

STANDARDS FOR GOVERNMENT USE OF THE SPECTRUM

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The Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) formulates and recommends to the Office of Telecommunications Policy (OTP) objectives, plans and actions, as appropriate, in connection with the management and usage of the radio spectrum in the national interest by the departments and agencies of the U.S. Government. A Technical Subcommittee (TSC) of the IRAC supervises and coordinates the activities of six Working Groups made up of representatives from the supporting agencies of the IRAC to recommend technical inputs as part of the above function. The Standards Working Group of the TSC develops recommendations for new standards and improvement of existing standards pertaining to use of the radio spectrum.

Specifically, the following general areas are considered by this Working Group:

1. Review, evaluate and improve the existing standards in the OTP Manual that bear upon the use of the spectrum.
2. Ascertain areas in which standards could be established and promulgated throughout the Federal Government which have a bearing on and would improve the use of the radio spectrum.
3. Determine the degree to which uniformity exists in the application of standards affecting use of the radio spectrum in the Federal Government.
4. Provide a technical evaluation of spectrum oriented standards incorporated in both existing and proposed ITU documentation; and make recommendations as to their adequacy. Further, prepare documentation for presentation through the IRAC channels to the appropriate U.S. CCIR Study Group.
5. Determine and make recommendations on how particular standards, being applied to radio communication-electronic equipments and systems, may be evaluated from an economic standpoint, with a view toward appreciating the tradeoffs between dollar conservation and spectrum conservation.

6. Rationalize the differences between the Federal Government and FCC standards in areas of common interest.

The work of the Group is carried out by committees of Working Parties drawn from representatives of the supporting agencies and from technical experts as appropriate to formulate the technical recommendations for coordination through the TSC and adoption by the IRAC. The resultant spectrum related standards are incorporated in the Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Radio Frequency Management which is published by OTP. The ultimate objective of these standards is to provide a uniform minimum standard of practice required of all Government users of the radio spectrum assigned by the OTP. This will require a continuing effort to upgrade and improve the standards in use here as technology advances and as more efficient methods for spectrum utilization evolve.