



**RWANDA
UTILITIES
REGULATORY
AUTHORITY**

**REGULATION No/...../.....RURA/...../2023 GOVERNING
THE PROVISION OF SATELLITE SERVICES IN RWANDA**

January, 2023

PREAMBLE

The Regulatory Board of the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA);

Pursuant to the Law n° 09/2013 of 01/03/2013 establishing Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA) and determining its mission, powers, organization and functioning, especially in Articles 2,4,5 ,8,10,20,37,47and 48;

Pursuant to the Law n° 24/2016 of 18/06/2016 governing Information and Communication Technologies, especially in Article 10,39,40,42,43 and 80;

Pursuant to the Regulation No 013/R/EC-ICT/RURA/2021 of 25/02/2021 Governing Licensing in Electronic Communication in Rwanda;

Pursuant to the ITU Radio regulation as amended to date;

Upon a due consideration and deliberation in its session of .../.... /2023;

HEREBY issues the following Regulation:

Table of Contents

PREAMBLE	2
CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS	5
Article one: Purpose of this Regulation	5
Article 2: Definitions of Terms	5
Article 3. Scope	6
Article 4: Objectives	6
CHAPTER II: SATELLITE SERVICES LICENSES CATEGORIES	6
Article 6: VSAT Earth Station	6
Article 9: Receive only Earth Station	7
Article 10: Mobile Satellite and GMPCS Terminals	7
Article 11: Satellite phones	7
Article 12: Conditions and use of Satellite phones	7
Article 13: Obligations of satellite phone permit holder	7
Article 14: Amateur Satellite Services earth station	8
Article 15: Earth Stations in Motion (ESIMs)	8
Article 16: ESIM on a permanent basis	8
Article 17: ESIM not exceeding a period of six weeks within Rwanda territory	8
Article 18: Visiting ESIM	8
Article 19: Entity users with multiple ESIM terminals	8
CHAPTER III: GENERAL LICENSE CONDITIONS	8
Article 20: Operation of radio communication station	8
Article 21: Licensing requirements for Satellite services	9
Article 22: License Duration	9
Article 23: Provision of Information	9
Article 24: Dispute Resolution	9
Article 25: Breach of license term and Conditions	9
Article 26: License Renewal	9
Article 27: License Expiry and use of frequency	9
Article 28: License not transferable	9
Article 29: Compliance	9
Article 30: License suspension or cancellation	9
Article 31: Licensee operation	10

Article 32: Interference	10
Article 33: Amendment of License	10
Article 34: Type Approval of Equipment	10
Article 35: Inspection	10
Article 36: License fees	10
Article 37: Commencement	10
ANNEX I: LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR SATELLITE SERVICES	11
Chairperson of Regulatory Board	12

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article one: Purpose of this Regulation

This regulation governs the provision and usage of spectrum resources for satellite communication services within the Rwandan territory.

Article 2: Definitions of Terms

- a) **Commercial satellite:** a satellite launched for profit making or business purpose;
- b) **Earth station:** the ground component of satellite for transmit and receive (Tx/Rx);
- c) **ESIM** stands for 'Earth Station in Motion' and means any small mobile earth station on board ships, trains, vehicles or aircrafts;
- d) **GMPCS:** Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite. The GMPCS system is defined as "any satellite system providing telecommunication services directly to end users from a constellation of satellites" (in accordance with the GMPCS-Memorandum of Understanding).
- e) **Interference:** The effect of unwanted energy due to one or a combination of emissions, radiations, or inductions upon reception in a radiocommunication system, manifested by any performance degradation, misinterpretation, or loss of information which could be extracted in the absence of such unwanted energy.
- f) **Mobile earth station:** An earth station in the mobile-satellite service intended to be used while in motion or during halts at unspecified points.
- g) **Satellite:** A body which revolves around another body of preponderant mass and which has a motion primarily and permanently determined by the force of attraction of that other body.
- h) **Satellite phone:** A mobile phone that helps to communicate by connecting to orbiting satellites instead of terrestrial cell phone towers.
- i) **Satellite services:** telecommunication services provided by satellite.
- j) **Space craft:** A man-made vehicle which is intended to go beyond the major portion of the Earth's atmosphere.
- k) **Telecommunication:** the making of any transmission, emission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images, sound or intelligence of any nature by optical means or by wire or radio waves or any other electromagnetic system.
- l) **Upstream satellite networks:** A satellite network that includes space crafts and ground segments that contribute to the management and operation of that space craft
- m) **VSAT:** "Very Small Aperture Terminal" and means any small fixed earth station used to link to satellites

Article 3. Scope

The provisions of this regulation apply to all Satellite Services and frequencies resources except military applications.

Article 4: Objectives

The objectives of these regulations are related to the following:

- (1) Ensure a well-developed and organized satellite communications market in Rwanda, with appropriate legal framework that meets international best practices, encourages innovation and guarantees the rights of operators and end users in rendering of satellite services.
- (2) Ensure that satellite service providers, Bandwidth Re-sellers and vendors of terminal equipment provide reliable, cost-effective and secured services to users in Rwanda under fair and favorable commercial and technical conditions.
- (3) Ensure efficient and effective use of satellite spectrum frequency in an interference free environment.

CHAPTER II: SATELLITE SERVICES LICENSES CATEGORIES

Article 5: Operations networks of upstream satellite

An entity that wishes to use spectrum to operate an upstream satellite networks shall first secure operating license from (competent authority/Rwanda Space agency).

Article 6: VSAT Earth Station

Under this category an entity shall be authorized to establish and operate a VSAT Earth station at fixed location with antenna diameter of equal or less than 2.4 meters and shall be for the provision and operation of VSAT services, whether one-way or two-way, point to point or point to multipoint, including voice, data, video or any other kind of message.

Article 7: Transportable VSAT

Under this category an entity shall be authorized to setup and operate satellite VSAT through movable Earth Stations with antenna diameter of equal or less than 2.4 meters within Rwandan territory.

Article 8: Transportable Earth Station

Under this category an entity shall be authorized to setup and operate satellite earth station through movable Earth Stations. Earth stations installed on aircrafts shall also apply for this category of license.

Article 9: Receive only Earth Station

Under this category a person shall be authorized to setup, operate and receive Earth stations only. Operators shall not be amenable to license fees but shall be required to obtain type approval from the Authority. This requirement for type approval excludes television broadcasting satellite receivers.

Article 10: Mobile Satellite and GMPCS Terminals

Under this category users of hand-held and portable Earth station terminals are exempted from individual terminal-by-terminal authorization provided they are type approved, distributed and the service provided by a duly licensed operator. The licensed operator shall be entitled to frequencies resources usage fees and shall provide quarterly reports of the terminals deployed.

Article 11: Satellite phones

The import of satellite phones into the country shall be permitted only with prior permission from the Regulatory Authority. Import and use of satellite phones shall be allowed only to the following:

- a) Government agencies associated with national security, disaster management and medical emergencies.
- b) Embassies and international organizations officially stationed in the country.
- c) Aviation sector requiring emergency communication facility.
- d) During the official visit of state-guest.

Article 12: Conditions and use of Satellite phones

- a) The Regulatory Authority shall determine the type of satellite phone that may be used within the Country based on national priorities, government policies and industry trends.
- b) The Regulatory Authority shall cancel the permit or confiscate the satellite phone whichever is applicable in the event of an inappropriate or illegal usage.
- c) The applicant shall be denied the opportunity of using satellite phone in future in case of violation.
- d) Use of satellite phones for personal and commercial use is prohibited in the country. Use of satellite phones for personal and commercial use is prohibited in the country.

Article 13: Obligations of satellite phone permit holder

After obtaining the permit from the Authority, the permit holder shall:

- a) Not share or hire out the satellite phone to any other organization or individual.
- b) Not change the type of satellite phone without prior approval of the Authority.
- c) Inform the Authority if the permit holder plans to terminate the use of the satellite phone.
- d) Submit any information sought by the Authority.

e) Cooperate with the Authority on any matters related to satellite phones and in the enforcement of these guidelines.

Article 14: Amateur Satellite Services earth station

Under this category a person shall be authorized to establish and operate amateur satellite earth station for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical researches carried out by amateurs, by duly authorized persons interested in satellite services solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

Article 15: Earth Stations in Motion (ESIMs)

Under this category a person shall, in consultation with other regulatory agencies, be authorized, to operate earth stations mounted on aircraft, ships and land vehicles for provision of broadband communication services. ESIMs installed on vessels and aircraft shall be authorized as part of aircraft and maritime licenses.

Article 16: ESIM on a permanent basis

Any ESIM operating in Rwanda on a permanent basis onboard of an aircraft or land mobile vehicle must apply for radiocommunication license.

Article 17: ESIM not exceeding a period of six weeks within Rwanda territory

An ESIM on board of an aircraft or land mobile vehicle shall require no licensing where the ESIM is within the territory of Rwanda for a period not exceeding six weeks. Provided that the ESIM has been duly licensed in its country of origin. A copy of the license shall be provided to the customs authority.

Article 18: Visiting ESIM

A Visiting ESIM exceeding six weeks' temporary stay shall notify the Regulatory Authority and obtain the necessary permit from the Regulatory Authority.

Article 19: Entity users with multiple ESIM terminals

Entity users with multiple ESIM terminals connected to a hub licensed in Rwanda shall not be required to obtain a separate license for each earth station installed.

CHAPTER III: GENERAL LICENSE CONDITIONS

Article 20: Operation of radio communication station

A licensee shall only operate a radiocommunication station for the sole purpose of receiving and/or transmitting voice, data and messages and shall only communicate with such stations as authorized by the Regulatory Authority.

Article 21: Licensing requirements for Satellite services

Any person that intends to build and run an electronic communications network or provide electronic communications services must submit a written application to the Regulatory Authority. The written application must contain necessary information in Annex 1 of this regulation.

Article 22: License Duration

The license duration is 12 Months from the date of issue, unless cancelled / revoked or issued in the middle of the year.

Article 23: Provision of Information

A licensee of individual spectrum shall furnish to the Authority with any information upon request such as documents, accounts, returns, proposed new sites equipment details.

Article 24: Dispute Resolution.

The Regulatory Authority shall provide for the settlement of disputes arising in connection with the terms and conditions of the license.

Article 25: Breach of license term and Conditions.

A Licensee shall be liable to pay fines for any breach of any specified terms and conditions of the license in accordance with the Law governing Information and Communication Technologies.

Article 26: License Renewal

A licensee shall apply for renewal of the radio License at least three (3) months before date of expiry. The License shall only be renewed upon the payment of prescribed fees where applicable and where there has been no breach of license terms and the law on the part of the applicant.

Article 27: License Expiry and use of frequency

Any use of the license/frequencies after the date of expiry is illegal

Article 28: License not transferable.

A Radio license shall not be bought, sold, leased or mortgaged or charged.

Article 29: Compliance.

A Licensee shall establish, install and operate its radio station and comply with the provision of the existing laws, Regulations and provision of this license at all times.

Article 30: License suspension or cancellation

A radio license may be cancelled or suspended, revoked where the licensee fails to operate within the provisions of the existing laws, Regulations or conditions of the radio license.

Article 31: Licensee operation

A licensee shall have a maximum of one-year limit from the date of issue of the license to commence operations otherwise the license shall be withdrawn. The timeline shall be extended upon request and approval by the Regulatory Authority

Article 32: Interference

A licensee shall not operate any radio equipment that causes harmful interference to other licensed radio services.

Article 33: Amendment of License

The Regulatory Authority reserves the right to amend this License where the Regulatory Authority determines that such amendment is necessary in the public interest, to achieve the objectives of the existing laws, Regulations or any other relevant Policy and/or Regulatory Requirement provided that the Regulatory Authority issues to the Licensee ninety (90) days’ notice of such intention.

Article 34: Type Approval of Equipment

A licensee shall ensure that all radio equipment and devices used under the assigned license is type approved by the Authority and complies with all approved industrial standards.

Article 35: Inspection

The Regulatory Authority shall in accordance with the provision of the Law Governing Information and Communication Technologies carryout inspections of equipment and perform any measurements for the purpose of assessing its performance or to ensure that the equipment is being used in accordance with the Terms of the License, law, Regulations or Guidelines in place.

Article 36: License fees

The License fees for satellites services and related frequency spectrum resources shall be applied in accordance with Annex II of this regulation. The licensee shall also pay the annual regulatory fee calculated on turnover as per the rate determined by the Regulatory Board.

Article 37: Commencement

This regulation shall come into force on the date of its signature by the Chairperson of the Regulatory Board.

Kigali, on:/...../2023

.....

Chairperson of Regulatory Board

ANNEX I: LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR SATELLITE SERVICES

- Online application through RURA website link: <https://licensing.rura.rw> and the application shall be accompanied by;
- Technical specifications of the equipment
- Network layout plan for network service provider
- Copy of the Registration Certificate of the company (the company has to be registered in the Republic of Rwanda);
- For the Non –Governmental Organizations, a registration certificate from the respective Regulatory Institution.
- For Diplomatic Missions and Organizations accredited to Rwanda must submit authorization from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

ANNEX II: FREQUENCY SPECTRUM FEES FOR SATELLITE SERVICES WITH LICENSE OF NETWORK SERVICE PROVISION

No	FREQUENCY BAND	FREQUENCY RANGE	INITIAL FEE (Rwf)	SPECTRUM FEES PER 1 MHz IN (Rwf)
1	VHF	30-300 MHz	100,000	1 MHz = 200 000
2	UHF including S and L-Bands	300-3600MHz	100,000	1 MHz = 200 000
3	C-Band	3.6-8 GHz	100,000	1MHz = 200 000
4	X-BAND	8-12 GHz	100,000	1 MHz = 200 000
5	KU-BAND	12-18 GHz	100,000	1 MHz = 40 000
6	KA-BAND	26.5-40 GHz	100,000	1MHz = 15 000
7	Q-BAND	30-50 GHz	100,000	1 MHz = 15,000
8	V-BAND	50-75 GHz	100,000	1 MHz = 15,000
9	E-BAND	60-90 GHz	100,000	1 MHz = 15,000
10	W-BAND	75-110 GHz	100,000	1MHz = 10,000
11	F-BAND	90-140 GHz	100,000	1 MHz = 10,000
12	D-BAND	110-170 GHz	100,000	1MHz = 10,000

ANNEX III: INDIVIDUAL USER TERMINALS FOR SATELLITE SERVICES FOR NON-COMMERCIAL SERVICES

No	Equipment	EQUIPMENT	APPLICATION FEE	STATION FEE PER YEAR
1	VSAT	1	100 000 Rwf	- ≤ 0.2 MHz 1 000 000 Rwf
2	VSAT	1	100 000 Rwf	0.2 MHz - ≤ 1 MHz 2 000 000 Rwf
3	VSAT	1	100 000 Rwf	1 MHz - ≤ 5 MHz 2 500 000 Rwf
3	VSAT	1	100 000 Rwf	- > 25 MHz 3 000 000 Rwf
4	Satellite phone	1	100,000 Rwf	1 000 000 Rwf
5	Transportable Earth Station	1	100,000 Rwf	1 000 000 Rwf
6	Transportable Earth Station with Low data	1	100,000 Rwf	500 000 Rwf
7	Earth Station in Motion	1	100,000 Rwf	500 000 Rwf
8	Satellite broadband global area network terminal	1	100,000 Rwf	500 000 Rwf
9	IoT device	1	50,000 Rwf	100,000 Rwf

Kigali, on:/...../2023

.....

Chairperson of Regulatory Board