



IARU Region 2 Monitoring System

Structure, features and functions

Introduction

The International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System comprises the three Regional Monitoring Systems. In turn, the Regional Monitoring Systems are made up from the national society monitoring systems.

The national society monitoring systems are known variously as "intruder watch", "band watch", "amateur interference reporting system", or whatever a parent society wishes to call its particular system.

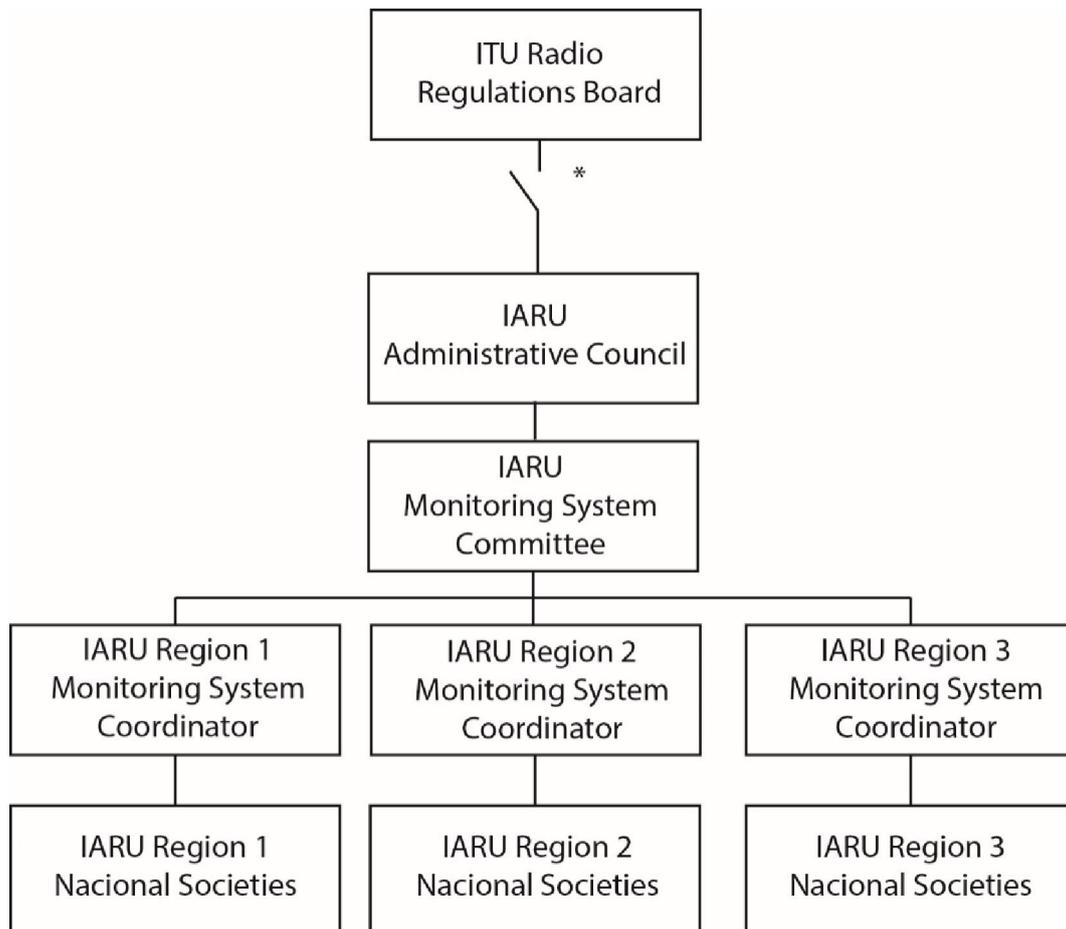
The objective remains the same: To log, identify and, if possible, have removed all non-amateur signals appearing in those frequencies that have been allocated exclusively to the Amateur Service. Some monitoring systems also log non-amateur stations that are operating in breach of the Radio Regulations in shared bands.

The IARU Monitoring System (MS) stations may also be asked from time-to-time to conduct band-occupancy monitoring for special purposes.

The amateur bands are not a limitless resource. We have to protect the frequencies allocated for our use. With the increasing demands for spectrum space and the tendency of some administrations to ignore their responsibilities under the ITU Convention, it is evident that the Amateur Service must have a strong, unified and effective monitoring system if it is to retain its frequency allocations. It must present factual authoritative information about "intruders" for further action.

The IARU MS defines a route by which the ordinary radio amateur in any country has a means of access to the international bodies in cases of harmful interference. The system is not perfect, but it represents the best we have at this time. It does provide a reporting means when the normal procedure of appealing to a national administration is found not to work.

The next diagram shows the route which is followed for information originating from amateurs. It should be noted that this system does not in any way impinge upon the autonomy of any national society, regional IARU organization or the right of these organizations to deal directly with their own administrations on these matters.



* This “switch” may be “closed” only by the AC under the provisions of the ITU Radio Regulations.

1. General information

1.1 Policy Statement

- a) No person shall, without the prior approval of the IARU Administrative Council in writing, communicate in the name of the IARU with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Radio Regulations Board (RRB) or any administration or radio operating agency.
- b) The Administrative Council shall be the sole deciding authority with regard to any requests from regional organizations, national societies or individuals, for a case or cases of a breach of the Telecommunications Convention or infringement of the Radio Regulations to be referred to the RRB.

1.2 Objectives of the Monitoring System

- a) To collect data on the use of amateur bands.
- b) To compile a record of instances of harmful interference for further action.
- c) To take steps to eliminate harmful interference.
- d) To encourage monitoring activity by national societies.
- e) To have monitoring stations that meet the technical standards recommended by the CCIR available on a regional basis.

1.3 Participation in the IARU MS

Any national society that is a member of the IARU may participate in the work of the IARU MS and may send monitoring reports to the appropriate Regional Coordinator.

Any individual in those countries where there is no IARU member society may send monitoring reports to the Regional MS Coordinator.

1.4 The ITU Radio Regulations

Every national Society and each Regional Coordinator should have access to the ITU Radio Regulations. They should be studied in conjunction with the ITU International Telecommunication Convention. These publications are available direct from the ITU website.

Not every country in the world is a signatory to the Final Protocol of the ITU Convention or to other ITU documents. Non-signatory countries are not bound by the Convention or Regulations. However, ITU member countries are not obliged to recognize the radio services of non-member countries.

Regional and national MS Coordinators should make a special study of the provisions of Articles 35 and 38 of the Convention and Article 4.4 of Radio Regulations. Additionally, particular attention should be paid to footnotes.

1.5 Harmful Interference

It is obvious from even a casual reading of the Radio Regulations that complaints about non-amateur stations in amateur bands must be supported by evidence of harmful interference. Any station may operate in an amateur band, under the provisions of Article 4.4 of the Radio Regulations, providing it does not cause harmful interference to amateur stations.

1.6 Breaches of the Convention and/or the Radio Regulations

It is important to realize that the Radio Regulations derive from the Convention. It must also be noted that until a signatory government has ratified the Convention it is not necessarily bound by the provisions of the Convention and the Regulations (see Article 45 of the Convention).

1.7 The IARUMS Committee

The IARU MS operations are coordinated by the IARUMS Committee (MSC). It consists of the President of the IARU or his nominee from the IARU Officers and the three IARUMS Regional Coordinators.

The MSC reports to the AC as required, prepares training material for the IARUMS and member societies, standardizes, coordinates and facilitates reporting to national administrations, addresses such other matters relevant to the IARUMS that may arise and circulates information of interest to monitors.

In cases of persistent "intruders" the AC attempts to verify the reports received, assess the degree of interference to the Amateur Service and explores various ways to have the intruder removed from the amateur band.

2. Organization of the Regional Monitoring Systems

2.1 Regional organizations

In each of the three ITU Regions there is a corresponding IARU organization. Each regional organization comprises those national societies within the region that have applied to be members of IARU.

Under the current IARU Constitution, all members of IARU are also required to be members of the regional organization. Only one designated amateur radio society in any country can represent that country in the IARU.

2.2 IARUMS Regional Coordinators

The three IARU Regional organizations have each appointed a Regional Monitoring System Coordinator for the Monitoring System within their Region. A Regional Coordinator is directly responsible to each Regional Executive Committee (EC), but in day-to-day matters would refer to the Regional Secretary. The Regional Coordinator should receive guidance from the executive explaining how policy matters within the Region are to be treated.

The Coordinator will act within the guidelines of regional policy for the regional organization in all matters pertaining to monitoring within the region. In general, Regional Secretaries should advise the Coordinator of all matters coming before them that relate to frequency allocations, changes to the regulations, changes in regional policy and staff, and keep him fully informed on all matters that are likely to have a bearing on the duties of Monitoring System Coordinators.

It is desirable that a Regional Coordinator be present at meetings of the Regional Executive when matters of monitoring are discussed. Regional Secretaries shall encourage all societies to establish national monitoring systems and strive to widen the coverage of the Regional Monitoring System.

Responsibilities

Regional Coordinators are each directly responsible to their Regional IARU organization for implementing the policy of the organization on all monitoring matters.

In addition, Regional Coordinators will,

- a) Compile regional data and progress reports then forward these to the IARU Monitoring Service International Coordinator.
- b) Distribute information received from the International Coordinator to member societies.
- c) Assist national coordinators to carry out their functions within the IARU Monitoring System.

- d) Acknowledge all reports and inquiries received from the national coordinators and periodically summarize the reports to national societies.
- e) Keep national coordinators informed of current developments.
- f) Where approved by the regional organization, receive and process reports from individuals or organizations in those countries where there is no IARU member society.
- g) Not communicate in the name of the regional organization with any administration, broadcasting authority or station management unless such action has the approval of the regional IARU organization.

It is recommended that the International Coordinator be informed where any communication of the type described in "g" above occurs.

2.3 National Societies

Participation

All IARU members are encouraged by the IARU Administrative Council to form a national system for monitoring the amateur bands for non-amateur use of those bands.

A member society, as a national coordinator in the IARU Monitoring Service, has the responsibilities noted in the IARU Administrative Council Resolution 12-1 (2012).

The publication of monitoring matters in national society magazines, newsletters, Internet, etc., is a very good way to stimulate interest in the activities of the Monitoring System. It also trains members to report non-amateur stations heard in amateur bands. Articles by the national society Monitoring System Coordinator keeps interested amateurs informed and serves to attract new recruits into the system. A reporting sheet may also be circulated to members in this way.

Coordinator

Any society that wishes to form a monitoring system may appoint a manager to administer the system. The society remains the national coordinator in the IARU Monitoring System.

It is desirable that the person taking up the position of manager for a national society should not hold other society positions. Experience has shown that the workload is such that the manager cannot do justice to other positions as well as to the manager position.

Care must be exercised in the selection of a manager. A better than average knowledge of all types of radio emissions is desirable and it is important that the manager be able to sift fact from supposition in reports. The appointee may represent a national society at government level, so tact is needed too.

The requirements of the national coordinator's position will vary in different countries. The society should fully brief their manager. The coordinator should compile a monthly summary of all the reports received during the preceding month.

A copy should be sent to the Regional Coordinator for inclusion in the regional summary. He or she should filter out reports of doubtful accuracy and return these to the sender with helpful comments designed to assist in training the originator.

A Coordinator will find it an advantage in training the "team" to circulate descriptive material about signal types. Talks by managers to groups of amateurs have been found of value in recruiting monitors. A monthly newsletter is a very good means to keep the monitoring team informed and interested. Managers should not overlook shortwave listeners (SWL) as monitors.

2.4 The National Administration

All societies are urged to establish dialogue with their national administration on the matter of non-amateur stations in amateur bands. Those that have not already done so should arrange for their administration to receive copies of a summary of monitoring reports and seek follow-up action on them. Such report summaries should be submitted monthly except in the case of urgent local matters requiring immediate attention.

Where for political or other reasons the best interests of the society would not be met by such actions, the society may seek help from the Regional Coordinator to help resolve national interference problems.

Where an intruder is identified as belonging to a society's country, that society should bring this to the attention of their administration.