

SA set for better internet experience after Icasa triples Wi-Fi spectrum - Ispa

According to the Internet Service Providers' Association of SA (Ispa), the recent decision by the Independent Communications Authority of SA (Icasa) to release an extra 500Mhz of bandwidth has effectively tripled the spectrum accessible for WiFi connectivity in vehicles and buildings. However, users will need to upgrade their routers to the latest Wi-Fi 6E standard to take full advantage of this expanded capacity.



Source: [Unsplash](#)

Towards the end of May, Icasa published an Amendment to Annexure B of the Radio Frequency Spectrum Regulations (2015) in respect of the Radio Frequency Spectrum Licence Exemptions.

The lower 6GHz spectrum band has now been opened up for the provision of WiFi which is the connectivity option of choice for South African consumers and government connectivity initiatives like SA Connect and the National Broadband Project.

“For home, small office/home office (Soho) and SME users, in particular, the recent amendments to the radio regulations dramatically increase the spectrum available for use by WiFi applications,” says Dominic Cull, Ispa regulatory advisor.

Spectrum decreases contention thereby providing for a more stable environment for denser wireless networks.

“This latest Icasa move caters for many more connected devices on the home WiFi network, particularly in high-density and multi-level buildings,” he adds.



Icasa expands Wi-Fi services with new spectrum allocation in lower 6GHz band

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As high-speed fibre optic cable is rolled out across South Africa, home WiFi has traditionally been a bottleneck with lightning-fast connectivity crashing headlong into the limitations of wireless home and Soho set-ups.

Too many competing devices, exceeding the range of the technology or obstacles obstructing the radio signal can all result in high-speed internet access actually being experienced as mediocre transfer and browsing speeds.

Fortunately, the amendment to Annexure B of the Radio Frequency Spectrum Regulations (2015) coupled with the advent of the next-generation upgrade that is WiFi 6/6E and 7, should see faster speeds experienced by supported devices in the home and Soho environments.

In addition, W-Fi 6E is a new standard that can offer innovations and allow importers to bring in cutting-edge WiFi products to South Africa.

“The world today is hyper-competitive and no country can afford to rest on its technology laurels. Ispa, therefore, looks forward to Icasa opening up the rest of the 6Ghz band in a similar manner as its recent, very positive move,” concludes Cull.

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