



Commission for
Communications Regulation

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Rights of use " for Radio Frequencies to be introduced under the new EU Regulatory Framework"

ComReg today published its response to a consultation on the introduction of "rights of use for radio frequencies" as part of the transition to the new EU Regulatory Framework, due to be implemented in July 2003.

Rights of use will fulfil a similar role to licences currently issued under the Wireless Telegraphy (WT) Acts. Although the precise nature of rights of use will depend on the national legislative framework to be put in place by the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, in most cases, ComReg does not expect any substantive changes to licence conditions. However, where licences have been awarded by comparative selection procedures (e.g. GSM, 3G mobile and fixed wireless access), licence conditions arising from those procedures will in future be attached to the right of use rather than the telecommunications service licence. This reflects the change from individual service licences to general authorisations under the new regime.

The document also highlights ComReg's intentions in a number of other areas relating to spectrum regulation. A shift of emphasis from the use of specific radio equipment to the use of specific radio frequencies, which is facilitated by the new Framework, will provide greater flexibility in the delivery of electronic communication services. ComReg is also considering how best to enable certain aspects of the licensing process to be dealt with electronically over a secure web-based interface. The initial focus is likely to be on renewals of existing licences, which accounts for the bulk of licensing transactions. Licensees who register for the on-line facility will be able to view their existing licence details and to process renewal payments by credit / debit card using the on-line facility.

The response document is available on the ComReg website at www.comreg.ie.

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