

VIET NAM

Providing Satellite Internet Services?

Photo by NASA on Unsplash

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INTERNET FREEDOM

Not Free

INTERNET PENETRATION

74%

FREQUENCY

C-band, Ku-Band, and Ka-band

This document provides basic information about legal aspects of satellite internet services when provision of these services is being considered. This fact sheet comprises general guidance and cannot be a replacement for legal advice.

OVERVIEW

The contents of this factsheet pertain to the laws, regulations, and guidelines that prescribe the norms and obligations governing the provision and operation of satellite internet services in Vietnam.

RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The legal framework governing internet access comprises several key statutes in Vietnam, including the Law on Telecommunications (2009), Law on Radio Frequency Amendment No. 09/2022/QH15, Decree No.72/2013/ND-CP, and Decree No.25/2011/ND-CP.

REGULATORY BODIES

The **Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC)** is responsible for overseeing the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors, which also include internet services.

The **Vietnam Telecommunications Authority (VNTA)** regulates the telecommunications sector, while the Authority of Radio Frequency Management manages Vietnam's radio frequency spectrum. Both bodies operate under the MIC.

ARE THERE INTERNET RESTRICTIONS?

The government has the authority to request ISPs to limit or interrupt internet access in situations involving riots, violence, or activities that threaten national security. Furthermore, it is prohibited to oppose the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, propagate or incite violence, spread superstitions, disclose state secrets, promote pornography, engage in hate speech, and so on, through the internet.

TYPES OF LICENSES

In order to offer internet access using satellite, it is necessary to obtain the following licenses/authorizations:

- a) **Telecommunications License:** This license can be issued for either establishing a public telecommunications network, which is valid for 15 years, or for providing telecommunications services, which is valid for 10 years.
- b) **License for Frequency and Satellite Orbit Use:** this license is valid for 20 years.

ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

Any Vietnamese entity can apply for satellite internet licenses, while foreign entities interested in entering the Vietnamese telecommunications market can do so by entering into a business corporation contract or a Joint Venture agreement with a Vietnamese firm.

LEGAL NATURE OF SATELLITE INTERNET

In Vietnam, there is no specific national law that specifically deals with the use and operation of satellites. In terms of their legal classification, both fixed and mobile telecommunication networks that utilize satellites are considered as telecommunication networks. On the other hand, internet access services that rely on satellites are classified as telecommunication services.

END USERS' LICENSES

End users can choose to purchase satellite internet plans from various providers, including Viettel, FPT Telecom, VNPT, GlobalTT, NTVsat, BusinessCom, and Syntelix.