

# Broadcaster

## World broadcasting unions want to clear up satellite interference

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TORONTO - The World Broadcasting Union's International Satellite Operations Group (WBU-ISOG), which includes broadcasters, satellite operators, transmission service providers and industry groups, recently unanimously approved a set of Universal Access Procedures (UAP) for all satellite uplinks aimed at significantly reducing satellite interference.

The WBU-ISOG has submitted a new draft recommendation to the International Telecommunication Union Study Group 4B (ITU-R SG 4B) in Geneva, Switzerland, for satellite newsgathering (SNG), in time for the next Study Group 4B meeting in April, 2004.

Members of the WBU-ISOG are calling on broadcasters and satellite operators to collectively help eliminate satellite interference, with special concern for deliberate events of interference caused by rogue carriers.

These rogue carriers intentionally transmit to satellite capacity that has been assigned to legitimate users, interrupting network broadcasters who use the satellites for newsgathering, program acquisition and distribution to their customers.

"It's important that broadcasters, satellite operators and uplink service providers work together to reduce and eliminate interference caused by equipment malfunction and human errors so we, as an industry, can focus on and thwart those who don't play by the rules and purposely interfere with global satellite broadcasts," said Dick Tauber, chairman of WBU-ISOG and vice-president, transmission systems and new technology for the CNN News Group at CNN in Atlanta. "We anticipate adoption and approval from the ITU. Our recommendations have the full support of key satellite industry groups."

The new proposed recommendations were developed by the Rogue Carriers Working Group on Satellite Interference (RCWG), a WBU-ISOG sub-committee, and were adopted by the following industry organizations:

Cable & Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA)  
Global VSAT Forum (GVF)  
Satellite Industry Association (SIA)  
Satellite Users Interference Reduction Group (SUIRG)  
World Teleport Association (WTA)

For more information about WBU-ISOG, please go to  
<http://www.nabanet.com/wbuArea/members/about.asp>.

RCWG Members come from the following companies: Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), AsiaSat, Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), CNN, European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Eutelsat, Intelsat, International Association of Broadcasting (IAB), Loral Skynet, North American Broadcasters Association (NABA), New Skies Satellites, Organizacion de las Telecomunicaciones Iberoamericanas (OTI), Pacific Television Center, PanAmSat, SATMEX, SES Americom, Telesat Canada, Television New Zealand Satellite Services and Union des Radiodiffusions et Televisions Nationales d'Afrique (URTNA).

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