



INTRODUCTION TO THE SPACE FREQUENCY COORDINATION GROUP (SFCG)

SFCG purpose and objective

The SFCG was established in order to provide a less formal and more flexible environment, as compared to the official organs of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) (i.e, Radiocommunication Bureau (RB); Radio Communication Study Groups (SG) of the Radiocommunication Bureau), for the solution of frequency management problems encountered by member space agencies. The Terms of Reference and other aspects of SFCG organization and procedures may be found in Section II of the Handbook.

The SFCG is concerned with the effective use and management of those radio frequency bands that are allocated by the Radio Regulations of the ITU to the space research, space operations, Earth exploration-satellite, and meteorological-satellite services. The Group will also concern itself with feeder links and data relay satellites operated in connection with these services, radionavigation satellites (as far as these are used for spacecraft orbit determination) and with satellite-borne radio astronomy (including radar astronomy). Within the formal framework of the Radio Regulations, there is the need and opportunity for international informal agreement among participating space agencies concerning assignment of specific frequencies, and related technical issues.

The principal result of SFCG meetings is the adoption of resolutions and recommendations which express technical and administrative agreements. These agreements may be used by space agencies to make best use of allocated bands and to avoid interference.

The effectiveness of SFCG recommendations depends upon voluntary acceptance and use by member agencies. There is no formal process by which agencies formally agree to accept and be bound by SFCG recommendations.

Agency representatives that participate in SFCG meetings are generally expected to be able to speak for their agencies in an informed way and to be able to influence compliance with SFCG recommendations.

SFCG membership

Admission of new members is governed by Resolution A3-1 (most recent version). A listing of SFCG members and observers may be found at the end of this handbook.



INTRODUCTION TO THE SFCG HANDBOOK

Purpose of the SFCG Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide the reader with all current Resolutions and Recommendations which describe agreements between agencies that participate in the Space Frequency Coordination Group (SFCG). In addition, the handbook provides background material concerning the formation, history, and methods of the SFCG, a description of the document numbering system and related definitions, and archival data concerning past SFCG action and documentation.

Organisation of the handbook

The handbook is divided into six sections. Section 6 contains archival matter and is of limited interest to most readers; a copy may be requested from the SFCG Secretariat.

Each document in the handbook is identified by a title, date, and an indication of the number of pages. No attempt is made to serially number all pages in the handbook.

Resolutions and Recommendations are additionally identified by a number, according to a system explained in *Classification and Numbering of SFCG Output Documents*, found in section I of the handbook.



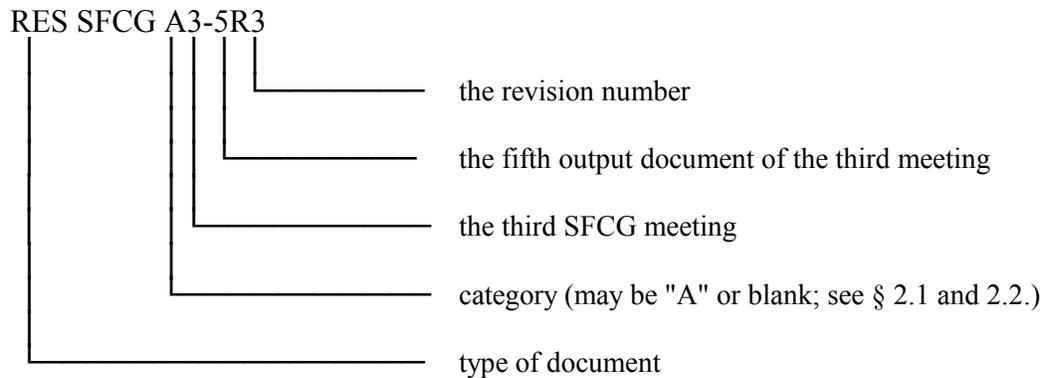
**CLASSIFICATION AND NUMBERING
OF SFCG RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

1. Introduction

SFCG Recommendations and Resolutions are classified by:

- type of document;
- category of subject matter;
- the meeting at which the document was originally adopted;
- the number of the document as one of the series adopted by that meeting; and
- the number of subsequent revisions.

The elements of this classification are embodied in the document number. For example,



2. Description of document classification

2.1 Type of document.

A **Resolution** is an expression of action, intended action, or policy that applies to SFCG members themselves, that is, within the Group. There are two types of resolutions: **Administrative**, and **Technical**. Administrative resolutions are indicated by the addition of a category letter "A" to the document number, e.g., RES SFCG A2-2R1. See §2.2 below.

A **Recommendation** is an expression of an action, intended action, or policy that is to be pursued by members within their agencies or with respect to other bodies, that is, outside of the Group.

2.2 Category of subject matter.

There are two categories of subject matter:

- administrative, concerning the internal operation of the SFCG; these documents are identified by the letter "A" in the document number
- all other matters that affect member agencies and the radio services of interest to SFCG.

2.3 Meeting at which document was originally adopted.

SFCG meetings are serially numbered. A list of meetings may be found in Section VI of the Handbook.

2.4 The number in the series adopted by a particular meeting.

At a particular meeting, adopted documents in each category are sequentially numbered, beginning with 1.

2.5 Revision number.

Each time an existing document is substantially revised (more than an editorial change), a revision number is assigned. The original document carries no revision number; the first revision is Revision 1. Revision numbers are added to the original document number, which does not change. The date of the current revision is the date of the document, found at the bottom of each page in the document.