

**§213.2**

which is to prescribe, on behalf of the President, that part of those standards, procedures, policies, and regulations which are within the cognizance of the NSC. No significance should be attached to the fact that slightly different terms are used in their circular from those used in the companion order of the FCC. Those differences result from differences in terms in the basic legal authorities of the director and the Commission rather than from an intent to denote a distinction in purpose or effect.

**§213.2 Scope.**

The precedence system contained herein is applicable to:

- (a) Users of Government service facilities, whether owned or leased.
- (b) Users of public correspondence service facilities of the communication common carriers, to U.S. domestic and international communication common carriers, and to the extent possible by agreement between the latter and their foreign correspondents.

**§213.3 Cancellation.**

This circular cancels:

- (a) Attachments A and B to Annex 3 of DMO 3000.1, dated November 8, 1963 (28 FR 12273).
- (b) That portion of the memorandum of the Special Assistant to the President for Telecommunications, dated August 27, 1964, pertaining to message precedences.

**§213.4 Definitions.**

As used herein:

- (a) Public correspondence services means those services offered to the general public for communications between all points served by a carrier or by interconnected carriers on a non-exclusive message by message or call by call basis, as differentiated from leased private line services.
- (b) The term *precedence* means the order in which messages and calls are processed. Transmission of information and call completion is therefore to be accomplished in the order required by the precedence designator. Any such properly categorized communications precede noncategorized communications.

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(c) The term *Government* where used alone means Federal, foreign, State, county, or municipal government agencies. Specific reference will be made whenever it is intended to apply to less than the whole, e.g., *State Government, Federal Government, etc.*

(d) The term *Foreign Government* includes those foreign diplomatic and consular establishments and those coalitions or associations of governments such as NATO, SEATO, OAS, UN, and associations of governments or governmental agencies such as Pan American Union, International Postal Union, International Monetary Fund, and similar organizations.

(e) The term *message* means a written or other form of record communication prepared for transmission and delivery at the destination.

(f) The term *call* means a request from a user for a connection to another station whether for telephone or record communication.

**§213.5 Precedence designators.**

(a) The following precedence designators are available for Government and public correspondence users:

Federal Government	Domestic public correspondence and international telephone calls
Flash .....	Flash emergency.
Immediate .....	Immediate emergency.
Priority .....	Priority emergency.
Routine .....	(No domestic equivalent.)

(b) Government and non-Government users of public correspondence services will handle their international messages in accordance with current ITU Telegraph Regulations. Government users should note that, generally, the only precedence designator available for their use for international messages sent over public correspondence circuits is *Etat Priorite*. The ITU Regulations do not contain precedence designators which equate to Flash, Immediate, or Priority. Accordingly, Government messages whether Flash, Immediate, or Priority precedence when sent over international public correspondence circuits will be handled as *Etat Priorite* messages. Thus, Priority messages will receive the same treatment in transmission and processing as

Immediate or Flash messages. Conversely, Etat Priorite messages received in the United States shall be transmitted and processed in the order of receipt, to the extent possible. The precedence designator available for non-Government users of public correspondence services is Urgent. The Urgent designator is limited for use only during wartime conditions, as declared pursuant to section 606 of the Communications Act of 1934.

(c) Domestic and International U.S. common carriers, insofar as practicable by agreement with their foreign correspondents, shall endeavor to arrange the proper level of precedence handling of international messages and calls originating, terminating in, or transiting the United States: *Provided, however,* That insofar as international messages are concerned the level of precedence shall be consistent with the International Telecommunication Conventions and regulations thereunder.

(d) The Government designators shall be used throughout the Federal Government. All messages and telephone calls sent via public correspondence services shall use domestic or international public correspondence designators as appropriate. Thus, the responsibility is on Government and public correspondence users to recognize and use the appropriate designators when using public correspondence services.

(e) On international telephone calls the carrier's operator will convert to the appropriate international designator.

#### §213.6 Criteria.

(a) *Flash, Flash Emergency.* (1) This is the highest order of precedence and shall be strictly limited to Federal and Foreign Government agencies.

(2) Flash, or Flash Emergency telephone calls or messages shall be handled in the order received and ahead of all calls or messages except as indicated for international messages in ITU Regulations. When necessary to obtain a circuit for a Flash, or Flash Emergency call any call in progress of a lesser precedence will be interrupted, if feasible. Any message of a lesser precedence in the process of transmission will be halted, if feasible, to

clear the channel for the Flash or Flash Emergency transmission. Flash or Flash Emergency precedence shall be reserved for calls and messages having an immediate bearing on:

(i) Command and control of military forces essential to defense and retaliation.

(ii) Critical intelligence essential to national survival.

(iii) Conduct of diplomatic negotiations critical to the arresting or limiting of hostilities.

(iv) Dissemination of critical civil alert information essential to national survival.

(v) Continuity of Federal governmental functions essential to national survival.

(vi) Fulfillment of critical U.S. internal security functions essential to national survival.

(vii) Catastrophic events of national or international significance, such as Presidential Action Notices essential to national survival during attack or preattack conditions.

(b) *Immediate, Immediate Emergency, Urgent.* Immediate, Immediate Emergency, or Urgent telephone calls or messages shall be handled as fast as possible and ahead of all other calls or messages except those having a higher precedence. Any message or call of a lower precedence in the process of transmission will be halted, if feasible, to clear the channel for this transmission. It will be reserved generally for calls or messages pertaining to:

(1) Situations which gravely affect the security of national and allied forces.

(2) Reconstitution of forces in a post-attack period.

(3) Intelligence essential to national security.

(4) Conduct of diplomatic negotiations to reduce or limit the threat of war.

(5) Implementation of Federal Government actions essential to national survival.

(6) Situations which gravely affect the internal security of the United States.

(7) Civil defense actions concerning direction of our population and its survival.