



## **Information & Communication Technologies Authority**

**Document Ref: ICTA/MCA/2015/01**

*Amendment of Decision (ICTA/DEC/01/2010)  
Mobile Communication Services on Aircraft (MCA Services)*

**03 November 2015**

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The ICT Authority has as one of its functions, under section 18(p) of the Information and Communication Technologies Act 2001, to “allocate frequencies and manage, review, and, where appropriate, reorganise the frequency spectrum”;
2. The ICT Authority has as one of its objects, under section 16(g) of the Information and Communication Technologies Act 2001, to “further the advancement of technology, research and development relating to information and communication technologies through modern and effective infrastructure taking into account the convergence of information technology, media, telecommunications, and consumer electronics”;
3. The ICT Authority has received representations from a foreign company requesting it to give consideration to the use mobile phones operating in the UMTS 2100, LTE 1800 and other LTE frequency bands onboard foreign registered aircrafts engaged in innocent passage in the airspace of Mauritius. The representation expresses the views that there have been amendments to the ECC 06(07) Decision to include additional access technologies and frequency bands for mobile communications services on aircraft and an increasing interest from users for such services.

The objectives of this exercise are to seek the views of key stakeholders with respect to the proposed changes: -

- (i) Amendments to include the following additional frequency bands for operation of MCA services onboard aircrafts:-
  - LTE 1800
  - UMTS 2100

The Information and Communication Technologies Authority resolves to:

- 1) make available for public consultation the Revised Document Ref ICTA/MCA/2015/01;
- 2) invite views, contributions, and comments on the Revised Document.

Interested parties may send their written views and comments to the **Executive Director, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Sir Celicourt Antelme Street, Port Louis** or by email to [icta@intnet.mu](mailto:icta@intnet.mu) at latest **by 16:00 on 04 December 2015**.

## REVISIONS

Revision No.	Date	Nature of Revision
V1	17 May 2010	Creation of document
V2	03 November 2015	Amendments to include LTE 1800 and UMTS 2100 frequency bands

ICT Authority Decision  
of 03 November 2015  
on Mobile Communication Services On Aircraft (MCA Services)

(ICTA/DEC/01/2015)

The Information and Communication Technologies Authority in the exercise of its statutory functions under the Information and Communication Technologies Act 2001, as amended, issues the following Decision pursuant to Section 17(3) combined with Sections 18(1)(p) and 16(g) of the said Act. This decision shall come into force with immediate effect.

The Information and Communication Technologies Authority,

CONSIDERING THAT,

- a. The ICT Authority had issued a Decision (ICTA/DEC/01/2010), following a public consultation, on the operation of mobile communication services in the 1710- 1785 MHz and 1805-1880 MHz (GSM 1800) frequency bands on board both foreign and Mauritian aircrafts;
- b. The use of MCA systems on board aircrafts may affect safety with respect to the effects of MCA systems on avionics equipment;
- c. The fact that foreign aircrafts may be allowed to operate GSM on board systems during innocent passage over the territory of the republic of Mauritius, provided no harmful interference is caused to the ground based networks.
- d. The European Commission Decision 2008/294/EC and the Electronic Commission Committee ECC Decision (06)07 were amended on the 12 November 2013 and 14 March 2014 respectively to include additional access technologies and frequency bands for mobile communication services on aircraft.

DECIDES

1. that the operation of Mobile Communication Services on Aircraft, be allowed for foreign aircrafts engaged in innocent passage in the airspace of Mauritius subject to the following conditions:-
  - (i) These MCA Systems be operational only when the aircraft is in the cruising mode and flying at least 3000 meters above the ground.
  - (ii) The MCA system shall at no time be operational during taxiing, taking-off or landing within the territory of the Republic of Mauritius or at any other time when the aircraft may be stationed in Mauritius.
  - (iii) The MCA System shall operate in the 1710 – 1785 MHz and 1805 – 1880 MHz (GSM 1800), 1920 - 1980 MHz and 2110 - 2170 MHz (UMTS) and LTE within the 1800 MHz frequency bands.
  - (iv) These MCA Systems shall operate within the limits specified in the ECC Decision (06) 07 and shall at no time cause any interference to the ground based networks in Mauritius.
  - (v) The aircraft should have obtained all necessary airworthiness certifications and authorisations with respect to the MCA system in its home country.
2. that ICT Authority reserves its decision concerning the operation of MCA Services on board Mauritian aircrafts until such time when the appropriate conditions regarding aircraft safety shall be determined in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Department.