



New Regulation for the Use of Radio Frequencies

The new Regulation for Granting Rights of Use of Radio Frequencies or Frequency Bands (EETT Decision No. 390/1/13.6.2006, Government Gazette issue 750/B/21.6.2006), within the framework of the new Law No. 3431/2006 on electronic communications. The Regulation lays down the overall framework for licensing and using radio frequencies or frequency bands for all types of networks, excluding those considered state networks (in accordance with the definition of state networks given in Law No. 3431/2006).

Changes introduced by the New Regulation

Following is a summary of the changes introduced by the above new regulatory framework:

- > The use of radio frequencies is determined by the same licensing framework, irrespective of whether it pertains to a network destined for the provision of services to the public or not.
- > Special radio network licenses (mobile private radio networks used by radio-taxi companies, security companies, etc.) fall into the General Authorization regime and are not issued by Prefectural Authorities anymore, but the owners of such networks will be granted the right of use of a radio frequency only by EETT.
- > The rights of use of radio frequencies for any type of network have a common maximum duration, which may not exceed 10 years and it can be renewed as often as the owner of the right wishes, provided that the terms of use of the frequency band or individual radio frequency have not been amended in the meantime.

New Licensing Procedure for the Use of Radio Frequencies

Based on the new regulatory framework any radio frequency can be used only under the provisions of the General Authorization regime. The total radio frequencies that can be used by non-state networks are divided into two large categories:

- > Frequency bands or individual radio frequencies which, when used, are

quite unlikely to cause any harmful interference, and thus it is not necessary to obtain a right to use such a radio frequency from EETT.

- > All other frequency bands or individual radio frequencies the use of which requires the granting of the right of use of radio frequencies by EETT.

The first category includes limited range devices having specific technical characteristics, such as car lock remote control devices, WiFi transceivers operating at 2.4 and 5.4 GHz, etc. The operating technical characteristics of such devices are given in the EETT Regulation for the Use of Radio Frequencies and include, among other things, the maximum transmission power and the characteristics of the channel used. The said technical restrictions are essentially the terms of the General Authorization for such frequencies, and they must be complied with at all times.

The licensing procedure for the use of radio frequencies that fall into the second category is as follows:

- > If the network is to be used for the provision of services to the public or it is a special radio network (i.e. a PMR network), prior to applying for granting the right of use of radio frequencies, it is necessary for the network owner to register once in the registry of companies engaged in telecommunications activity. The above registration is done through the submission of an appropriate registration statement. No registration is necessary for networks that are not to be used for providing services to the public, excluding special radio networks.



- > Following that, the interested person must submit an appropriate application, fully filled out, in order to obtain the right to use specific radio frequencies for the operation of the person's network. The application must always be signed by the legal representative of the applicant.

Renewal of the Right of Use of Radio Frequencies

Any frequencies that had been assigned or granted without a tender, within the framework of the previous legal regime with regard to Special Authorizations, will remain in effect until December 31st of the expiry year of the General Authorization or the Individual License issued in connection with the assignment of the radio frequency in question. The right of use of the radio frequency will be renewed on its own right, free of charge, by EETT before its expiry, except if a relevant no-renewal application is filed no later than 2 months prior to the expiry date. The term of the renewed right will also be 10 years.