired with 31.510 - 31.790 GHz
Radio Cameras - Air based	2.400 - 2.483.5 GHz 4.695 - 4.755 GHz 10.00 - 10.15 GHz 31.010 - 31.290 GHz paired with 31.510 - 31.790 GHz
Radio Microphones	36.65 - 36.75 MHz 40.65 - 40.7 MHz 53 - 54 MHz 173.965 - 174.015 MHz 402 - 406 MHz 863 - 865 MHz
Satellite Uplinks	C-Band, Ku Band. Extended C-band is not available in South Africa

Due to the extensive use of frequency spectrum throughout the country, frequency assignments will be done on a case by case basis and per area of operation e.g. assignment for two-way radios will only be allowed for use exactly where specified and for that specific purpose.

The following are some of the reasons that could result in frequency applications not to be approved:

- Unavailability;
- Congestion;
- Deviation from SATFA;
- Unacceptable technical parameters; and
- Incomplete application forms.

4. Fees and Method of Payment

The fees for spectrum licensing are as follows:

4.1 Spectrum Application Fees

Applicants will be charged frequency spectrum application fees as indicated in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Frequency spectrum application fees

Service	Application Fee
VSAT	R 1600.00
SNG	R 1600.00
Single Frequency Channel	R 620.00
Double Frequency Channel	R 1100.00

4.2 Method of Payment

ICASA does not accept any form of cash on its premises. All payments should be done directly to ICASA's bank account using the reference number on the invoice supplied by ICASA. The following banking details must be used:

Bank	:	Nedbank
Account no.	:	1462002927
Branch code	:	146245
Branch	:	Corporate Client Service - Pretoria
Reference	:	e.g. Imaging Innovations
Account type	:	Deposit Account
Swift Add	:	NEDSZAJJ

5. Prohibited Operations

For security considerations and efficient electronic communications, the use of any jamming device including mobile phone jamming is prohibited in South Africa. Wireless microphones working in the 1800MHz band are not allowed.

6. Spectrum Monitoring and Enforcement

ICASA technical officers and inspectors will be on site to monitor and inspect all the equipment in use to ensure that there is compliance with the issued licence(s) and the regulations.

Inspectors will all carry special identity documents and a badge for accreditation in order to have special access to all the venues and restricted areas. They will conduct RF tests and spectrum licensing inspections on all equipment a day before the event at all accredited areas.

It is mandatory for all applicants to present their equipment to ICASA inspectors? for inspection and technical testing before they can switch on.

All applicants will be allowed only one week after the event to clear all the assigned frequencies and to switch off the equipment.

Enforcement officers will trace and monitor all the frequencies that were assigned in and around the venues to ensure that there are no illegal users.

A licensee that operates outside of the conditions of their license runs the risk of cancellation of their license.

In terms of section 32 (1) and section 32 (3) of the ECA, no person may possess any radio apparatus unless he or she is in possession of a radio spectrum license or is exempted. Where there is no such license or exemption, ICASA may seal or seize the equipment.

7. Applications

The turnaround time for applications will be ten (10) days excluding weekends. Incomplete application form will result in the application not being processed. Cut-off date for applications is **30 days?** before the event.

All applications should be submitted on the prescribed application form. The following applications forms are attached:

- Form No. 001 – Terrestrial Service
- Form No. 002 – VSAT/SNG

8. Contact Details

For all applications, enquiries and queries, the following people should be contacted:

Mr. Mokgadi Ledwaba Tel: +27 12 568 3321
Fax: +27 12 568 3322
Email: Mledwaba@icasa.org.za

Mr. Sebastian Meyer Tel: +27 12 568 3815
Fax: +27 12 568 3816
Email: smeyer@icasa.org.za

Ms. Pieter Jansen Tel: +27 12 568 3357
Fax: +27 12 568 3358
Email: pjansen@icasa.org.za