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Spectrum Management

Client Procedures Circular

# Antenna Structure Clearance

Client Procedures Circulars describe the various procedures or processes to be followed by the public when dealing with Industry Canada. The information contained in these circulars is subject to change without notice. It is therefore suggested that interested persons consult the nearest district office of Industry Canada for additional details. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, no warranty is expressed or implied. As well, these circulars have no status in law. Additional copies of this or other circulars in the series are available from any office of the Department.

Comments and suggestions may be directed to the following address:

Industry Canada  
Radio Regulatory Branch  
300 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0C8

Attention: DOSP

## Intent

This circular provides information concerning the procedures for the approval of proposed radio station antenna supporting structures and for proposed changes to existing antenna supporting structures from a hazard to air navigation point of view.

## Procedure

Aeronautical obstruction clearance forms, for antenna supporting structures associated with applications for new radio or broadcasting stations or for proposed changes to existing radio or broadcasting stations, must now be submitted directly to the nearest Department of Transport Aviation Group Office. The addresses of these offices are shown in *Appendix 1*. Blank forms are available from any Department of Transport Aviation Group Office or any Industry Canada district office.

The *Department of Transport* will notify applicants for antenna supporting structure approval of the acceptability of the proposed site from an air navigation hazard point of view. Applicants will also be notified of any painting and/or lighting that is required. The Department of Transport will not be advising Industry Canada of the approval or of the marking requirements for such structures.

Applicants proposing new broadcasting stations or changes to existing broadcasting stations should note that a broadcasting certificate will not be issued until proof has been submitted that the antenna supporting structure has been approved.

Radio station licences are issued or amended without the prior approval of the antenna supporting structure by the Department of Transport. However, applicants and licensees are reminded that antenna supporting structure approval is still required and that the issuance of a radio station licence in no way infers that a proposed site or structure will be approved from an air navigation hazard point of view. Conversely, antenna supporting structure approval from the Department of Transport Aviation Group does not infer that a radio station licence will be issued.

## Technical Points of Consideration

Industry Canada's technical study of antenna supporting structures is limited to:

- the distortion of signals from television broadcasting stations within 1600 meters of the proposed site;
- the distortion of signals from FM broadcasting stations within 300 meters of the proposed site;
- the distortion of the pattern of standard band AM broadcasting stations within 1600 meters of the proposed site; and

- interference to other radio services in the vicinity of the proposed site.

## Background

Since the creation of the Department, applicants have obtained the Minister's approval for proposed radio or broadcasting stations prior to being granted radio station licences or broadcasting certificates. In addition, the Minister's approval was required before any changes could be made to existing radio or broadcasting stations. This approval was withheld until the Department of Transport had evaluated and approved the proposed antenna supporting structure including masts, towers, and other vertical structures with respect to the safe navigation of aircraft.

The *General Radio Regulations, Part II*, made under the *Radiocommunication Act* required that such structures be cleared before a licence was issued.

Recognizing that the Department of Transport had the mandate for evaluating the hazard of an antenna supporting structure to air navigation, clearance forms were collected by the Department as part of radio or broadcasting station licence application packages and sent to the Department of Transport for evaluation and approval. After evaluation, the Department of Transport returned the form to the Department who notified the applicant of the Department of Transport's findings and recorded this information on the station's licence or broadcasting certificate. Subsequent changes to the antenna supporting structure caused the process to be repeated.

The *Air Regulations*, Chapter 2, sections 514.1(2) and (3) made under the *Aeronautics Act*, permit the Minister of Transport to establish and publish the standards for obstruction markings and to require that a structure be painted and/or lighted in accordance with those standards.

The *General Radio Regulations, Part II*, have been amended to remove the requirement for the Minister to refrain from issuing radio licences and broadcasting certificates while awaiting clearance of an associated antenna supporting structure by the Department of Transport. However, since Industry Canada's technical evaluation of broadcasting applications includes antenna clearance requirements, applicants must provide this information to the Department before a broadcasting certificate will be issued.

In all other respects, the Minister's approval of proposed radio or broadcasting stations and proposed changes to existing radio or broadcasting stations is still required prior to establishing or making changes to such stations.

**Appendix 1**

Pacific Region  
Regional Superintendent (Serving British Columbia)  
Air Navigation  
Standards and Procedures  
Transport Canada  
P.O. Box 220  
800 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V6Z 2J8

Western Region  
Regional Superintendent (Serving the Yukon Territory,  
Air Navigation Alberta and the western  
Territories)  
Northwest Standards and Procedures  
Transport Canada  
Canada Place  
9700 Jasper  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5K 4E6

Central Region  
Regional Superintendent (Serving Saskatchewan,  
Manitoba, northwestern Ontario and the  
Air Navigation central Northwest Territories)  
Standards and Procedures  
Transport Canada  
P.O. Box 8550  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 0P6

Ontario Region  
Regional Superintendent (Serving central, southern and  
Air Navigation eastern Ontario)  
Standards and Procedures  
Transport Canada  
4900 Yonge Street  
Suite 300  
Willowdale, Ontario  
M2N 6A5

Quebec Region  
Regional Superintendent  
Air Navigation  
Standards and Procedures  
Transport Canada  
P.O. Box 5000  
Montreal International Airport  
Dorval, Quebec  
H4Y 1B9

(Serving Quebec and the eastern  
Northwest Territories)

Atlantic Region  
Provinces)  
Regional Superintendent  
Air Navigation  
Standards and Procedures  
Transport Canada  
P.O. Box 42  
Moncton, New Brunswick  
E1C 8K6

(Serving the Atlantic