



Information & Communication Technologies Authority

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**DECISION OF 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 ON THE REVIEW OF IMT 800 BASE STATION MINIMUM
HEIGHT RESTRICTION**

16 September 2026

1.0 BACKGROUND

In 2021, the ICT Authority issued Network Spectrum licences to Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) to operate in the 800 MHz frequency band. Under the said licence, all base stations in this frequency band are subject to a minimum height requirement of 15 metres, implemented to protect Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting (DTTB) services which were operating in the adjacent 470–790 MHz frequency band. Following digital migration, DTTB services in Mauritius now operate within 470–694 MHz

DTTB services in Rodrigues operate within the 174–230 MHz band, commonly known as VHF Band III. Furthermore, several rooftop-mounted base stations currently in operation in Rodrigues have been installed at heights below 12 meters. This different interference risk profile justifies a separate minimum height threshold for Rodrigues island.

MNOs have formally requested authorisation to conduct operations in the 800 MHz band at sites below the prescribed 15 m threshold.

Under section 18(1)(n) of the ICT Act 2001 (as amended), the ICT Authority has the function to “ensure the safety and quality of every information and communication services including telecommunication service and, for that purpose, determine technical standards for telecommunication network, the connection of customer equipment to telecommunication networks”. In order to fulfil the above statutory function, the Authority carries out the evaluation of radio communication installations with the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) limits as the reference levels in its evaluation process. Base stations complying with ICNIRP limits are registered on the ICT Authority Online EMF portal.

2.0 DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF IMT 800 BASE STATION MINIMUM HEIGHT RESTRICTION

The ICT Authority,

Considering,

- a) that under the terms of the network spectrum licence, all base station installations operating within the 800 MHz frequency band are presently subject to a minimum height requirement of 15 metres,
- b) that this measure was implemented in order to protect DTTB services which originally operated in the adjacent 470 – 790 MHz frequency band;
- c) that DTTB services now operate within the 470 – 694 MHz frequency band in Mauritius;
- d) that television reception antennas used in Mauritius receive the entire Ultra High Frequency (UHF) band from 470 MHz to 862 MHz;

- e) that in Rodrigues DTTB operates within the 174–230 MHz band, commonly known as VHF Band III,
- f) that no interference from IMT 800 to digital terrestrial television reception has been reported to date,
- g) that MNOs have requested to be able to operate IMT 800 from base stations lower than 15m to improve capacity and coverage;
- h) that several existing rooftop mounted base stations in Rodrigues are installed at heights below 12 m;
- i) that under section 18(1)(n) of the ICT Act 2001 (as amended), the ICT Authority has the function to *“ensure the safety and quality of every information and communication services including telecommunication service and, for that purpose, determine technical standards for telecommunication network, the connection of customer equipment to telecommunication networks”*;
- j) that in order to fulfil the above statutory function, the Authority carries out the evaluation of radio communication installations with the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) limits as the reference levels;
- k) that for reasons of economic efficiency and operational practicality, MNOs have, in numerous instances, implemented all technologies across all frequency bands within a single base station installation;
- l) that by layering the various technologies and frequencies specified above onto base stations installed at heights 15 m and lower, operators risk creating significantly higher total EMF emissions.

Decides,

- i. that the minimum height restriction for IMT 800 operations be reduced from 15 m to 12 m in Mauritius and from 15 m to 8 m in Rodrigues, on a trial basis for a period of 12 months from the date of this decision;
- ii. that MNOs wishing to implement the above are required to:
 - (a) take out a temporary test licence for frequency usage;
 - (b) register their IMT 800 base stations on EMF Online Portal prior to implementation; and
 - (c) ensure that their base stations are, at all times, compliant with the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines for limiting exposure to time varying Electromagnetic Field (EMF) and meet the requirements to be registered on the ICT Authority Online EMF Portal.
- iii. that as a safety precaution, any site operating at 800 MHz with an antenna height under 15 m will trigger a manual review before the grant of a provisional registration during trial period.

Concludes,

that the outcomes and findings at the end of the proposed trial period will enable the ICT Authority to determine whether the terms of the network spectrum (SPL1) licence may be amended to modify the minimum height restriction for operation in the 800 MHz frequency band.