



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

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Subject:	Guidelines on the use of the 5 MHz Band		
Society:	RSGB	Country:	United Kingdom
Committee:	C4	Paper number:	LA17_C4_10
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1. Introduction

The 5 MHz allocation made at WRC-15 is the subject of band planning by the C4 committee. Part of the case for obtaining this band was made on emergency communications use but the band plan currently does not reflect this potential usage. This paper proposes a footnote to the 5 MHz band plan to fully enable the proposed usage of the band.

2. Background

As part of the submissions to WRC15, IARU position papers highlighted the usefulness of 5 MHz for emergency communications. The case can be summarised at <https://www.itu.int/net/ITU-R/study-groups/docs/workshop-wp5abc-wrc15/WP5ABC-WRC15-P1-2.pdf> which stated (relevant section in **bold**);

“Considering:

- allocations to the amateur service in the HF bands allows radio amateurs to play an important role in delivery of communications in support of relief operations
- radio communication in the HF bands is dependent on propagation factors
- the need for an operating frequency close to the maximum usable frequency (MUF) for varying distances and time of day
- current amateur radio allocations exist at 3 500 kHz and 7 000 kHz

An allocation at 5 MHz will bridge the propagation gap between the 3 500 kHz and the 7 000 kHz amateur radio bands and enable the amateur service to maintain stable communication over various distances for the whole 24 hours, **especially for use when providing communications in disaster situations and during relief operations.**”

The submission to Study Groups also highlighted that earlier allocations by some Countries had been made to enable usage by emergency communications groups.

3. Key Points

It is recognised that the 5 MHz band allocated at WRC-15 is too small to allocate an emergency Centre of Activity Frequency in the normal way.

Recommendation VA14_C4_Rec_06 at Varna 2014 dealt with the difficult subject of enabling emergency communications usage in the narrow 10 MHz band with the following addition to the HF band plans.

“The operator connecting to an automatically controlled unmanned transmitting station is responsible for not causing interference. This is particularly important in the 30 meter band where the amateur service only has secondary status.

Amateur radio operators may transmit messages via unmanned transmitting stations during coordinated emergency and disaster preparedness exercises, limited to the duration of such exercises, using a bandwidth not exceeding 2 700 Hz.

Such communication should be announced regularly on the frequency and radio amateurs not participating in the communication should cooperate by not transmitting on the frequency.”

The assumption in this footnote is that operation in a genuine emergency is permitted. Emergency Communications Exercises are a time when the Amateur Service can demonstrate to Governments what we are capable of, the very narrow nature of the 5 MHz band makes it difficult to meet the original IARU position but a footnote to the band plan will help to have successful demonstrations.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended at the following footnote is placed into the Region 1 Band plan for 5 MHz.

“Amateur radio operators may transmit messages during coordinated emergency and disaster preparedness exercises, limited to the duration of such exercises, using a bandwidth not exceeding 2 700 Hz.

Such communication should be announced regularly on the frequency and radio amateurs not participating in the communication should cooperate by not transmitting on the frequency.”