



June 1st, 2023

Authorization to operate Aeronautical and Maritime Earth Stations in Motion

Section 9(2) of the Information and Communication Technology Act (the “**ICT Act**”) permits the Utility Regulation and Competition Office (“**the Office**” or “**OfReg**”) to:

- (b) determine methods for assigning the electromagnetic spectrum; and
- (c) issue licences authorising the use of specified portions of the electromagnetic spectrum, including those used on any ship, aircraft, vessel or other floating or airborne contrivance or spacecraft registered in the Islands.

The Office has determined that the most appropriate method for the licensing of satellite Earth Stations in Motion (ESIM) on certain Aircraft and Seagoing Vessels is through the use of a General Authorization.

The following details the technical and operational conditions required by this General Authorization under which the operation of certain satellite ESIM are permitted in the Cayman Islands. Subject to meeting the criteria set out below, no further authorization is required from the Office to operate the specified services and associated equipment.

Use of Satellite Earth Stations for provision of service to Aircraft

Permission is granted for the use of ESIM mounted on passenger aircraft or cargo aircraft¹ as defined in Annex 18 of the International Standards and Recommended Practices published by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Aeronautical ESIM terminals should be licensed by the country of registration of the aircraft on which the terminal is operated.

Aeronautical ESIM terminals are permitted to transmit in the following frequency bands, subject to the technical restrictions specified. Reception of the associated downlink frequencies is also permitted.

¹ Also sometimes referred to as Aeronautical Earth Stations (AES)



Frequency Range (Transmit)	Technical Restrictions
14.0 – 14.5 GHz	ITU-R Recommendation M.1643
27.5 – 29.5 GHz	ITU RR Resolution 169 (WRC-19)
29.5 – 30.0 GHz	ITU RR Resolution 156 (WRC-15)

The service is permitted to operate as follows:

- At any time when overflying Cayman Islands territory at a height of above 3000 metres.
- Gate to Gate used by Ticketed Passengers and Flight Personnel travelling to or from the Cayman Islands.
- In-flight internet services shall terminate once disembarkation has commenced at the gate (i.e. once the aircraft door has been opened).
- In-flight internet service may commence only once embarkation at the gate has been completed (i.e. once the aircraft door has been closed).
- The in-flight internet service shall not be used to substitute or bypass any ICT service currently operating in the Cayman Islands, other than for in-flight internet access.

Use of Satellite Earth Stations for provision of service to Seagoing Vessels

Permission is granted for the use of ESIM mounted on passenger ships or cargo ships² as defined in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea published by the International Maritime Organization.

Maritime ESIM terminals should be licensed by the country of registration of the vessel on which the terminal is operated.

Maritime ESIM terminals are permitted to transmit in the following frequency bands, subject to the technical restrictions specified. Reception of the associated downlink frequencies is also permitted.

Frequency Range (Transmit)	Technical Restrictions
5925 – 6425 MHz	ITU RR Resolution 902 (WRC-03)
14.0 – 14.5 GHz	ITU RR Resolution 902 (WRC-03)
27.5 – 29.5 GHz	ITU RR Resolution 169 (WRC-19)
29.5 – 30.0 GHz	ITU RR Resolution 156 (WRC-15)

The service is permitted to operate as follows:

- Whilst vessels traverse Cayman Islands territorial waters.
- Pier to Pier used by Ticketed Passengers and Vessel Crew travelling to or from the Cayman Islands.
- On-board internet services shall terminate once the vessel has arrived at the port, or when the vessel is moored for disembarkation of passengers.

² Also sometimes referred to as Earth Stations on Vessels (ESV)



- On-board internet service may commence only once the vessel has departed from the port or when all passengers have embarked the vessel and it is ready to depart.
- The on-board internet service shall not be used to substitute or bypass any ICT service currently operating in the Cayman Islands, other than for on-board internet access.

Aircraft and Vessels registered in the Cayman Islands

The use of ESIM on Cayman Islands registered aircraft and vessels on the same terms indicated above is authorized as part of the associated aircraft or vessel licence without the need for modification to those licenses.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact ict@ofreg.ky