

FACT SHEET NO. 4

INTERFERENCE

The Telecommunications Act, 2003-36 defines harmful interference as “any form of emission, radiation induction or other electromagnetic effect that endangers the functioning of a radionavigation service or other safety service, or seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts any telecommunications or radiocommunications service operated in accordance with the provision of this Act;”

There are many causes of interference to radio communications, some, like lightning, rain and sunspots activity are caused by nature and not much more can be done to further minimize the effect. Others, however, are man-made and sometimes due to poorly manufactured, incorrectly installed and improperly operated equipment. The illegal use of radio equipment transmitting on unauthorised frequencies also causes interference to the legitimate users of frequencies.

Poorly manufactured radio communications equipment can cause harmonic distortion, frequency drift and power fluctuations which will cause interference to other users of the spectrum. To combat the effect of poorly manufactured equipment, the Telecommunications Unit must be satisfied that all radiocommunications equipment capable of emitting RF has been manufactured to the acceptable International Standards.

Incorrectly installed and improperly operated equipment can also give rise to harmful interference due excessive noise, incorrect bandwidth and other causes.

The Telecommunications Unit has the responsibility of ensuring that the Electromagnetic Spectrum is relative free of interference. The Unit has purchased state-of-the-art equipment to ensure that the Radio Spectrum in Barbados is properly managed.

All cases of interference should be reported immediately, or as soon as possible after the event, preferably in writing, to the Chief Telecommunications Officer, Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities.

Each case will be thoroughly investigated by the Unit. The Complainant will be advised of the findings of the Unit and the corrective measures taken.

**Issued by: The Minister Responsible
 for Telecommunications.
 11 August 2003**