

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
Wireless Planning & Coordination Wing
(SACFA Secretariat)

618, Sanchar Bhavan,
20- Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001
Date: 12.01.2022

No.: K-19012/16/2019-CFA

Office Memorandum

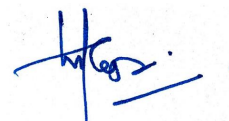
Subject: Guidelines for simplified SACFA clearance process for installing communication towers.

Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 15 September, 2021 on "Reforms and support package for Telecom Sector" took slew of measures for the growth of Telecom sector in the country. It also took a view on simplifying SACFA Clearance process for installing towers. Cabinet, in its above meeting decided self-declaration based, automated time bound approvals of SACFA cases, including integration of AAI and JCES systems with SaralSanchar Portal of DoT.

2. In pursuance of Cabinet decision, the SACFA cases, for installation of towers by applicants, are being processed based upon self-declaration through automated mechanism in SaralSanchar Portal of DoT. However, many cases, not meeting "*auto-settle*" criteria already agreed by AAI & JCES, are not getting cleared within **30 days**, as decided by this Ministry. In the year 2015, AAI, being Member of SACFA Committee, added 121 (now 97 only) *un-licensed* State Government controlled airports in the protection list; however, they are showing their inability to process the siting cases w.r.t. these airports. 97 such airports are spread over 23 States/UTs (**Annex-I**). Delay on this account is badly impacting timely roll-out and expansion of telecom networks, especially proliferation of broadband and connectivity in rural and underserved areas, and thus proving to be an impediment in the way towards bridging the digital divide in the country.

3. Based upon the Cabinet decision and discussions/decisions of the SACFA Committee meeting dated 01.12.2021 held under the Chairmanship of Secretary(T), the following simplified guidelines, shall be applicable for SACFA siting clearances:

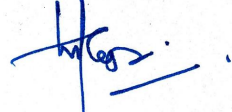
(i) The cases already pending with AAI/JCES beyond 30 days' time as well as the future cases, not meeting "*auto-settle*" criteria, if not dealt by AAI/JCES within 30 days' time, shall be deemed cleared after lapse of 30 days' time from the date of application. However, the clearance shall have the following condition: "*The physical construction of the tower shall not be commenced before the 16th day of the issuance of clearance*".



(ii) It is important to note that no airstrip/airport should be recognised by SACFA siting clearance system if it has not taken necessary licenses/clearances from nodal Ministry/Organisation i.e. DGCA/AAI. Therefore, the SACFA system will not recognise these so-called airports (Annex-I) unless they are licensed/authorised by DGCA/AAI & incorporated into NOCAS (No Objection Certificate Application System) of AAI.

(iii) The *auto-settle* criteria as agreed by AAI & JCES earlier shall continue to be applied for clearance of sites.

4. This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Communications and comes into force with immediate effect.



(L. D. Meghwal)

Sr. Deputy Wireless Advisor to the Government of India

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To,

- i. **Member (ANS)/GM**, DoAS, Airports Authority of India, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi
- ii. **Director, JCES**, B-Block, Ground Floor, Defence Complex, Africa Avenue, New Delhi-110023

Copy to:

- i. **Chief Secretaries/Administrators** of the concerned States/UTs *-[to take note of Para 3(ii) above and to move DGCA/AAI in case any airstrip is under operations and needs licensing/authorisation and protection under SACFA system.]*
- ii. **Secretary (CA)**, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi
- iii. **DGCA**, Aurbindo Marg, Opposite to Safdurjung Airport, New Delhi
- iv. **DG (Telecom)**, DoT, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi
- v. **DDGs (LSA)**, DoT [as per list in Annex-I]

Copy for information to:

- i. **PSO to Secretary (T)**, DoT
- ii. **Sr. PPS to Member (T)**, DCC, DoT

State controlled unlicensed Airports
Listed in SARAL Sanchar Portal of DoT

Sr.No.	SAAI Airport	States / UT Involved
1	NAGARJUNA SAGAR	Andhra Pradesh
2	YINGHIONG	Arunachal Pradesh
3	ZIRO	
4	BORENGAJULI	Assam
5	KOLAPNI	
6	MACKEBPUR	
7	PANNERI	
8	BEGUSARAI	Bihar
9	BHAGALPUR	
10	BIRPUR	
11	CHHAPRA	
12	KISHANGANJ	
13	MADHUBANI	
14	MUNGER	
15	NARIA SEE SAHARSA	
16	SAHARSA	Chhattisgarh
17	JASHPURNAGAR	
18	BHILAI (NANDANI)	
19	RAJHARA (DHALLI)	Gujarat
20	AMRELI	
21	MANDVI	
22	MEHSANA	Haryana
23	BHIWANI	
24	KARNAL	
25	NARNAUL	
26	PINJORE	Jammu and Kashmir
27	MANTALAI	
28	DALTONGANJ	Jharkhand
29	DHANBAD	
30	JAKKUR	Karnataka
31	BANGALORE (IIS)	
32	SEDAM	
33	CHILLARI	Kerala
34	KARGIL	Ladakh
35	AMLA	Madhya Pradesh

36	BETUL	
37	BIRWA	
38	CHHINDWARA	
39	DHANA	
40	GUNA	
41	JHABUA(RANPET)	
42	KHARGONE	
43	MANDLA	
44	PACHMARHI	
45	RATLAM	
46	REWA	
47	SAGAR	
48	SEONI	
49	SHAHDOL	
50	SIDHI	
51	SITAMAU	
52	UJJAIN	
53	UMARIA	
54	BURHAR (SHAHDOL)	
55	DAMOH	
56	NEEMUCH	
57	SHIVPURI (BURHAR)	
58	TEKANPUR	
59	AMRAVATI	Maharashtra
60	CHANDRAPUR	
61	DHULIA	
62	HADAPSAR (GLIDEROME)	
63	KARAD	
64	LONAVALA (AMBY VALLEY)	
65	TURA	Meghalaya
66	HIRAKUND	Orissa
67	NAWAPARA	
68	TUSHRA	
69	CUTTACK (CHARBATIA)	
70	PATIALA	Punjab
71	ABU ROAD	Rajasthan
72	BANSWARA (TILWARA)	
73	HAMIRGARH	
74	JHUNJHUNU	
75	LALGARH	
76	MATHANIA	
77	NAGAUR	
78	SAWAI MADHOPUR	

79	SIROHI	
80	PILANI	
81	CHETINAD	Tamil Nadu
82	KAYATTAR	
83	BASANT NAGAR	Telegana
84	AKBARPUR	Uttar Pradesh
85	ETAWAH (SAIFAI)	
86	JHINGURA	
87	PIRTHIGANJ	
88	SULTANPUR (AMHAI)	
89	B.H.U. FLYING CLUB	
90	CHINYALI SAUR	Uttarakhand
91	GAUCHER	
92	PITHORAGARH	
93	UTTARKASHI	
94	ONDAL AIRPORT	West Bengal
95	AMBARI	
96	MADHAIGANJ	
97	NEW LANDS	