



BC-13  
Issue 1  
November

1994

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Spectrum Management

Broadcasting Circular

# **Procedure for Aeronautical Clearance of Antenna Structures**

## NOTICE

Broadcasting circulars are issued for the guidance of department staff and are complementary to the **Broadcasting Procedures and Rules.**

## Preamble

Under section 5(1)(f) of the *Radiocommunication Act*, the Minister is granted the authority to "approve each site on which radio apparatus, including antenna systems, may be located, and approve the erection of all masts, towers and other antenna-supporting structures".

Transport Canada is responsible for aeronautical safety and sets lighting and painting specifications for towers and antennas that do not conform to their exemption criteria. However, Transport has no legal jurisdiction over radio towers and antennas, except for areas surrounding designated federal airports.

Thus, the Department is responsible for ensuring that aeronautical clearance is obtained by the applicant or exemption verified. The "clearance" work, where required, is carried out by applicants or their broadcasting consultants and Transport Canada. Alternatively, the eligibility for exemption may be ascertained by the regional/district staff.

## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the aeronautical clearance procedure for the tower and antenna structures that are not exempted by Transport Canada.

## Procedure

The details of the procedures are provided on the following pages.

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## 1. General

This procedure deals only with aeronautical clearance of antenna structures by Transport Canada (TC). The applicant or operator must apply for clearance for the installation of new antenna-supporting structures or for modifications to an existing structure when the overall height or location is affected as detailed in the relevant *Broadcasting Procedures and Rules*.

## 2. Clearance of Antenna Structures by Transport Canada

2.1 The specifics of each site and each structure are examined from an aeronautical safety perspective, in accordance with:

- *Guidelines for Assessment of Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace* (TP875)
- *Standards - Obstruction Markings* (TP382)

Applicants may obtain these documents, for a nominal fee, from:

Transport Canada  
AANDHD  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0N8

2.2 Form TC 26-0427, entitled *Standards Obstruction Markings - Aeronautical Obstruction Clearance Form*, is used to obtain aeronautical clearance from Transport Canada. It is available from Transport Canada or from the Department.

2.3 Form TC 26-0427 shall be submitted for new antenna structures and for overall height increase, or for changes to the location of existing structures only if the projected structure:

- (a) is less than 6 km from the centre of an aerodrome or 2 km from a TC radar, radio navigation or radiocommunication antenna; or
- (b) exceeds 20 metres in height, including catenary wire crossings; or
- (c) is within 15 metres and exceeds the height of a dominant structure already in place.

2.4 Aeronautical clearance by TC is not required for the tower and antenna structure falling outside the clearance criteria described in paragraph 2.3.

## 3. Submission and Clearance Procedures

3.1 Verification to ascertain eligibility for exemption under paragraph 2.3 is carried out by the applicant or TC. The applicant shall provide the Department with a written confirmation of the eligibility for exemption.

3.2 Alternatively, the antenna site and structure particulars may be submitted to regional/district staff to ascertain the eligibility of site exemption. A database of aerodromes, radars, radio-navigation and radiocommunication facilities is available to facilitate this verification. If exemption is established, a form need not be submitted to Transport Canada.

3.3 If the application is not eligible for exemption, a completed form TC 26-0427 and any other required information shall be submitted to the regional office of Transport Canada, who will notify the applicant of its decision. Once a clearance from Transport Canada is obtained, the applicant shall send a copy of the cleared form to the regional/district office of the Department, with copy to HQ.

## 4. Technical Acceptability and Authority to Construct

The Department will not declare an application to be technically acceptable without evidence of air clearance. Similarly, authority to construct broadcasting facilities shall not be granted without air clearance.

## 5. Follow-Up

In some cases, regions/districts may need to do follow-up work in order to obtain aeronautical clearance and/or a copy of the cleared antenna structure application form, especially in the case of low-power applications.