



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

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SUBJECT	Use of Upper Sideband below 10 MHz		
Society	RSGB	Country:	UK
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Introduction

SSB in amateur radio has traditionally used lower sideband (LSB) on frequencies below 10 MHz and upper sideband (USB) on frequencies above 10MHz. The IARU Region 1 band plan has a footnote to this effect.

The use of USB on 5 MHz, mandated by some regulators and recommended by others, makes this no longer appropriate. It has also been observed that USB activity does occur on other amateur bands below 10 MHz, notably from operators of ex-military or commercial equipment, or by operations wishing to maintain compatibility with other services.

The simplistic approach of LSB below 10 MHz is no longer appropriate and it is proposed that the wording be changed.

Background

The Region 1 HF Manager Handbook, v8.1 page 113, and the IARU Region 1 HF band plan states:

Sideband Usage: Below 10 MHz use lower sideband (LSB), above 10 MHz use upper sideband (USB)

This wording could be interpreted as mandatory and not specific to analogue voice. It is not appropriate at 5MHz, where current practice is to use USB, and it is also not appropriate for digital voice operation which also generally uses USB.

There seems no reason to suggest that USB cannot be used if an operator wishes to do so, and there may be some situations where using USB is desirable.

Proposal

It is proposed that the wording in the band plan and the HF Manager Handbook be revised such that the use of USB below 10 MHz is not excluded.

Recommendation

That the sideband usage recommendation in the R1 Band Plan and the HF Manager Handbook be deleted.

That any new 5 MHz band plan recommends the use of USB on the band to preserve compatibility with primary users and in jurisdictions where USB is mandatory.