

Change in IUE Handover and Shift Start Times

During the past year Guest Observers on the US1 shift frequently have been impacted by an earlier rise in the background particle radiation than had been experienced historically. The reason for this shift in the radiation rise time is unknown, but it has resulted in the premature termination of a number of exposures.

Earlier this fall an analysis of daily particle radiation profiles was conducted by the IUE Project Operations Director, Ivan Mason. This analysis resulted in a request by NASA to ESA and SERC to advance scheduled spacecraft handover times by one hour in order to provide a more nominal radiation environment to US1 observers.

ESA and SERC have examined this request and its impact on their observers. (The advance moves the start of the VILSPA shift closer to the IUE's perigee passage.) All three agencies have now agreed on the change. It will become effective on January 1, 1984 when a one-time three-hour advance in shift start times will be made instead of the usual monthly two-hour advance. The new start times for US shifts are given in the table below.

NASA IUE personnel wish to thank their colleagues in Europe and the United Kingdom for their cooperation in making this adjustment possible.

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IUE Operations Scientist
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Start Times of NASA IUE Shifts

Effective 1 January 1984

Month	US1			US2		
	UT	Local	Time	UT	Local	Time
Jan	15:00	10:00	EST	23:00	18:00	EST
Feb	13:00	08:00	EST	21:00	16:00	EST
Mar	11:00	06:00	EST	19:00	14:00	EST
Apr	09:00	04:00/05:00	EST/EDT	17:00	12:00/13:00	EST/EDT
May	07:00	03:00	EDT	15:00	11:00	EDT
Jun	05:00	01:00	EDT	13:00	09:00	EDT
Jul	03:00	23:00	EDT	11:00	07:00	EDT
Aug	01:00	21:00	EDT	09:00	05:00	EDT
Sep	23:00	19:00	EDT	07:00	03:00	EDT
Oct	21:00	17:00/16:00	EDT/EST	05:00	01:00/00:00	EDT/EST
Nov	19:00	14:00	EST	03:00	22:00	EST
Dec	17:00	12:00	EST	01:00	20:00	EST

During earth shadow seasons, shift start times may be adjusted to share shadow impact between GSFC and VILSPA.