

Guidelines for Satellite Broadcasters Uplinking from Singapore

Broadcasting Service

1. Under the Broadcasting Act (Cap 28), a broadcasting service is defined as a service where signals comprising:
 - any programme capable of being received, or received and displayed, as visual images;
 - any sound programme for reception;
 - any programme which combines both visual image and sound for reception or reception and display;
 - are transmitted to persons having equipment appropriate for receiving, or receiving and displaying, the service, irrespective of the delivery of that service.
2. Satellite broadcasting services uplinked from Singapore are considered broadcasting services transmitted via satellite from Singapore. Broadcasters who provide such services require a satellite broadcasting licence from the IMDA.
3. The Satellite Broadcasting Licence is valid for 5 years and is renewable on a 5-yearly basis thereafter. The annual licence fee payable is S\$5,000 per annum. Upon approval of the licence application, the applicant will be required to pay the first annual licence fee of S\$5,000 before issuance of the licence.
4. There are no foreign ownership restrictions. For companies which are not based in Singapore or have no registered offices in Singapore, they will be required to appoint a local agent and lodge a performance bond of S\$50,000 with IMDA. The performance bond should be in the form of a cash deposit or bank guarantee, issued by a bank in Singapore. Please refer to the [list of approved banks](#) through which the bond can be executed.

Underlying Principles

5. IMDA takes into consideration applicants' intended nature of service, programming and advertising codes in deciding whether to grant a satellite broadcast licence. The main objective in licensing satellite broadcasters is to prevent the broadcast from Singapore of programmes containing objectionable programming such as pornography.
6. Satellite broadcasters licensed by IMDA will be responsible for their programming. We require these broadcasters to take reasonable steps to ensure the acceptability of their service and compliance with local laws in recipient countries. They should also give due consideration to the political, religious, cultural and racial sensitivities of the recipient countries. In particular, no programme should be broadcast, which:
 - promotes or propagates any religious belief or view or the cause of any political party; or
 - prejudices relations between the Republic of Singapore and any foreign government.

7. If a satellite broadcast service is re-transmitted in Singapore, e.g. through cable TV, the local cable operator is responsible for ensuring that the content of the service complies with local programme and advertising codes.

Other clearances

8. IMDA will be the one-stop centre for broadcasters to obtain any necessary clearances in connection with the satellite broadcast. Some of these are :-

Import of programming material

9. IMDA will issue the necessary exemptions if the applicant wishes to import programming material such as videos, audio tapes and discs for the intended satellite broadcasting service.

Installation of a television-receive only (TVRO) system

10. If the applicant wishes to install a TVRO system, IMDA will issue a separate TVRO System Licence.

Satellite Uplink facilities/activities

11. Satellite uplink refers to the transmission of broadcast signals from a local earth station to a satellite in space.
12. If a satellite broadcaster operates his own satellite uplink facilities, these facilities will need to apply for a licence under "Satellite Uplink/Downlink for Broadcasting Purposes". More information can be found on the IMDA's website under the section "Licence for the Provision of Telecommunication Services".

Note: The information contained in this document is intended only to serve as a guide for prospective applicants wishing to obtain a broadcasting licence to operate a satellite service in Singapore. This document has no legal standing and reference should be made to the terms of the licence as a complete authoritative text.