



PUBLIC NOTICE

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THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU PROVIDES GUIDANCE CONCERNING THE RELOCATION OF EARTH STATION REMOTE CONTROL POINTS

Licenses operating transmitting earth stations in the United States are subject to Section 25.271 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.271, which contains provisions that require earth station operators to maintain control of operations by having a trained operator at the earth station site, or by remotely controlling operations. Section 25.271(c)(5) of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 25.271(c)(5), requires that International VSAT operators must provide a control point within the United States, or maintain a point of contact within the United States available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with the ability to shut down any earth station within the VSAT network immediately upon notification of harmful interference. Further, the licenses for all earth stations operated by remote control list the remote control point, and this information is considered a material term of the license.

We hereby clarify that Section 25.118(a)(1) of the Commission's rules, which permits licenses to make changes to their authorized earth stations without obtaining prior Commission authorization, is intended to apply only to the equipment specified on the license and does not apply to changes in remote control points. Therefore, where a licensee considers a change in the Earth station's remote control point, including any relocation of the remote control point to a location outside the United States, the licensee must seek prior authorization under Section 25.117 of the Commission's rules. The International Bureau will place properly filed modification applications for changes in earth station remote control points on public notice.

Action by Chief, International Bureau.

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