

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 02-06-2006**

**SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR THE GRANT AND AUTHORIZATION OF 500 WATT FM BROADCAST STATIONS**

Whereas, pursuant to Executive Order (E.O) No. 546, Series of 1979, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) is vested with the power to promulgate rules and regulations, as public safety and interest may require, to encourage a larger and more effective use of communications, radio and television broadcasting facilities, and to maintain effective competition among private entities;

Whereas, current Technical Standards and Operating Requirements for FM Broadcast stations require that the minimum transmitter power for Class B stations should be one (1) kilowatt;

Whereas, the establishment of FM broadcast stations using transmitters with power of less than one (1) kilowatt allow localities to have broadcast service(s) with programming that recognizes their local needs and preferences and focuses on local or community news, issues and concerns;

Whereas, noting further the geography and physical terrain characteristics of our country, and given the thrust of the National Government to provide wider access to news, entertainment, information, and education specifically to the unserved and underserved areas of our country, the use of transmitters with power of less than one (1) kilowatt is necessary and desirable for the purpose of achieving the above objectives;

WHEREFORE, this Commission, pursuant to E.O. 546, S. 1979 and Act 3846, as amended, hereby set forth the following guidelines for the grant and authorization of 500 Watt FM broadcast stations:

1. Section 4.2, Class B station, of the Technical Standards and Operating Requirements for FM Broadcast stations is hereby amended to include Class B-1 as a commercial FM Broadcast station. Consequently, said section shall read as follows :

## Class-B Station

A Class-B station shall have an authorized transmitter power of not exceeding 10 kilowatts and an Effective Radiated Power (ERP) of not exceeding 30 kilowatts, and limited in antenna height of 500 feet above average terrain. The minimum transmitter power shall be 1 kilowatt (KW).

A Class B-1 station is a commercial station having an authorized Effective Radiated Power (ERP) not exceeding five (5) kilowatts and in no case lower than one kilowatt; and with an authorized transmitter power output of 500 watts; antenna height shall be limited to 200 feet above average terrain

2. "ESTABLISHED SERVICE AREAS" is defined herein as the SERVICE AREAS where Class "A" or Class "B" stations have been established prior to the establishment of a 500 Watt (Class B-1) FM station.
3. Only Class "A" or Class "B" FM broadcast stations, as defined in Section 4 of the Technical Standards and Operating Requirements for FM Broadcast Stations, shall be allowed to operate in "ESTABLISHED SERVICE AREAS". The list of "ESTABLISHED SERVICE AREAS" is hereto attached as Annex "A" and made integral part hereof.
4. Class B-1 stations shall be allowed to operate in areas outside of the "ESTABLISHED SERVICE AREA" as defined in Item No. 2 of this Memorandum Circular.
5. New and pending applications for 500 Watt (Class B-1) FM stations shall be evaluated, for compliance with existing Technical Standards for protection ratios, as Class "B" applications, provided that the same shall not be put up in "ESTABLISHED SERVICE AREAS" as defined in Item No. 2 of this Memorandum Circular.
6. Existing 500 Watt (Class B-1) FM broadcast stations located in "ESTABLISHED SERVICE AREAS" shall be required to operate in accordance with the existing Technical Standards for Class "A" or Class "B" stations. These stations shall be allowed continued operation after validating the technical feasibility of the same.
7. When a 500 Watt (Class B-1) FM broadcast station has been licensed to operate in a service area prior to the establishment of any Class "A" or Class "B" station in its service area, the same shall be allowed to continue operating as a 500 Watt station. This area shall not be considered as an "ESTABLISHED SERVICE AREA" as defined in Item No. 2 of this Memorandum Circular.

8. All other classifications and requirements for FM Broadcast Stations as provided for in Section 4 of the Technical Standards and Operating Requirements for FM Broadcast Stations shall be strictly observed.
9. The 800 Khz. minimum frequency separation requirement for FM broadcast stations having the same service area shall be strictly observed.
10. A maximum of two hundred (200) Low Power FM (500 Watt) radio broadcast stations shall be allowed to be established nationwide. However, the Commission may opt to review this cap as the circumstances warrant.
11. For any geographical region, only a maximum of thirty (30) Low Power FM (500 Watt) radio broadcast stations may be operated.
12. All classes of FM stations shall be protected up to the 1 mV/m or 60 dBu contour as provided for in Section 4.5 of the Technical Standards and Operating Requirements for FM broadcast stations.
13. Radio broadcast networks applying for authority to operate additional FM radio broadcast stations under this Memorandum Circular must show proof of financial capacity in support of the proposed network expansion.

Any Circular, Order or Memorandum or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed superseded and/or amended accordingly.

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation and three (3) certified true copies furnished the UP Law Center.

Quezon City, Philippines, June 28, 2006

**RONALD OLIVAR SOLIS**  
Commissioner

**JORGE V. SARMIENTO**  
Deputy Commissioner

**JAIME M. FORTES, JR.**  
Deputy Commissioner